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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, pipila, 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 KM 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.

The information Minister said the advertisement policy does not permit patronisation of newspapers by giving advertisement. "Advertisement has its own commercial aspect," he said adding that promotion

Star dialogue

From Page 1 Col 4
ents, 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 4
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 apprised 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 undermining the security of both. We have strongly encouraged both governments not to deploy ballistic missiles."

The situation came under control with the intervention of Poradah Chairman who pacified the agitated students.

GRP-students clash at Poradah rly station

KUSHTIA, June 7: Hundreds of passengers were stranded at the Poradah station for four hours as school students clashed with railway police and halted trains this morning, reports UNB.

Students of the Poradah High School halted four trains, including three inter-city ones, after the OC of the Poradah GRP allegedly assaulted the Head Master of the school.

At one stage, GRP allegedly pointed guns at the angry students as they, equipped with sticks and brickbats, tried to attack the Poradah GRP thana.

The situation came under control with the intervention of Poradah Chairman who pacified the agitated students.

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.

That is why Bangladesh has been insisting on permanent solution of a just share of all the common rivers with India, the minister said.

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 Sangsab 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 not elected this way. BNP does not want a caretaker government because it is afraid of losing elections in that case," she said.

The AL chief criticised BNP for the 'deteriorating' law and order, retrenchment of workers, price hike of essentials and corruption.

The Leader of the Opposition announced a three-day programme of demonstrations and rallies at all district headquarters from June 21.

"If the government failed to fulfil the demand for national election under a neutral caretaker administration, a greater action programme would be announced, she said.

JS adopts bill

From Page 1 Col 3
Keramat Ali said the Act was absolutely unnecessary as the measures had already been provided in the Wakf Act of 1962. The Act of 1990 rather hurt the religious sentiment of the people by bringing in 201 out 234 mazars and dargahs in the country under the government control.

He further said the saints on whose names the mazars and dargahs were built had never sought government assistance in preaching Islam during their life time.

Earlier, the House witnessed the usual one-hour question-answer session.

Immediately after the bill was passed, Fazil Huq of the BNP took the floor to say that the legislators residing in the Sher-e-Bangla Nagar MP hostel were facing serious hardships because of disruption in power and water supply.

Expressing his concern over the power failure especially during the Parliament session, the ruling party MP wondered if it was done deliberately.

Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain who was present in the House did not say anything on the issue of power failure.

The Deputy Speaker adjourned the House at 6:40 pm to resume again at 5:30 this afternoon.

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 Sangsab 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 6:15 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 rivers were also flowing below the danger level at different points.

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 during 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 of private entrepreneurship and attaining objective of free market economy.

"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.

The 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.

JMB progress reviewed

The 41st meeting of the Jamuna Multi-purpose Bridge Authority (JMBA) 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 JMBA Mohammad Ali, member (Physical infrastructure) of Planning Commission Mosharraf Hossain, Energy Secretary Faizur Razzaque, 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.

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."

Besides, a constable of the Special Branch (SB), Shamuddin, a hotel boy Kamal, a day-labourer Mokhsud Akand, a factory worker Tayeb Ali, a young man Babul and a young woman Shahinur Akther 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.

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 front-lines 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