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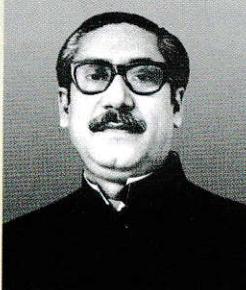
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Special Issue

Celebrating Hundredth Birth Anniversary of Father of the Nation and Pledges to Build Prosperous Sonar Bangla



The nation celebrates the Birth Centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 2020, and the Golden Jubilee of Independence in 2021, amidst a great festivity and emotional spirit. The government has declared the year 2020 as the 'Mujib Year' and the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the countdown for year long celebration of the 'Mujib Year' on 10 January 2020 which began across the country marking the birth centenary of Father of the Nation coinciding with his symbolic home coming day in 1972 from Pakistan captivity. It's a glorious chapter in the history of Bangladesh. The hundredth birth anniversary and golden jubilee

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Mr. S M Rezaul Karim MP, New Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Ministry



Mr. S M Rezaul Karim MP took over as Minister of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock on 13 February 2020. Prior to join Fisheries and Livestock Ministry, he was Minister for the Ministry of Housing and Public Works. Mr. S M Rezaul Karim MP was elected as a Member of Parliament from the constituency Pirojpur-1 (Sadar -Nazirpur-Nesharabad) in the 11th National Elections held on

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National Fish Week 2020 Observed

National Fish Week 2020 was celebrated across the country during 21-27 July 2020 with the slogan 'Motso Utpadon Briddhi Kori, Sukhi Sombriddho Desh Gori'. Like every year, Fish Week was celebrated to raise awareness among the



Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina releasing fish fry in Ganobhaban Lake on the occasion of Fish Week 2020. people of all walks of life including farmers, fishing communities, entrepreneurs and organizations to grow and foster responsibilities in the conservation, management and development of the fisheries resources of the

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BFRI Received Ekushey Padak 2020

Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute received the prestigious National Award Ekushey Padak 2020 in recognition of its outstanding contribution in fisheries research. Hon'ble Prime Minister, Government of the People's Republic of



Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina handing over the Ekushey Padak 2020 to Dr. Yahia Mahmud, Director General, BFRI for outstanding contribution of BFRI in fisheries research.

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Editorial

Fisheries Newsletter is a quarterly publication of BFRI. The present volume is a special issue on the occasion of Mujib Year. The present issue contains information on Celebrating Hundredth Birth Anniversary of Father of the Nation, various fisheries development related news, celebration of various national programs and other important events like, National Mourning Day of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Fish Week 2020, Induced Breeding of Balachata & Angus fish, important visits and tours, scientific articles and technology innovations, etc. We are pleased to be able to present this issue of the Newsletter (Volume: 2019-20, Number: 2-4, 1-3; 2020) with relevant information and news in a humble way. We cordially invite important news, information, and innovations in relevant areas from all concerned for the upcoming issue of the Newsletter.

Dr. Yahia Mahmud

BFRI Awarded Mercantile Bank Award

Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI) was awarded the Mercantile Bank Award 2019 as the best Institute for research in fisheries in Bangladesh. The award was handed over by Mr. Fazle Kabir, Governor, Bangladesh Bank as the Chief Guest of the award giving ceremony held on 17 June 2019 at Hotel Intercontinental, Dhaka. Dr. Yahia Mahmud, Director General, BFRI received the award along with a cheque of Tk. 3 lakh on behalf of the Institute. Mercantile Bank organized the program on the occasion of celebrating 20 years of establishment of the Bank.



Dr. Yahia Mahmud, Director General, BFRI receiving Mercantile Bank Award from the Governor of Bangladesh Bank Mr. Fazle Kabir for BFRI as the best Institute for fisheries research.

Success of BFRI in Induced Breeding of Endangered Balachata (*Somileptes gongota*) & Angus (*Labeo angra*)

