

Rain, hill runoff trigger carp spawning in Halda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Continuous rainfall, hill runoff and lightning have triggered carp spawning in the Halda River, with collectors reporting the presence of eggs at multiple points after the ebb tide began yesterday afternoon.

Brood fish usually spawn in the river stretch between Madunaghat and Sattarghat in Raozan and Hathazari upazilas.

District Fisheries Officer Salma Begum said collectors had already begun finding eggs along different points of the river. "Brood fish released eggs on Wednesday and in the early hours of yesterday. However, the volume of collection remains low so far," she said.

Egg collector Abul Fazal from Gorduar in Hathazari said quantities remained small despite spawning activity.

"Although brood fish have released eggs, the quantity collected is still very small. There is a possibility of full-scale spawning at night," he said.

Collectors have begun gathering eggs and transporting them to hatcheries in buckets, Salma said, adding that spawning had yet to reach full intensity.



Carp in the Halda typically spawn between Chaitra and Ashar, particularly on full and new moon nights when heavy rain, lightning and hill runoff coincide.

Originating in Khagrachhari, the Halda flows around 98 kilometres through Fatikchhari, Raozan and Hathazari before joining the Karnaphuli River.

Prof Manjurul Kibria, a Halda researcher and vice-chancellor of BGC Trust University Bangladesh, said a "spawning festival" was likely to occur between 7:00pm and 8:00pm with ebb tide conditions prevailing.

About 400 collectors gather eggs from the river each year, supplying fry to hatcheries nationwide, though several thousand people are involved in the sector.

The Halda is the only natural river in the country where fertilised carp eggs are collected directly, and its fry are widely valued for rapid growth, he added.

According to the fisheries department data, egg collection stood at 25,536kg in 2020, 8,500kg in 2021, 14,664kg in 2023, 1,680kg in 2024, and about 14,000kg in the most recent year.

Digital IDs, relocation

FROM PAGE 3

sidewalk space must always remain open for pedestrians.

Meanwhile, DNCC Administrator Md Shafiqul Islam Khan inaugurated a parallel initiative at DNCC Nagar Bhaban by distributing digital ID cards to 202 hawkers operating in Mirpur-10, Mirpur-1, and Mirpur-2.

Of them, 102 are being relocated from Mirpur-10 to Mirpur-13 WASA Road, while the remaining 100 will move to an open space near Gabtoli kitchen market. Authorities confirmed that a total of 829 hawkers have been listed, and the rest will be brought under the system in phases.

DNCC officials said the relocation process was finalised after consultations with the hawkers and with support from law enforcers.

A monitoring committee, comprising DNCC and police representatives, will oversee implementation, while plans are under consideration to establish a dedicated "Hawkers' Market" in the future.

Both city corporations stressed that hawkers must operate only in designated areas and are prohibited from building permanent structures and warned that eviction drives will be conducted against unlicensed or non-compliant vendors after a limited transition period.

Officials also confirmed that no markets will be allowed on playgrounds, school grounds, or near places of worship, while law enforcers have been instructed to strictly prevent illegal extortion from hawkers.



Workers process split peas at a factory in Khulna's Koia Bazar area, sorting, cleaning, drying, and packaging the lentils. They earn Tk 400 a day while the product is sold to wholesale markets countrywide at Tk 100-115 per kg. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

RANGPUR REGION

Continuous rain floods paddy, maize fields

S DILIP ROY

Vast low-lying areas across Rangpur, including mature Boro paddy and maize fields across its five districts, have been inundated after the last five days of continuous rainfall.

At the same time, water levels in at least 26 rivers -- including the Brahmaputra, Teesta and Dharla -- are rising. While none have crossed the danger mark, officials have warned that continued rain and upstream water descending could trigger an early flood.

Since Saturday, persistent rain has severely disrupted harvesting, forcing farmers to hire labour at higher wages to salvage ripened paddy and ready-to-harvest maize from submerged fields.

In many areas, farmers are harvesting crops while standing in water, while others worry they will be unable to dry produce due to a lack of sunshine.

