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Your Right to Know

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SPEAK OUT PLEASE

This has happened in broad daylight and on the premises of Dhaka University, the birthplace of all our glorious student movements. We must all work together – law enforcers, women bodies and the media – to bring these culprits to book. We call upon all – victims, eyewitnesses and those who directly know what happened – to speak out and let the public know the truth. According to the highest standards of journalism we will protect our sources and victims' privacy. We must put an end to sexual violence and make all our public places safe for women. Please contact us at reporting@thedailystar.net and join the war on sexual violence.



I'M PROUD OF HER

Bill Clinton makes first comment about his wife's presidential bid

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PLOT REVEALED

New Star Wars movie will tell the story outside the core saga

PAGE 9

Popularity test by police

Dhaka cops assessing status of AL's picked, rebel candidates; govt, AL claim to be unaware of DMP letter

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Apart from performing regular duties, officers-in-charge of police stations in the capital had been busy assessing the popularity of the Awami League-backed councillor candidates and AL rebels for the last one week, said DMP sources.

If, going by the assessment reports, the AL finds a rebel candidate more popular than the party-backed candidate, it might change its decision at the last moment and endorse the popular one, AL insiders said.

The police officers were assigned by deputy commissioners to gauge the popularity of the candidates in the April 28 elections, and send reports to a specified email and fax numbers by 12:00noon yesterday.

The government and the ruling AL, however, denied issuing instructions to Dhaka Metropolitan Police to make such assessment.

State Minister for Home Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said he was unaware of the deputy commissioners' directives to OCs, and that his ministry did not ask them to carry out such task.

"If the DMP is conducting such assessment, it is doing that willingly," he said. SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia gets into her car as pro-Awami League activists go berserk and attack her motorcade at Karwan Bazar during a campaign for her party-backed mayoral hopeful in Dhaka North yesterday. More photo on page 2

PHOTO: COLLECTED

PART-4

HILSA HABITAT IN BANGLADESH

MIGRATORY ROUTES

BREEDING GROUNDS

KEY POINTS

- Spawns only **8-12 lakh** eggs, down from usual **15-18 lakh**
- Found only in **10 rivers**, against **50 rivers** in the past
- River pollution, loss of navigability, rise of ammonia affecting fish

FIVE JATKA NURSERY GROUNDS (OCT-JUN)

HILSA & ITS HABITAT

To us Bangalees, hilsa isn't just a fish. It's an integral part of our culture and heritage. Be it fried or cooked with mustard, hilsa is a must in Pehela Baishakh celebrations. But they aren't anymore safe in our rivers, home to world's 60pc hilsa. This four-part series focuses on the existential crisis, changing habitat and ways to conserve this much coveted fish.

Yunus among top business pioneers of all time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Microcredit guru Prof Muhammad Yunus has been named one of the top six business pioneers in finance by The Financial Times.

The UK-based international newspaper selected the founder of Grameen Bank as one of the 50 business pioneers of all time.

By successfully implementing his microcredit SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Khaleda's motorcade comes under attack

15 injured, 6 vehicles damaged; hartal tomorrow, Dhaka, Ctg cities exempted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's motorcade came under attack by pro-ruling Awami League activists during her election campaign at the capital's Karwan Bazar yesterday.

Around 150 activists of Jubo League, Swechhasebak League, Shramik League and Chhatra League showered the vehicles with brick chips and hit those with wooden sticks for around 15 minutes from 5:45pm.

Khaleda's bullet-proof car was damaged but she was unhurt. Some 15 people, including her personal



secretary, got injured. Four of them were admitted to United Hospital. Six vehicles, including four from the motorcade, were damaged.

On Sunday, over 100 ruling party men carrying sticks with black flags in separate groups chased Khaleda's motorcade and blocked roads during her campaign at Uttara.

In the face of the attack yesterday, she abandoned the electioneering for Dhaka North's mayoral hopeful Tabitha Awal and left Karwan Bazar. She went to Shahzadpur and campaigned for Dhaka South's mayoral candidate Mirza Abbas.

AL, BNP trade blame over attack

Khaleda's security staff opened fire: PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League and the BNP last night traded blame over the attack on Khaleda Zia's motorcade in the capital's Karwan Bazar in the afternoon.

Local AL leaders claimed six of their party men were injured when some "BNP activists and Khaleda's security staff" attacked them.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the AL parliamentary board meeting last night alleged that Khaleda's SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

136 more Bangladeshis return from Yemen today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One hundred and thirty six more Bangladeshis, who have been evacuated from Yemen, will return Dhaka around 8:00pm today by a special flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

They were evacuated from Hodeida city of Yemen on April 15 by Indian naval ship INS Sumitra and taken to

No evidence found

Now Home boss says sexual harassment in Baishakh celebration not found in video footage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Home Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday said he found no evidence of sexual assault on women during the Pehela Baishakh celebrations on the Dhaka University campus in the released footage of CCTV camera-5.

Talking to the BBC Bangla, he, however, said, "Someone has pulled a woman by her scarf [and the scarf fell on the ground]. A man close by collected the scarf and returned it to her."

The Daily Star examined the one-hour footage of camera-5 and grabbed 50 screenshots of women being sexually assaulted.

For instance, the footage at 6:31:27pm shows a girl wearing a red dress is surrounded by four to five youths, making the girl unable to move. The SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Continue search for Salahuddin

HC asks police, seeks progress reports for next six months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the police to continue searching for missing BNP leader Salahuddin Ahmed and submit reports on their progress in this regard to the home ministry for the next six months or until he is recovered. It asked the police to place reports on the



SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

HILSA SPAWNING LESS AND LESS

River pollution, food shortage contribute to the decline

PINAKI ROY

Hilsa's capacity to spawn in Bangladesh rivers has decreased significantly over the past few years, meaning we will get to have less of this mouthwatering fish in the coming years if the trend continues.

