



INDOOR FARMING Novel way to up fish yield

Experts say it will revolutionise fish sector in Bangladesh

REAZ AHMAD

It takes seven months to produce 2,000kgs of *pabda* (Ompok) from a fish farm the size of a football pitch. How about getting the same results in half the time from an indoor space that is hardly the size of a penalty box?

One fish farmer in Bangladesh has demonstrated that it can be done. He used the recirculating aquaculture system (RAS) for the first time in the country.

An alternative to outdoor open aquaculture, RAS is a series of culture tanks and filters where water is continuously recycled and monitored to keep a suitable habitat for fish round the year. To prevent the deterioration of water quality, the water is treated mechanically through the removal of particulate matter and biologically through the conversion of harmful accumulated chemicals into nontoxic ones.

ABM Shamsul Alam, proprietor of Agro3 Fishery, has pioneered the indoor fish farming by installing an eight-tank RAS in Mymensingh late last year. He has recently marketed his first batch of 500kg of *pabda*.

Another 200kg of the fish are now in the pipeline while a huge stock of *gulsha* fish (*Mystus Cavasius*) should be ready for sale in a month,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3




A worker takes care of the indoor fish farm facility, a recirculating aquaculture system (RAS), installed at the Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR). Tilapia, inset, grown in the RAS from the first batch that has just been sold to a superstore.

PHOTO: BCSIR

HIGHLIGHTS

More fish in less area	High stock density
Bangladesh 5th in world	In inland aquaculture - 1.8 million MT
Open pond aquaculture	: 1 to 2 kg per cubic metre of water
Indoor fish farming	: 20 to 30 kg per cubic metre of water



TOP!
QUOTE

"They have been tortured and killed simply because they want to live their culture and their Muslim faith."

POPE FRANCIS ABOUT THE PLIGHT OF MYANMAR'S ROHINGYA MUSLIMS

STORY ON PAGE 8

EC FORMATION

Search panel too proposed enacting law

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The six-member search committee proposed, among other things, enacting a law on formation of the Election Commission.

The panel made the recommendation in its report to the president with a vision of what type of EC the people want to see in the future.

"We have recommended that the Cabinet Division, which provided us with secretarial assistance, publish the vision and recommendations so that people can know what the search committee has done and what the civil society members have recommended," Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam, a member of the panel, told The Daily Star yesterday.

On January 25, President Abdul Hamid formed the search panel after having dialogue with 31 political parties

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Tigers face litmus test

One-off Test against India starts today

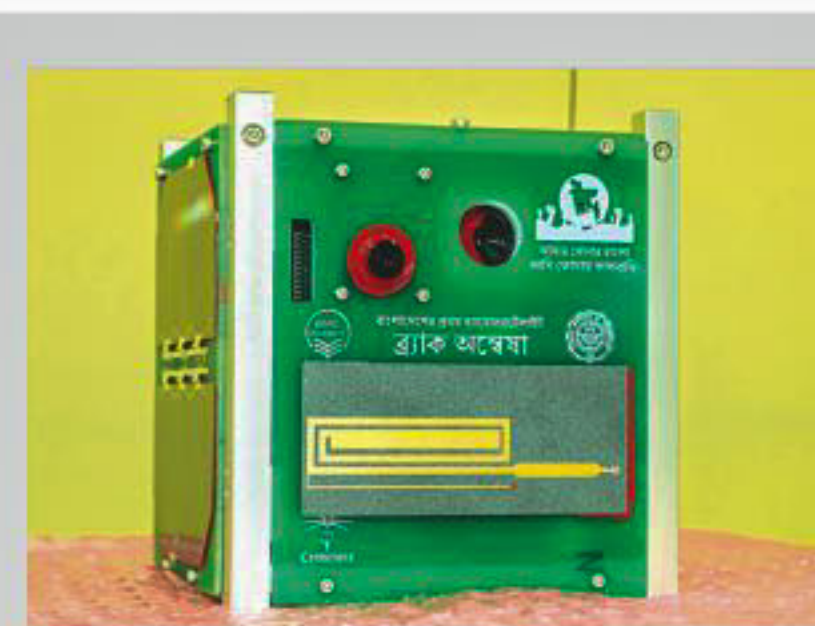
NAIMUL KARIM from Hyderabad

If you have grown up anywhere near Bangladesh's cricketing circles, you will know just how much value this odd, one-off Test tour against India holds.

Before writing it off as an ODI-less, boring, week-long series, think about what this tour symbolises.

For 16 years, India were the only Test nation that had failed to host Bangladesh. Inviting the 'younger sibling' of the subcontinent was never deemed as a profitable move by the Indian cricket board and it was an aspect that was criticised by sporting pundits and journalists from both countries at

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



First nanosatellite ready for launch

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BRAC University yesterday became the first Bangladeshi educational institution to get its very own nanosatellite, developed and assembled by three of its students using technology and facilities of a Japanese university.

"BRAC ONNIESHA", a cube measuring 10cm along its edge and weighing around one kilogramme, will be launched into low Earth

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

5 YEARS SINCE SAGAR-RUNI MURDER

Silence drowns cries for justice

RAFIUL ISLAM

Mahir Sarwar Megh was only five when his parents were brutally killed in the bedroom of their apartment in the capital's West Rajabazar.

He turned 10 by now, but the gruesome killing of the journalists -- Sagar Sarwar and Meherun Runi -- is still shrouded in mystery with no visible progress in the investigation.

Relatives who are seeking justice for the couple have begun thinking that the murder case has been covered up. The family also feels that the voice of people, in particular the journalist community, is fizzling out.

"The investigators meet us occasionally, especially before the anniversary, but never tell anything about the investigation. They just tell us to have patience and faith [in them]," said Runi's younger brother Nowsher Alam Roman.

On February 11, 2012, Runi, senior reporter of private TV channel ATN Bangla, and her husband Sagar Sarwar, news editor of another TV station Maasranga, were murdered. Their only son, Megh was at home at the time.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



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