



A school of colourful tilapia, commercially produced at a fish farm, in Sundarghona-Kanthaltala village of Bagerhat Sadar upazila.

PHOTO:
COLLECTED

Bagerhat farmer dreams big with colourful fish farming

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Fish farmer Hafizur Rahman of Bagerhat Sadar upazila has found success in producing colourful tilapia and Ruposhi Rui at his fish farm.

High demand in the area has produced sales of around 50 thousand pieces of the two fish varieties over the last couple of years.

Hafizur's 17-year-old fish farm 'Naim Fish Farm' -- situated on two acres of land in Sundarghona-Kanthaltala village -- has earned a good reputation among fish farmers in nearby districts -- including Bagerhat, Pirojpur and Khulna -- for producing quality larvae of popular fish species such as Koi, Shing, Magur, Gulisha, Pabda and Vietnamese pangas.

Gaining confidence from his experience at the farm, Hafizur collected larvae of colourful tilapia and Ruposhi Rui from fisheries department at Mymensingh

Agricultural University two years back. Within a year, he succeeded in rearing the two fish at his farm.

The two colourful fish can be profitable for a fish farm as they sell well in all stages and sizes. People buy the smaller ones for displaying them in aquariums or fish tanks, while the larger ones for consumption, Hafizur said.

Both the fish grow as much as one kilogram every year and not only they look more attractive than the regular varieties, they taste better too, he also said.

The colourful tilapia even spawns in the pond and the offspring grow well naturally in the pond.

On the other hand, Ruposhi Rui, with its origin in Australia and a bright golden outer coat, grows well with other fish in the same pond. Its demand as aquarium fish indoors or decorative fish in large fish tanks outdoors is high and each kg of it sells for

between Tk 300 and Tk 500, Hafizur also said.

He hopes to increase production of the colourful tilapia and Ruposhi Rui by next year when he will be able to sell each small fry of colourful tilapia for Tk 3 and Ruposhi Rui for Tk 10.

If supply of quality fish feed is ensured in the area and financial support provided to farmers, there is a good prospect in earning revenues from overseas through export of the two fish varieties after meeting local demands, Hafizur added.

Contacted, Ferdous Ansari, senior upazila fisheries officer in Bagerhat Sadar, said while they mostly concentrate on providing assistance to conventional fish farmers, they were also trying to develop a market system where unconventional fish farms would be able to eliminate intermediaries and sell their fish to end customers.

Where radio still a culture

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Radio has played an active role during the Liberation War. Bangladesh Betar was the only means that time to transmit a message. But nowadays a few people are seen listening to radio in the arena of technology. Most of those who still listen to the radio are pre-independence generations.

Many people still have to keep radio as traditional culture. They have formed a radio listeners' club named Malibari Radio Listeners' Club at their village Malibari in Panchagram union of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila. The club has 50 members.

The club has been formed by the elders in this village. Each of the club members has a radio at home. When they get time, they come to the club with radio to hang-out.

Panir Uddin, 75, president of Malibari Radio Listeners' Club, said he set up the first radio listeners' club in the village after independence. Its activities remained halted for some years.

Again in 2008, he formed the Radio Listeners' Club and registered it with Rangpur Radio Station, he said, adding that their club is doing well at present.

He also added that the members of Malibari Radio Listeners' Club feel comfortable listening to agricultural and health related programmes. They also love to listen to Rangpur region's interesting folksongs-- Bhawaiya.

Their culture is intertwined with radio, said Panir.

Mantosh Chandra Roy, 66, general secretary of the club, said there is no radio listeners' club anywhere in Lalmonirhat. It is only in their village. Each of the members of the club has a radio at home.

"Usually radio is not available in the market and there is no radio makers like before. So, we have to face trouble while buying new radio or repair it," he said, adding that "All the members of our radio listeners' club are over 60 years of age."

Freedom fighter Maqbool Hossain, 69, a member of the club, said "Radio played an important role in the country's great Liberation War. It was the preferred means of communication for our forces at that period."

Asma Begum, 63, a member of the club, said women are also members of the club. They come here and listen to the radio. Women also listen to agricultural programmes to help their families.



A member of Malibari Radio Listeners' Club in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila was listening to radio.

PHOTO:
STAR

Maintain peace

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the political opponents to give up violence and maintain peace and order for smooth functioning of democracy in the country. Speakers at the meeting call upon the people not to be misled by the forces of disruption who are out to foil the hard-earned independence. The meeting is organised by the Dhaka City Unit of Bangladesh Awami League as part of the resistance day programme organised across the country.

