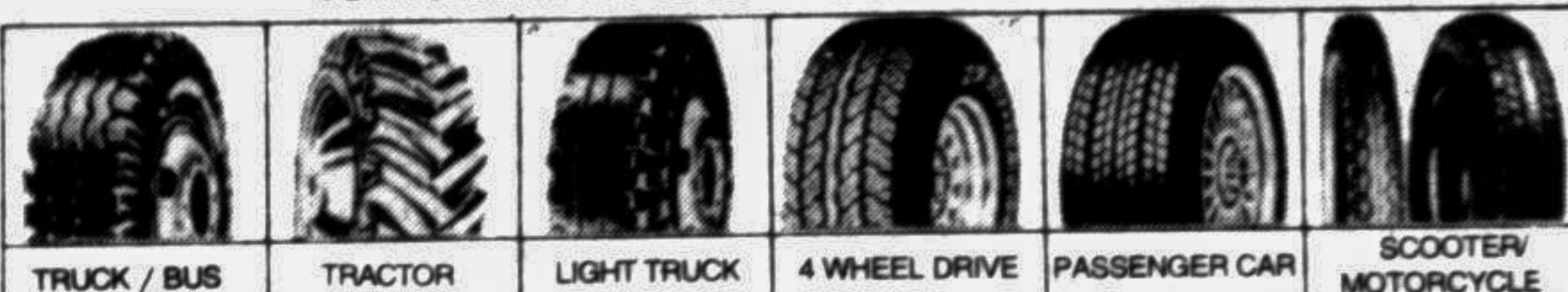


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## 10 species of fish face extinction

By Masud Hasan Khan

At least 10 species of sweet water fish have either become extinct or very rare now a days due to overfishing and environmental changes in the country.

These fish are: nandail, mahsheer, pipla shol, taki, bagh ayer, rita, tit punti, silond, bacha and bistara.

Many species of fin fish, once abundant, have now become very rare in the 6,961,511 hectares of inland waterbody including rivers, ponds, lakes, beels and haors, according to Wetlands of Bangladesh, a book published recently by the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies in cooperation with the Nature Conservation Movement.

Increase in the country's population have resulted in overfishing, the book pointed out.

Besides, changes in the fish habitat, water pollution and fish epidemics caused by ulcerative diseases in epidemic form have all contributed to depletion of the fish resources, it said.

## Malpractice at DFP to be stopped: Huda

Information Minister Nazmul Huda yesterday said sensational and yellow journalism are short-lived and cannot bring any good to the society, reports BSS.

Taking advantages of freedom of press granted by the government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia several newspapers resorted to publish untrue news items only to create sensation and increase circulation, he said.

The minister was addressing as chief guest a function arranged at the National Press Club to mark the stepping into the fourth year of publication of the Dainik Rupantar of Patuakhali town.

Religious Affairs Minister Keramat Ali attended the function as special guest while former managing director and chief editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Amanullah presided over the function.

Editor of the Daily K M Enayet Hossain and Patuakhali Press Club President Golam Mostafa Talukder also spoke on the occasion.

Huda said that his ministry had taken a number of measures to stop malpractices of the DFP in distributing government advertisements. He called upon the newspaper owners to cooperate with him in bringing back discipline in the distribution system of government advertisements.

## Star dialogue

From Page 1 Col 5

entists, chamber leaders and senior journalists have also been invited to the dialogue.

Sponsored by The Daily Star, the dialogue will begin at three in the afternoon at the National Economic Council (NEC) conference room at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

## PM: Report

From Page 1 Col 8

Between reduced arms spending and increased social spending. All nations should agree on a three per cent a year reduction in military expenditure during 1995-2000, the report added.

The Prime Minister advised Dr Haq of her government's on-going programmes for the development of human resources. She said, the government has attached top priority to his sector and has been spending the highest budgetary allocations in the education sector and for eradicating poverty.

Begum Zia, who is also the current SAARC chairperson, said that she would give a proposal in the forthcoming SAARC summit scheduled to be held in India to increase spending in human resources development activities in this region.

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Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday. — Star photo

## UNDP Human Day Report to be launched today

By Staff Correspondent

The UNDP Human Development Report is being launched in the capital today. This is the first time Bangladesh is playing host to the Asian regional release of the report.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman will formally release the report at the Sasakawa Auditorium (ICDDR, B) in the presence of visiting and local dignitaries, at 10 am.

The architect of the human development concept and Special Advisor to the UNDP Administrator, Dr Mahbub ul Haq will also be present on the occasion.

