

Hilsa netting rampant

Manikganj, Munshiganj fishermen defy ban in Padma, Meghna and Jamuna

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Catching of hilsa fish has continued in different areas of the Jamuna, Padma and Meghna rivers in Manikganj and Munshiganj during the ongoing government ban from October 7 to 28, meant for helping safe breeding of the popular fish.

A good number of fishermen are catching hilsa fish in the Padma and Jamuna rivers in Manikganj as some local influential people are allegedly giving them support in exchange of huge money, reports our Manikganj correspondent Zahangir Shah.

Mostly the fishermen in the char areas in the three upazilas are catching hilsa from the river areas stretching about 60 kilometres along Daulatpur, Shivalaya and Harirampur upazilas of Manikganj.

According to locals, 500 to 600 boats are being used to net hilsa in those areas with the support of local influential political leaders and public representatives.

During an investigation by this correspondent, locals said an influential leader of Shibalaya upazila Awami League gave 'permission' to 20 fishermen to catch hilsa in exchange of Tk 4 lakh five days ago.

As per the arrangement, the hilsa catchers will be warned on mobile phones when the leader receives the news of the operation by any mobile court.

Besides, the fishermen were assured of getting relieved by giving small amounts as fine.



PHOTO: STAR

Under a 'contact' between 30 fishermen of Madhyananagar area and an influential Jubo League leader of Shivalaya upazila, every boat will give Tk 1,000 per day to the leader.

The hilsa catchers with the help of three public representatives of Bachamara, Baghutia and Charakatari unions of Daulatpur upazila are catching hilsa, in exchange of money.

There is an widely discussed allegation that an fisheries officer has taken huge amount of money from the fishermen in Charakatari union with the assurance of allowing hilsa catching.

Locals told this correspondent that the fishermen began to catch fishes from the third day (October 9) of the ban.

The buyers take the fish to different places in bags and cartons.

Each one-kg hilsa is being sold at Tk 300.

However, the alleged patrons of the illegal hilsa catching refuted the complaints brought against them.

General Secretary of Shivalaya Upazila Awami League Abdul Quddus Khan said that they are helping in government work.

"During the operation, about 50 boats were destroyed and two lakh cubic metres of nets were burnt on Friday. Nearly 500 kg of

hilsa was seized in last two days," Shivalaya Upazila Fisheries Officer Rafiqul Alam said.

Shivalaya Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mehedi Hasan said 38 fishermen were punished for catching hilsa.

"We are continuously running operation to stop hilsa fishing, although there are not adequate manpower and vessels to take effective steps to stop hilsa fishing in the vast areas of the rivers in three upazilas," said District Fisheries Officer Dr Md Muniruzzaman.

Our Munshiganj Correspondent Farhana Mirza adds: Frequent operations by mobile courts seem futile to stop illegal catching of hilsa in the Padma and Meghna rivers flowing by the district as a large number of fishermen have continued the callous act during the ongoing ban period.

"On Friday, we conducted a massive drive in remote Bakchar area of Sadar upazila with the help of police and Ansar. There we seized one lakh metres of banned current nets and destroyed it later," said Sadar Upazila Fisheries Officer Md Nasir Uddin.

"The government has allocated rice for 3,671 hilsa fishermen in the district to help them during the ban on catching hilsa. Each fisherman will get 20 kg of rice. We have also decided that all the local fishing boats will be kept under the custody of Adhara Union Parishad Chairman Kabir Master from today [Saturday]. Those will be returned to the fishermen when the ban period ends," he said.

JUBO LEAGUE MAN MURDER

Accused killed in gunfight

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A youth, accused in the case for killing a Jubo League activist, was killed in a gunfight between two groups of criminals at Abdul Gafur Academy in Old Kasba area of Jashore town early yesterday.

The deceased was Tajul Islam, 36, son of Hafizur Rahman of Khuldanga area of the town.