PM'S DONATION TO CULTURAL ORGANISATION

Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today donates Tk 5,000 each to Nawabganj Art Council and Rajshahi Lalitkala Academy. Bangabandhu watches a gambhira performance, a traditional song with dance popular in the part of Rajshahi. ONE LAKH TONNES OF WHEAT COMING THIS MONTH

The UN World Food Programme has purchased 100,000 tonnes of wheat worth \$11.8 million on behalf of Bangladesh. The money, which covered shipping, is paid by the Bangladesh government. The wheat will be shipped at the end of this month.

Source: January 11, 1973 issues of Dainik Bangla, The Bangladesh Observer and Ittefaq.

Six children beat

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police said. They said they have detained six children in connection with the incident in Kamrangirchar's Barishal Colony area on the city outskirts.

Mostafa Anwar, inspector (Investigation) of Kamrangirchar Police Station, said the six children were going to a shop to get help for repairing the sound system of a birthday party for the 12-year-old's niece.

One of them accidentally had his leg hit by the victim which led to the killing, he said.

Sifat's uncle Abdur Rahman said Sifat was abandoned by his parents when he was a child. His mother moved elsewhere and his father remarried. He used to live with his grandfather in Kamrangirchar.

Police claimed that the 12-year-old who stabbed Sifat had fallen from a four-storey building a year ago and was injured. Doctors allegedly told his family that he could develop complications if he got seriously hurt again.

Locals and neighbourhood children knew this and did little whenever he became violent, police said.

2 dancers, a singer

FROM PAGE 12

raped the 14-year-old girl multiple times. Noyon tried to rape the other girl but failed. Both the girls managed to escape from the house and later told their parents what happened, said the statement.

After the case was filed yesterday, police arrested the three accused from different places of Bogura Sadar upazila, said SI Sohel Rana of the sadar police station, who is the investigation officer of the case.

He said the Niha was arrested on charge of assisting in the crime.

Police later produced them before the Bogura court, which sent them to jail.

The court also recorded the victim's statement.

They underwent medical tests at Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical Hospital in the district, said Humayan Kabir, officer-in-charge of the police station, adding that they were waiting for the test results.

Indonesian 737 'crashes into sea'

FROM PAGE 12

"(My wife) sent me a picture of the baby today... How could my heart not be torn into pieces?"

Data from FlightRadar24 said the plane reached an altitude of nearly 11,000 feet (3,350 metres) before dropping suddenly to 250 feet. It then lost contact with air traffic control.

"Sriwijaya Air flight #SJ182 lost more than 10,000 feet of altitude in less than one minute, about 4 minutes after departure from Jakarta," the tracking agency said on its official Twitter account.

Authorities and the airline gave no immediate indication as to why the plane suddenly went down. But local media report said the plane had been delayed for more than 30 minutes due to poor weather conditions and heavy rain at Soekarno-

Hatta International Airport at the time of take-off.

The budget airline, which has about 19 Boeing jets that fly to destinations in Indonesia and Southeast Asia, said only that it was investigating the loss of contact.

In October 2018, 189 people were killed when a Lion Air Boeing 737 MAX jet slammed into the Java Sea about 12 minutes after take-off from Jakarta on a routine one-hour flight.

That crash -- and a subsequent fatal flight in Ethiopia -- saw Boeing hit with \$2.5 billion in fines over claims it defrauded regulators overseeing the 737 MAX model, which was grounded worldwide following the two deadly crashes.

The Boeing jet thought to have crashed yesterday is not a MAX model.

I'm being called insane for criticising

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up a debate in the country's political circles with some of his recent remarks, is also contesting the municipality polls, slated for January 16, with an AL ticket.

"A lawmaker from Gopalganj has termed me insane. He is a former minister. But he was not made a minister this time because he was involved in different irregularities," said Mirza.

"Besides, another leader from Kushtia said I do not act responsibly. But what have you been doing while criminals vandalised the statue in Kushtia?" Mirza also claimed that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was "helpless" because "there is an international conspiracy to kill her. Besides, fundamentalists and communalists are hatching conspiracies inside the country. Sheikh Hasina alone is resisting the conspiracies."

Flatterers and corrupt people are misguiding Hasina round the clock, he claimed.

Mirza then said some people brought illegal firearms to his municipality to cause violence during the election.