BFRI scientists have been succeed in developing seed production technology of two endangered fishes Balachata (*Somileptes gongota*) & Angus (*Labeo angra*) of Bangladesh through induced breeding in captive condition. The technologies were developed by BFRI Freshwater Sub-Station, Saidpur, Nilphamari. Researchers of the Institute Dr. Khondakar Rashidul Hasan, Principal Scientific Officer and Saokat Ahmed, Senior Scientific Officer were behind this success. Balachata is a popular fish especially, in the Northern region of Bangladesh. The fish is known as different names in different localities such as balachata, pahari ghutum, ganga sagor, ghor puiya, bagha, bagha ghutum, telcopi. *Somileptes gongota* is found in streams and rivers and inhabits in shallow and slow-moving streams with sandy, muddy or graveled bottom. As a bottom dwelling fish, it prefers zooplankton, insect larvae and others detritus as food. The fish is tasty and rich in essentials nutrients and minerals which are important for human body. It is easy to eat as there is no intramuscular bone in it. Once the fish was abundantly available in the above mentioned inland waters, but recently its availability has declined due to degradation of natural habitat, breeding and nursery grounds by various factors such as indiscriminate use of pesticides in the crop fields, unplanned construction of dams, discharge of industrial effluents, catching of fish by complete drying of waters etc. IUCN (2015) has listed this fish as a threatened species. In view of this, Freshwater Sub-Station, Saidpur initiated research on this fish and recently has been able to develop its breeding technology in captive condition. This will ensure availability of fry to facilitate its aquaculture and to protect the fish from being extinction. The research results reveal that balachata having body weight of 09-14 g breeds from April to August with peak in June. Fecundity of this fish ranges from 4,000 to 8,000 with an average relative fecundity of 527 ± 43 ova g⁻¹ body weight of fish. Beside, BFRI Freshwater Sub-Station, Saidpur, Nilphamari also succeed in developing seed production technology of Angus (*Labeo angra*). More research on this fish is now underway.



Balachata (*Somileptes gongota*)



Angus (*Labeo angra*)

BFRI Provides Farmer Services through Mobile Clinic



Dr. Yahia Mahmud, Director General, BFRI is giving instructions to the scientists about on farm services to be offered to the farmers while launching mobile fish clinic.

On the occasion of celebrating Mujib Year 2020, BFRI has launched Mobile Clinic for on farm technical services to the fish farmers around the country. In the meantime, technical and advisory services have been made available at the doorsteps of fish farmers in 35 upazillas of 17 districts from various Stations and Sub-stations of the Institute through this mobile fish clinic. The districts that have been covered are Tangail, Netrakona, Mymensingh, Gopalganj, Bagerhat, Nilphamari, Dinajpur, Khulna, Satkhira, Jessore, Bogura, Rangamati, Patuakhali, Cox's Bazar, Laxmipur, Kishoreganj and Chandpur. The services include testing of soil and water quality of the fish/shrimp ponds, providing information on fish diseases and control measures, advice on fish feed and nutrition, water quality management, scientific fish culture and farm management, distribution of leaflets, booklets on advanced technology etc.

Fisheries Minister Inaugurated Country's First Live Fish Gene Bank at BFRI

Mr. S M Rezaul Karim MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL) inaugurated the Country's 'First Live Fish Gene Bank' of indigenous fish established by Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI) at the Freshwater Station, Mymensingh on 05 September 2020 as the Chief Guest. While inaugurating the live gene bank, the Minister said, it will play an important role in the conservation of indigenous fish species of Bangladesh.



Mr. S M Rezaul Karim MP, hon'ble Minister for Fisheries and Livestock inaugurated the Live Gene Bank of BFRI

The Minister said, the establishment of Live Gene Bank at BFRI is the first in the history of Bangladesh. He further said, any fish that will become endangered or disappeared in any part of the country will be supplied from BFRI Gene Bank. The Minister mentioned that there are 260 species of freshwater fish in the country of which 143 are small native species and 64 of them are at the verge of extinction. In order to conserve these endangered species, BFRI in the meantime has developed breeding and farming technologies of 24 endangered indigenous species through research. The extension of breeding and culture technologies of these small fish varieties to the field level through various development projects by the present government, the production of the cultured small fish has increased almost 4 times during the last 12 years, the Minister said. Mr. Rawnak Mahmud, Secretary, MoFL as Special Guest appreciated BFRI for establishing the Live Gene Bank and advised to collect and stock all native varieties of fish available in the country and take all out efforts to develop their breeding and culture technologies for propagation and protecting them from being lost. Dr. Yahia Mahmud, Director General, BFRI, mentioned that the technologies already developed are being disseminated at the field level through demonstration and training by the Department of Fisheries (DoF). As a result, the production and availability of small fish have been increased in the market and price has also come down to a reasonable level. Among others Mr. Shyamol Chandra Karmakar, Additional Secretary; Mr. Md. Towfiqul Arif, Additional Secretary; Mrs. Quazi Shams Afroz, Director General, DoF; Mr. Md. Liakot Ali, Joint Secretary and other officers of the Ministry and Institute were present on the occasion.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Visits BFRI

Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL), Mr. S M Rezaul Karim MP visited Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI) Headquarters and Freshwater Station at Mymensingh on 05 September 2020. During the visit, the Minister inaugurated the country's first Live Fish Gene Bank established by BFRI at its Freshwater Station, Mymensingh. Later, he visited various ongoing field research activities such as development of improved fish breed, Bio floc fish culture, pangus culture, culture of non-conventional species, cuchia, pearl culture, breeding and culture of endangered fish like mohseer etc.

