

No safe waters for mother hilsa

Despite drone patrols, mobile courts, illegal fishing goes on amid 22-day ban

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Even amid intensified monitoring to protect mother hilsa during the ongoing 22-day fishing ban, illegal fishing continues unabated across five sanctuaries.

Night-time fishing continues in hilsa hotspots such as the Meghna, Kalabador, Tetulia, and Bishkhali rivers, particularly in Barishal's Hijla and Mehendiganj, as well as in Bhola.

Seasonal fishermen are also setting nets in smaller canals, violating the ban. When law enforcers approach, they often hide or escape into narrow waterways.

In early October, patrol teams in Bakerganj and Hijla faced resistance from fishermen during drives. Seven people were arrested and local weapons were seized, said Barishal District Fisheries Officer Ripon Kanti Ghosh.

Hijla Upazila Fisheries Officer Mohammad Alam said, "Some of these fishermen were also engaged in robbery on the rivers."

Locals in Barishal city's Kaunia area said some fishermen have been delivering fresh hilsa door-to-door at night, offering them at half price.

Meanwhile, allegations have surfaced against some fisheries staff for aiding

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Trawlers lie idle at Rashmoni launch ghat in Chattogram.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

UNB, Dhaka

The European Union has decided to send election observers to Bangladesh for the upcoming national election, said BNP Standing Committee member Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday.

"The EU has decided to send observers following requests from the government and the Election Commission. They are eagerly waiting to see a fair, transparent and acceptable election in Bangladesh," he said.

He made the remarks while talking to reporters after a meeting between BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and EU Ambassador to Bangladesh Michael Miller.

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Says education ministry

The Ministry of Education has issued a directive on the payment of salaries and allowances for principals, headteachers, and other teachers of non-government educational institutions who were forced to resign since the July uprising.

The directive was issued in a letter signed by Syed Ali, deputy secretary (charge) of the ministry and Higher Education reports BSS.

According to the letter, investigations on teachers

who were forced to resign since July uprising are underway, salaries and allowances of many have been stopped - leaving them in dire conditions, as per their applications.

The letter instructs that until allegations brought against them are resolved, salaries and allowances of the teachers concerned must continue.

s have also been to ensure the payment of salaries and allowances by their names in the electronic (EFT) system.

erned that if any official obstructs or refuses to

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Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday said the upcoming national election would be peaceful and festive if everyone plays their part.

"People are the biggest stakeholders, and they are already aware and engaged. Once people become election-minded, nothing can stop the process," said the adviser.

Speaking to reporters at the DMP Headquarters, Jahangir said crimes and flash processions had already started to decline and would reduce further as the country enters election mode.

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With the reopening of campus after the Durga Puja vacation, candidates in the Chittagong University Central Students' Union (Cucusu) election have launched their campaigns in full swing.

From uniquely designed leaflets and handbills to QR coded manifestos and symbol-shaped flyers, candidates are showcasing remarkable creativity to capture the attention of voters.

A total of 908 contenders are running for various positions in the Cucusu and hall union elections, scheduled for October 15.

Campaign materials have taken striking forms. Some leaflets are shaped like passports, globes, and national symbols, while others reflect ballot numbers or campaign pledges through symbolic designs.

Designs have ranged from hammers, fans, and teacups to more unconventional ones like rifles, dollar bills, and the university's own logo.

The creative wave has been welcomed by voters, who say such innovations have brought new energy to campus politics after a gap of 35 years since the last Cucusu election.

Executive member candidate Mir Sumaiya Ahmed has printed her flyers in four languages – Chakma, Marma, Chattgaiya, and Bangla – symbolising inclusivity.

Shahriyan Ahmed Onim, contesting for career development and

international affairs secretary, crafted a globe-shaped leaflet.

From the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal panel, executive member candidate Md Mahbubul Hasan printed cards shaped like an AK-47 rifle, as his ballot number is 47.

Shahid Farhad Hossain Hall AGS candidate Kazi Tafhimul Haque distributed dollar-shaped leaflets, while law and human rights secretary contender Abdullah Al Sakif Rahman opted for hammer-shaped ones.

Monir Hossain, GS candidate of Shahid Abdur Rob Hall, used the map of Palestine to symbolise solidarity.

Meanwhile, Shahidul Islam Sami, a candidate from "Binirmar Shikkharthi Oikya", designed bus-shaped flyers representing his pledge to introduce a circular bus service connecting the campus and the city.

"I wanted to create something different, something students would want to keep as a memento," said Sami. "The bus design symbolises the circular bus service I plan to introduce if elected."

On the other hand, Saied Mohammad Mushfiq Hasan, AGS candidate from "Sarbabhouma Shikkharthi Oikya", printed fan-shaped leaflets.

Another candidate, Onim, said, "I incorporated symbols of global struggles, including that of Palestine, to raise students' awareness of international socio-political issues."

