

Unregulated snail collection raises concerns in Khulna

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Indiscriminate collection of snails from croplands and swamp areas has raised alarms in Kulna.

This practice has also spread to neighbouring districts such as Bagerhat, Satkhira, Jashore, and Barishal.

Snails are primarily used as feed in shrimp enclosures and hatcheries.

The demand for snail meat is driven by its effectiveness in promoting rapid shrimp growth, making it popular among the region's approximately half a million shrimp farmers. Locally, a 50 kg bag of snails sells for between Tk 500 and Tk 650, with hundreds of bags traded daily across Khulna, including Koyra, Paikgachha, Terokhada, Dumuria, and Rupsha upazilas.

However, experts warn that the unregulated collection of snails is severely disrupting the ecological balance. Snails play a vital role in agriculture and water purification, contributing to soil fertility, controlling rodent populations, and providing food for local fish species. Their removal is causing significant environmental harm.



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Experts urge farmers to conserve snails by reducing pesticide use, prohibiting collection during their breeding season from June to August, and raising public awareness about their ecological importance.

Despite these warnings, snail

collection remains high. In Terokhada upazila, many collectors are seen gathering snails from water bodies like Bhutia Beel and Basuakhal Beel.

Collectors like Abdur Rahim from Nalarchar say the peak season runs from June to October, with individuals

able to collect and sell 3-4 bags daily, providing additional income with minimal investment.

Urmila Biswas, who processes snails, said her earnings have supported her family and funded her sons' education.

Imran Sheikh, another collector, employs workers to assist in collection, selling snails to wholesale buyers.

Shrimp farmer Monoj Boiragi said snails are a more affordable and effective feed option compared to fish meal.

Environmental scientists emphasise the crucial role snails play in water purification and soil health. Sadhon Chandra Swarnakar, assistant professor at Khulna University, warned that indiscriminate harvesting disrupts these functions, leading to declines in water quality and soil health.

According to Nirmal Kumar Paul, divisional forest officer in Khulna, snails are classified as wild species under the Wild Animals (Preservation and Security) Act, 2012, which prohibits their collection and trade without permission.

Violations can lead to imprisonment for up to six months and fines of Tk 50,000.

Rain damages 60pc

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but the water level was too high. All my investment has been lost."

The district's fisheries officer, Jaydeb Paul, reported that 5,810 tonnes of fish and 7,321 tonnes of harvest-ready shrimp were washed away over the last three days.

"Shrimp farmers are the most affected, as it is their harvest season. We are working to provide incentives to support the affected farmers," he said.

Fear, insecurity grip

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suspect in the case, while the other culprits are at large, leaving the family members amid fear and insecurity.

They are also going through much financial strains.

"Our family was dependent on my father's pension. The assailants killed my father, while his pension has stopped coming as it has not been transferred to our mother's name yet. The main culprit, Miraj Sheikh, is still at large.

We are constantly living in fear and insecurity, often not being able to stay in our own home," said Priyanti Chatterjee, the victim's younger daughter and a student of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University.

"The union parishad chairman went into hiding after fall of the government, so we could not obtain my father's death certificate. My mother needed 32 stitches on her head, I needed 12. Every month we need medicine alone worth around Tk 8,000. I work as a primary school teacher, but my earning is barely enough to bear all expenses of the family," said Jhuma Chatterjee.

Contacted, Mohammad Raselur Rahman, additional superintendent of police (crime and operations) in Bagerhat, said the family does not need to feel terrified.

"We have arrested one suspect while efforts are on to arrest others. Policemen patrol the locality of the victim's house often at night," he said.

It had no legal basis

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representatives -- banned the activities of Shibir, an associated student body of Jamaat, a party that opposed Bangladesh's independence and supported the Pakistan army during the Liberation War.

Farhad's shibir identity came to light on Sunday night, a day after Abu Shadik (Kayem), revealed himself as DU Shibir president.

Farhad is a student of the 2017-18 academic session at the Institute of Social Welfare and Research.

Responding to allegations of practicing secret politics, Farhad said, "Hundreds of our leaders and activists have gone missing or paid with their lives. We couldn't reveal

Tourism in turmoil

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Countrywide political unrest on the eve of the national elections, severe heat waves during March-April, heavy rains starting from June and the mass uprising in July-August has led to few tourists visiting the country, he said.

Denying accusations of Shibir's involvement in violence, Farhad said, "If you search on Google, you'll find that all incidents of cutting veins are linked to Chhatra League, not Shibir."

When asked whether many Shibir leaders were involved in formulating the nine-point demand of the anti-discrimination student movement, he said, "Everyone forgot their party identity, regardless of their views, during the student uprising. As a result, taking credit for whose plan was implemented contradicts the spirit of the movement."

Sumat Nuri Juwel, former president of Sylhet Hotel and Resort Owner Association, said, "Till July it was devastating for the industry compared to previous years. But we are witnessing a positive wind and hope the upcoming winter season will be positive."

"For months till September, not a single person came to visit Ratargul. The people like us who solely rely on tourists renting our boats, suffered the most," said Sona Miah, a boatman of Ratargul Swamp Forest.

Due to the recent turmoil in the country, few tourists are interested in

Youth's role key

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public access to information and social accountability practices.

Jasmin Nahar, senior assistant secretary of the National Institute of Local Government, said training on the RTI Act and gender issues is now included at all levels of local government.