Following the release of the report Dr Haq will address a Press Conference at the same venue.

## US reaction on test-firing of "Prithvi"

WASHINGTON, June 7: The US State Department, reacting to the test firing of "Prithvi" missile, today said "India has only done what Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao had said he would do," reports PTI.

"Prior to Prime Minister Rao's visit to the United States, he reportedly stated to parliament that, although 'Prithvi' tests would be suspended during his visit to the US, India would continue with its missile programme," the Department said.

But, it said, "We do not favour the development or acquisition of ballistic missile capability in south Asia. The US believes that the acquisition of ballistic missile delivery systems by India or Pakistan would be destabilising, and thereby undermine the security of both. We have strongly encouraged both governments not to deploy ballistic missiles."

## Business leaders

From Page 1 Col 4

ful solution to the problem till yesterday despite several meetings and backstage parleys between the leaders of the feuding political parties.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a leading business leader said that both the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition during their recent visits to Japan had called on the Japanese to invest in Bangladesh.

The Japanese businessmen responding to the call, are coming on June 11. But what would they see? They would see the two leaders quarrelling with each other instead of discussing the country's budget," he said adding this was unfortunate for the country.

Another leading businessman, speaking on the same condition, said the businessmen are not supposed to solve the problems of the politicians, although they are directly affected by the country's political situation.

"We are concerned about the current political situation. We have conveyed our concern to both the government and the Opposition and requested them to solve their own problems immediately," he said.

Meanwhile, according to sources, a plan to issue a common statement of the chamber leaders asserting the position of the business community in respect of the current situation was taken up a few days ago. The plan was, however, dropped as most of them opined in favour of observing the situation for a few more days.

## Hasina's proposal

From Page 1 Col 4

would agitate with us on the streets, but why does she say so under the present circumstances? Does she want to take the nation towards anarchy?" Hasina said.

Referring to the removal of the National Flag from the Sangsad Bhaban premises and hoisting of a piece of cloth resembling a flag carrying Arabic inscription recently, Hasina said the government had failed to uphold the dignity of the National Flag.

"Perhaps it is a conspiracy. Right now we are unitedly agitating against BNP. Perhaps the flag was replaced to destroy our unity," Hasina said.

"Why does not the BNP want elections under a caretaker government? BNP itself was elected this way. BNP does not want a caretaker government because it is afraid of

## Plane crash near Lahore

LAHORE, June 7: Six opposition deputies escaped unhurt when their small plane had to crash-land, the main Opposition Pakistan Muslim League (PML) said there today, reports AFP.

Among those on board was Abbas Sharif, a member of Parliament and younger brother of PML President Nawaz Sharif, a former prime minister, the party said in a press statement which blamed the government for the incident.

According to the statement, the six also included Deputy Opposition leader in Punjab Assembly, Zulfiqar Ali Khosa, and three provincial deputies.

The plane, which had been hired from a private company, was damaged and all its occupants, including the two crews, travelled back to Lahore by road after "surviving the conspiracy to kill them," the statement said.

## Ganges barrage

From Page 1 Col 5

may not have to go to that extent."

Majid-ul Haq said that Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, in her speech in the UN General Assembly, by pointing to the adverse impact of the Farakka barrage had drawn the attention of the world leaders to the serious problems faced by Bangladesh.

He added: This yielded a favourable attitude among the leaders. This was apparent from the recent decision that no water projects of a country will receive external aid unless agreed by a neighbouring country which may be affected.

The minister told the House that India had been unilaterally withdrawing the Ganges water upstream without any agreement with Bangladesh since the dry season of 1989.

He said 120,000 acres in the GK project could not be irrigated this year resulting in loss of some 170,000 tons of crops.

Replying to another question, the minister said India also built a barrage on Teesta river, 50 miles upstream at Gajoldoba, and has been unilaterally withdrawing water since 1987 depriving normal flow to Bangladesh.

Again, he said, India has planned to construct a barrage over the Brahmaputra at Jorgopa in Assam. The barrage over Brahmaputra will leave a serious impact on Bangladesh.

## Show cause on 3 ministries

By Staff Correspondent

A division bench of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court Monday served a show cause notice on three ministries relating to alleged waste dumping by 903 industrial units.

The bench comprising Justice Ismail Uddin Sarkar, Justice Hamidul Huq issued rule nisi upon the secretaries of the Ministry of Industries, Ministry of LGRD, Ministry of Forests and Environment as to why they should not be directed to implement the decisions of the government dated June 5, 1986 which was published in the official gazette.