After the visit, the Minister formally handed over the BFRI evolved improved technology of koi, monosex tilapia and white pangasius germplasm to the Department of Fisheries at a simple ceremony as the Chief Guest. The Minister also distributed fish fry among the flood affected fish farmers as a part of flood rehabilitation programs of BFRI. Earlier, the Minister and the Secretary exchanged views with the officials of the Institute in the auditorium where Dr. Ehsanul Karim, Senior Scientific Officer made a PowerPoint presentation on the overall research progress of the Institute. Among others, Mr. Shyamol Chandra Karmakar, Additional Secretary; Mr. Md. Towfiqul Arif, Additional Secretary; Mrs. Quazi Shams Afroz, Director General, DoF; Mr. Md. Liakot Ali, Joint Secretary; officers and staffs of the Ministry and Institute were also present.



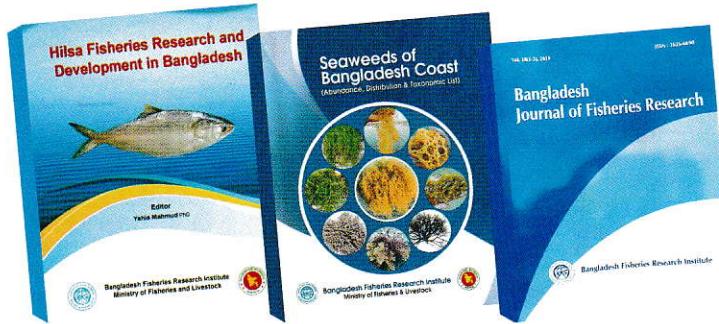
Fisheries & Livestock Minister Mr. S M Rezaul Karim MP and the Secretary Mr. Rawnak Mahmud visiting the endangered Mahseer fish conservation program of BFRI.

Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, New Executive Chairman of BARC

Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar has joined as new Executive Chairman of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council on December 31, 2019. Earlier, Dr. Bokhtiar served as Member Director of Planning and Evaluation in the same organization. He also served as Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre located at BARC Complex, Dhaka. Dr. Bokhtiar obtained BSc Ag (Hons.) degree from Bangladesh Agricultural University in 1985 and MS in Soil Science from Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University, Gazipur in 1999. He did his PhD from the United Graduate School of Agricultural Science, Ehime University, Japan in 2006. Dr. Bokhtiar conducted post-doctoral research on Silicon Nutrition of Sugarcane Crop at Guangxi Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Guangxi, China. He started his career as a Scientific Officer in Farming Systems Research and Development Project at Bangladesh Sugar Crop Research Institute in 1989. He was promoted as Senior Scientific Officer and performed as the Head of Soil and Nutrition Division of BSRI. Subsequently, he was appointed as Principal Scientific Officer at BARC in 2012. Dr. Bokhtiar has 60 publications and is the author of eight books. He attended several national and international seminars, workshops and training programs at home and abroad. In connection with official assignments, he visited several countries like Japan, Thailand, China, Egypt, Philippines, USA, France, Germany, Netherland, Australia, Kenya and other countries. His wife Mrs. Wahida Akter is currently working as PS-2 (Additional Secretary) of Prime Minister's Office. He was born in a respected Muslim family in 1963 in the village Fakirpara under Chapainawabganj district. He is a father of two sons.



Recent Publications of BFRI



BFRI has recently published two important books named 'Hilsa Fisheries Research and Development in Bangladesh' and 'Seaweeds of Bangladesh Coast'. Besides, a journal titled 'Bangladesh Journal of Fisheries Research' has also been published. The book on 'Hilsa Fisheries Research and Development in Bangladesh' is a compilation of the results of 35 years of continuous research conducted by BFRI on hilsa resources management of Bangladesh which led to formulation of Hilsa Fisheries Management Action Plan. The book named 'Seaweeds of Bangladesh Coast' will provide guidance to policy formulation for culture and utilization of seaweeds in the coastal areas of Bangladesh.

Celebrating Hundredth Birth Anniversary of Father of the Nation and Pledges to Build Prosperous Sonar Bangla...

