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Tough days for coastal fishermen

Many affected by the 65-day fishing ban at sea don't have ID cards, can't get govt incentives

STAR REPORT

Thousands of fishermen in the coastal areas are facing tough times as they cannot get the government compensation for a 65-day ban on fishing at sea.

The government allocated 40kg of rice as an incentive for fishermen during the ban. However, only those who hold the government fisherman ID card will be eligible to receive the incentive.

The ban is a setback for the fishing community, and even more so for the fishermen still waiting to obtain the ID card.

There are around 4.14 lakh fishermen with ID cards in the 12 coastal districts, Abu Sayed Md Rashedul Haque, director general of the Department of Fisheries (DoF) told The Daily Star. There is an ongoing process to get all the fishermen under the government list.

However, insiders estimate that two-thirds of the total number of fishermen in the areas still do not have ID cards, according to district level fisheries officers and fishermen associations. No total number could be specified.

"They will not be eligible to receive the incentive," said the director general.

The government, for the first time, has imposed a 65-day

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A policeman video tapes double-parked cars on Abdul Gani Road that narrow the three-lane road. Inset, the number plate of a car being recorded. The footage will be used as evidence for slapping fines. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Imran calls Modi to toast polls win

PMs talk about peace in their first talks after February air strikes

AGENCIES

The leaders of India and Pakistan spoke by phone yesterday, their offices said, in their first conversation since before tit-for-tat air strikes in February, their worst bust-up in years.

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan congratulated his counterpart Narendra Modi on his recent election victory, the two nuclear-armed arch foes said in separate statements.

Khan "expressed his desire for both countries to work together for the betterment of their peoples," Pakistan's foreign ministry said.

"Reiterating his vision for peace, progress and prosperity in South Asia, the Prime Minister said he looked forward to working with Prime Minister Modi to advance these objectives," it added.

Modi meanwhile "stressed that creating trust and an environment free of violence and terrorism were essential for fostering cooperation for peace, progress and prosperity in our region," India's foreign

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Fish egg haul in Halda plummets

Damage to riverbed gorges, dredging blamed



MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Chattogram

The filling up of breeding grounds, using of dredgers and illegal capturing of broodfish have resulted in poor spawning of fish, bringing dismay to egg collectors waiting for hauls on the bank of Halda, which is possibly the lone natural breeding ground for carps in South Asia.

At least 500 egg collectors on around 250 boats were netting eggs from the Halda at various points of Hathazari and Raozan upazila, including Napitter Ghona, Azimer Ghat, Amtuya, Ramdas Munsir Haat and Bariyar Ghona.

Eight thousand kilograms of sample eggs were collected this year, while the amount of egg collected last year was 22,680 kg.

The Halda has 21 breeding grounds (gorges) along a 10-kilometre stretch from Onkorighuna to Ramdas Munshir Haat. Seven out of 21 gorges were partially filled up a few months ago as the Water Development

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Stay govt bid to change court venue

Khaleda appeals to the HC about Niko graft case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court challenging the legality of a government notification that says the Niko corruption case trial against her will be held at a special court inside Keraniganj Central Jail.

On May 13, the law ministry issued the gazette notification, saying that trials of 17 criminal cases, including the Niko, against Khaleda would be held at a special court set up at building-2 of Keraniganj Central Jail for security reasons.

The trial in the Niko graft case was being held at a special court set up inside the old Dhaka central jail and the trials of the 16 other cases were taking place at a makeshift court at the Government Alia Madrasa in the capital's Bakshibazar.

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Rare albino panda caught on camera



AFP, Beijing

A rare all-white panda has been caught on camera at a nature reserve in southwest China, showing albinism exists among wild pandas in the region, state media reported.

The spotless, red-eyed animal was photographed while trekking through the forest mid-April in southwestern Sichuan province, said official news agency Xinhua on Saturday.

The panda is an albino between one to two years old, said Li Sheng, a researcher specialising in bears at Peking University, who was quoted in Xinhua's report.

The Wolong National Nature Reserve -- where the animal was spotted -- told AFP it had no further details about the albino panda.

More than 80 percent of the world's wild pandas live in Sichuan, with the rest in Shaanxi and Gansu province.

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60-yr-old held for attempted rape of 6-yr-old

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Police yesterday arrested a man on charge of raping a six-year-old girl in Brahmanbaria town on Saturday.

The arrestee Bacchu Mia, 60, of Shimrailkandi area

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PRAYER TIMING MAY 27

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 3-46	12-45	5-00	6-43	8-00
JAMAAT 3-56	1-15	5-15	6-53	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN	MAY	SEHRI	IFTAR
21	27	6:43	
22	28	3:40	6:44
23	29	3:40	6:44

BSF kills 1 near border in Dinajpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A Bangladeshi died early yesterday after Indian border guards opened fire on him at Dharmajoin border of Dinajpur.

The victim has been identified as Md Alam, 40, a cattle trader. He was a resident of Kamdebpur village under Biral upazila of the northern district.

According to Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), its Indian counterpart Border Security Force (BSF) shot Alam while he was returning from India around 2.30am.

"Alam intruded India late at night to bring back his cattle. Members of BSF Katalia camp under 40 BSF Battalion shot him while he was on his way back home through 20/10s pillar," said Nayed Mehdi Hasan, commander at Dharmajoin outpost under Dinajpur 42 BGB Battalion.

"The killing took place about 50 metres inside the Indian territory," said the official, adding, "Alam

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Workers are chopping down a roadside tree as part of a project to widen Elenga-Bhuapur regional highway in Tangail. The Roads and Highways Department is cutting down some 271 trees, including a number of century-old ones, to implement the expansion work. Under the project, the road will be widened to 24 feet from the existing 18 feet. Besides these, the forest department is also felling over 2,000 trees along the highway as "routine work".

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Police to check bus papers before trips

IGP tells cops to ensure fit vehicles, licensed drivers during Eid rush

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police Mohammad Javed Patwary yesterday asked police officials to check drivers' licence, fitness certificate of buses and other necessary papers before they begin each journey.

The initiative is aimed at keeping unsafe buses off the road and preventing the drivers' assistants from sitting behind the wheel during the rush of holiday makers for the Eid, said Sohel Rana, assistant inspector general (media & PR) of police.

Addressing a video conference from the police headquarters, Javed also asked policemen to stop buses from carrying passengers on the roof, Sohel added.

The special measures would be in place seven days before and after the Eid.

In the two-hour conference joined by additional IGP, metropolitan range police commissioners, and chiefs of police units, Javed ordered the officials to combat extortion on roads and highways.

"Extortion on the highways was a major talking point in the conference," a high official said requesting anonymity.

The IGP also asked the high officials to take departmental action against policemen who are involved in extortion, he said.

He then asked police install CCTV cameras at key points on the highway to prevent extortion and bring discipline.

He then instructed police to take action to prevent the throwing of stones at moving trains.

Police officials should be wary of untoward incidents centring the distribution of zakat, he said.

The IGP asked officials to boost intelligence efforts so that militants cannot set up a den by renting flats.