

Hilsa floods Barishal market after ban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

A lot of hilsa arrived at a Barishal wholesale market yesterday, just a day after a 22-day ban period had ended.

The government bans catching, selling and transporting hilsa between October 7 and 28 to ensure the safe spawning of the popular fish during its peak breeding period.

Bimol Chandra Das, district fishery officer (DFO), said more than 5,000 maunds of hilsa came to Barishal in a day.

"I think fishermen might have netted those during the ban period," he said.

During a visit to Port Road wholesale market, The Daily Star found that frozen hilsa flooded market, which is the largest one in the district.

According to locals, they preserved those in cold storages. However, many of those were about to be rotten as many fishermen and wholesalers could not preserve them in cold storages and could not transport those during the ban period, they said.

Already 50 hilsa-laden trawlers anchored at the wholesale market. Labourers and traders were busy with unloading the fish.

Nirob Hossain Tutul, secretary of Matsya Aratdar Samity of wholesale market, said hilsa weighing 400gm to 500gm are being sold at Tk 16,000 per maund, 600gm to 900gm at Tk 18,000 and over 1kg at Tk 28,000. The price is half of what it was before the ban period, he added.

A total of 961 fishermen were jailed for different terms in six districts of Barishal division in the 22 days (from October 7 to 28) for violating the ban, according to the fisheries department.

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Boatloads of hilsa arriving at Port Road wholesale market in Barishal yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

SNAPS & snippets

Suspended jailer on remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A Kishoreganj court yesterday placed jailer Sohel Rana Biswas on a two-day remand, after he was arrested in Bhairab Railway Station on Friday.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Iqbal Mahmud granted the remand and sent him to Kishoreganj jail after police produced Sohel before the court with a seven-day remand prayer.

Sohel was arrested with 12 bottles of Phensedyl, Tk 44 lakh in cash and fixed deposit receipts (FDRs) worth Tk 2.50 crore, police said.

Two cases were filed against him under money laundering and narcotics control acts.

Man held with firearm in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on Sunday arrested a man in Kaunia upazila of Rangpur and recovered a firearm and a bullet from his possession.

The arrestee, Forhat Hossain, alias Nayan, 35, is the leader of "seven star group", a notorious terror gang in Rangpur city, claimed Mohatar Hossain, additional SP of Rangpur.

Tipped off, a Rab team raided a primary school around 11:00pm and arrested him with the firearm and bullet. Rab handed him over to police after filing a case.

Sayeefur Rahman passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohamad Sayeefur Rahman, son of Mukhlesur Rahman and Rabeya Rahman, passed away on Friday. He was 39.

He left behind his wife Ilma and three daughters, said a press release. He was buried at his family graveyard in Dhaka's Mirbagh.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Abdul Kuddus no more

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Abdul Kuddus, former executive engineer of Power Development Board in Natore, passed away at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital early yesterday. He was 63.

He left behind a son, a daughter and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

Abdul Kuddus was buried at Natore Garikhana central graveyard.

Iqbal Ansari's death anniversary

CITY DESK

The 19th death anniversary of Iqbal Ansari Khan, a freedom fighter and eminent social worker, will be observed today, said a press release.

Iqbal Ansari, popularly known as Henry, took active part in the Language Movement and the 1971 Liberation War.

After completing his MA in international relations and LLB in 1959, he joined the Bar. He became the district governor of RI District 3280. He authored three books.

No respite in commuters' plight

2nd day of nationwide transport strike

STAR REPORT

A strike called by transport workers across the country continued yesterday, piling on the misery of people of all walks of life. Nearly all modes of public transportation remained off the streets yesterday as well, with agitators taking to the streets, blocking private vehicles and harassing people in some places, according to reports by our correspondents in Chattogram, Chittagong University, Sylhet, Rajshahi, Barishal, Cumilla, Mymensingh and Bagerhat (writing from Khulna).

Commuters' woes were aggravated in the port city due to rain since morning, as many faced difficulties to reach their destinations even on foot. Rickshaws and CNG-run auto-rickshaws dominated the roads, with their drivers charging exorbitant fares.

As most schools were open despite the strike, a large number of students were seen stranded beside the roads in the rain.

Moitri Dhar, mother of a fifth-grader, was seen standing at Panirak intersection, holding her son's hand, reluctant to let her son miss school for another day.

"It is nearly the end of the year and they have examinations ahead. No one seems to be thinking about children's education in the country," she said.

A driver of a teachers' bus of Chittagong University was beaten up by transport workers at Bahaddarhat Bus Terminal area around 8:00am. He was admitted to Chittagong University Medical Centre.

Oli Ahmed, general secretary of Chattogram chapter of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Shramik Federation, said the attack was not carried out by transport workers. "We don't have any picketer on the streets. Some miscreants might have done this to tarnish our image," he claimed.

