



This photo taken from Hakaluki Haor in Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila recently shows fishermen passing a busy time in netting varieties of local fish species. Inset, some of their catches.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

# Fishermen happy as native fish abundant in Hakaluki Haor

### Officials claim there are 112 species of fish in the haor now compared to 106 species found in a survey in 2006

**MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar**  
Native fish have been increasing gradually in Hakaluki Haor, much to the delight of local fishermen in three upazilas.  
According to fisheries office in Moulvibazar, fish production in the portion of the haor that falls under Kulaura, Barlekha and Juri upazila of the district was 32.5 thousand tonnes in 2014, 34.3 thousand in 2015, 35.7 thousand in 2016, 40.1 thousand in 2017 and 41.6 thousand tonnes last year.  
The office also claimed that 112

species of fish are now found in Hakaluki Haor compared to 106 species found in a survey conducted by the International Union for Conservation of Nature in 2006.  
During a recent visit to Dakshinbazar market in Kulaura upazila headquarters, this correspondent found different local varieties of fish including shing (stinging catfish), magur (walking catfish), tengra (mystus), bele (scribbled gobi), baim (tyre-track eel), puti (swamp barb) and koi (climbing perch).  
Shipon Das, a fisherman from Bhukshimoil village in Kulaura, told

this correspondent that, beforehand, they used to catch only half kilogram of local fish per day in the haor.  
But over the last couple of years, the fish population has multiplied. Now they can catch around two to three kilograms of native fish per day, he claimed.  
The temporary ban on fishing, release and maintenance of fries by the government, after the huge loss of fish in the flash flood in 2017, helped revive the fish population in the haor, Shipon said.  
Everyday huge quantities of local fish are coming from the Haor and fish

traders are getting profit beyond their expectation, said Mujibur Rahman, a wholesale fish trader at Magura area in Kulaura upazila.  
Kulaura Upazila Senior Fisheries Officer Mohammad Sultan Mahmud said over and unplanned fishing using fine nets, use of harmful pesticides in farmlands, construction of roads and houses by filling canals and waterbodies and unplanned irrigation projects and construction of dams mainly causes the extinction of local fish species.  
Besides, fish breeding is being hampered due to rampant netting of brood fish and fries, he added.

Md Emdadul Haque, district fisheries officer in Moulvibazar, said it is possible to protect the local varieties if people catch fish as per the law.  
Dr M M Mahbub Alam, chairman of Fish Health Management department in Sylhet Agricultural University, told this correspondent that native fish is richer in nutrition, quality and taste.  
"We should take steps to save these species. We need to sanction extensive studies to explore their commercial viability and rescue water bodies to save native fish from extinction," he said.

## Abducted 6th grader rescued

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole**  
An alleged abductor of a schoolgirl married her forcibly in Jashore yesterday.  
The accused is Mohon Ali, 28, son of late Intaj Ali of Kismothkhanpur village in Chowgachha upazila.  
Police arrested one Tibbat Ali in this connection, said Officer-in-Charge of Chowgachha Police Station Rifat Khan Rajib.  
The victim's father said a wife of Mohon committed suicide while another one is sick.  
Mohon along with his cohorts abducted the sixth grader from the area and took her to a relative's house at Adampur village in Moheshpur upazila.  
Mohon then married her forcibly, said the father.  
On information, police raided the house and rescued the girl, said the OC, adding that the victim was then sent to the upazila health complex.  
However, Mohon managed to flee the scene, sensing the presence of the law enforcers, he said.  
Tibbat Ali was arrested in connection with the incident, said the police official.  
They were raiding different areas to arrest Mohon and other culprits, he said.

## Worker dies falling from building

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali**  
A construction worker died after falling from the roof of an under construction four-storey building in Shantibagh area of Patuakhali town yesterday.  
The deceased was identified as Mohammad Musa, 36, son of Abdur Rashid of Kalikapur area in the town.  
Office in Charge of Sadar police Station Mohammad Mostafizur Rahman said the incident occurred when Musa suddenly lost his balance and slipped from the rooftop of an under construction building around 9:45am.  
Locals and fellow workers rescued him and took him to Patuakhali General Hospital, where the doctors declared him dead, he added.