Mostafizur Rahman, in charge of the Rangpur Weather Office, said the region has been receiving an average of around 120 millimetres of rain daily since Saturday.

This marks a sharp rise in rainfall compared to last year's 7.5 millimetres during the same period (April 20-30), underscoring an unusually intense weather pattern with growing risks for agriculture and flooding in the northern region.

Rakibul Hasan, executive engineer of the Water Development Board in Kurigram, said that further rainfall, combined with upstream runoff, could trigger sudden flooding in riverbank areas. He warned that char lands and croplands that recently

emerged from riverbeds are already waterlogged.

Shaykhul Arifin, deputy director of the Department of Agricultural Extension in Lalmonirhat, said waterlogging is preventing harvesting in several low-lying areas, raising concerns over crop quality deterioration.

Nazar Ali, 65, of Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila, said his eight bighas of ripe Boro paddy are submerged. "I am harvesting with hired labour at double the usual

Sadar, said char lands that were dry on Monday were submerged by Wednesday morning. "Much of the paddy is still unripe. If the water rises further, losses will be heavy," he said.

Agricultural labourer Shah Jamal, 48, of Rangpur's Gangachara upazila, said working in inundated fields has slowed harvesting and pushed up wages, while persistent rain has made fieldwork increasingly difficult.

The Department of Agricultural Extension claimed Boro paddy



cost. If I wait, the crop will be ruined," he said.

Abdus Samad, 70, of Kurigram's Ulipur upazila, said paddy on six bighas and maize on 10 bighas are under water. "Even if I harvest, I cannot dry them due to the rain. I don't know what to do," he said.

In Rangpur's Kaunia upazila, farmer Shamsul Alam said harvested maize and paddy are now piled up at home but cannot be threshed due to continuous rain, raising fears of spoilage.

Khadimul Islam, 50, of Kurigram

has been cultivated on 5,09,095 hectares and maize on 1,27,230 hectares across Rangpur's five districts -- Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Rangpur, Gaibandha and Nilphamari. Maize harvesting is in full swing, while Boro harvesting has begun in low-lying areas.

Officials and farmers alike fear that if rainfall continues and sunshine does not return soon, both standing and harvested crops could suffer significant damage, with wider implications for the region's agricultural economy.

Ivy gets HC bail in two murder cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted ad-interim bail to Selina Hayat Ivy, former mayor of Narayanganj City Corporation (NCC), in two separate murder cases filed in connection with the July uprising.



The court also issued two separate rules asking the government to explain why Ivy should not be granted permanent bail in the cases.

The bench of Justice KM Zahid Sarwar and Justice Sheikh Abu Taher issued the orders and rules following two separate petitions filed by Ivy seeking bail in the cases.

The cases were filed with Siddhirganj Police Station in Narayanganj on charges of killing Selim Mondal and Abdus Salam during the July uprising in 2024.

Selina Hayat Ivy was shown arrested in the cases immediately after the High Court granted her bail in five other cases on February 26 this year, Senior Advocate Md Motaah Hossain Sazu, a lawyer for Ivy, told The Daily Star.

Senior lawyers Sara Hossain and Motaah Hossain Sazu appeared for petitioner while Deputy Attorney General Syeda Shajia Sharmin opposed the bail petitions during the hearing of the bail petitions.

Dhaka to be transformed into clean, green city

Says DSCC administrator

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) administrator Md Abdus Salam yesterday reaffirmed his commitment to transforming Dhaka into a clean and green city.

He, however, emphasised that the vision of a "Clean City, Green City" can only be achieved through the collective effort and awareness of citizens.

Salam made these remarks while inaugurating a beautification project along the road median and footpaths from Gulistan Zero Point to Hotel InterContinental. The event was held at the Kakrail Mosque intersection.

The project marks the beginning of a broader urban improvement initiative.

As part of the prime minister's vision, the road is being developed into an "ideal and model road". In the first phase, 54 aesthetically designed flower pots of various shapes have been installed along the median and footpaths. These will be later filled with vibrantly coloured flowering plants.