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celebration are marked as an era of development and continued progress and prosperity transforming Bangladesh into Sonar Bangla (Self-reliant and Prosperous Bangladesh) as dreamt by the Father of the Nation. The dream of Bangabandhu is now being realized under the dynamic leadership of his able daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina through implementing huge development programs in all socio-economic sectors. She has put Bangladesh in a dignified position on the world stage. Being impressed with the rapid development and significant progress achieved by Bangladesh in many social development indicators (education, women empowerment and gender equality, reduction in child and pregnant women mortality, improvement of public health care, housing and sanitation, access to electricity, rise of per capita income), Bangladesh is now internationally regarded as the role model of development. Remarkable success in transforming to digital Bangladesh and raising and achieving the status of lower middle-income country are two notable examples of prosperous Bangladesh. Bangabandhu emerged as a lighthouse for the Bengali nation and by dint of his extraordinary leadership quality and talent, he mobilized the entire nation against all oppressions by the then Pakistan and struggled throughout his life with a firm determination to reach the goal of liberation and by exceeding all obstacles, he finally succeeded to set his people free and brought independence through the war of liberation. In the pursuit of liberation, he spent most of his life in jail. Prison and oppression could never baffle him from his ideals. His historic speech of 7 March 1971 has been recognized by UNESCO as a part of the 'World Documentary Heritage'. By his work and unconditional love to the people, from Sheikh Mujib he became Bangabandhu (friends of Bengalis) and after independence, due to his wisdom and statesmanship, his dignity rose to an extraordinary height and he became a leader of the world. At home, he became the leader of the mass, irrespective of individuals, groups, societies and religions. He awakened people to dream for an independent country 'Sonar Bangla' (prosperous Bangladesh) that would be free from exploitation, corruption, hunger and poverty. Presently, the able daughter of Father of the Nation Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh with her strong determination and commitment is leading the country towards the path of achieving total progress and prosperity. To this end, she has already chalked out many short and long-term development plans such as vision 2021, 2041 and Delta plan 2100 with a specific goal of becoming a developed country. People have now learned to dream for exploitation free society under the dynamic and visionary leadership of Sheikh Hasina. Many mega development projects have already been implemented and many others are running. Both the government and the people are unitedly working very hard to transform the country into sonar Bangla. Therefore, the days are not too far when Bangladesh will be raised to the status of the developed country. Today, 95 percent of rural populations of the country have access to electricity. About 97 percent of them have come under improved sanitation facilities. Per capita income has raised to US \$ 2,064 in last 20 years. The rate of poverty has come down to 20.5 percent. The government has adopted zero tolerance policy against all sorts of corruptions. The drive against terrorism, drugs and other anti social activities continues.

In order to consolidate and uphold the dignity of our glorious independence gained through huge bloodshed of three million martyrs, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has successfully united the people to take part in the development process launched by her government and keeps it going unobstructed in the spirit liberation war. In that perspective, the birth centenary of Bangabandhu is not only a mere birthday celebration, it's a rare opportunity for the Bengalis to pay respect and gratitude to him who bestowed liberation. The glorious celebration will inspire all the oppressed and freedom loving people of the world to freedom and to pay rich tribute and love to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. On the birth centenary of Father of the Nation, BFRI has launched and is implementing various programs. It moved a proposal based on which the National Committee for Celebrating 100th Birth Anniversary of Father of the Nation has decided to declare Halda river in Chattogram as the 'Bangabandhu Fisheries Heritage' which is the only river where natural breeding of carps occurs. It launched providing on farm technical advisory services to the farmers and entrepreneurs from all research stations and sub-stations of BFRI through Mobile Clinic. Besides, a discussion meeting on the "Dream of Bangabandhu and Bangladesh Today" was held. On this occasion, a Milad Mahfil was organized and Monajat was offered for eternal peace of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

BFRI Received Ekushey Padak 2020...

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Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina handed over the second highest civilian award to Dr. Yahia Mahmud, Director General of the Institute at a ceremony held at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka on 20 February 2020. The function was organized by the Cultural Affairs Ministry. Mr. K M Khalid MP, Hon'ble State Minister of Cultural Affairs presided over the function. The Secretary of the Cultural Affairs Ministry, Dr. Md. Abu Hena Mostofa Kamal, NDC delivered the welcome address. The Cabinet Secretary Mr. Khandker Anwarul Islam conducted the function. BFRI was awarded a medal, cheque of 3 lakh taka with Certificate of honour on the occasion.



BFRI Scientist Achieved PhD

Syed Lutfor Rahman, Chief Scientific Officer, BFRI has obtained PhD degree from Dhaka University under the Department of Zoology (Fisheries) in 2019. His research title was 'Comparative study of the physico-chemical and biological diversity on two urban lakes of Dhaka city'. Dr. Rahman has completed BSc and MSc degrees from Bangladesh Agricultural University under the Faculty of Fisheries in 1984 and 1986, respectively. He also achieved MS degree in Aquaculture from Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand in 2000. Dr. Rahman joined BFRI in 1987 as a Scientific Officer.

