



Pedestrians ignore a blockade at a level crossing and cross the road in Rajshahi city despite an approaching train, putting themselves at risk of accident. The photo was taken in the Railgate area yesterday.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

## Couple found dead in Benapole

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Police yesterday recovered the bodies of a man and his wife near their house in Raghunathpur village under Benapole Port Police Station in Jashore.

The deceased were identified as Moniruzzaman, 52, and his wife Rehana Khatun, 45.

According to police, Moniruzzaman's body was found hanging from a tree adjacent to their house around 9:30am, while Rehana's body was recovered from a nearby field.

Villagers claimed that unidentified assailants killed the couple after abducting them from their house in the dead of night.

Injury marks were found on the woman's face and neck. The man's hanging body had his feet touching the ground.

Contacted, Md Russel Mia, officer-in-charge of Benapole Port Police Station, said, "We've started an investigation to uncover the motive behind the deaths. The exact cause of death will be known after receiving the autopsy reports."

PLOT FOR SALE

A plot is for sale in Baridhara Diplomatic Zone. Only interested and genuine buyers should Contact: 01973456904

## NAKSHI PERA OF SARISHABARI A fusion of art, tradition, and taste

SHAHIDUL ISLAM NIRAB, Jamalpur

Sweet shops in Shimla Bazar of Jamalpur's Sarishabari are always abuzz with activity from early morning till late at night.

Of the sweets produced in the region, one item steals the spotlight: pera sandesh.

Though this traditional sweet enjoys year-round popularity, demand surges several times during Eid. This year, a new twist has been added: nakshi pera, or intricately designed pera sandesh, made using moulds that enhance its visual appeal alongside its taste.

"We used to make only regular pera sandesh. But since introducing the nakshi version, we've received great feedback. Sales now reach up to 200 kilogrammes daily," said Chandan Pal, owner of Kalachand Sweets.

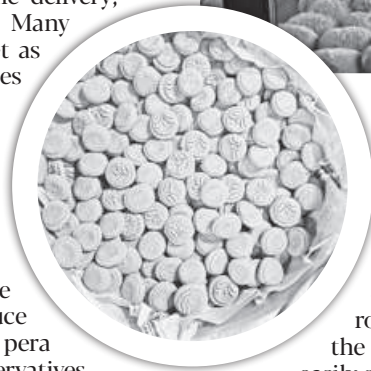
No longer confined to local shops, Sarishabari's pera sandesh is now available online through Facebook pages, home delivery, and courier services. Many are sending the sweet as Eid gifts to loved ones abroad.

Behind each piece of this delicate dessert lies hard work and precision. It takes 4.5 litres of milk and one kilogramme of sugar to produce one kilogramme of pera sandesh. No preservatives or artificial colouring are used, ensuring a homemade taste and sense of reliability.

"It costs around Tk 380 to produce per kg, and we sell it for Tk

430. But during Eid, maintaining quality is more important than making a profit," said sweet-maker Suman Ghosh.

Rajon Ghosh, a local producer, claimed that pera sandesh originated in Sarishabari and has since spread throughout the Jamalpur region.



Each piece weighs about 40 to 50 grammes and is roughly two inches long. With a shelf life of up to 20 days at room temperature, the sweet can be easily shipped to distant locations.

Beyond regional markets such as Dhaka, Mymensingh, Tangail and Sherpur, pera sandesh is now being sent overseas -- often as Eid gifts.

"I always bring pera sandesh when visiting relatives during Eid. It has become a messenger of love for many," said Manik Mia, a vendor at Sarishabari's municipal market.

"I ordered 5kg online and had it delivered to a relative's house in Dhaka before Eid," said Ratan Master, a resident of Aramnagar.

However, maintaining its signature taste is no simple task. The milk must be condensed to a precise ratio, and sugar added with great care. "Even a small mistake can spoil the entire batch," said sweet-maker Jewel Mia.

The local administration is also taking steps to preserve and promote this culinary heritage.

Liza Richil, acting upazila nirbahi officer in Sharishabari, said, "We are taking the necessary steps to apply for GI (Geographical Indication) recognition for pera sandesh."

## Scientists save endangered Gotali fish from extinction

BFRI researchers develop artificial breeding technique

ASADUZZAMAN TIPU

Once widely consumed and prized for its taste, Gotali fish -- an indigenous species declared endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 2015 -- is now on the path to revival.

