

Mysterious death of infant

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A twelve-day old kid died mysteriously at her grandfather's house in Khansama upazila of the district yesterday.

The deceased was daughter of Samiul Islam of Basuli village in the upazila, who works at a garment factory in the capital.

Deceased's mother Mousumi Khatun, 21, said after taking her meal she went to bed along with her daughter around 10:30pm on Tuesday.

She woke up in the middle of the night and started screaming after finding her daughter missing from the bed, Mousumi said.

Hearing her cry for help, villagers rushed in and after a frantic search found the infant floating in a nearby pond around 9:00am yesterday, said Alakjhari UP Chairman AFM Ataur Rahman.

Woman kills drug addict

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A woman killed her drug addict son at Tangail Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The deceased is Hazrat Ali, 24, son of Amzad Ali of Binnafair village at Dainna union.

Police arrested the woman aged about 48 at her residence around 11:00am, said Nazmul Haque Bhuiyan, officer-in-charge of Tangail Model Police Station.

The woman told the police that she hacked her son Hazrat to death with an axe as he was making advances to her after taking drugs around 3:00am, Nazmul said.

The woman claimed that she was beside the body after killing her son, he said, adding that they recovered the body at noon yesterday and sent it to Tangail General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A visionary change maker in fish farming

Pituitary gland used to accelerate laying of eggs

SHYKH SERAJ

During the early 80s - 90s, when I used to host *Mati O Manush* on Bangladesh Television, I often highlighted that pituitary gland is very important for fish farming. I showed in many episodes that it is collected from inside of the fish head. It is very tiny in size. Later, it is dried and crushed. It is basically a hormone that is injected into female fishes so that they lay eggs quicker.

Later on, artificial pituitary gland took away the place of natural one. It spread out all over the country. It happened in other countries as well. The demand of natural pituitary gland started decreasing. As it is expensive, time consuming etc. It almost became extinct. Then, at some point, pituitary gland started coming from countries like China, India etc. However, that was a long time ago.

I went to Jessore a few days back. You all know that Jessore is a gold field for fish cultivation. I went there to meet Liakat, an entrepreneur who started United Agro Fisheries. He got involved with fish farming in the 80s. All the while, he felt that we badly need natural pituitary gland. Thus, alongside fish cultivation, he got a license and started this company. From then on, he started collecting natural pituitary glands.

I thought of visiting his laboratory as well. However, before that, I wanted to visit



PHOTO: HRIDOYE MATI O MANUSH

Shykh Seraj takes photo as entrepreneur Liakat Ali holds a bottle containing dried pituitary glands of fish.

Shykh Seraj is a Media and Agriculture Development Activist. He is an Ashoka Fellow and recipient of Ekushey Padak, FAO A.H. Boerma Award and many other prestigious accolades. At Channel i, he is Director and Head of News. He is also Director and Host of the popular agro-documentary, "Hridoye Mati O Manush".



now. Specially when the buyer buys and has it sorted out, then the traders carefully take the gland out and collect it on a small pot. The buyers find it very interesting as well. However, they don't mind in this case.

Khan Jahan Ali, a fish trader, has already become an expert in this matter.

"How many pituitary glands did you cut out today?"

"250 pieces."

"How much do you get from each piece?"

"2.5-3 taka."

It can be said that sale of this small part serves as a fancy source of income to fish traders. More fishes, more glands.

I have also learned that 18-20 fish traders of this market collect and sell 1.5-2 thousand pituitary glands daily.

Fish traders get motivations from United Agro Fisheries. However, I found this market to be very different. Here, buyers and traders - all have a good understanding in selling and buying pituitary glands. There are agents who have been doing this for more than fifteen years or more.

Dear readers, after witnessing the collection process of the glands, I went back to the laboratory. I saw how it is processed at United Agro Fisheries. If it isn't processed in a specified scientific method, it will never be of any use for artificial insemination of fish. The works are being done gradually with the

entrepreneur, Liakat Ali's great attention and care.