National Mourning Day 2020 Observed

Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute has observed the 45th death anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the great architect of the independent Bangladesh and glorious leader of the liberation war on 15 August 2020 and paid rich tribute to him. The day long program was launched by hoisting National Flag half-mast. On the occasion, different programs were organized including discussion meeting, Milad Mahfil etc. Dr. Yahia Mahmud, Director General, BFRI spoke about the life and deeds of Bangabandhu at the discussion meeting as Chief Guest. The Director General focused on the contribution of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and said that Bangabandhu was the key guide to freeing the Bengalis when they were totally bewildered by oppression by the then Pakistani ruler. Bangabandhu was the dreamer and achiever of independence of Bangladesh. His spirit was intimately connected with the soil and people of Bengal and his heart was as soft as clay. He never discriminated people based on any caste, religion and social status and adopted the state policy from that perspective, the Director General added. Dr. Md. Enamul Hoq, Chief Scientific Officer, presided over the meeting. The long political career and life-long sacrifice and self-abnegation of Father of the Nation was discussed in the meeting in detail by Dr. Md. Khalilur Rahman, Director (Admin. and Fin.), Dr. A H



Discussion meeting on Bangabandhu on the occasion of National Mourning Day at BFRI.

M Kohinoor, Chief Scientific Officer, Dr. Mohsena Begum Tanu, PSO, Dr. Anuradha Bhadra, PSO, Mr. Sheikh Rasel, Deputy Director (Fin. and Accounts) and Mr. Md. Asadur Rahman, Deputy Director. At the end of the day, special prayer was offered at the Milad Mahfil seeking eternal peace for the departed soul of Bangabandhu and other martyrs of the August 15 carnage. All the officers and employees of the Institute were present in the meeting.

Fish Fry Release in Pirojpur by Fisheries Minister

On the occasion of National Fish Week, Hon'ble Minister of Fisheries and Livestock Mr. S M Rezaul Karim MP released fish fry in the Kacha river of Pirojpur district on July 25, 2020 as the Chief Guest in a program organized by Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute. Mr. Abu Ali Md. Shazzad Hossain, Deputy Commissioner and Advocate M A Hakim Hawlader, General Secretary, District Awami League, Awami League, Pirojpur were present in the program as the Special Guests. Dr. Yahia Mahmud, Director General, BFRI presided over the function. The Minister in his address as the Chief Guest said that due to successful implementation of jatka and mother fish conservation programs by the government, about 36,000 crore jatka has been added to the hilsa population last year and because of regular conservation activities through participation of all stakeholders, the production of hilsa in the country has been increased by about 80% in the last 12 years. About 80% of world hilsa production is contributed by Bangladesh. The Minister said, BFRI has been able to develop breeding and culture technologies for 24 endangered fish species which were about to extinct. As a result, the production of these fishes has significantly increased and protection of them from being lost has also been ensured. Besides meeting demand for animal protein of our population, fisheries sector provides employment and substantially contributes to economic development of Bangladesh. The Deputy Commissioner of Pirojpur in his speech as Special Guest said that under the visionary and prudent leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the country has achieved significant success in many sectors and fisheries is one them. Bangladesh is now self-sufficient in fish production. BFRI, Dr. Yahia Mahmud mentioned that the production of hilsa this year hopefully, would exceed all previous records. Additional Superintendent of Police Mr. Kazi Shah Newaz, District Awami League General Secretary Advocate Mr. MA Hakim Hawlader and Press Club President Mr. Muniruzzaman Nasim also spoke on the occasion.



Mr. S M Rezaul Karim MP, Minister of Fisheries is seen on the dias in a fish fry release program in Kacha river in Pirojpur.



Dr. Yahia Mahmud Nominated as Syndicate Member of BAU

Dr. Yahia Mahmud, Director General, Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute has been nominated as syndicate member of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU). Ministry of Education recently issued a circular to this effect. The Hon'ble President of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh nominated Dr. Mahmud in accordance with the Article 2 (2) of 16 (5) of the Bangladesh Agricultural University Ordinance. It is noted that Dr. Yahia Mahmud is also acting as syndicate member of Sylhet Agricultural University and Khulna Agricultural University.

Halda River Declared as 'Bangabandhu Fisheries Heritage'

On the occasion of the 100th Birth Anniversary of Bangabandhu and based on the proposal of Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute, the National Committee for Celebrating 100th Birth Anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has decided to declare Halda river in Chattogram as the 'Bangabandhu Fisheries Heritage'. The Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock is now taking all steps for official declaration of Halda as a Fisheries Heritage. The Halda River is the only natural breeding ground for carp fish (Rui, Catla, Mrigel and Kalibaush) in Bangladesh. During the breeding season, fertilized eggs of carps are collected from here. Later, these eggs are used in hatcheries and fish farms of the country. However, due to various reasons, the breeding of naturally available carps in the Halda River is under increasing threats. Now through declaring Halda River as 'Bangabandhu Fisheries Heritage', the government will be able to take proper care and protect the river from encroachment, pollution and any act that will be damaging for the river habitat and the biological resources available there. This will play an important role in supplying natural brood stock to the hatcheries of the country that will help increasing aquaculture production through preventing inbreeding depression.