"A consignment of arms has arrived in Kabirhat of Noakhali from Chatogram. I have informed the deputy commissioner and superintendent of police of Noakhali. But they did not pay any heed

to it... If there is violence during the polls, the DC and SP will have to take the responsibilities."

He then urged voters to resist voting irregularities. "You will cast your vote. If anyone tries to stop you from going to the voting centre, break his leg. I will take the responsibilities."

Unveiling his election manifesto on December 31 last year, he brought allegations against some local lawmakers and AL leaders of corruption, tender manipulation, and recruitment scams.

He claimed that the district AL committee was formed, excluding the party's devoted and tested leaders.

"With regret, I want to say some sycophants often claim that the BNP's bastions in Noakhali and Laxmipur have been destroyed because of certain leaders.

"Have the BNP's bastions really been destroyed? If elections were held in a fair manner, our MPs, except for the ones in three or four constituencies in greater Noakhali, would not have found ways to flee. That's the truth," he had said.

Mirza's remarks have put the AL top brass in an awkward position. Cashing in on the situation, BNP leaders said Mirza's remarks proved that the government has been deceiving people, using the Election Commission.

Bangabandhu's homecoming

FROM PAGE 1

Delhi on January 10 in 1972, after 290 days of confinement in Pakistan jail.

The Homecoming Day of Bangabandhu this year came with an extra significance as it coincided with Father of the Nation's birth centenary celebrations, just three months ahead of the golden jubilee of the country's independence.

All programmes marking the day this year will be observed maintaining health guidelines in face of the global pandemic coronavirus.

On the night of March 25, 1971, Pakistan army arrested Bangabandhu from his Dhanmondi residence and sent him to a West Pakistani jail the following day.

Bangabandhu was subjected to inhuman torture in the Pakistan jail where he had been counting moments for the execution of his death sentence that was pronounced in a farcical trial.

"I was a prisoner in the condemned cell awaiting hanging. From the day I went into jail, I didn't know whether I was to live or not. I was mentally ready to die. But I knew Bangladesh would be liberated," Bangabandhu spoke emotionally about his ordeal in Pakistani prison at a news conference in London.

On the Pakistani army's slaughter of Bengalis, Mujib declared, "If Hitler could have been alive today, he would be ashamed."

Earlier on March 26 in 1971, Bangabandhu

proclaimed independence of Bangladesh and urged people from all walks of life to participate wholeheartedly in the nation's War of Liberation.

Immediately after the proclamation of independence, Bangabandhu was arrested by Pakistani military junta and then flown to West Pakistan to keep him in prison there.

Though the final victory in the nine-month-long Liberation War was achieved defeating Pakistani occupation forces on December 16 in 1971, the nation's expectations were fulfilled and the people got the real taste of victory with the homecoming of Bangabandhu on January 10, 1972.

On reaching the capital's Tejgaon airport in the afternoon on January 10, Bangabandhu was greeted by tens of thousands of jubilant people who had been eagerly waiting to see their beloved leader since the final victory on December 16 in 1971.

From airport, Bangabandhu was moved to the Racecourse Maidan (now Suhrawardy Udyan) where he addressed a spontaneous reception accorded to him by the cheerful countrymen believed to be one million.

He recalled with respect the contribution of all during the war and urged the people to rebuild the war-ravaged country.

Bangabandhu took oath of office as the country's prime minister on January 12, 1972.

Stop cutting the vaccines queue

FROM PAGE 12

some remain with no supply of the vaccine," he added.

He asked countries and manufacturers to stop making bilateral deals and called on those who have ordered excess doses to immediately hand

them over to the Covax vaccine-sharing facility.

While Tedros did not name countries, the European Union said it reached a deal with Pfizer and BioNTech for 300 million additional doses of their Covid-19 vaccine in a move that would give the EU nearly half of the firms' global output for 2021.

Trump 'silenced'

FROM PAGE 12

the 75 million "great patriots" who voted for him: "We will not be SILENCED!" Trump said he was considering building his own social media platform.

Twitter quickly deleted those posts and soon after suspended the Trump campaign account.

In a blog post, Twitter explained that the suspension was based on factors such as evidence that plans for future armed protests were proliferating on and off the platform, "including a proposed secondary attack on the US Capitol and state capitol buildings on January 17, 2021."

City carved from snow

FROM PAGE 12

January since 1985.

The festival going ahead as planned had been hailed as a mark of China's success in

containing and controlling the coronavirus. Many restrictions have been lifted throughout the country, with residents able to travel freely within China's borders.

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(মোঃ জাকির হোসেন সিদ্দিকার)
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