The rule, returnable in four weeks, was issued upon a writ petition filed by Dr. Mohiuddin Farooque, Secretary General of the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (BELA).

A statement from the BELA said that the gazette notification identified 903 industries and factories as polluters.

The Ministry of Industries and the Department of Environment were given three years to ensure that the appropriate pollution control measures were undertaken by the polluting industries and no new industrial plants be set up without such system.

This decision has not been followed for the past eight years, it said.

Dr. Farooque moved the petition on behalf of his organisation.

## BCI briefs US chamber director of business opportunities

The State of Bangladesh economy with particular emphasis on the role and performances of the private sector was discussed at a meeting held in the capital yesterday between the visiting director of US Chamber of Commerce and leaders of the Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI), reports BSS.

John A Zemko, director of US Chamber of Commerce was briefed of the opportunities offered to private sector in Bangladesh as a result of reform programmes undertaken by the government and the difficulties the sector faces in materialising its goals. Discussions were also held on how to overcome various constraints in meeting the challenges of private entrepreneurship and attaining objective of free market economy.

Zemko, who is also a director, model programmes, Centre for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) based in Washington, arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a three day visit to Bangladesh.

A M Subid Ali, president of BCI, while welcoming Zemko said because of inherent weakness of the private sector, many opportunities could not be utilised.

## JMB progress reviewed

The 41st meeting of the Jamuna Multi-purpose Bridge Authority (JMB) yesterday reviewed the progress of implementation of the project as a whole as well as the fulfilment of conditions for loan effectiveness, reports UNB.

Communications Minister Oli Ahmed chaired the meeting held at the conference room of the Rail Bhaban. The members of the board expressed satisfaction over the progress achieved so far.

Finance Secretary Nasimuddin Ahmad, Executive Director of the JMB, Mohammad Ali, member (Physical infrastructure) of Planning Commission Mushfiqur Rahman, Energy Secretary Faizur Razaque, Railway Secretary Nazrul Islam, Roads and Road Transport Secretary Syed Rezaul Hayat, Chief of General Staff of Army Headquarters Major General Mahbubur Rahman and local member of the panel of experts Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury were also present.

## Darkness envelops

From Page 1 Col 5

PDB men were engaged in restoration works in other areas.

PDB sources said they would be in a position to restore normal power supply by midnight. However, some of the city areas remained in darkness till 11 pm.

A three-member inquiry committee headed by Member (Generation) has been formed to investigate the matter.

In Dhaka, the Jatiya Sangsad witnessed a complete blackout at 6:15 pm. The Parliament's own generator restored supply after three minutes but non-functioning of the microphone compelled the Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni, to adjourn the House for Maghreb prayers.

People at homes and working places had to face much inconvenience and discomfort due to the sudden blackout which continued for hours. Yesterday's humidity coupled with unusual heat made life miserable for people, particularly children.

Chaos and indiscipline were witnessed at the city's shopping centres.

Our Chittagong Correspondent says: The entire district was plunged into darkness from 8:15 onwards.

Power supply was not restored till 10:30 pm.

Our Barisal correspondent informed over telephone that seven districts of Barisal Division were affected by the power failure yesterday evening.

## The Midnight File

### Battling Yemeni gunners drown UN plea for truce

OUTSKIRTS of Bir Nasser, Yemen, June 7: Rival Yemeni gunners battled each other north of Aden today, drowning with the roar of artillery a ceasefire plea from UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. Rockets streaked over frontlines from multi-barrelled launchers manned by southern troops trying to repulse a month-long assault that has brought some northern units to about 20 km (12 miles) from the city's outskirts, reports Reuter.

### Pakistan wants tangible solution to Kashmir issue

BAHRAIN, June 7: Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said Islamabad would keep internationalising the Kashmir issue unless there is some 'tangible' progress in our bilateral negotiations (with India). "Unless there can be some tangible progress in our bilateral negotiations (with New Delhi). To which we will never close the door, unless there can be some 'tangible' progress in bilateral relations, we will always be tempted to go to the multilateral route," she said in an interview with Dubai-based English daily 'Khaleej Times,' reports PTI.

## Power snapped

From Page 1 Col 7

against the retrenchment. Meanwhile, police broke up a group of PWD employees staging a sit-in at the South plaza of Parliament at noon.

The Action Council also staged demonstration in front of the Purta Bhaban yesterday noon.

