

Reviving a local species

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 The research behind the invention was conducted by the BFRI freshwater substation, Jashore's Principal Scientific Officer Dr Md. Rabiul Awal Hossain, Senior Scientific Officer Md Sharif Islam, and Scientific Officer Shishir Kumar Dey.
 Speaking to The Daily Star on Wednesday, Shariful said success has come after three years of intensive research.
 "We can expect the Kakila to rise again in the water instead of fearing its extinction... This is the first artificial propagation of Kakila in Bangladesh, and no information was found about this fish being artificially bred anywhere else in the world."
 BFRI scientists say Kakila is a kind of fish found mostly in open inland freshwater bodies, especially rivers, canals and haors etc. The fish is rich in beneficial micronutrients for the human body.
 Once upon a time, Kakila was found in abundance in inland water bodies, but due to climate impacts, natural disasters and various man-made habitats, breeding grounds were damaged and the number of the fish began decreasing drastically. In this context, BFRI began its research to bring back the abundance of this fish.
 According to the scientists, Kakila or "Kakle" is an endangered fish. The type found in Bangladesh is of the freshwater variety. The fish is better known as Kaikala or Kaikka in most parts of Bangladesh.
 It is also found in Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Myanmar, Malaysia and Thailand. However, there are some differences in colour and size.
 Md Rabiul Awal Hossain, the head of the research team and the principal scientific officer, said Kakila mainly eats small fish and breeds in naturally flowing water bodies, especially in rivers and flooded areas during monsoons.
 Once mature, the fish live in places with no floating aquatic plants, but their females lay eggs under leaves or floating roots of aquatic plants.
 The research team said they collected

Kakila brood (mother-father fish) from the Padma in Kushtia, adjacent to Rajbari district and released it in a pond in Jashore freshwater sub-station after ensuring oxygen supply in a special method.
 Live carp fry produced in hatcheries and other small fish collected from various reservoirs were fed to the fish in the confined environment of the pond.
 Following the scientific protocol from May this year, a certain number of mother and father fish were given hormone injections in different doses in the hatchery of the sub-station for the purpose of artificial propagation.
 Even though different doses were given several times, there was no success in fish breeding. Finally, on August 25, the eggs hatched and the artificial propagation of Kakila came to fruition.
 Rabiul further said that PG (Pituitary Gland) hormone was used for the propagation.
 On August 18, four pairs of parent fish were selected from the pond. The pairs were kept together in the pond with a water hyacinth placed. After about 48 hours, the mother fish laid eggs.
 The various stages and development of the foetuses inside the eggs were monitored regularly with a microscope. About 90 to 100 hours after the eggs were laid, they hatched.
 According to the scientists, 100 grams of edible Kakila fish contains 18.1 percent protein, 2.23 percent lipid, 2.14 percent phosphorus and 0.94 percent calcium, which is much higher than other small fish.
 In a press release sent to The Daily Star, Director General of BFRI Dr Yahia Mahmud was quoted as saying that the BFRI has already achieved success in artificial insemination of 30 of 64 endangered fish species of the country. Kakila was added as the 31st.
 The BFRI says a live gene bank has been set up at the institute's headquarters in Mymensingh to conserve native fish.
 The BFRI had won the Ekushey Padak in 2020 for its special contribution in domestic fish conservation research.



Afghan women comfort another woman as they take part in a protest outside the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office to urge the international community to help Afghan refugees, in New Delhi, India yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Urgent search for Covid-19 origins

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 The specialised virology laboratory in Wuhan, was deemed "extremely unlikely."
 But in a comment in the journal Nature, 11 of the 17 scientists on that mission said it was only intended as a "first step in a process that has stalled."
 "The search for the origins of SARS-CoV-2 is at a critical juncture," they wrote on Wednesday.
 "The window of opportunity for conducting this crucial enquiry is closing fast."
 Tracing the biological trail back to the earliest pockets of the disease, which first surfaced in Wuhan in late 2019, becomes more difficult as evidence disappears or becomes corrupted.
 The statement comes less than two weeks after the WHO, in a bid to revive the probe, urged China to hand over information on the earliest Covid-19 cases.
 This should include Covid data for 174 infections identified in December 2019 that China failed to share during the initial investigation, the experts said.
 The investigators said "it was agreed" at the time that a second phase of research would fill in this gap.
 But China pushed back against the WHO request earlier this month, saying the January