Buses, running from Chattogram city to Chittagong University (CU) on special arrangement due to ongoing admission tests, were seen charging fares much higher than the rate fixed by the CU authorities, while CNG auto-rickshaws plying to and from campus were also seen charging passengers extra.

SYLHET

Even after an infant died at Baralekha upazila of Moulvibazar on the first day of the strike, transport workers continued blocking ambu-

lances at different points of Dakshin Surma area in Sylhet city yesterday.

Hundreds of transport workers, divided in small groups and some of them carrying bamboo sticks, took position at different points in and around the city. They prohibited all buses, trucks, public transportation, and even private cars to ply the streets. Police stood nearby in many areas, but did not take any action.

Jahid Hossain came to Sylhet from nearby Golapganj to attend a hearing at the court. "I started early to reach on time, and half of the way, I had to walk. These transport workers should be stopped from calling such strikes," he said.

Solaiman Ahmed, a businessman, was seen at Sylhet Railway Station in the afternoon. He had missed the train. "I had an emergency work in Dhaka, but could not reach the station on time. Now, there is no way I can go there today," he said.

RAJSHAHI

Hundreds of passengers were forced to risk their lives boarding battery-run auto-rickshaws to travel to distant districts, as no buses plied due to the transport strike yesterday.

Auto-rickshaws occupied the city's bus

stands at Bhadra, Gourhanga rail gate and Kasiadanga intersections, and were picking up passengers to Chapainawabganj, Natore and Naogaon.

Mohammad Manik, an auto-rickshaw driver of Belgharia village in Natore, was waiting at Bhadra bus stand. He said he drove six people some 45 kilometres to Rajshahi in the morning; three of them were patients.

"Conditions of two patients were critical. They cried in pain on the way. They boarded my auto-rickshaw finding no bus," Manik said.

Auto-rickshaw drivers said police were allowing them on the highway considering sufferings of people.

Aklima Khatun of Halsa area in Natore brought his father Alfaj Hossain on Saturday for treatment at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. When doctors released him yesterday, she found no buses at Bhadra bus stand. "I know about risks or long route journey in an auto-rickshaw, but I had no other way," Aklima said.

Transport workers, meanwhile, demonstrated at Seroil and Nawdapara bus terminals of the city supporting the strike.

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Mainul to get first class division facilities in jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to immediately give first class division facilities to Barrister Mainul Hossain in jail.

The court also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain why denial of the facilities to Mainul should not be declared illegal.

The bench of Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif and Justice Razik-Al-Jalil issued the order and the rule following a writ petition filed by Mainul's wife Saju Hossain.

Mainul will get a separate room, a bed, a table, a newspaper and some other facilities in jail following the HC order.

His wife submitted the petition to the HC on Sunday, saying that Barrister Mainul is a former member of parliament, adviser to a former caretaker government, former president of Supreme Court Bar Association, and member of the constitution drafting committee. But the jail authorities are not giving him the division facilities, she wrote.

During the hearing on Sunday, Dr Kamal Hossain and Advocate Khandker Mahubub Hossain appeared for the petitioner.

Attorney General Mahubub Alam opposed the petition. He said Mainul Hossain should have applied to the magistrate's court concerned seeking division facilities.

Barrister Mainul was arrested in the capital's Uttara on October 22 in connection with a defamation case filed in Rangpur for slandering journalist Masuda Bhatti on a television programme, said his lawyer Advocate Masud Rana.

Mainul has been accused in 18 cases in this connection so far, he added.

Bangiya Grantha Jadughar to become national institution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A national committee headed by Finance Minister AMA Muhith was formed to establish Bangiya Grantha Jadughar, first book museum in Munshiganj, as a national institution.

It was founded in 2016 by Agrashar Bikrampur Foundation, a socio-cultural organisation.

During a meeting on Saturday, Nuh-Ul-Alam Lenin, president of the foundation was made executive president of the 47-member body.

At the meeting finance minister said, Bangiya Grantha Jadughar would be established as a specialised institution.

Biswa Sahitya Kendra Founder Abdullah Abu Sayeed and UGC's former chairman Dr Nazrul Islam were present among others.



The baby girl in the arms of a woman of the family temporarily taking care of her.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Who will take the child home?

Five couples vie for adopting abandoned baby girl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Five childless couples have applied to a Barishal court to adopt an abandoned baby girl who was recently recovered from beside a city street.

After holding a hearing Sunday, Mizanur Rahman, judge of the First Additional and Sessions Judge's Court and Juvenile Court, asked the couples to submit in the tune of Tk 10 lakh as proof of their financial ability and future security deposit for the child.

The court is set to give the final decision on January 1, 2019.

Nurul Islam, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Model Police Station, said the child was found abandoned by an alley near Barishal City College on October 17 night. She was wrapped in cloth, he said. "She was weak, and we presumed her to be seven days old."

