

First lot of 37.46 tonnes of hilsa shipped to India



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Bangladesh shipped the first lot of 37.46 tonnes of hilsa fish to India in the early hours of yesterday.

The fish were exported through Benapole land port after customs and quarantine clearance, Sajib Saha, quarantine officer of the Department of Fisheries in Jashore, told The Daily Star.

Five exporters supplied the fish in six consignments, he said.

Two consignments came from Biswas Enterprise and the remaining four from Lucky Trading of Jashore's Jhikargachha, Tanisha Enterprise of Barishal, Satata Fish of Benapole and Jhormali Enterprise, he added.

"Most of the exported fish weighed between 600 and 700 grammes each."

However, no export took place later in the day, nor will there be any at night, as trade with India remained suspended due to Bishwakarma Puja celebrations there.

Earlier, the commerce ministry issued an order permitting 37 exporters to ship 1,200 tonnes of hilsa to India between September 16 and October 5 for the Durga Puja festival.

The minimum export price has been set at \$12.5 per kilogramme.

Raisul Huq Bahar's death anniv today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg



Today is the seventh death anniversary of AKM Raisul Huq Bahar, a freedom fighter and journalist.

Bahar was born on April 1, 1952 at Companiganj, Noakhali.

He died of cardiac arrest at a hospital in the port city on September 18, 2018.

Bahar was a guerrilla commander and led many operations including Kaibalyadham Railway Bridge Operation at Pahartoli, Chattogram in the 1971 Liberation War.

Before joining journalism in 1972, he was an accounts officer of Chattogram Port.

He was the Chattogram bureau chief of The Daily Star (2010-2015). He also served the Suprothab Bangladesh and Dainik Purbokone as associate editor.

Six years on, project still stuck

FROM PAGE 3 months were lost to bureaucratic procedures before implementation could begin.

"The work stalled mainly due to delays in the master plan and land acquisition. Now, the university and the army are monitoring the project jointly. We hope to complete it within the revised timeline [December 2026]," said JnU's Chief Engineer Helal Uddin Patwary.

Earlier, on January 12, students staged a protest, boycotting classes and exams, and went on a hunger strike, demanding that the entire project be handed over to the Bangladesh Army for its speedy implementation.

Consequently, on January 16, the education ministry issued a notice, assigning the work to the army.

According to the government order, the army is tasked with constructing internal and external roads, surface drains, lake protection, an army base camp, and electrical installations.

Meanwhile, the previous contractor would continue

with the other parts of the project under the supervision of the army and JnU authorities.

However, due to a lack of coordination among government offices, alongside financial complications, the work hasn't progressed much.

Contacted, Project Director Lt Col Iftekhar Alam said, "The project will be completed in two phases. The first phase is scheduled to be finished by December 2026. Work on the base camp has already finished, and other works will commence once funds are released."

In 2016, following a series of protests over several years, the then-government pledged a second campus for JnU.

The project received Ecenec approval in 2017, with plans for academic and administrative buildings, dormitories, research facilities, and sports grounds across 200 acres.

Although JnU formally received 188.60 acres in early 2020, complications held up the remaining 11.40 acres for nearly five years. Only this June did the university secure the

No security

FROM PAGE 3 been celebrated in a more vibrant atmosphere than last year, he urged law enforcement agencies and Puja committees to work hand in hand to ensure peace and order.

He also cautioned against spreading misinformation during the festival. "Durga Puja is a celebration that draws people of all religions, not just Hindus," he said, adding that a new mobile application has been launched to share real-time updates on any incidents.

He also played a pioneering role at United Nations Radio, where he launched its first-ever Bangla service and produced weekly programmes for nearly a decade. Having studied law and history at Dhaka and Rajshahi universities, Kamal is widely regarded for his investigative reporting, newsroom leadership, and contributions to media policy reform.

Kamal Ahmed

FROM PAGE 3

senior editorial roles at the BBC World Service in London, where he served as editor of the Bengali Service and later as senior producer. He produced and anchored news programmes and chaired over 100 editions of BBC Bangladesh Sanglap. He also moderated nationally broadcast mayoral debates in collaboration with the Bangladesh Election Commission.

In Bangladesh, he has served as consulting editor of Prothom Alo, chief sub-editor of The Financial Express, and contributed to leading regional publications, including Himal Southasian. He began his career at Dainik Desh and also worked with The Daily Star, and The Telegraph.

He led the Media Reform Commission under the interim government headed by Professor Muhammad Yunus, delivering a comprehensive reform agenda within five months.

He also played a pioneering role at United Nations Radio, where he launched its first-ever Bangla service and produced weekly programmes for nearly a decade. Having studied law and history at Dhaka and Rajshahi universities, Kamal is widely regarded for his investigative reporting, newsroom leadership, and contributions to media policy reform.

Gautam Chandra Chanda, divisional coordinator of the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, said, "If the boundaries are not immediately demarcated, the illegal structures are not removed and the wetland is not excavated, this important waterbody may be lost whenever it rains," he said.

Tangail Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Nahida Akter said she did not know anything about the

Burai Beel, a natural wetland located near eastern part of Tangail district town, is rapidly shrinking due to continuous pollution and encroachment.

Once used by locals to travel from neighbouring areas to the district town, Burai Beel also served as a natural reservoir of local fish species, allowing local fishermen earn a living.

Rafiqul Islam, another resident, said, "Just two

decades ago, we used to bathe in the clean water of Burai.

Now it is very polluted and dirty. The waterbody was full of native fish and migratory birds used to flock here during winter. Now there is nothing. It is shrinking day by day, and for most of the year there is no water."

forever."

Ratan Ahmed Siddiqui, general secretary of Tangail River Canal Waterbody Protection Movement Committee, said they have been demanding protection of Burai Beel for a long time but no action has been taken.

When this correspondent

contacted the adjacent Municipal, Karatia and Gharinda union land offices to inquire about the waterbody, the offices could not provide any information.

Tangail Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Nahida Akter said she did not

know anything about the

waterbody. She would talk about it later after finding out.

Md Shihab Raihan, deputy director of the Local Government Department and administrator of Tangail Municipality, said the government is actively considering a project to

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