investigation should suffice and that calls for further data were motivated by politics, not science.
 The WHO meanwhile highlighted Wednesday that the international experts' report, published in March in coordination with their Chinese counterparts, had laid out a number of studies that should be conducted, insisting there was no reason to wait.
 "We have encouraged all parties to pursue those studies," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters from the UN health agency's Geneva headquarters.
 Other WHO experts at the press conference stressed there was no need to wait for another international mission to China before delving into the many further studies needed there, pointing out that there were many capable Chinese scientists who could do the work.
 "There is no impediment right now for those studies to go ahead, and Chinese colleagues don't need WHO to hold their hands through this kind of a process," WHO emergencies director Michael Ryan agreed.
 "In fact, many of our Chinese colleagues do report that those studies are underway, and we very much look forward to receiving

data and reports."
 Beijing has especially bridled at the suggestion that the virus might have escaped from the Wuhan virology lab.
 On Tuesday US intelligence agencies presented President Joe Biden with a report looking at both the animal transmission and "lab-leak" hypotheses. The findings were described as inconclusive.
 The Nature piece noted that current data does not support the lab-leak scenario.
 None of six priorities for further research mentioned after the January mission, which has faced criticism for lacking transparency and access, alluded to this possibility.
 Rather, the scientists emphasised the need to trace the earliest cases of Covid through disease reporting and antibody surveys, inside and outside China.
 They also called for further investigation of wildlife farms and wild bats.
 "As SARS-CoV-2 antibodies wane, so collecting further samples and testing people who might have been exposed before December 2019 will yield diminishing returns," they said.
 They added that many of the wildlife farms of interest for study have been closed and their livestock killed.

Bangladesh mission at London

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 achieving a political solution acceptable to East Pakistan.
 The Latin American Parliament urged the international community to extend aid to the refugees sheltered by India and to the suffering people of East Pakistan and to exercise all their influence over the Government of Pakistan with the objective of achieving a rapid political solution.
ON THE FRONT LINE
 Mukti Bahini today raided Ranamati near Phulbari in Mymensingh district and killed 15 Pakistani soldiers. They also raided the Pakistan position in Kamalpur and inflicted 11 casualties the previous day.
 In Sylhet district, Mukti Bahini today ambushed Pakistan troops near Manu and inflicted five casualties. Another Mukti Bahini group raided Razakar patrol party three miles north of Tamarjuni and inflicted six casualties. Mukti Bahini also ambushed the Pakistan patrol in Kanaighat today and wounded three Pakistani troops.
 In Noakhali district, Mukti Bahini today ambushed 15 Pakistani civilian vehicles carrying supplies for Pakistani troops in Feni-

Belonía area and damaged almost all vehicles. They apprehended two Pakistani supporters.
 In Kushtia district, Mukti Bahini today killed local peace committee chairman at Pataldanga.
 Bangladeshi guerrillas today also destroyed railway tracks in Nakurgachi in North Bengal. In another attack, Mukti Bahini blew up 70 feet of railway tracks between Bhawanipur and Jharbari in Dinajpur district.
KEATING DENIES FRESH ISSUE OF ARMS LICENCE TO PAKISTAN
 The US Ambassador to India Kenneth B Keating today categorically asserted that no more arms licences were being issued to Pakistan by the USA "nor are old ones renewed as they expire". Writing in his weekly column in the American Reporter, Keating also denied the allegations that the USA had been 1) giving counter-insurgency training to Pakistani military officers; 2) diverting arms from South Vietnam to Pakistan, and 3) planning to send American troops from South Vietnam to Pakistan.
 Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com

Nazrul's 45th death anniv today

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 Islam.
 Following health guidelines and maintaining distance, the programmes will begin with Quran Khwani after Fajr prayers at the university's central mosque, said a DU press release here today.
 DU teachers, students, officers and employees will assemble at "Aparajeyo Bangla" in front of Kala Bhaban at 7:00am on the day and bring out a procession from there and march towards the mazar of the poet adjacent to the university's central

mosque.
 DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman will lead the procession to place a wreath at the grave of the poet. A dua mahfil will also be held for the eternal peace of the rebel poet.
 Later, a discussion will be held at the university's Abdul Matin Chowdhury virtual classroom with Prof Akhtaruzzaman in the chair.
 National Prof Md Rafiqul Islam will address the discussion as an expert on Nazrul's works.

Addressing concerns

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 of Infertility and Reproductive Medicine at Anwer Khan Modern Medical College, said that studies show pregnant women with comorbid conditions like diabetes, hypertension is more at risk.
 The Delta variant of Covid-19 can be fatal during pregnancy, he added.
 "The best way to protect expecting mothers is to vaccinate them. Controlled studies around the world so far did not demonstrate any significant side effects of the Covid-19 vaccine on either the mother or the fetus," Prof Maruf said.
 The Bangladesh government has recently decided to vaccinate

pregnant women which is a very encouraging step, he said.
 Prof Maruf suggests young couples not try to conceive at the moment or try to conceive after getting the second dose of the Covid-19 vaccine. If a woman becomes pregnant after receiving the first dose, she should take the second dose in due time.
 Shamima Nargis, a consultant at Gynecology Department of Bangladesh Specialized Hospital, said there is no evidence that pregnant women, in general, become more unwell compared to other adults if they contract Covid-19.
 Pregnant women over 35 and with a BMI of over 25, and those