Zahirul Islam, deputy director of Brotee, criticised the government's decision to shut down the internet during social unrest, saying

JETnet-BD launched

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Md Abul Kalam Azad, manager of the Just Energy Transition (JET) team at ActionAid Bangladesh, outlined the network's goals and the necessity of a collective effort towards a renewable energy future.

Prof Mohammad Tamim emphasised the importance of government transparency and accountability in the energy sector, citing the home solar system's decline due to the previous government's political drive for 100 percent electrification.

Shafiqul Alam of IEEFA pointed out the need to expedite the potential of rooftop solar power in industries and commercial buildings.

He urged for lower import duties on high-quality solar accessories, favourable financing, and stronger support from the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority.

Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid Bangladesh, expressed hope that JETnet-BD would help achieve a 100 percent renewable energy transition.

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Normal platelet counts range between 150,000 and 250,000 per microlitre of blood. A dangerously low count often signals a critical condition, especially in dengue patients.

Dr HM Nazmul Ahsan, an associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, explained the added risks women face, particularly pregnant women and those with comorbidities such as obesity, diabetes, and heart disease.

"Female patients are vulnerable. If infected with dengue during menstruation or pregnancy, they require special attention. If left untreated or brought to the hospital late, they risk developing dengue shock syndrome, which can be fatal," Dr Ahsan said.

He said the signs of severe dengue include severe stomach aches, breathing difficulties, vomiting, and bleeding from the gums or nose.

"If a patient showing these symptoms isn't hospitalised within 24 hours, they risk developing dengue shock syndrome," he added.

The professor added the social neglect of women's

Yunus seeks

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this and showed interest in increasing their involvement in Bangladesh.

Referring to the meeting, Shafiqul said Gates Foundation's interest in increasing their support in the health sector of Bangladesh means increasing the quality of health services in Bangladesh and creating new jobs.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Supply, Distribution and Marketing Division
Directorate of Food
Ministry of Food
16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka
Website: www.dgfood.gov.bd

Date: 25/09/2024

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following goods:

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Name of tender	Tender/proposal selling /closing & opening date and time	Ref. No. date
1	1017467 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 92,000 (Ninety-Two) M.T. Rice Premix Kernel for FFP of Dhaka Division. (32 LSDs of 32 Upazilas)	25-September-2024; 4:00 PM 10-October-2024; 10:00 AM	499 25/09/2024
2	1017468 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 95,000 (Ninety-Five) M.T. Rice Premix Kernel for FFP of Chattogram Division. (64 LSDs of 64 Upazilas)	24-September-2024; 4:00 PM 09-October-2024; 10:00 AM	500 25/09/2024
3	1017469 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 100,000 (One Hundred) M.T. Rice Premix Kernel for FFP of Rajshahi Division. (31 LSDs of 31 Upazilas)	24-September-2024; 4:00 PM 09-October-2024; 10:00 AM	501 25/09/2024
4	1017470 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 56,000 (Fifty-Six) M.T. Rice Premix Kernel for FFP of Khulna Division. (24 LSDs of 24 Upazilas)	24-September-2024; 4:00 PM 09-October-2024; 10:00 AM	502 25/09/2024
5	1017471 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 61,000 (Sixty-One) M.T. Rice Premix Kernel for FFP of Barisal Division. (17 LSDs of 17 Upazilas)	24-September-2024; 4:00 PM 09-October-2024; 10:00 AM	503 25/09/2024
6	1017472 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 38,000 (Thirty-Eight) M.T. Rice Premix Kernel for FFP of Sylhet Division. (20 LSDs of 20 Upazilas)	24-September-2024; 4:00 PM 09-October-2024; 10:00 AM	504 25/09/2024
7	1017473 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 54,000 (Fifty-Four) M.T. Rice Premix Kernel for FFP of Rangpur Division. (15 LSDs of 15 Upazilas)	24-September-2024; 4:00 PM 09-October-2024; 10:00 AM	505 25/09/2024
8	1017474 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 92,000 (Ninety-Two) M.T. Rice Premix Kernel for FFP of Mymensingh Division. (18 LSDs of 18 Upazilas)	24-September-2024; 4:00 PM 09-October-2024; 10:00 AM	506 25/09/2024

1. 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;
2. To submit e-Tender, registration in the e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required;
3. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through branches of any registered bank. Further information and guidelines are available on the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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বাংলাদেশ টেলিযোগাযোগ নিয়ন্ত্রণ কমিশন

প্রট # ই-৫/এ, আগারাম ও প্রশাসনিক এলাকা, শের-ই-বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭, বাংলাদেশ

তারিখ: ১৫/০৯/২০২৪

সার্কুলার

বিষয়: ৫৯২৫-৬৪২৫ মেগাহার্জ তরঙ্গ ব্যাট শেডিল্টে ভিত্তিতে ব্যবহার প্রসঙ্গে।

উপর্যুক্ত বিষয়ের প্রেসিডেন্ট সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য নির্দেশক্রমে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ৬ মিগাহার্জ ব্যাটের প্রেসিডেন্টের নির্দেশ মেগাহার্জ তরঙ্গ ব্যাট শেডিল্টে ভিত্তিতে ব্যবহার করার অনুমতি দেওয়া হচ্ছে। তবে প্রকাশ থাকে যে, বর্তিত ব্যাটের বিভিজিয়েক ভিত্তিতে সার্ভিস দিতে

ব্যবহার করা হচ্ছে।

তারিখ: ১৫/০৯/২০২৪

(ড. মোঃ সোহেল রানা)

পরিচালক

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