

Fish revolution

Bangladesh sees 25-fold growth in commercial fish farming in 3 decades

REAZ AHMAD

With a 25-fold growth in farmed fish market over the last three decades, Bangladesh has been experiencing a quiet revolution in aquaculture.

The country grows nearly 20 lakh tonnes of farmed fish a year, and an overwhelming 75 percent of the farmers sell fish to wholesalers.

In the mid-80s, 60 percent (75,000 tonnes) of the farmed fish output of 1.24 lakh tonnes was traded in markets. Now, more than 90 percent of aquaculture production of 20 lakh tonnes is sold commercially.

An international study on Bangladesh's growth in fish culture came up with the data, debunking the traditional view that the county's fish farming is mainly subsistence-oriented.

Carried out by researchers from the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and Michigan State University in the US, the study was published recently in *Aquaculture*, an international journal.

It says 42 percent of the marketised farmed fish is consumed in urban areas, and that share is growing fast.

The Washington-based global think tank, IFPRI, notes, "The fish value chain in Bangladesh is growing and transforming very rapidly, in all segments. The quiet



- Yearly aquaculture production 20 lakh tonnes
- 94% of it destined for domestic consumption
- 75% of farmers sell fish commercially

revolution in the fish value chain is a domestic market revolution: 94% of aquaculture production is destined for domestic consumption."

With an annual production of nearly 20 lakh tonnes of cultured fish, Bangladesh is the world's fifth largest producer of inland aquaculture after China, Indonesia, India and Vietnam, the UN Food and Agriculture



People under the banner of Garo Students' Union join a candle lighting ceremony at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city last evening ahead of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples today. The UN says special measures are required to protect the rights of indigenous people and maintain their distinct cultures and way of life. Story on page 16

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Salman Shah was murdered

Claims the acclaimed actor's mother after video message emerges suggesting the same

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Famous Bangla film actor Salman Shah's mother Nilufar Chowdhury Neela yesterday claimed her son was murdered and sought Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's intervention in bringing the culprits to book.

"I want legal support and intervention from the prime minister," Neela told a press briefing in London.

She said Rabeya Sultana Ruby, the woman who recently claimed that Salman did not kill himself as was believed, but was in fact murdered two decades ago, should be brought back to Bangladesh and



War crimes appeals stuck for 17 months

Shortage of judges in Appellate Division slows down disposal of appeals at SC

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The Supreme Court did not hear any of 20 war crimes-related appeals filed with its Appellate Division after disposing of the appeal of war criminal and Jamaat leader Mir Quasem Ali about one and a half years ago.

Nineteen of the appeals have been filed by convicted war criminals, and the other has been filed by the apex court.

The SC is not including the war crimes-related appeals in the hearing list, as the court is disposing of many other urgent cases, said a source in the SC.

More than a week is needed for completing hearing and disposing of just one war

crimes-related appeal, and this court can settle a significant number of other cases by this time, the source said.

He added that there is also a shortage of judges in the apex court after retirement and death of a few of its judges.

There are now six judges against the posts of 11 judges at the SC's Appellate Division.

According to the source, appeals of high-profile convicted war criminals have already been resolved by the apex court.

The apex court completed proceedings of war criminal Quasem Ali's appeal on February 24 last year and upheld his death penalty on March 8 that year. He was executed on September 3 last year.

SJC comes into effect again

The chief justice-led Council issues 1st order since scrapping of 16th amendment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) has decided to instruct the judges of both the Appellate and the High Court divisions of the Supreme Court to send the records of all the cases in which the full texts of the verdicts and orders have not been announced in six months to the office concerned by October 4.

The three-member the SJC, led by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, held the meeting at the CJ's office on Sunday, five days

Hajj pilgrimage at taxpayers' expense

Govt spending Tk 10cr to send 318 for hajj; most of them financially solvent

RASHIDUL HASAN

Spending Tk 10.15 crore of public money, the religious affairs ministry is sending 318 "pious Muslims", including financially solvent people, lawmakers, and government high officials, to perform hajj this year.

Priority was given to those from Mymensingh, Gopalganj, Kishoreganj, and Faridpur.

A staggering 79 people, including Religious Affairs Minister Motiur Rahman's relatives, personal staffers, and close aides, were nominated from Mymensingh-4 constituency, from where the minister got elected in 2009.

Minister Motiur earlier sent over 40 government staffers and officials working in the constituency to Saudi Arabia as members of "Hajj Assistant Delegation". Two gunmen and a "privileges staff" of the minister were also in the 171-member delegation.

At least 10 Awami League leaders and three lawmakers are among the people who made the "free-hajj" list. The list also includes 15 officials and staffers of the Bangabhaban and at least 24 from the Prime Minister's Office, RELATED STORY ON PAGE 2

BSRM PARTNERS WITH TREST ROSSEM

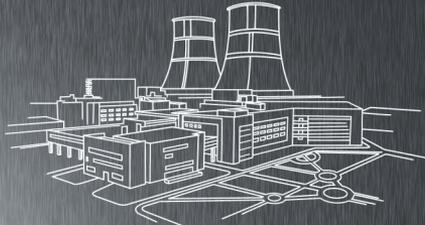
CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONY FOR SUPPLYING STEEL

BSRM and Trest RosSEM

POWER PLANT PROJECT

February 24, 2017

A contract for supply of steel for Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant Project was signed between BSRM and Trest RosSEM at Patna, Mr. Shobhon Shahabuddin (Pill), Head of National Sales, BSRM and Mr. Olekhnik Aleksandrov, Director of the Branch, Trest RosSEM signed the contract on behalf of their respective companies.



BUILDING ROOPPUR NUCLEAR POWER PLANT WITH XTREME SAFETY

BSRM steel will now build the country's first Nuclear Power Plant in Rooppur. BSRM has signed a landmark agreement with Russian Nuclear agency Trest RosSEM to work on the new Rooppur Power Plant that will produce 2400MW of electricity.

We believe that the nation's future will be safe and resilient with sufficient power supply. By partnering to build a Nuclear Power Plant, BSRM is building a safer nation.