Minara Begum, domestic help of a nearby residence, saw the child first and informed police with the help of a local journalist. After recovery, police placed

the girl in the temporary care of local businessman Kamrul Ahasan Rupon, who was present on the spot at that time.

On October 24, government employee Mizanur Rahman and Ayesha Siddiki were the first couple to apply for adoption.

The court had accepted their prayer temporarily and was supposed to deliver an order on Sunday. But in the meantime, businessman Ekramul Chowdhury, also brother-in-law of Rupon, filed another appeal, leading to rescheduling of the process. Again, before hearing the appeals Sunday, three more couples showed up. The court then fixed January 1 for the final decision.

Multi-national company officer Afsanil Zahir, the only person applying for adoption from Dhaka, said, "We came to know about the matter from media. We didn't have any child from 16 years of our marriage. We'd like to adopt her."

The other applicants are banker Abdul Bari Chowdhury and physician Dr Nazrul Islam.

Amir Khasru sent to jail after remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTG

A court in Chattogram yesterday sent BNP leader Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury to jail on completion of his one-day remand in a case filed under ICT and Special Powers Act.

However, the BNP leader did not confess to his involvement in the phone conversation that was leaked earlier, said investigators and court sources.

The court of Metropolitan Magistrate Md Khairul Amin sent BNP standing committee member Khasru to jail after he was produced before the court by the Investigation Officer (IO) Sub-Inspector (SI) Sanjoy Guho after the remand, said Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) (prosecution) Nirmalendu Bikash Chawkrabarty.

According to the report which was submitted to the court by the IO after remand, Khasru admitted to being acquainted with Nowmi, said the court sources.

Seeking anonymity, a police official told The Daily Star that during interrogation, Khasru told the interrogators that he met Nowmi abroad when he was studying law there.

Earlier, on October 25, a Chattogram court granted one-day remand to Khasru in connection with the case filed under section 57 of the ICT Act and section 15 of the Special Powers Act with Kotwali Police Station after a phone conversation allegedly between Khasru and a BNP activist named Nowmi had been leaked.



United Hospital observed World Stroke Day by conducting free health check-ups at its lobby yesterday. Md Faizur Rahman, chief executive officer of United Hospital Limited, inaugurated the ceremony in presence of other senior doctors, nurses and staff members.



Participants at the breast cancer awareness campaign, "Pinkathon" organised by Apollo Hospitals Dhaka, on October 27 inside Bashundhara residential area. More than 200 people participated in the event. Senior consultants and management of the hospital were also present.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
প্রধান বন সংরক্ষকের দপ্তর
বন অধিদপ্তর
বন ভবন, আগারগাঁও, শেরেবাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭
পত্র নং-২২.০১.০০০০.০১১(প্রঃ),এম-১০২(বিবিধ-১৪),২০১৮.৪৭১ তারিখঃ ১৮/১০/২০১৮ইং

সর্বসাধারণের জন্য সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বন আইন ১৯২৭, রাষ্ট্রীয় অধিগ্রহণ ও প্রজাঙ্ক আইন ১৯৫০ (The State Acquisition and Tenancy Act 1950), জাতীয় বনানীতি-১৯৯৪ এবং জাতীয় ভূমি ব্যবহার নীতিমালা ২০০১ মোতাবেক গেজেট বিজ্ঞপ্তিত সংরক্ষিত বন (Reserved Forest), রক্ষিত বন (Protected Forest), অর্পিত বন (Vested Forest) এবং অর্জিত বন (Acquired Forest) এর আওতাভুক্ত বনভূমি কোন ব্যক্তি বা সংস্থার অনুকূলে লীজ/ইজারা/বন্দোবস্ত দেয়া এবং ক্রয়-বিক্রয়/হস্তান্তরের কোন সুযোগ নেই। এছাড়াও সরকারি বনভূমি জবরদখল/বেহাত রোধ কল্পে বনভূমি সংলগ্ন ব্যক্তিগত জোতভূমি ক্রয়/বিক্রয়ের ক্ষেত্রে সাবধানতা অবলম্বনের জন্য বন বিভাগ নিয়ন্ত্রিত ঢাকা ও গাজীপুর জেলার গেজেটভুক্ত বনভূমির হালনাগাদ তথ্য বন অধিদপ্তরের ওয়েবসাইট www.bforest.gov.bd তে দেয়া হয়েছে।

এমতাবস্থায়, ঢাকা ও গাজীপুর জেলাসহ দেশের অন্যান্য জেলার যে সকল মৌজায় সরকারি বিজ্ঞপ্তিত বনভূমি রয়েছে সে সকল মৌজার জমি ক্রয়/বিক্রয়ের ক্ষেত্রে যথাযথভাবে যাচাই-বাহাই ও সাবধানতা অবলম্বনের জন্য সকলকে অনুরোধ করা হলো।

মোহাম্মদ সফিউল আলম চৌধুরী
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