Mr. S M Rezaul Karim MP, New Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Ministry...

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30 December 2018. Professionally, he is a Senior Advocate of the Bangladesh Supreme Court. He also served as former Law Secretary of the Bangladesh Awami League and as the Secretary of the Bangladesh Supreme Court Lawyers Association. During his student life, he was the Vice President of Daulatpur College Chhatra Sangshad in Khulna and Vice President of Khulna Metropolitan Unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League. He is a member of Executive Committee of Pirojpur Zilla Awami League.

Apart from participating in politics, Mr. Rezaul Karim MP is also actively involved in various social activities. He was the General Secretary of the Pirojpur Zilla Association and Pirojpur Zilla Awami Parishad in Dhaka. Besides, he was the President of the Bangladesh Human Rights Lawyers League, Supreme Court Reporters Association and the Cultural Association of the Lawyers. He received many prestigious awards and honor among which some important ones are- Sheikh Rasel Memorial Medal, Bangabandhu Writers Parishad Medal, Atish Dipankar Gold Medal, UNESCO Club Medal, Lalon Patrika Medal in Law and Human Rights-2011, Sher-E-Bangla National Memorial Medal, Human Rights Medal etc. in recognition of his social works and human rights and legal services. Many of his articles and columns on political analysis have been published in newspapers and various other printing media. Among his notable publications, some are 'Mrittunjoyee Mujeeb', 'Itihaser Dai Mukti (Compilation of the Crimes against Humanity)' and 'Rokto Palash'. He is the founding editor and publisher of the Ajker Dorpon magazine.

In educational life, he passed SSC from Barabunia Secondary School in 1977, HSC in 1979 and Degree in 1981. Later, he obtained LLB degree in 1983 and MSS degree from Dhaka University. Mr. Rezaul Karim MP was born in a respected Sheikh family of Nazirpur upazilla of Pirojpur district on February 18, 1962. His father late Abdul Khalek Sheikh was a gracious freedom fighter and a renowned politician of Awami League. Mr. Rezaul Karim MP writes regular articles in newspapers and participates in various seminars, symposia and talk shows on important national and social issues on various television channels. In personal life, he is a father of one son Sheikh Tanvir Karim Rasel and one daughter Sheikh Sadia Karim Snigdha. They have completed Bar at Law from UK. His wife Parvin Reza is an eminent poet and writer. Her published books on poems, novels and political books are 10 in number.

National Fish Week 2020 Observed...

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country. The week-long program was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 22 July 2020 by releasing fish fry at the Ganobhaban Lake. Due to Covid-19 pandemic, the activities of this year Fish Week were little squeezed and observed in a less festive manner. Mr. S M Rezaul Karim MP, Hon'ble Minister of Fisheries and Livestock, Secretary, MoFL Mr. Rawnak Mahmud, Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office Mr. Tofazzal Hossain Mia and Press Secretary of PM Mr. Ihsanul Karim were present in the program. On the occasion, the Hon'ble Prime Minister urged the farmers to increase fish production by adopting modern and scientific fish culture technologies and to comply with the fish conservation rules to save the valuable indigenous fish species many of which are either endangered or at the verge of extinction now. The Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked all concerned authorities to play their role properly in the development of the fisheries sector. To increase fish production through fish farming, Prime Minister said, the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman officially released fish fry at the Ganobhaban Lake in 1973 to inspire the people in fish culture activities. Realizing the potential of the fisheries sector in a riverine country like Bangladesh, the Father of the Nation categorically mentioned at that very point of time that fish would be the second largest export item of Bangladesh. In order to realize the dream of the Father of Nation, her government is making all out efforts and implementing diverse programs to significantly increase fish production in the country to build up nutritional security, rural economic development and boost up export, the Prime Minister added. As a result, fish production has increased by about 50 percent during the last 11 years is a tremendous success of the present government, the Prime Minister mentioned. The Hon'ble Minister of Fisheries and Livestock briefed the Prime Minister about the progress of various initiatives taken up by his Ministry at the directives of the Prime Minister in an effort to increase country's fish production from all the subsectors of fisheries (freshwater, brackish water and marine). On the occasion, BFRI conducts various programs including distribution of endangered and improved fish fry, providing technical advisory services to fish farmers through launching mobile fish clinic, distribution of technology-based leaflets and booklets among fish farmers and entrepreneurs, etc.



22 day ban on catching and selling Hilsa

The government has imposed 22-day ban on catching, transporting, stocking and selling of Hilsa from October 14 to 04 November 2020 to protect safe spawning of the fish during its peak breeding period. In this regards, the Ministry of Fisheries & Livestock (MoFL) has published a circular on 21 September 2020. According to research, a brood Hilsa lays 3 to 21 lac eggs mostly in freshwater.

Research Success

Intensive Farming of Shing Fish

Among the air-breathing catfish, stinging catfish, shing (*Heteropneustes fossilis*) is a very popular and high valued fish in Bangladesh. It is considered highly nourishing, palatable, tasty and well preferred because of its fewer spines, less fat and high digestibility. Many farmers are now practicing shing farming in their ponds under semi-intensive culture management and they are getting good profit within a short time. Due to high economic profit, shing culture is getting more popular among the farmers now a days. Meanwhile, BFRI has developed environment friendly intensive shing culture technology, which is economically more rewarding. Pond size ranging from 30-50 decimal is suitable for intensive shing culture system.



Intensive culture of Shing.

During pond preparation, the ponds should be sun dried and treated with bleaching powder at the rate of 50 g/decimal to kill the harmful germs. Then the ponds should be filled up with clean water to a level of 1.5 m. After water filling, lime should be applied at the rate of 500g/decimal 40/m². For intensive culture, shing should be stocked at a density of 3,500-4,000/decimal. Supplementary feed containing 32-35% crude protein should be applied to the ponds at the evening and early morning. Partial change of water on regular basis is prerequisite for intensive shing farming. For preventing disease outbreak, maintaining biosecurity of ponds is a must. After seven months of rearing, a production of 8.0-9.0 tons from a 50-decimal pond with a net benefit of Tk. 16-17 lakh/crop could be achieved.

(Prepared by Dr. AHM Kohinoor, Chief Scientific Officer; Freshwater Station, BFRI, Mymensingh).

Culture Potential of Endangered Freshwater Eel (*Monopterus cuchia*) in Chattogram Hill Tracts

Three districts of south-east Bangladesh namely, Rangamati, Khagrachori and Bandarban are known as hill tract districts. These areas have only few numbers of ponds and canals. The main source of fish supply in the area is the Kaptai Lake that was created in 1961 for hydro electric power generation, which in the meantime, has become an important marketing and business centre for fish. According to 2011 census, the population of hill tract districts was 15,87,000 of which 50 percent are tribal. There are 13 ethnic communities in these areas who are habituated to eat freshwater eel fish. They believe that consuming cuchia helps recover from physical weakness, anemia, hemorrhaging and diabetes. Edible 100 g cuchia contains 18.8 g protein, 0.8 g fat, 2.4 g carbohydrate and 1400 µg vitamin. Cuchia has high international demand though it is not much appreciated by Bangladeshi people. Many people of ethnic communities catch cuchia across the country for their livelihood. Harvested cuchia are exported in the South-east Asian countries as a popular food item there.



Pond preparation and stocking of cuchia fish.

There are many hilly streams, pools, ponds, lakes and canals are available at the base of the hills in the hill tract districts. There is a potential for scientific culture of cuchia in these water bodies of the hilly areas. If scientific culture of cuchia can be established in the hill tract areas, this can play a significant role in providing livelihood and nutritional food security for the tribal people of the hill tract districts. Besides the tribal people, many people of Hindu religion also eat cuchia in Bangladesh. Thus, for the

development and extension of cuchia culture technology in the hilly regions, BFRI is implementing a research in Rangamati sadar and Kaptai upazilla and Dighinala upazilla of Khagrachari districts through its Rangamati Riverine Sub-station. For the purpose of cuchia culture, comparatively low-cost ponds were constructed. The size of the ponds was around 30 ft x 15 ft x 3.5 ft to 45 ft x 30 ft x 3.5 ft. After construction of ponds, polythene bed was spread out all over the ponds. Soil layer of 8-10 inches containing 80 percent clay and 20 percent sandy loamy soil was spread on the pond bed. Bamboo slice (5 ft) were used all over the ponds. The pond dykes were fenced with knotless nylon net to prevent escaping cuchia from the ponds. After 2-3 days, 1-2 kg/per decimal of lime was applied to the pond. After the application of limes, the ponds were filled with water (1.5-2.0 ft). One week after liming and water filling, urea 2.5 ppm, TSP 2.5 ppm and fermented molasses 8-10 ppm were applied to the ponds. Cuchia having weight of 50 g were stocked at a stocking density of 10/m². After stocking, both supplementary feed and live feed were applied at the rate of 3-5% of the estimated body weight of stocked biomass. As cuchia is nocturnal fish, feeds were supplied in ponds at the evening. Snail, earth worm and carp fry were also released in all the ponds as live feed for better results. After 6 months of stocking, final weight of cuchia in Rangamati Sadar, Kaptai and Dighinala upazilla of Khagrachari were 132-161, 141-205 and 149-228 g, respectively. On farm demonstration of cuchia culture with supplementary feed in monoculture system was conducted for a period of 5 months in 2017-18 in Sadar and Haluaghata upazilla of Mymensingh district, Jhinaigati upazilla of Sherpur district and Nasirnagar upazilla of Brahmanbaria district. After 5 months of rearing, final weight of cuchia in different upazillas of Mymensingh, Sherpur and Brahmanbaria were 165-176, 157-171, 163-170 and 160-174 g, respectively. Because of export value of cuchia, government is encouraging extension of its culture technology in the country. It is noted that, cuchia stands third after shrimps and crabs as an export item.

(Prepared by Mr. Azhar Ali, B.M. Shahinur Rahman and Parvez Chowdhury, SSO, BFRI)

Fisheries Minister Handed Over BFRI Evolved Improved Germplasm to DoF

BFRI evolved koi, monosex tilapia and white pangasius germplasm were handed over to the Department of Fisheries on 05 September 2020. Mr. S M Rezaul Karim MP, Hon'ble Minister of Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL) was present as the Chief Guest in the handing over ceremony. Dr. Yahia Mahmud, Director General, BFRI presided over the ceremony. BFRI developed improved koi fish varieties are 16 percent more productive than the original stock. Similarly, tilapia 62 percent and white pangasius 14 percent more productive.

If these three improved species are cultivated, there will be an additional production of 2.75 lakh tons of fish in the country. The Hon'ble Minister in his speech said, "Our goal is to mobilize and strengthen rural economy through the development of the fisheries sector to build nutritional security and ensure economic empowerment of the unemployed rural people by making them entrepreneur". With this in target, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina has attached the highest importance to the fisheries sector, the Minister added. Therefore, no pond could be kept uncultivated and he urged everyone to become involved in the development process being implemented by the Government. On the occasion, Mr. Rawnak Mahmud, Secretary, MoFL in his address as the Special Guest said that he was happy to know, the Institute has already developed breeding and farming technology of 24 endangered indigenous small fish through research. Due to spread of these technologies at the field level by the Department of Fisheries (DoF), both production and



Mr. S M Rezaul Karim MP, hon'ble Minister of MoFL handing over BFRI evolved Improved Germplasm to DoF.

availability of small fish in the meantime, has significantly increased in the country. Due to adoption and implementation of various policies and plans for conservation of native small fish by the present Government, the production of small fish from pond culture has increased from 67,340 MT in 2009 to 2.41 lakh MT in 2017-18, Director General, BFRI, Dr. Yahia Mahmud said in his chairman's remarks. In this connection, the Director General further noted that the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is very keen and enthusiastic about the conservation and propagation of indigenous small fish of the country which once were much abundant in all-natural waterbodies of Bangladesh. In view of this, the Institute has further intensified research on conservation and restoration of native fish and has a plan to gradually bring all the native fish under breeding and culture program of the Institute. Meanwhile, in addition to Freshwater Station, Mymensingh, research on breeding and culture of native fish have been initiated in all other research stations of BFRI. Among others Mr. Shyamol Chandra Karmakar, Additional Secretary; Mr. Md. Towfiqul Arif, Additional Secretary; Mr. Md. Liakot Ali, Joint Secretary and Mr. Quazi Shams Afroz, Director General of DoF were also present on the occasion.

Mr. Rawnak Mahmud, New Secretary of MoFL



Mr. Rawnak Mahmud, a professional officer of the 8th batch of Bangladesh Civil Service (Administration) has joined as Secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL) on 31 December 2019. Prior to joining as Secretary to this Ministry, he was Additional Secretary of the Technical and Madrasa Education Division, and Director General of the Department of Technical Education. As Director General of the Department of Technical Education, he played an important role in strengthening field activities, development of organogram, modernization of technical education and updating and implementation of existing acts, rules and regulations of the Department. Mr. Mahmud served in the field administration for more than 18 years and performed important responsibilities in implementing various policies, plans, programs and visions of the government. In his service career, he worked in various capacities in the Export Promotion Bureau, Dhaka City Corporation, NGO Affairs Bureau, Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation and the Ministry of Public

Administration. He was born in a respected Muslim family of Baufal upazilla in Patuakhali district on 26 October 1962. He completed his BSc in Agriculture (Honors) and MSc from Bangladesh Agricultural University. In his personal life, he is a proud father of two sons.

Fisheries Newsletter publishes information/data/report on all phases of fisheries research, development and management activities from home and abroad. Contributions are invited for publication. The editor reserves the right to select or shorten them to meet space requirement. The newsletter comes out in January, April, July and October each year.

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