

Ocean, future's nutrition hub

SHYKH SERAJ

Food is related with hunger. For years, people have struggled and innovated many ways to battle with hunger. The food habit has been changing for ages, and the issue of nutrition has gradually risen in this process.



A researcher working on a variety of seaweeds at a laboratory in Cox's Bazar's Nuniachhara area.

Shykh Seraj is Bangladesh's pioneer development journalist. He received country's two highest civilian honours, Swadhinata Puroshkar and Ekushey Padak, respectively.



cultivation, it was first cultivated in the Tokyo ocean in 1670 AD, which took commercial form in 1940. Since then, seaweed has become a unique cash crop in Japan, China, Korea, Philippines and many other countries.

The length of the coastline of Bangladesh is about 710 kilometre. Moreover, seaweed can be cultivated in 25,000 square kilometre area under 146 upazilas of 19 out of 64 districts of the country.

In a large part of the shop, there was a seaweed section, filled with different seaweed food products. I had to believe, Chinese were really too fond of seaweed.

In 2005, I had the opportunity to visit Japan to film an episode of Hridaye Mati O Manush (Soil & People in Heart). There I saw seaweed being cultivated along the long sea shores of the Tokyo ocean.

Professor Chun Liu of the Department of Fisheries at the university was researching on the number of species of fish in the ocean. To determine from which part of the sea, fish can be netted and from where it cannot be, research on fish growth, mortality, density etc.

According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 25,000 tonnes of seaweed is produced worldwide, and its commercial value is

around USD 2 billion every year. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 25,000 tonnes of seaweed is produced worldwide, and its commercial value is

marine life in many parts of the world, Professor Liu said the governments of the countries have a responsibility to work on this matter, together.

The Bay of Bengal accounts for 81 percent of the total area of our country. In the context of increasing the size of the sea, new possibilities have arisen with our blue economy. International researchers in the field of oceanography see this potential in our country as promising one.

The whole world is now talking about the protection of marine resources. Because the sea is gradually turning into waste and plastic mines. Scientists fear that by 2025, the figure could reach to such a dire level that one tonne of plastic waste will be found in the sea for every three tonnes of fish.

CHINA DOWARI

A fish trap raising alarm

KONGKON KARKMAKER

Years of efforts by the government in protecting aquatic life through banning the use of 'current net' in waterbodies of the country will go in vain unless the use of 'China Dowari' fish trap -- growing increasingly popular in Rangpur region -- is barred as well.

The new cheaper and stronger trap with finer net is more harmful than 'current net', according to officials at the Department of Fisheries.

Even the smallest of fish and other organisms are not spared when China Dowari is used in fishing, they also said.

Bigger catch, durability and affordability are among the reasons for growing popularity of this trap, which is not yet illegal in the country, said many fishers.

Rampant use of China Dowari in the Teesta river was witnessed by this correspondent during a visit to different areas in Gangachara upazila of Rangpur recently.



A fisher in Alaler Char of Rangpur's Gangachara upazila unloads a China Dowari trap before going fishing.

Abdul Kuddus, from Alaler Char in the upazila, said after hearing about the "specially designed fishing trap", he recently bought 60 feet of it from Bogura. "It is comparatively better than 'current net'" as it catches fish of all sizes.

Another fisher, Ayub Ali, from the same area, said his catch has been better this season since he spent Tk 10,000 on buying a China Dowari trap. Besides, the trap is much easier to handle, he also said.

'Riverine People in Rangpur' founder Prof Tuhi Wadud, of Bangla Department at Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur, said the China Dowari traps fish of all sizes.

It is mainly being used in the Teesta river in Rangpur region where people, including officials of the administration as well as law enforcers, are still unaware of its harmful impact on fish population.

If such indiscriminate fishing with China Dowari trap continues in the peak fishing season, between the months of June and October, fish population in the Teesta will see a sharp decline, he warned.

Mosaddek Ali Azad, chairman of Morneya Union Parishad in Gangachara upazila, said he never heard about the China Dowari trap and he would take necessary steps to restrict the use of the harmful trap.

Contacted, Deepa Rani Biswas, senior fisheries officer in the upazila, said she was also not aware of such a harmful fish trap.

The higher authorities would be informed of its negative impact and she would take necessary measures as per their directives, she added.



Members of Kuakata Dolphin Conservation Committee found another dead dolphin from the Kuakata beach area yesterday. According to the organisation, 15 dead dolphins have been spotted in different areas of the beach since January this year.

PHOTO: STAR

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার. বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ. পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয় পাবনা. দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি. মারক নং-৩৪৭৮/ই. ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বৎসরে ২য় কোয়ার্টারের (অক্টোবর/২০২১ হইতে ডিসেম্বর/২০২১ পর্যন্ত) পাবনা জেলা পুলিশ, মুক্তিযোদ্ধা, এনএসআই, দুদক এবং বাহির জেলাসমূহের বেসীমার জন্য নির্ধারিত বেগুন সামগ্রী ক্রয়, কুলি খরচ (চাল, গম, চিনি গোল্ড-আনলাইট), গম পেছাই এবং নিলাম (খালি চিট ও গ্রান্টিকের বক্স মাফারী বিক্রয়) এর নিমিত্তে বি বিবিআর/২০০৮ অনুসারে নিম্নলিখিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক পৃথক পৃথক দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইবে।

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক. হিউম্যান রিসোর্সেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-১. প্রধান কার্যালয় ঢাকা. বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ৫৫/২০২১. পুনঃনিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি. বাংলাদেশ সরকারের জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়ের ১৯/০৮/২০২১ তারিখের বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০৫.০০.০০০০.১৭০.১১.০১৭.২০.১৪৩-এর আলোকে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক "সহকারী মেইন্টেন্যান্স ইঞ্জিনিয়ার" পদে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-২১/২০২১ তারিখ ১৮/০৮/২০২১-এর অনুলিপিক্রমে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তে বাংলাদেশী স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে পুনরায় দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।