Md Apurbo Hasan, officer-in-charge of Jashore Kotowali Police Station, said informed that a gunfight ensued between two criminal groups, they raided the area around 2:00am.

Sensing the presence of the law enforcers, the criminals fled away.

Later, police recovered the body of Tajul with bullet injuries.

He was accused in seven cases, including one for the murder of Jubo League activist Sohag.

On September 28, criminals killed Sohag with sharp weapons in the town, said the OC.

BNP man found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Police recovered the body of a former BNP leader from Ramu upazila on Friday, a day after he went missing from Sadar upazila on Thursday.

The deceased, Sadek Reza, 45, son of late Badiul Alam of Uttar Khan Ghona village in Sadar upazila, was former president of Islampur union unit of BNP.

Being informed by the villagers, law enforcers recovered Sadek's body from near the boundary wall of the government food godown in Ramu around 7:00pm and sent it to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

He swallows Yaba pills to evade arrest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patna

An alleged drug peddler on Friday swallowed Yaba pills in a bid to evade arrest in Vangura upazila of the district.

However, Md Shakil Ahmed, 20, son of Ismail Sardar of Kumardanga village, was later arrested.

Officer-in-Charge of Vangura Police Station Md Shahin said when a police team, on secret information, went to arrest Shakil in Vangura bus stand area, he ate up some Yaba pills and fell sick.

However, the law enforcers were able to seize five Yaba pills from his possession during the drive, said the OC.

The arrestee was rushed to the upazila health complex. After primary treatment, he was sent to a court that sent him to jail yesterday.

OVER ONE MONTH OF ABDUCTION

Cops rescue girl from Dhaka

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A seventh grader madrasa girl was rescued from Mugda in Dhaka on October 11 after over one month of her abduction from Chanpura village in Dashmina upazila of the district.

The girl was brought to Patuakhali yesterday, Superintendent of Police (SP) Mainul Hasan said while briefing the local journalists at his office.

The victim, aged about 14 and student of a local madrasa, was allegedly abducted on September 8 on the way to her institution.

Victim's father Saiful Islam filed a general diary with Dashmina Police Station in this regard the following day and he filed a case on October 6 after the police failed to trace the girl.

During investigation, police learnt that in the meantime a kabiraj (herbal medicine practitioner) named Harun of the same village left the area and they started looking for him, said Mainul.

Meanwhile, police launched drives in several districts including Rajbari, Faridpur and Madaripur, but in vain. Finally, they were able to locate Harun at Mugda in Dhaka and rescued the girl from his residence, the SP added. The police also arrested Harun.

Harun told police that he took the girl to his Dhaka residence for taking care of his pregnant wife.

When the local journalists asked Harun in custody if he took permission of the girl's father to take her to his Dhaka residence, he kept mum.

Police sent the victim to 250-bed Patuakhali General Hospital for medical test, the SP said.

Police, however, barred the local journalists from talking the victim to hospital as she was underage.



Marking the 3rd founding anniversary of Mymensingh division, a colourful procession was brought out in the city yesterday. Religious Affairs Minister Principal Motiur Rahman inaugurated the daylong programme.

PHOTO: STAR

Class under open sky

School building washed away by the Padma in Faridpur



Students of Fajal Kha Dangi Government Primary School in Charbhadrasan upazila of Faridpur attend classes under the open sky as the schoolhouse was washed away by the Padma river on August 13 this year. PHOTO: STAR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A government primary school in Charbhadrasan upazila has been holding classes under the open sky as the schoolhouse was washed away by the Padma river on August 13.

Fajal Kha Dangi Government Primary School was established in 1988 on 33 decimals of land in Fajal Kha Dangi village. A brick building was constructed in 1993, which was eroded by the Padma on August 13 this year. The school was then shifted to Shamsuddin Mollah's house in the village on August 28.

"Our school building was washed away on August 13, and our higher authorities moved the school to Shamsuddin's house on August 28.

The authorities told us they would build a tin-shed for us within seven days, but we have been holding classes here for nearly one-and-a-half-months," said Headmaster Rebeka Sultana.

