



Trawlers, engaged in fishing in coastal areas and the Bay, often operate without adequate lifesaving equipment. The photo was taken from Mohipur fish landing station in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali on Saturday.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

SCANTY LIFESAVING TOOLS

Fishers in Bay work amid risk

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Fishermen working in the Bay remain highly vulnerable as most of the trawlers operate without adequate lifesaving equipment.

Five fishermen jumped into the water without any lifesaving equipment when their trawler capsized in the Bay near Sonar Char under Rangabali upazila on September 15.

Another trawler rescued four of them while the body of Tapos Mondol, 26, of Char Agostee under Rangabali upazila, was found in Shibchar area after two days.

"Tapos could be saved if we had sufficient lifesaving equipment," said Milon Das, one of the four rescued fishermen.

Bellal Hossain, 40, a fisherman of Mohipur area, said he with eight other fishermen went to

the Bay in June this year and suddenly their trawler capsized in rough weather.

"We floated on water for six hours when another trawler rescued us and brought us to Mohipur. We had only two life jackets and a buoy in our trawler, which was too inadequate," he said.

During visit to Mohipur and Alipur fish landing stations in Kalapara upazila, this correspondent found many trawlers without sufficient lifesaving measures.

Only five life jackets and two buoys were found in a trawler named Mira-2 where 20 fishermen work.

"We work amid risk as there is not sufficient lifesaving instruments. We remain disconnected from our families and also trawler owners as there is no mobile network in the Bay," said Abul Kalam,

a fisherman of the trawler.

"Trawler owners ignore our demand for sufficient safety measures. Nobody inspect our trawler to see the arrangements," he added.

Md Fazlu Gazi, owner of a trawler at Mohipur, said empty plastic containers are preferable to life jackets and buoys as lifesaving equipment and fisherman can easily use it.

Ansar Uddin Mollah, a trawler owner of Alipur area, said, "Life jackets and buoys do not last for more than six months. We are trying our best to provide suitable lifesaving tools for fishermen."

But several trawlers were found to keep only four to five plastic containers each, which is too insufficient.

Patuakhali fisheries office source said, there are 84,718 registered fishermen in the district and

they are engaged in catching fish in the Bay and different rivers and canals.

Md Jahurul Islam, inspector of BIWTA (Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority), said the shipping ministry issue registration for the trawlers and they have to monitor these.

"We are also authorized to inspect these trawlers. I joined here in January this year and remained busy with other works. Besides, there was ban of fishing for over two months. I will visit trawlers soon to see safety measures for fishermen," he said.

Khwaja Sadiqur Rahman, deputy director of BIWTA, said, "We can't inspect trawlers properly due to lack of manpower shortage as we have to monitor launches on different routes.

'Bring Sobahan's killers to book'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

People of Kandulia Uttarpara village in Ghatail upazila formed a human chain at the upazila parishad premises yesterday, demanding immediate arrest of the culprits involved in killing Abdus Sobahan, 55, of the village a few days ago.

Earlier, family members and relatives of slain Sobahan brought out a procession on Tangail-Mymensingh highway and demanded capital punishment of the killers.

On October 3, a clash was took place between two groups of villagers over a trifling matter that left Sobahan dead on the spot.

The following day, Sobaha's wife Sona Banu filed a murder case with Ghatail Police Station accusing Fazlul Haque, 28, Mohammad Biraj, 27, Habibur Rahman, 50, Haider Ali, 53, Mohammad Solaiman, 45, Mohammad Ferdous, 21, of Kandulia Uttarpara village, and Hazrat Ali, 55, of Nagbari village in the upazila.

Trader stabbed dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

Unidentified criminals killed a trader by slitting his throat in Bhola's Monpura upazila early yesterday.

The deceased, Mohammad Alauddin Molla, 45, son of Mojibul Haque Molla of Charfaizuddin village in the upazila, was a mobile banking agent at Monpura Bazar, Officer in Charge of Monpura Police Station Forkan Ali said.

Deceased's family members alleged that a gang stabbed Alauddin on the throat near his house while he was returning from his shop around 12:30am and snatched away Tk 10 lakh from his possession.

Family members rescued injured Alauddin and took him to Monpura Upazila Health Complex, where the doctors declared him dead, a neighbour of the victim said.

Police detained five people yesterday for their alleged involvement in the murder.

Youth gets life term for raping minor girl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A court here yesterday sentenced a man to life term imprisonment for raping a six-year-old girl in 2016.

The convict, Ohid Biswas, 28, is a resident of Kamargram village in Boalmari upazila.

Judge Mohammad Alamgir Kabir of Faridpur Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal also fined the convict Tk 1 lakh, Public Prosecutor (PP) Swapon Paul said, adding that, in default, he is to suffer two years more in prison.

According to the case statement, Ohid, a neighbour of the victim, lured the minor girl into this house and raped her on November 16, 2016.

Victim's mother filed a rape case with Boalmari Police Station accusing Ohid the same day.

Hilsa price shoots up ahead of 22-day ban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Two days before the beginning of a 22-day government ban on netting, selling, and transporting hilsa, the price of the fish has increased at the wholesale market in the district.

The government has imposed the ban, which will start from tomorrow, to protect mother hilsas. In the past, such ban resulted in increased production.

The decision to impose the ban was made to ensure safe spawning of hilsa during its peak breeding season, said locals and fisheries officials.

On a visit to Badura wholesale fish market yesterday morning, this correspondent found a number of buyers and traders passing busy time. Many traders were seen storing hilsas in ice boxes.

The price of a big size hilsa fish went up to Tk 6,00 from Tk 400 per kilogramme while a small size went up to Tk 300 from Tk 180 per kg, said wholesaler Iqbal

Hossain of the market.

Local contractor Emdadul Haque said as the hilsa price increases during the ban period, he came to buy the fish.

However, many returned home without buying the sea hilsa due to its high prices, he said.

Another customer Ziaul Haque said he could not buy a single piece of hilsa due to its high price and returned home with empty hand.

The price was comparatively higher than Sunday, he said, adding that a kilogram of the large hilsa was sold for between Tk 400 and Tk 450 on Sunday, which was Tk 600 yesterday.

Mostly buyers bought 20 to 40 kg of hilsa from the market, said traders.

Yesterday, a good number of fishing boats loaded with hilsa were seen anchoring at Badura fish landing centre. It is one of the biggest fish landing centres and selling markets of sea fish in the southern area of the country.

Every day the market sits just before the sunrise and continues till 9:00am.



A large number of buyers gather at Badura wholesale fish market in Pirojpur yesterday, two days before the beginning of a 22-day government ban on netting, selling, and transporting hilsa. Inset, fishing boats loaded with hilsa lie anchored at Badura fish landing centre.

PHOTO: STAR



Erosion by the Padma has taken a serious turn, devouring lands in Daulatdia ferry terminal area under Goalanda upazila of Rajbari. Movement of ferryboats from jetties No 1 and 2 have remained suspended for the last five days due to the situation.

PHOTO: ZAHANGIR SHAH

Man held for raping widow

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A man was held on charge of raping a woman, mother of two children, in Phulpur upazila on Sunday.

The arrestee is farmer Abdul Momen, 50, of Chandrapur village.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Phulpur Police Station Imarat Hossain Gazi said Momen, father of three children, swooped on the house of the 32-year-old widow and raped her on the night of September 25.

Hearing screams, locals rushed to the spot and rescued the woman. However, the accused managed to flee the scene.

Police arrested Momen from the area on Sunday night soon after a case was filed by the victim, said the OC.

The arrestee was produced before a court that sent him to jail yesterday, he said.

Man held for brutality on wife

He shaved her head after beating as hair found in meal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police on Monday arrested a man on charge of beating his wife and shaving her head in Joypurhat Sadar upazila.

The arrestee, Babul Mia, 42, son of late Jamal Mia of Shalgram village under Joypurhat Sadar upazila, committed the brutal act after he got a hair in the breakfast meal served by his wife, said police.

The victim Arzina Begum said, "My husband went out of home for work early in the morning. After returning at around 10:00am, he asked me to serve breakfast and I gave him boiled rice and vegetable."

"As he got a hair in the meal, he scolded and beat me mercilessly. At one stage, he tied my hands and legs and shaved my head with a razor," she said.

Afterwards, villagers caught Babul and informed police who arrived there in a short time and took him to Joypurhat Sadar Police Station.

"It's a criminal offence. Lawful action will be taken against the perpetrator," said Shahriar Khan, officer in charge of the police station.

Procedure was underway to file a case against Babul, he said.