The DSCC plans to complete the current project within one month. The next phase will focus on similar beautification efforts in the Dhanmondi residential area, particularly its lakes. Over time, the initiative will be expanded across the entire city.

Addressing issues such as encroachment of footpaths and damage to greenery, Salam said, "It is not possible for the city corporation or police to guard everything at all times. If we plant trees and others destroy them, the effort will not succeed."

He stressed that maintaining this beautification remains a public responsibility and urged citizens to avoid littering outside designated bins and to act responsibly in protecting the environment.

He called on everyone to plant at least one tree, highlighting that meaningful change begins at the grassroots level.

Senior DSCC officials were present at the event.

74 shade trees felled in Moulvibazar tea garden

MINTU DESHWARA

Miscreants have cut down 74 shade trees at Mirtinga Tea Garden in Kamalganj upazila of Moulvibazar, triggering concern among authorities, workers, and industry stakeholders over its potential impact on tea production.

Officials of the estate, operated under Deundi Tea Company Limited, said incidents of tree theft and destruction have increased in recent months, disrupting operations and raising fears about long-term sustainability.

According to garden authorities, three shade trees were stolen on April 2 and another on April 16, with losses estimated at around Tk 1.5 lakh. Despite reporting the incidents to police and taking initial measures, the situation worsened.

In the latest incident, around 11:00pm on April 22, miscreants cut down 71 newly planted acacia shade trees along both sides of the main road between sections 18 and 20 of the garden.

The perpetrators fled, leaving the felled trees behind. On-duty watchmen were questioned but failed to provide satisfactory explanations.

Authorities have filed a general diary with Kamalganj Police Station and urged law enforcement

agencies to act swiftly.

Garden officials warned that continued theft and destruction could threaten the estate's viability, noting its contribution to government revenue as part of Bangladesh's export-oriented tea sector.

Leaders of the Bangladesh Tea Workers Union and the garden's



panchayat condemned the incident and demanded a fair investigation and exemplary punishment.

Union leader Dhana Bauri and Panchayat President Montu Almik stressed the need for urgent action to identify those responsible.

Mirtinga Tea Garden Deputy Manager Rezaul Hayat Khan (Emon) said workers and the bagan panchayat (garden council) have

strongly protested the incident and are seeking justice. "The cutting down of shade trees must be stopped on an urgent basis to protect the tea industry," he said.

Nurul Muhaimin Milton, president of a tea workers' union unit in Moulvibazar, said shade trees regulate microclimatic conditions, protect tea bushes from excessive

sunlight, reduce soil moisture loss, and enrich soil through leaf litter.

He warned that their sudden removal exposes plants to heat stress, reducing leaf quality and yield in the short term and potentially causing long-term productivity losses. "Such acts disrupt biodiversity, increase soil erosion, and weaken the overall ecological stability of the garden," he added.

BRAC Institute of Languages celebrates 20 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BRAC University's BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) celebrated its 20th anniversary yesterday with a showcase of books, poetry, drama, dance and music, said a press release.

Speaking as a special guest, BRAC University Vice-Chancellor Prof Syed Ferhat Anwar said the university fosters intercultural dialogue to strengthen its role as a leading institution of the Global South.

British Council Country Director Stephen Forbes, chief guest, underscored the power of languages in connecting people and cultures.

BIL founder and adviser Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees Tamara Hasan Abed and BRAC Institute of Educational Development Executive Director Erum Mariam also attended.

BIL Director Prof Shayla Sultana wrapped up the celebration with reflections on its journey and future vision.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
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e-GP Tender Notice

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

Tender Package description

Package No.	Package name	Tender ID	Last selling date and time	Closing and opening date and time
Soyabean Oil/RS/ctg/2025-26/4thQrt	Procurement of fortified Soyabean Oil for ration of Chattogram district police (4th Quarter), FY-2025-2026 (01 April/2026 to 30 June/2026)	1267949	10-May-2026 17:00	11-May-2026 12:30

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. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited through online at any branches of registered bank.

Further information and guidelines are available in National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Signed
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