"The house which Shamuddin gave us is not big enough for our 97 students, so we are holding classes under the open sky," Rebeka added.

"The school authorities told me that they needed my old house for seven days. Although a month-and-a-half has passed, they have not released my house. As a result, my family members are facing problems," Shamuddin said.

Mim Akter, a Class V student, said they are suffering as their classes are held under the open sky because they

have no school building.

Sahadat Hossain, a student of the same class, said they cannot attend classes in the open when it rains or when it is too hot.

"The final examination will be held within two months, but the students cannot attend classes due to the rain and scorching heat. They also fall sick due to the heat," said Rubina Begum, mother of a Class III student.

"We selected a new place for the school, but that was also washed away by the river. Now we are searching for another place. We shall shift the school after building a new schoolhouse," said Charbhadrasan Upazila Education Officer Ashraf Haque.

Stray dogs bite 10 kids

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaiandha

Stray dogs bit at least ten children indiscriminately at Dulal village in Sundarganj upazila of the district on Friday.

Locals said all of a sudden, two mad dogs attacked the school going children and bit them, leaving them injured.

The victims include Rajib Mia, 13, Maidul Islam, 12, Niloy Mia, 10, Bakul Chandra, 10, Niberon Chandra, 13, Madhabi Rani, 11, and Rahima Khatun, 9, of the village. They were taken to the upazila health complex.

Incidents of biting by stray dogs have increased alarmingly in different areas for the last three years, said Monwer Alam Sarker, chairman Kanchibari union.

Man's body found in paddy field

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

The body of a man was recovered from a paddy field at Kathaldangi village in Haripur upazila on October 7.

The deceased was Shariful Islam, 40, son of late Based Ali of Dilgaon village under the upazila.

Haripur Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Amiruzzaman said local people found a body in a sack in a paddy field and informed police.

112 BNP-Jamaat men sued: Nine arrested

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Police in separate drives detained nine people belonging to BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami from Tangail and Mymensingh yesterday and on Friday while sued another 112 in Mymensingh and Jashore.

Our Tangail correspondent reported that law enforcers arrested seven leaders and activists of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami from Basail upazila early yesterday and on Friday night.

The arrestees are Basail upazila unit Jamaat Ameer Afzal Hossain, its Organising Secretary Kabir Khansur, former president of Kanchanpur union unit BNP Ramzan Ali, former senior vice-president of Kashil union unit BNP Nurul Islam and BNP activists Aman Miah and Hossain Jamadar.

Officer-in-Charge of Basail Police Station Anisur Rahman said they detained the BNP-Jamaat men while they were holding a clandestine meeting for conducting subversive activities in the area.

Away in Mymensingh, Bhaluka police filed a case against 91 BNP-Jamaat men

under Special Powers Act on Friday night, reports our correspondent.

Bhaluka upazila unit BNP President Fakaruddin Ahmed Bachchu was made the prime accused in the case.

Mohammad Johurul Islam, sub-inspector of Bhaluka Police Station, filed the case accusing 61 named and 30 other unnamed people for allegedly creating anarchy in the locality and planning to commit subversive activities, Officer-in-Charge of the police station Firoz Talukder said.

Meanwhile, police arrested Saheb Alam Shawon, senior joint secretary of Jubo Dal's upazila unit, on Friday night and produced the arrestee before a court yesterday that sent him to jail.

In Jashore, Jhikargachha police filed a case against 21 leaders and activists of BNP and Jamaat, including former Jamaat lawmaker from Jashore-2 constituency Muhaddis Abu Sayeed, reports our Benapole correspondent.

Meanwhile, police detained Jhikargachha upazila unit Jamaat-e-Islami General Secretary Mizanur Rahman on Friday night.



Students of Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University in Tangail continue agitation on the campus for the fourth day yesterday demanding scrapping of the existing university ordinance and reinstatement of the previous one. PHOTO: STAR