Leaders of the agitating PWD staff, however, said they had suspended their planned continuous strike until Thursday.

Committee formed

Meanwhile Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Miah yesterday said that a three-member committee has been formed to look into the problems of the PWD staff.

Talking to The Daily Star over telephone, the minister

## DCCI concern

From Page 1 Col 3

of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) and led by its President A Rob Chowdhury, called on the Prime Minister at her office and said the 'uneasy situation' will disrupt the on-going activities towards industrialisation and development.

"Most of the countries of South-East Asia have achieved remarkable economic development... Now is the time for us to develop the country. We have to think about the country's interest first," said Rob Chowdhury.

The members of the delegation lauded the economic reform programmes of the government and said all the macro indicators had marked visible development attained in past three years.

The chamber members stressed the need for political stability for healthy growth on country's industries and trade. Democracy is the precondition for rapid development of the country, they said.

Th Dhaka Chamber delegation also apprised the Prime Minister some of their problems in the field of trade and industry.

The Prime Minister assured them of looking into their problems.

## Speaker

From Page 1 Col 4

opposition Hasina to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Monday afternoon.

"The Prime Minister did not say anything after receiving the message," he said.

The Speaker, who met the leader of the opposition on Monday, said that in her message Sheikh Hasina said a dialogue with the government party could be meaningful only after the Prime Minister's open commitment accepting the proposed caretaker government.

During the meeting with Hasina, the Speaker said he had suggested a pre-summit dialogue among the front-ranking leaders on both sides covering all aspects of the issue, including the caretaker government and the electoral system with a stronger Election Commission.

In reply to a question, the Speaker said till yesterday evening, he had not received any further message from the Prime Minister for the leader of the Opposition. "If the Prime Minister has anything for the leader of the opposition, I'll communicate to her."

Shaikh Razzak Ali, however, said that he had talks with leaders of the government and the Opposition on Monday night and yesterday. He did not mention the names.

He said the question of a caretaker government is a political issue and political issues are resolved everywhere through discussions.

said the retrenchment orders on 2400 PWD staff have been suspended pending the report by the enquiry committee.

The leaders of the Work Action Council, which orchestrated a shut off of power and staged a noisy demonstration, called on the Works Minister at 7 in the evening yesterday.

The minister assured them that the ingravances would be looked into.

Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam and LGD Minister Abdus Salam Talukder were present during the meeting.

## Japanese team

From Page 1 Col 7

Haque and Special Envoy Morshed Khan. This will be followed by a meeting with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. All these meetings will take place at the Prime Minister's Secretariat.

Next day, the delegation will meet the foreign minister and later, at the Cabinet Room of the Secretariat, meet five ministers - Saifur Rahman, Mosharraf Hossain, Oli Ahmed, Shamsul Islam and Major (rtd) Abdul Mannan. The ministers will answer specific queries of the mission.

It will then sit with Bangladesh Exporters' Association to see the export prospects and problems of the country. The same day, the mission will hold a two-hour discussion within the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

On the third day, the mission will split into two groups. One group will go to Chittagong to visit the Export Processing Zone and KAFCO plant. It will then fly over Cox's Bazar in a helicopter to see the shrimp beds but will not land there. It will then come back to Chittagong and hold meeting with the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI).

The other group will visit the Saver EPZ, Monno Ceramics Factory and the Bangladesh Television.

On the fourth day, the team will hold press conference before returning home.

The visit of the Japanese mission, which will include representatives from some giant Japanese firms, is being seen here as a major development as regards attracting direct foreign investment.

## Murders

From Page 1 Col 3

lice. In the preliminary police investigation it was found that the father killed the baby as he did not like the daughter child.

Another eight-month-old baby Arifa, was found dead near her house at Barura village under Gulshan police station. Several bruises were found on her body and police suspected that she was murdered.

Two students - Habibullah Khan, son of film and TV actor Khalidullah Khan and one Abu Taleb Khandker - were murdered in Mohammadpur and Mohakhali respectively. Enmity among the local bullies was reportedly the cause of the murder.

A school teacher Matiar Rahman was murdered in his Free School Street house, but the killers are yet to be identified.

Besides, a constable of the Special Branch (SB), Shamuddin, a hotel boy Kamal, a day-labourer Mokhsed Akand, a factory worker Tayeb Ali, a young man Babul and a young woman Shahinur Akhter Lipi were murdered in the city.

No significant headway was made in the investigation in most the murder cases of last month, according to police sources.