## Man's throat-slit body found

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur**  
Police recovered the throat-slit body of a man in Sarishabari upazila of the district yesterday.  
The deceased, Abul Kalam Azad, 55, was son of late Majom Chawkidar of Jhingervita village in the upazila.  
Quoting victim's wife Anwara Begum, police said Azad went out of his house after an unknown caller called him over phone on Monday around 9:00pm and did not return home since then.  
Local people spotted Azad's throat-slit body in a cropland near his house yesterday morning and informed police, who recovered the body and sent it to Jamalpur General Hospital for autopsy, Officer in Charge (OC) of Sarishabari Police Station Majedur Rahman said.  
Police were trying to find the motive behind the murder and arrest the criminals involved in the murder, added the OC.

## Padma eroding two villages in Faridpur

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur**  
As many as 17 homesteads and 12 acres of croplands were lost to erosion by the Padma river in two villages under North Channel union of Faridpur's Sadar upazila over the last one week.  
The villages affected are Sukkur Ali Mridha Dangi and Yusuf Matabbar Dangi.  
Lokman Talukdar, a resident of Sukkur Ali Mridha Dangi village, said, "After the Padma started eroding the banks a week ago, nine homesteads in my village were washed away. So far, I lost five decimals of my cropland."  
Another villager, Manik Sheikh, from Yusuf Matabbar Dangi, said, "At least seven houses in my village have gone into the river. My family members and I are now living in the open."  
Housewife Asma Begum from the same village said she hoped to see the government take urgent steps to save their property and belongings from the erosion.  
North Channel Union Parishad Chairman Mohammad Mostakuzzaman said, Water Development Board (WDB) has been dumping Geotextile sand bags in the affected areas for the last two days as the erosion has taken a serious turn.  
Contacted, WDB Executive Engineer in Faridpur Sultan Mahmud said they were trying to contain the situation and have planned to dump 10,000 Geo bags in the area.



With pillars subsided in the middle, this awfully risky bridge on the Jhinai river at Dapnajor in Tangail's Basail upazila remains the lone means for people of several villages who have to cross the river for going to different places including district headquarters.

PHOTO: STAR

# Risky movement on ramshackle bridge

**MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail**  
People have continued using a bridge on the Jhinai river at Dapnajor in Basail upazila although the structure has turned highly risky after subsidence of its pillars about two months ago.  
Strong current during the recent floods also washed away the approach road of the bridge on one side but locals set bamboos on the damaged portion to make it somehow usable for going to different places as there is no alternative nearby to cross the river.  
However, vehicular movement is totally closed there.  
Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) constructed the bridge in 1998 and people of at least 15 villages including Aisora, Akdhala, Dohar,

Dapnajor, Deolee, Joshihati, Hakimpur and Morakoi in the upazila use the bridge to go to different places including Tangail district headquarters, Karatia market and Government Saadat College.  
AK Bijoy, a rights activist in Basail, said a span of the bridge collapsed during the construction work due to use of low quality materials.  
"The bridge was completed with low quality work. And it gradually faced risk of collapse as earth beside the pillars was washed away in the last few years due to indiscriminate sand extraction near the bridge with powerful dredgers," he added.  
Several locals including Shafiqul Islam, Parvez Ahmed, Manju Miah and Alam Miah said mindless sand lifting near the bridge by influential

quarters contributed to making the bridge vulnerable.  
The sand extraction also caused erosion in the nearby villages and over 100 dwelling houses and a local Eidgah went to the riverbed in the last few years, they said.  
The authorities concerned have not taken any effective step to close the risky bridge, said Shahidul Islam, a local schoolteacher.  
Contacted, Rozdid Ahmed, upazila engineer of LGED in Basail, said the damaged bridge was already declared abandoned.  
"During a recent visit to the area, I told the chairman and members of local union parishad to take necessary steps to stop people's movement on the bridge. Tender process is underway to construct a new bridge there," he said.



A traditional boat race was held amid much fanfare at Chapra Beel (a large waterbody) in Basail upazila of Tangail on Monday afternoon. Residents of Basulia organised the event in memory of late freedom fighter Abdul Malek Miah. Around 50,000 spectators witnessed the colourful race participated by nearly 50 large and medium racing boats from different upazilas. Tangail-8 (Basail-Sakhipur) lawmaker Joaherul Islam distributed prizes among the winners as chief guest. Tangail Deputy Commissioner Shahidul Islam, Superintendent of Police in Tangail Sanjit Kumar Roy, Basail Upazila Parishad Chairman Kazi Alid Islam, Basail Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shamsunnahar Swapna and BRB Hospital Chief Consultant Dr Abdus Samad were present as special guests.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL