Water tanks used for laying of prawn larvae at the government-run hatchery in Gobardia area of Bagerhat town. Below, **an employee holds a mother prawn at the centre.** PHOTO: **STAR**

Govt farm succeeds in prawn larvae production at small cost

The achievement in Bagerhat gives hope after failure of private hatcheries

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Bagerhat*

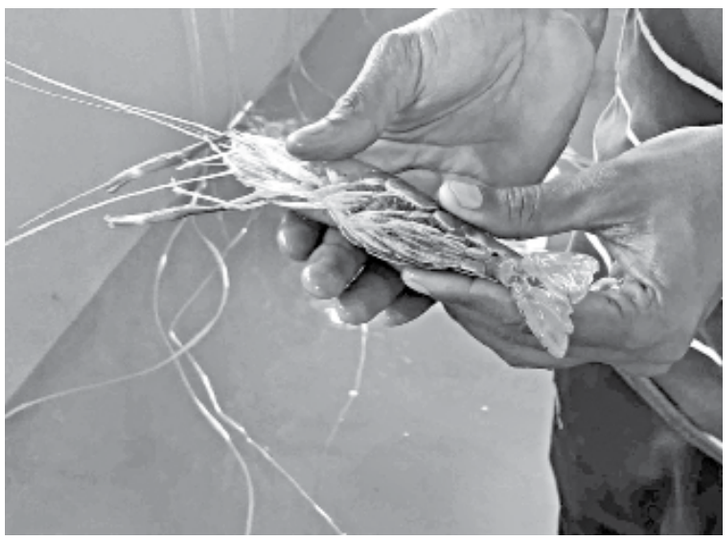
The government-run fish spawn farm in Bagerhat has achieved a laudable success, producing optimum amount of prawn larvae with limited manpower and a small investment.

Prawn is an important export item of the country and once a good number of private-owned hatcheries produced huge quantities of prawn in Bagerhat.

But the owners closed the prawn hatcheries in recent years due to serious production fall caused by different factors including virus attack.

Now only three private hatcheries are running to produce carp larvae in Bagerhat, said District Fishery officer (DFO) Dr Khalead Kanok.

In 1964, the then East Pakistan government set up a fish spawn farm on 8.4 acres of land in Gobardia area of Bagerhat town and it produced only white carp spawn till 2018.



In 2019, farm manager Nirmal Kumar Kundu took a different initiative and produced two lakh prawn larvae there. He gained the success although he has to work with a small manpower including one technician, one hatchery attendant, one field assistant, one office assistant and two night guards," said the DFO.

"Seeing the prawn hatcheries of Bagerhat close down one after another, we took the initiative to produce prawn larvae in our farm. Starting the work in 2019 with a government budget of only Tk 80 thousand, we were able to produce two lakh prawn against the target of one lakh the same year," said Nirmal Kumar Kundu, manager of the farm.

"This year we collected 105 female fish from the Baleshwar river in Pirojpur district. They produced more than six lakh larvae. Earlier we had expected that about two and a half lakh of it would grow into post-larvae. But it is likely to be a little over one lakh as the temperature is not that high.

"Our organization is running with only seven people including me. It is possible to increase the production if there is adequate manpower and other facilities," said the manager.

Bagerhat DFO Dr Khaled Kanak said, "Following success in prawn larvae production in the farm, the work has continued even after the outbreak of Covid-19. We will extend cooperation to private commercial hatcheries with technical support, if they want to produce prawn larvae."

Chhatak's unwavering youths stand by community

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, *Sylhet*

They do not get much acknowledgement for what they have been doing for the community, but they are true heroes of the time.

These unsung heroes have been working relentlessly to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus outbreak in rural villages of Chhatak upazila in Sunamganj.

The village volunteers have been working hand in hand with the upazila administration in their fight against the pandemic since early April.

They are monitoring the whereabouts of infected and suspected Covid-19 patients and assisting people in receiving necessary medical treatment. When close relatives are not even willing to witness the burial of a person who died of the disease, these volunteers are there to give the person a proper burial.

Most importantly, they have been working with their community to create awareness about how the virus spreads from person to person and what preventive measures are necessary to contain it.

Since April, a total of 194 volunteers including five women have been working as volunteers in Chhatak upazila.

Till date, five of them have been infected with Covid-19. One of them, Mohammad J Alam, from Ganeshpur Noagaon village in the upazila, has already expressed his willingness to rejoin the work as he has made full recovery recently.

He was tested positive for Covid-19 on May 25 and his second test report came out negative on June 11.

"After seeing a Facebook post made by the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO), and after seeing numerous [news] reports that people [infected with the virus] are being victims of neglect in many ways, while some of them are not even getting proper burial after death, I decided to become a volunteer to serve my community," Alam said.

"I helped bury the body of the first Covid-19 victim in the upazila. I went to the farthest village in the upazila on the border and brought from there a number of suspected patients to the hospital. Since I've been tested negative, I would like to start my voluntary work again."

Volunteers Kamrul Ahmed and his brother Fayez Marzan, from Jauwa village of the upazila, were also infected with the virus during their work.

"My college-going brother and I started volunteering for the upazila administration following a short training in early April," Kamrul said.

"After I took part in the burial of a person who died of Covid-19, I got myself tested out of suspicion and tested positive on June 1. My brother also tested positive on June 4.

"We both are now in isolation. We hope to recover soon and resume our volunteering," the youth said with confidence.

Chhatak is the worst virus-hit upazila in Sunamganj and till Sunday, 145 persons were found to be infected with Covid-19 there.

Chhatak UNO Golam Kabir said, "Rural people are mostly unaware of such pandemic situation. Misconceptions as well as virus spread here easily. So, we needed volunteers to help us fight the spread of the virus. After my call for volunteers, I was overwhelmed with the huge response."

"People from other districts swarmed the upazila after the nationwide shutdown. The volunteers here are helping build awareness, ensure quarantine and isolation, and locate suspected patients. They are even burying the dead.

"After the pandemic, they may not get fitting appreciation for their work. But they are playing a very important role during the fight of government authorities and local representatives against the pandemic," the UNO added.

In this recent photo, volunteers are seen talking to a resident of a house in a village. The volunteers, on behalf of the Chhatak upazila administration, have been going door to door in distant villages in the upazila under Sunamganj to create awareness on Covid-19 pandemic. PHOTO: **COLLECTED**

The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) demolishes 20 illegal structures from Aricha launch terminal area under Shivalaya upazila in Manikganj during a drive that continued from 10:00am till 1:00pm yesterday. Earlier notice was served to the illegal occupiers to remove the roadside structures on the land of the department as it is required for construction of drain and development work, said Gaus-ul-Hasan Maruf, executive engineer of Manikganj RHD. PHOTO: **STAR**

Former BCL leader stabbed dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Pabna*

Criminals stabbed a former leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) to death allegedly over previous enmity Chatmohar upazila of the district on Sunday.

The deceased, Habibur Rahman Habib, 21, was former organising secretary of Handial union unit of BCL.

Handial UP Chairman Jakir Hossain said Habib and Russel Ahmed, general secretary of the unit, had an altercation over playing cricket on Sunday afternoon.

Later Russel's supporters stabbed Habib and one Nasir Hossain around 8:00pm.

Habib died on his way to Chatmohar Upazila Health Complex the same night.

ইস্টার্ণ রিফাইনারী লিমিটেড

(বাংলাদেশ পেট্রোলিয়াম কর্পোরেশন এর একটি সাবসিডিয়ারী)

উত্তর পতেঙ্গা-৪২০৪, চট্টগ্রাম

তারিখঃ ২৫ জ্যৈষ্ঠ, ১৪২৭ বাংলা/৯ জুন, ২০২০ইং

স্থানীয় দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সংশ্লিষ্ট দরপত্র তফসিলে প্রদত্ত বিবরণ ও শর্তানুযায়ী নিম্নে বর্ণিত পণ্যাদি স্থানীয় ভিত্তিতে সরবরাহের জন্য এতদ্বারা প্রকৃত প্রস্তুতকারক/সরবরাহকারী/মজুতদারদের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরযুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে-

দরপত্র নং	বিবরণ	প্রতিসেট দরপত্র তফসিলের মূল্য	দরপত্র জামানত (টাকা)	দরপত্র তফসিল বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র জমাদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়
ER/LP/LT -26/2020	Double Cabin Pick Up (One envelope system).	1,000/-	1,25,000/-	০৭-০৭-২০২০ বিকাল ০৪-০০	০৮-০৭-২০২০ বিকাল ০২-৩০	০৮-০৭-২০২০ বিকাল ০৩-০০
ER/LP/LT -27/2020 (R/T)	Motor operated reciprocating type portable hydraulic test pump mounting on common steel base plate. (One envelope system).	200/-	10,000/-	০৭-০৭-২০২০ বিকাল ০৪-০০	০৮-০৭-২০২০ বিকাল ০২-৩০	০৮-০৭-২০২০ বিকাল ০৩-০০
ER/LP/LT -28/2020 (R/T)	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of CCTV Cameras. (One envelope system).	1,000/-	87,500/-	০৭-০৭-২০২০ বিকাল ০৪-০০	০৮-০৭-২০২০ বিকাল ০২-৩০	০৮-০৭-২০২০ বিকাল ০৩-০০
ER/LP/LT -29/2020 (R/T)	First Class Brick. (One envelope system).	200/-	10,000/-	০৭-০৭-২০২০ বিকাল ০৪-০০	০৮-০৭-২০২০ বিকাল ০২-৩০	০৮-০৭-২০২০ বিকাল ০৩-০০

নগদ মূল্য প্রদানপূর্বক যে কোন কার্যদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সংশ্লিষ্ট দরপত্র তফসিল সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

০১। যে সব অফিসে দরপত্র তফসিল পাওয়া যাবে : (ক) হিসাব বিভাগ, ইস্টার্ণ রিফাইনারী লিমিটেড, উত্তর পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম এবং (খ) ঢাকা লিয়াজোঁ অফিস, ইস্টার্ণ রিফাইনারী লিমিটেড, "এয়াইএমসিএ ভবন" (৩য় তলা-পূর্ব পাশ), ১/১, পরিবনিয়ার রোড, কাকরাইল, ঢাকা-১০০০।

০২। যে অফিসে দরপত্র তফসিল জমা দেয়া যাবে : ক্রয় শাখা, ইস্টার্ণ রিফাইনারী লিমিটেড, উত্তর পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম।

০৩। যে অফিসে দরপত্র খোলা হবে : ক্রয় শাখা, ইস্টার্ণ রিফাইনারী লিমিটেড, উত্তর পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম।

ইস্টার্ণ রিফাইনারী লিমিটেড কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে।

মোঃ ইউনুস আলী
এ্যাসিস. জেনারেল ম্যানেজার (পারচেজ)
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বিডি-৯৯২

'Compensate Magurchhara gas well blast victims'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Moulvibazar*

Speakers at Magurchhara Day programme in Kamalganj upazila have placed a seven-point demand including compensation to victims of Magurchhara gas well explosion in 1997.

The other demands include steps to save the reserve forest and its wildlife.

The demands were made at a human chain, jointly organised by the Kamalganj Development Parishad and Kamalganj Pahar Rakkha Unnayan Society, in Kamalganj Upazila Chattar area on Sunday.

Journalists MA Wahid Rulu, Pronit Ranjon Debnath and Shaheen Ahmed and Mustafizur Rahman, among others, were present at the programme with Monayem Khan, president of Kamalganj Pahar Rakkha Unnayan Society, in the chair.

They later submitted a memorandum to the prime minister through the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) in this regard.

Over two decades into Magurchhara gas field explosion, compensation for huge damage to Lawacherra forest worth crores of taka is yet to be realized, said the speakers.

On the night of June 14 in 1997, a massive explosion took place at Magurchhara gas field in Kamalganj of Moulvibazar while US energy company Occidental was drilling a well there, they said.

Abdul Wadud, Sylhet divisional forest officer of Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division, forest department had filed a case claiming damages of Tk 2,000 crore. But 23 years into the gas field explosion, no compensation has been received from Occidental or Chevron till date.

Lawacherra Reserve Forest adjacent to the exploded gas well was massively damaged. A segun timber garden, established in the years between 1944 and 1950, a bamboo garden, established in the years 1993 to 1995, and a strip of plantation, which was established in 1994, were also extensively damaged by the fire.

According to forest department, about 96 acres of Lawacherra forest were completely burnt. Fifty percent of forest resources on 111.15 acres of land and 30 percent resources on 106.21 acres of land of the reserve forest were also damaged.

The National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources Power and Ports along with several other organisations will submit a memorandum to the prime minister through Srimangal UNO to press home their 10-point demands, including realisation of compensation from the US energy company Occidental.

American company Chevron operates the gas field at present, said the speakers.