Scientists at the Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI) freshwater sub station in Saidpur, Nilphamari, have successfully developed a technique for its artificial breeding and fry production, offering new hope for its conservation.

The Gotali fish (*Crossocheilus latius*), a member of the Cyprinidae family, was once abundant in the Teesta basin, the hilly streams of Mymensingh, and the river systems of Sylhet.

However, its population has drastically declined due to water pollution, the use of destructive fishing

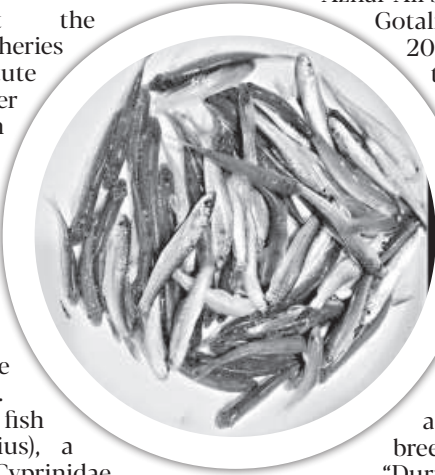
techniques -- such as current nets and electric fishing -- and the adverse effects of climate change.

According to BFRI, Bangladesh is home to 261 freshwater fish species, 64 of which are critically endangered.

BFRI Principal Scientific Officer Azhar Ali said efforts to conserve Gotali's gene pool began in 2023, with a five-member team conducting extensive research.

Scientists collected live specimens (5-6 grammes) from the Teesta and Buri Teesta rivers during April-May and preserved them in research ponds for domestication and adaptation before breeding.

"During the breeding season (July-August), mature male and female Gotali fish were transferred to hatchery tanks with gentle water flow and injected with synthetic hormones," said Senior Scientific Officer Sonia Sharmin.



SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

## Water levels rise at 17 river stations, fall at 95: FFWC

BSS, Dhaka

Water levels at 17 river stations monitored by the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) have risen, while 95 stations recorded a fall, according to an FFWC bulletin issued yesterday.

Out of the 116 monitored river stations, water levels at four stations have remained steady, while no stations are flowing above the danger level, said the bulletin.

All major rivers are flowing below their respective danger marks, it also said.

The water levels of the Brahmaputra-Jamuna rivers are on a declining trend, which is expected to continue over the next three days, remain steady for the following two days, and stay below danger levels throughout.

Similarly, water levels of the Ganges-Padma rivers are decreasing and are likely to continue doing so for the next five days, remaining below danger levels.

The Surma and Kushiara rivers are also experiencing falling water levels, which are expected to continue for the next three days, with levels staying below danger marks, the bulletin said.

## Farmer dies in lightning strike in Manikganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A farmer was killed in a lightning strike in the Kumuria area of Khalsi union under Daulatpur upazila of Manikganj yesterday afternoon.

The victim is Robin Sheikh, 30, of the area.

Quoting locals, Daulatpur Police Station Officer-in-Charge Al Mamun said Robin was working on a farmland near his house around 4:00pm when he was struck by lightning. He died on the spot.

On information, police went to the spot and recovered the body and handed it over to the family without a post-mortem examination



PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

A farmer tills his land in preparation for sowing paddy seeds, while a flock of herons flies overhead, searching for insects in the freshly turned soil. The photo was taken from Kakonhat in the Barind region of Rajshahi yesterday.

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e-Tender is invited to the e-GP Portal for following procurement. Interested tenderers are requested to visit (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) website for details

| Sl. No. | Tender ID | Types of Procurement, Name of the Procurement                              | Tender publication date | Tender document last selling date and time | Tender opening date and time | Method |
|---------|-----------|--|-------------------------|--|------------------------------|--------|
| 1       | 1084937   | Procurement of Electrical Items for the Fiscal Year 2024-25                | 02-Jun-2025 10:30       | 16-Jun-2025 15:00                          | 16-Jun-2025 15:30            | OTM    |
| 2       | 1117827   | Procurement of Computer Accessories (Windows, External Storages etc)       | 01-Jun-2025 10:30       | 15-Jun-2025 11:00                          | 15-Jun-2025 11:30            | OTM    |
| 3       | 1125347   | CMU/H/GR-01<br>Procurement of Air Conditioners for the Fiscal Year 2024-25 | 09-Jun-2025 19:00       | 23-Jun-2025 19:00                          | 23-Jun-2025 19:30            | OTM    |

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