Researchers are working to find exactly why this mystique fish is spawning fewer eggs, but they believe river pollution, loss of their navigability, food shortages and saltwater intrusion due to climate change are to blame.

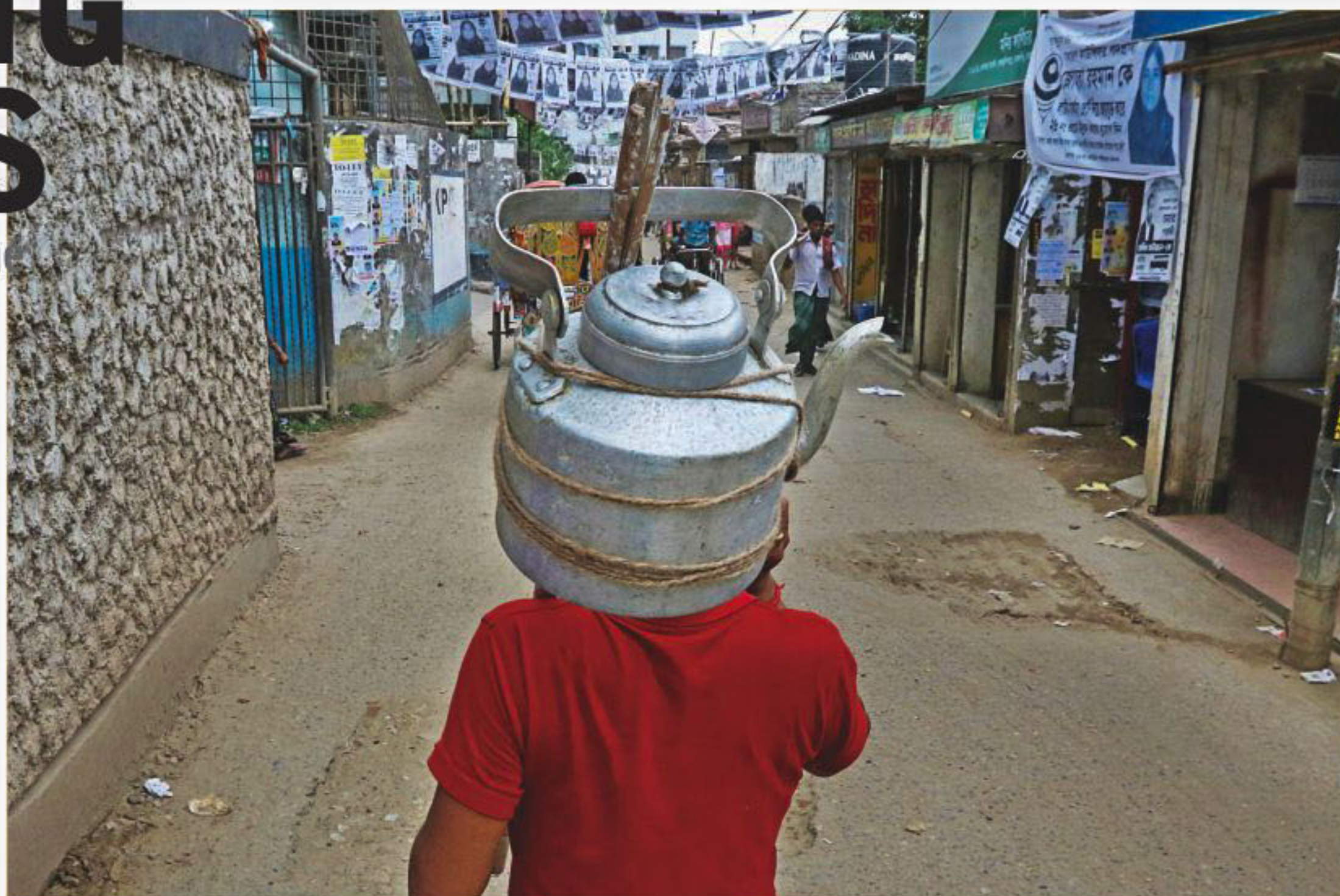
On an average, a matured hilsa spawns some 15 to 18 lakh eggs at a time, but it has come down to eight to 12 lakh in recent years, according to a research by Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI).

"We have been doing the count since

2011 and found this clear change in hilsa's spawning pattern," said BFRI Director Anisur Rahman, who is leading the government-funded research that began in 2011 and is ongoing.

A matured hilsa releases maximum 21 lakh and minimum three lakh eggs at a time. But a very small number of them are hatched out, and even a smaller number of fry survives and becomes mature to spawn, Anisur added.

For the past several years, extremely polluted waters of the Buriganga, Shitalakkhya, Turag and Bangshi rivers have been flowing into the Meghna, the main breeding ground of the national fish. Moreover, BFRI test has found that ammonia, a colourless compound of nitrogen and hydrogen, is increasing in the Meghna. SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



A supporter of ward-26 councillor aspirant campaigns alone in Tejgaon area yesterday, carrying a kettle, electoral symbol of the candidate.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



TOP! QUOTE

"Bangladesh is not the same Bangladesh they used to be and I think they can now upset any team because they are getting better and better with each day."

FORMER PAKISTAN CAPTAIN JAVED MIANDAD