with preexisting medical problems are at higher risk of developing severe illnesses and may require hospitalisation, Shamima said.
 She further said, "There is no evidence that Covid-19 infection increases the risk of miscarriage or can be passed on to the baby. Hence, there's no reason to panic."
 Covid-19 vaccines are recommended at any stage of pregnancy and also for nursing mothers, she said.
 Expecting mothers should have at least six anti-natal checkups with a gynaecologist and ensure a balanced diet and moderate exercise to develop immunity. They should also follow the distancing guideline, both doctors said.

Fastest orbiting asteroid found

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 observations made by Brown University astronomers Ian Dell'Antonio and Shenming Fu on August 13. Dell'Antonio, a professor of physics, and Fu, a doctoral student, took the images using the Dark Energy Camera mounted on the Víctor M Blanco 4-meter Telescope at Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory in Chile.
 Multiple aspects of the asteroid surprised Sheppard. The asteroid is 0.6 miles (1 kilometer) in size and "very few asteroids this size in the

inner solar system likely exist that are unknown," he said.
 "2021 PH27 gets so close to the Sun that its surface can reach temperatures of 900 degrees Fahrenheit (482 degrees Celsius), hot enough to melt lead," said Sheppard via email. "Because of these extreme temperatures, it is unlikely 2021 PH27 is composed of any volatile material, and it is most likely made up of rock with maybe some metal like iron."
 It has an unstable orbit that crosses the orbits of Mercury and Venus as they make their way

around the sun. Within a few million years, the asteroid's orbit will likely cause its doom. The rocky fragment could collide with Mercury or Venus, or the sun itself, or be knocked out of its current position in the solar system.
 The asteroid is so near the sun's massive gravitational field of the sun that it experiences effects on its orbit, Sheppard said.
 The newfound asteroid is only one of about 20 Atira asteroids, which are those asteroids that are completely interior to Earth's orbit of the sun.

Flood hits

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 The river was flowing 6cm above the danger mark at the district's Hard Point around 6:00am yesterday. Such rising trend of water will continue for over a week, they forecast.
 The affected people are passing hard days due to shortage of food and drinking water.
 Government officials concerned said they will begin relief distribution soon.
 Lowland areas of Bogura's Sariakandi upazila have been inundated as the Jamuna was flowing 3cm above the danger mark at the upazila's Mathurapara point around 6:00pm yesterday.
 "The onrush of water from upstream [Assam and Meghalaya of India] is the main reason of rapid rise of water level. The floodwater may stay for around 10 days in this region," said Mahubub Rahman, executive engineer of WDB in Bogura.
 "Water level has been rising rapidly since Wednesday. Around 10,000 people of Noapara and Hatbari Char have been waterlogged," said Shawkat Ali, chairman of Chaluabari union in Sariakandi upazila.
 "My entire croplands went under water on Wednesday. All of my crops have been damaged," said Sultan Sheikh, 60, of Sangkarour Char.
 In Tangail, many areas of Kalihati, Sadar, Bhuanpur, Nagarpur, Mirzapur and Basail upazilas have been inundated by floodwater as water of the Jamuna and its branch rivers are rising.
 WDB officials forecast that more fresh areas might go under water within a day or two as the rivers continue to swell.
 Road communications are being disrupted in different areas. Cattle are facing fodder crisis as grassland has gone under water.
 Ataul Gani, deputy commissioner of the district, said necessary measures would be taken to distribute relief materials to the flood-hit people.

Pori Moni denied

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 Emrul Kayesh of Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court have been made respondents to the rule.
 The HC also fixed September 1 for hearing on the rule.
 The bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice KM Zahid Sarwar Kajol issued the rule following a criminal revision petition filed by Pori Moni, challenging the lower court's order that set September 13 for hearing of her bail application.
 Lawyer Mozibur Rahman submitted the petition with the HC on behalf of Pori Moni on August 25, saying that the Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court has adjourned hearing of her bail application for a long time, which is illegal.
 In the petition, Pori Moni also sought bail from the HC in the case.
 Lawyers ZI Khan Panna and Mozibur Rahman appeared for Pori Moni, while Deputy Attorney General Yahya Dulal and Assistant Attorney General Md Mizanur Rahman represented the state during the virtual hearing of the criminal revision petition.
 On August 22, Pori Moni filed a bail petition with a Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court challenging the lower court's rejection of bail in the case filed under the Narcotics Control Act.
 Judge KM Emrul Kayesh fixed September 13 for hearing on the bail petition, said her lawyer Mozibur Rahman.
 On August 5, Pori Moni and her associate Ashraf Islam Dipu were shown arrested in the case filed by the Rapid Action Battalion under the Narcotics Control Act.
 The previous day, members of the elite force detained them after raiding her houses. They seized foreign liquor and narcotics from her residence.