Here, acetone is mixed with the gland by providing it in several stages and stirring it in a certain way by hand for a long time.

Amena Khatun is here to clean and sort out raw pituitary glands. I have observed her works. There is no automatic system. However, everything is done in a certain way and utmost focus is necessary for the work.

Liakat Ali follows modern and quality system. He deeply examines if everything is happening correctly at every stage. In the last stage, the pituitary gland is dried by a dryer machine after it has reached the final stage. Then it is weighed. The pituitary gland is marketed in a specific type of bottle with international quality of packaging.

The annual demand of pituitary gland in the country is 40 kg to 50 kg. Liakat Ali says that 4 kg 200 gram of dry pituitary gland were sent to many districts last year. Besides that 1 kg of pituitary gland was exported to many countries including Russia, Iraq, Brazil, Germany and China. Overall, Liakat Ali has opened a sector that has great possibilities.

Liakat, who was a freedom fighter, feels that he's serving his motherland.

"As a freedom fighter, I have a sense of responsibility and I will keep doing it", says Liakat.

Fisheries Extension Officer Mizanur Rahman says if the hatcheries get good quality of pituitary glands then they would play a vital role in the development of fisheries sector.

A big amount of the country's fish fry come from Jessore. To produce eggs, 2-3 kg pituitary gland is needed every year in 60 hatcheries of the district. Already, the big hatcheries of Jessore have started using the pituitary glands collected from Liakat Ali. I found both imported and local glands in one hatchery. The owners say, natural pituitary glands are way better than the artificial ones, as it saves more time. And, the people who are selling it get more profit. They also gave full credit to pituitary glands processed at Liakat's firm and ranked those at the top of their list.

Dear readers, Bangladesh has shown examples of success to the whole world in producing agricultural products and animal meats. Specially, we have much to take pride of in fish production. We are currently ranked fourth in producing freshwater fish. It is not impossible at all to reach the top place. In this case, these activities of producing and marketing pituitary glands will transmit a new power in the whole fisheries sector. In this regard, I hope that successful change makers like Liakat will set true examples behind the progress.

Bagerhat trawler capsizes death toll rises to 5

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Death toll in Bagerhat boat capsizes has risen to five with the recovery of another body yesterday.

The body of Rima, 20, of Putikhali village in the upazila, was recovered from Panguchi river under Morelganj upazila of Bagerhat.

Four bodies were recovered on Tuesday, while 17 people are still missing.

Members of the coast guard, fire service and navy are jointly conducting an operation on a 30-km stretch of the river in search of the missing passengers, said Mohammad Obaidur Rahman, upazila nirbahi officer of Morelganj.

Relatives of the deceased are also searching for their dear ones in the river.

A motorised boat capsized on Tuesday morning while it was crossing the river Panguchi with over one hundred passengers.

Girls vow to resist graft

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Girl students and teachers at a meeting yesterday vowed not to bow down to corruption and work for resisting the menace from the society.

Students of Thakurgaon Government Women's College also took oath to work for resisting corruption practice.

The unique event took place in the hall room of the college where the local corruption resistance committee held a discussion to create awareness among the girl students against corruption.

Speakers at the meeting said the country's development is being hampered mainly due to corruption.

It does not matter whether it is small or big, everyone should resist graft practice at every level, they said.

The speakers also urged the young girls to motivate people against corruption.



PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAKER

Bikash Chandra Sarker feeds ducks of his farm at Godaipur village in Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat.

Bikash shines in duck rearing

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Duck farming changed the fortune of an educated youth who could not get a job despite having a master's degree in English.

"It was frustrating and I was depressed as I could not get a job, but I did not lose hope and looked for other ways to earn my livelihood," said Bikash Chandra Sarker, a 35-year-old youth of the ethnic community from Godaipur village in Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat.

He completed his honours and master's in English from Government Azizul Haque College in Bogra in 2009. "I applied for jobs in different government and non-government organisations after completing master's in 2009, but failed to get one," he said adding that he later decided to do something himself.

