

41 fishermen jailed for defying hilsa ban

STAR REPORT

Mobile courts in Munshiganj and Faridpur districts yesterday jailed 41 fishermen and fined 11 others for violating the ongoing ban on hilsa fishing.

In Faridpur, a mobile court sentenced 41 fishermen to 15-day imprisonment and seized 12 maunds of hilsa and 8 lakh metres of nets in Sadarpur upazila of the district, reports our correspondent.

Meanwhile, our Munshiganj correspondent reported that a mobile court fined 11 fishermen Tk 2,000 each for catching hilsa from the Padma river in Lohajang upazila.

The mobile court also seized over 250kg of mother hilsa and one lakh metres of fishing nets. The fish were later distributed to orphanages.

In another drive in Pirojpur, 21,000 metres of fishing nets were destroyed by the fisheries department, reports our correspondent.

The 22-day ban on catching and selling hilsa for safe spawning of the fish started on October 1.



Rows of boats lie idle beside Marine Drive Road in Cox's Bazar's Sonapur area as a ban on netting hilsa is going on. The 22-day ban for safe spawning of the fish started on October 1. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

2 Comilla University students suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Comilla University authorities have suspended two students for two years for appearing in the examination with written answer scripts.

The decision of suspending the students -- Shakhawat Hossain Sany and Sirajul Islam Monir of computer science and engineering department -- was taken at a syndicate meeting on Thursday.

Registrar Md Mozibur Rahman said an employee, Nirmal Das, was also suspended for stealing question and exam papers.

On March 20 this year, the two students appeared in the Physics-2 course final examination with written answer scripts, but the invigilator caught them red-handed and cancelled their examination.

A three-member probe committee was formed in this connection headed by Prof Zakir Sayadullah Khan, dean of social science faculty.

Based on their report, the university syndicate decided to suspend the duo for the next two years.

540 litres of hazardous liquid seized in Sherpur

Militants stored it to make bombs, suspect police

A CORRESPONDENT, Sherpur

Police seized 540 litres of hydrogen peroxide from a shop at Chandrakona Bazar in Nokla upazila of Sherpur on Thursday night.

Suspected militants might have stored the chemical with a plan to make bombs for carrying out attacks in four temples of the district, according to police.

"But the militants failed to execute the plan as, based on intelligence report, we increased our vigilance in the temples of Noyani Bazar," said Rafiqul Hasan Gani, superintendent of police in Sherpur, yesterday.

Meanwhile, police had been looking out for the den of the militants, and finally got trace of the chemical on Thursday night, he said.

Police, however, did not disclose which militant group was behind it.

A forensic team of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) examined the 18 containers, which had a label that read: "50% hydrogen peroxide".

Police detained shop owner Minara Begum, 40, for interrogation.

In primary interrogation, Minara said one Foyzuddin in the upazila rented the shop from her eight months back. Foyzuddin later rented it out to medicine trader Abul Kashem a month back.

Both of them are now on the run, said SP Rafiqul Gani, adding that they were now conducting a drive to arrest the suspects.

Dairy sector to see a boost

Govt plans 9 projects to increase productivity of cattle, hence milk production

UNB, Dhaka

The government is going to take nine projects aiming to develop the country's dairy industry and increase the productivity of cattle, and thus boost milk production to meet its growing demand.

The Department of Livestock Services has formulated the project proposals and sent those to the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock for its approval.

"A process is underway to have those approved," according to an official document.

The projects include strengthening veterinary services through mobile veterinary clinics and mini diagnostics laboratories; modernisation and capacity building of

regional research centres of livestock diseases; setting up national livestock breeding centres; coordinated livestock development in coastal islands; reproductive disease control; and modernisation of state-run milk farms.

In 2008-09 fiscal year, according to the document, the per capita milk intake in the country was 43.35 ml which rose to 157.97 ml in 2016-17.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) recommends 250 ml milk consumption per person a day.

A senior official at the ministry said the government has taken a number of steps to increase milk production in the country.

The Department of Livestock Services is also running artificial breed-

ing activities through 3,750 sub-centres and points.

The government has begun "artificial breeding programme expansion and implementation of embryo transfer technology project (3rd Phase)", aiming to set up artificial breeding points in all unions.

Besides, the livestock department is implementing the "breed upgradation through progeny test (2nd Phase)" to improve the species of livestock.

According to the available data, every day around 18 million litres of milk are produced in the country.

Every year, Bangladesh imports 65-70 thousand metric tonnes of powdered milk, equal to 17 lakh litres of liquid milk.

5 'militants' arrested in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested five alleged members of the banned militant outfit Ansar Al Islam in Puthia upazila of Rajshahi and seized 24 jihadi books from their possession.

The arrestees are Anisur Rahman, 32, Shahidul Islam, 31, Nazrul Islam Mollah, 42, and Mohammad Shahin, 27, of Bhoruapara village, and Babar Munshi, 45, of Beel Kajirpara village in the upazila.

In a nine-and-a-half-hour operation since 3:00am, a team of Rab first conducted a drive in Bhoruapara village and arrested Anisur and Shahidul, according to a Rab press release.

Based on their statement, the team then arrested Nazrul and Shahin in the same village and Babar in Beel Kajirpara village, said Lt Col Mahbubul Alam, director of Rab-5 in Rajshahi.

The Rab members also seized 24 jihadi books during the drive.

The process for filing a case under anti-terrorism act was underway, the release added.

Husband

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said Shahidul Islam.

Her father rescued her and got her admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital the next day. Later she was transferred to the one-stop crisis centre of the hospital.