Muggers shoot

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 leave immediately, the police official said, adding that the criminals shot Khademul from behind while fleeing the spot.
 Locals rescued Khademul and admitted him to Gangni Upazila Health Complex.
 He was later referred to Kushtia Medical College Hospital as his condition was critical. However, he succumbed to his injuries on his way to the hospital.
 According to the OC, police were conducting operations to nab the killers.

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e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of:

Tender Notice & ID No.	Name of work	Publication, last selling & closing date
e-GP/01/PMP/SE Khu/2021-22 (ID No. 600403)	Periodic Maintenance Programme (PMP) providing DBS-Base course and DBS-Wearing course including necessary repair works from Ch. 224+315m to Ch. 225+815m (Shambagat to Metro Brick), Ch. 234+000m to Ch. 235+785m (Bimanbondor to Foyal Bazar End), Ch. 239+315m to Ch. 240+000m (Chairman Bari More Start to Chairman Bari More End) and Ch. 241+268m to Ch. 243+165m (Bogura Bridge Approach to Belai Bridge Approach) (Total Working Length = 5867.00m) of Daulatdia-Faridpur (Goalchamot)-Magura-Jhenaidah-Jessore-Khulna-Mongla (Digraj) Road (N-7) National Highways under Road Division, Bagerhat during the year 2021-2022.	Published date: 26-08-2021 Last selling date & time: 26-09-2021, Up to 5:00pm Closing, opening date & time: 27-09-2021 At 12:30pm
e-GP/02/PMP/SE Khu/2021-22 (ID No. 600404)	Overlay works (DBSW) under Periodic Maintenance Programme (PMP) of Navarong-Illisopur-Satkhira Road (R-765) (Satkhira Part) at Chainage: 16+877m to 17+377m and Ch: 31+500m to 33+000m (Jhaudanga) under Road Division, Satkhira during the year 2021-2022.	

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
 To submit e-Tender, registration required in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd).
 The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches up to abovementioned date & time.
 Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Tafayel Alam Assistant Engineer, RHD Road Circle, Khulna	Md. Moniruzzaman ID No. 601961 Superintending Engineer (c.c), RHD Road Circle, Khulna
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GD-1531

16 soldiers killed in jihadist-hit southeast Niger

AFP, Niamey

An attack by hundreds of Boko Haram fighters on a town in Niger's jihadist-plagued southeast killed 16 soldiers and wounded nine others, Defence Minister Alkassoum Indatou told AFP on Wednesday.
 In the assault late on Tuesday "the positions of our defence and security forces in Baroua, in the Diffa region, were attacked by several hundred Boko Haram elements who came from Lake Chad", the minister said in a statement.
 Nigerien soldiers "neutralised around 50 terrorists" and "secured a large quantity of arms and ammunition", he added.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
 নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ
 সড়ক বিভাগ, কুষ্টিয়া।
 ফোন- ০৭১-৬২১৩৫/৬১৯৯৩, ই-মেইলঃ eekus@rhd.gov.bd

স্মারক নং-৩৫.০১.৫০৭৯.৪৩৯.০৭.০০৩.২১-১৮৩৩
 তারিখ : ২৬/০৮/২০২১ খ্রিঃ

"সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তির সংশোধনী"

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, কুষ্টিয়া সড়ক বিভাগ, কুষ্টিয়ার স্মারক নং- ৩৫.০১.৫০৭৯.৪৩৯.০৭.০০৩.২১-১৮৩৩; তারিখ : ২৭/০৭/২০২১ খ্রিস্টাব্দ এর মূলে আঙ্কানকৃত বিজ্ঞপ্তি CPTU কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত আবেদনের ফরম বিক্রয় ও জমাদানের তারিখ এবং সময় অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ নিম্নলিখিত সংশোধন করা হলো।

তালিকাভুক্তির ফরম বিক্রয় ও জমার পূর্বের তারিখ ও সময়	তালিকাভুক্তির ফরম বিক্রয় ও জমার সংশোধিত তারিখ ও সময়
তারিখঃ ২৬/০৮/২০২১ সময়ঃ বিকাল ৫:০০ ঘটিকা	তারিখঃ ০৭/০৯/২০২১ সময়ঃ বিকাল ৫:০০ ঘটিকা

(মোঃ শাকিবুল ইসলাম)
 পরিচিতি নং-৬০২২৭২
 নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (চঃদঃ), সওজ
 সড়ক বিভাগ, কুষ্টিয়া।

GD- 1527