Bikash borrowed Tk 50,000 from his parents and began duck farming in February last year. After that, he never looked back, Bikash

said, adding that he earned Tk 5 lakh by the end of last year by selling 7,500 ducks.

He has taken lease of two ponds so his ducks can grow up naturally instead of inside cages, he said, adding that he can also farm fish in the ponds.

He now has 20,000 ducks in his farm, said Bikash.

Bikash employs 11 people for looking after his farm. He gave 9,000 duck chicks to other youths in his area for rearing.

"Each duck is fully grown within 4 to 5 months and can lay eggs, and the meat can be eaten," said Bikash.

He sold each duck for Tk 220 to Tk 250 last year. Traders from Chittagong, Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions are his main buyers. Besides, he sells eggs for Tk 7 each. Amin Mia, a duck trader of Putia in Rajshahi, said he buys ducks from Bikash's farm for their quality and natural taste.

"This year I am expecting a good

profit," said Bikash, who has become a model in his area due to his success. Many people from different villages visit his farm to see his love, dedication and talent in duck farming.

Shyamal Pahan of Shahjadpur village said Bikash completed his Masters in English and he deserved a government job in ethnic quota, but could not get one. "But, God helped him to stand on his own feet," he added.

Bikash also helps other people of his area to rear ducks, said Bishnu Orao of the village.

Alamgir Hossain of Mohammadpur and Firoz Chowdhury of Bidhara village said they started duck farming with the help of Bikash and have already started getting profit.

Livestock Officer of Panchbibi upazila Mamunur Rashid said other people can take inspiration from Bikash. He changed his fortune with his own efforts.

"Education is the key to my success," said Bikash.

MP LITON MURDER Kader retracts confession

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Former Jatiya Party lawmaker Abdul Kader Khan, 'mastermind' behind the killing of MP Liton, filed retract petition of his earlier confessional statement.

His lawyer advocate Mostafizur Rahman yesterday filed the petition before the Court of Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate. The court accepted the petition and ordered that it be kept in the file for next hearing.

In the petition Kader said the statement given under Section 164 on February 25 was not given willingly.

He alleged that during the remand on February 22, police tortured him mentally and physically and gave him death threat to record confessional statement, said the lawyer.

On February 21, Kader was arrested from Bogra and taken to Gaibandha in connection with the murder case.

Ruling party lawmaker Manzurul Islam Liton was shot dead at his Mastarpara residence in Sundarganj upazila by some unknown assailants on December 31 last year.

Arrest killers of teacher Samiron

Locals raise the demand at a procession in Pirojpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Residents of Pashchim Baniary village in Nazirpur upazila of the district demanded arrest of the killers of primary school teacher Samiron Majumder and exemplary punishment to them.

They raised the demand from a procession at the village yesterday. The procession started from Pashchim Baniary Government Primary School and ended at Samiron's house. Around 300 people, including students from primary and high schools of the area, took part in the procession.

Samiron was hacked to death in the village on March 23.

Earlier, Nazirpur Upazila Primary Teachers' Association formed a human chain in Nazirpur town on Monday, making the same demand.

Locals said an organised gang is behind the murder of Samiron. The gang is so powerful that none dares to protest against them. They are involved in different crimes in the area, including land grabbing, extortion and even rape, they alleged.

A criminal entered Samiron's house while he was sleeping with his wife and three children and hacked him mercilessly. During the attack, a few other criminals waited outside the house. Samiron's wife Swapna Majumder was injured.

Swapna filed a case with Nazirpur Police Station, but she did not mention anyone's name.

Officer-in-charge of the police station Md Habibur Rahman could not be contacted as he did not receive repeated phone calls.



PHOTO: STAR

Different roads of Mymensingh district headquarters went under water due to hours-long downpour yesterday. The photo was taken from Natun Bazar of the town in the afternoon.