Bilkis Begum, coordinator of the one-stop crisis centre, told The Daily Star that Mila had injuries all over her body.

Indian cyclist launches Sundarbans campaign



West Bengal schoolteacher Ram Prasad Naskar in Bangladesh. PHOTO: STAR

SUBRATA ACHARYA, Kolkata

A part-time schoolteacher of West Bengal has taken an initiative to travel 2,700km in Bangladesh on cycle to raise awareness about saving the Sundarbans.

Ram Prasad Naskar entered Bangladesh through Petrapole border two days back. Cycling through Jessore, he set off for Faridpur on Thursday.

Naskar is a part-time teacher of Borol Sreepur High School in Gorla under Sonarpur Police Station of South 24 Parganas district in West Bengal. He hails from Purbalaya area in Subhashgram in the same district. Cycling is his long-time hobby. Nature-lover Naskar prefers cycle as a means of travelling as it is environment-friendly.

Middle-aged Naskar has planned to cycle through the districts of Khulna, Jessore, Faridpur, Manikganj, Bhola, Cox's Bazar, Noakhali, Comilla, Mymensingh, Tangail and Dhaka in one month.

During this period, Naskar will campaign for saving the Sundarbans as biodiversity of the mangrove forest is already under threat due to climate change.

Before leaving for Bangladesh, Naskar told journalists in Kolkata that he had a plan to tour around the world in future as part of his campaign for saving the Sundarbans. Besides, distributing several thousands of leaflets and handbills, the campaigner will also use motivational videos, saved in his cellphone, during his tour in Bangladesh.

Of the total 10,000 square kilometres of the Sundarbans, 6,017sqkm is inside Bangladesh. The remaining 3,983sqkm falls in South 24 Parganas area in West Bengal of India.

The forest is home to 219 species of birds, 40 species of mammals, 56 species of reptiles and 156 species of fish. Besides, there are 67 species of crabs, 23 species of oysters and 150 species of mosses.

Apart from 140 species of trees, among the wild animals are Bengal tigers, fishing cats and deer. There also remain rare species of dolphins, crocodiles, snakes, lizards, water monitor, Olive Ridley turtles, hawksbill turtles, green sea turtle and other species. Due to a lack of environmental awareness, climate change has been taking a serious turn, which has been endangering the flora and fauna of the world's largest contiguous mangrove forest.

If necessary, cut off ties with Myanmar

Says Hefajat at Ctg rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Hefajat-e-Islam, a Chittagong-based Islamist group, yesterday demanded that the government put diplomatic pressure on Myanmar to stop repression of Rohingyas.

"If it doesn't work, then cut off diplomatic relationship with Myanmar," said Hefajat Secretary General Junaid Babunagari at a rally at Laldighi Maidan in the port city.

The group also demanded trial of Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi in the international criminal court on charge of Rohingya persecution. Hefajat Ameer Shah Ahmed Shafi also spoke, among others.

Meanwhile, some Hefajat activists physically harassed two journalists of Channel 24 at the programme. They are reporter Jubayer Monjur and cameraperson Selim Ullah of the TV station's Chittagong bureau office.

Jubayer said there was brawl at the stage as Mufti Ijaharul Islam was barred from giving a speech. Some Hefajat men attacked the cameraperson assuming that the brawl was being recorded, he said. "As I moved on to save my colleague, I was also attacked and injured," Monjur added.

Azizul Haque Islambadi, organising secretary of Hefajat, said it was a misunderstanding and they apologised to them.

Noise pollution turns

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100dB or more noise pollution occurs for half an hour or more in any place.

Dr Mahfuzur Rahman, a former WHO consultant, said if one experiences sound pollution for a long time, his or her hearing capacity will dwindle gradually, and once he or she will be sound impaired.

Noting that working in chaotic noise for a long period can cause complete deafness to people, he said children are being adversely affected by sound pollution since it stimulates their brains.

Engr Abdus Sohban, a former DoE additional director general, said a study shows that about 10 percent of city dwellers are now hearing impaired and 35 percent are suffering from low-hearing problem due to high noise pollution.

He said although DoE has announced the Noise Pollution (Control) Rules 2006 to protect public health from sound pollution, it totally fails to enforce the rule putting the health of people at risk.

Contacted by the news agency, DoE Additional Director General QSI Hashmi admitted that the existing level of sound pollution -- 80 to 120dB -- is much higher than the acceptable level, which may cause harm to people's health.

Stressing the need for creating awareness about the adverse impacts of noise pollution, he said DoE has not been able to implement the Noise Pollution (Control) Rules 2006 yet due to its limitations.

But DoE will strengthen its enforcement activities involving all stakeholders concerned aiming to check sound pollution in the coming days, he added.

Nabinagar

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officer (UNO) Thursday. Main Uddin was elected mayor in 2014. He is also a vice-president of Nabinagar upazila BNP. Main Uddin said he heard about the suspension. According to the letter, he embezzled millions of taka.

On May 11, 10 out of 12 councillors of the municipality submitted a written complaint to the DC against the mayor.

In the complaint, they said Main Uddin had misappropriated over Tk 30 lakh through tender rigging during construction of a road and embezzled over Tk 90 lakh from the municipality's various funds.

Denying the allegations, Main Uddin said the ruling party men were plotting against him. UNO Tanvir Salehin Gazi, however, said the allegations against him were found to be true. Panel mayor Kabir Hossain will be the acting mayor now, he added.



With the prices of rice and other essential commodities increasing, Garment Sramik Trade Union Kendra demands Tk 16,000 as the minimum salary for a garment worker at a rally in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR