

Shrimp Resources Dev Board to be set up

CHITTAGONG, July 20: The government is in the process of establishing a powerful and effective autonomous organisation styled as 'Shrimp Resources Development Board' to quicken overall development of this potential resource. Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Abdullah Al Noman told a seminar here today, reports BSS.

Inaugurating the week-long seminar-cum-training programme on post-harvesting handling and improved processing techniques of shrimps held in the auditorium of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry as chief guest, the minister said the government was also taking measures in the form of training demonstration and extension to bring about simple improvement in the traditional culture techniques of shrimp production.

Termining the shrimp as one of the three most important export commodities, Noman said its contribution towards foreign exchange earnings, employment of thousands of rural people, utilisation of the local resources and creation of village-based handicrafts are worth mentioning.

"In the last financial year, the country's foreign exchange earning from the shrimp was equivalent to 156 million US dollars which was more than 7.5 times, the amount spent by the government in the same year for the entire fisheries sector, the minister pointed out.

Jointly organised by the Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters Association and the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO), the inaugural function was presided over by the president of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry, S M

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Dhaka Day by Day A Celestial Shower

by Nipu Tarik

The sight may stun you or even shock you. It may also remind you of the paintings of Blake in which he depicts the unrestrained celebration by divine children. But nevertheless it is likely to add to your experience. It is in fact a group of ecstatic children bathing in rain. This is often a roadside sight in Dhaka.

Far from being the heavenly young ones they are the hapless children of neighbouring ghetto and they find it really convenient to utilise the celestial gift to their heart's — or body's — content.

Think of the matter from a consumer's stand point. The slum-dwellers are accustomed

ter. Moreover, always being on the receiving end, he has a blunt bargaining edge.

His fate becomes more pathetic when his deprecating voice does not reach the ears of the supplying authority. The consumer in principle then chooses the golden rule of silence as his modus operandi.

Quite luckily, the bathing ceremony of the children is devoid of any such disappointment and discontentment. Rather they add some ritualistic modes to it. They are seen to create a human bond by clutching each others' shoulders and getting drenched together. Sometimes they collect water from the rain



to using water as much or as little as they can collect from the public taps and in some cases from nearby ponds. They have to get into the queues with pitchers and buckets in their hands and often wait for long hours for their turn.

A row over a place in the queue is rampant among the water-seekers. The collection of water is very difficult because of the handful of public taps for which a large number of people have to compete.

Against such a backdrop, getting enough showers for a complete and pleasant bath must be a great occasion for the children of that community. In fact, they transform the routine work of body washing into a delightful ceremony. They do not behave at all like the ordinary consumers while they take their bath. As a matter of fact, the ordinary consumer has to pay and make judicious use of his limited wa-

ter. Moreover, always being on the receiving end, he has a blunt bargaining edge.

and sprinkle it on others. The ceremony may even look somewhat primitive when they begin to thrush the other or jostle among themselves.

But the ritualistic exercise is not an un-mixed blessing. The children who do not have enough clothes to wear and a decent roof on their heads may easily fall prey to all kinds of diseases. Had their parents or guardians been well aware of cold hazards, they could have prevented them from joining the perilous fun.

However, the unrestrained fun and festive mood associated with the bathing of the children in rain present a very refreshing spectacle. Their enjoyment finds a responsive chord in our hearts and gladdens us immensely. For the city people do secretly nurture a hope to bathe in really pure and abundant water like the naked children.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the Annual Conference of Dhaka City unit of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal at the auditorium of the Institution of Engineers in the city yesterday. — PID photo

ADB team praises Green Belt Project

The visiting delegation of the Board of Directors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) by its Executive Director Peter McCawley called on Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman at the latter's office here yesterday, reports BSS.

During the discussion, the ADB delegation briefed the minister on the outcome of their week-long visit to Bangladesh describing it as "very successful". The delegation expressed optimism about the economic prospects of Bangladesh.

The leader of the delegation observed that the performances of some of the projects they visited were very encouraging.

The delegation particularly appreciated the 'Green Belt Project' and 'Synthetic Yarn Project' in Bangladesh. The ADB delegation, however, noted that there were still scope to bring in dynamism in some of the projects.

The delegation identified the power failure as the most crucial problem in boosting industrial output in the country.

The Finance Minister said, the government is aware of the problem and measures would be undertaken to maintain uninterrupted power supply in the manufacturing units of the country.

He said Bangladesh would always encourage the positive and expeditious actions on part of ADB towards fulfilling the commitments made by the bank regarding developing projects in Bangladesh.

Rahman sought more support from ADB in education, health and in other social sectors in Bangladesh.

USIS orientation programme for students

To help students from Bangladesh who will begin their study at US university or college in August or September (for the fall term), the American Cultural Center (ACC) will offer a pre-departure orientation programme on July 26 at 9 am in the ACC auditorium (4th Floor, Jiban Bima Bhaban, 10 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka).

Interested students should contact the USIS Educational Adviser, Zebunnessa Rahman, telephone 862550-4, for more information, says a special USIS release.

Nat'l University senate meets

By DU Correspondent
The first senate meeting of the National University was held at the university's administrative building at Gazipur Tuesday with Vice Chancellor Professor Muhammad Abdul Bari in the chair.

Forty-eight senate members were present in the day-long meeting.

Professor Bari delivered the inaugural speech while Treasurer Abdus Salam presented the budget speech.

Two statutes — National University Financial Policy and Accounting and National University Welfare Fund and Group Insurance 1994 — were passed by the senate.



- 4:30 Opening announcement
- Al-Quran
- 4:45 Programme summary
- Children's programme: Esho Gan Shubhi
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:30 Live Telecast of Beximco Federation Cup Football
- 7:20 Nazrul songs
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Drama of the week: Shesh Parjanta
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Mini series: Meha
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:40 Tomorrow's programme
- 11:45 Closing

What's on today . . .

Projonmo '71: A memorial meeting on the life of late Jahanara Imam will be held. Chief guest: Begum Sufia Kamal. Venue: Madhu's Canteen, Dhaka University. Time: 5 pm.

Kaikobad Sangskritik Parishad: Organises a discussion meeting to mark the death anniversary of Poet Kaikobad. Chief guest: DU Pro-VC Prof Wakil Ahmed. Speakers: Poet Mahadeb Saha, Dr Khandaker Reazul Haq, and Abu Mohammad Delwar Hossain. Venue: Public Library auditorium, Shahbag. Time: 6 pm.

Archives Exhibition: The inauguration ceremony of the fortnight-long exhibition, organised by the Directorate of Archives and Library, will be held. Chief guest: State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum. Special guest: Prof Dr Muntasir Mamun. Venue: Directorate of Archives and Library auditorium, Agargaon. Time: 12 am.

Weather

Temperature may rise

Temporary light to moderate rain or thundershower is likely at many places over Chittagong division, and at a few places over Barisal and Khulna divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions during the next 24 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office says day temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius during the period across the country.

Meantime, Cox's Bazar experienced the highest 80 mm rain during the last 24 hours till 6 am yesterday (Wednesday).

Country's highest temperature 35.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Sylhet and the lowest 24.1 degrees at Feni.

Sun sets today (Thursday) at 6:47 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 5:23 am.

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Training on poverty alleviation begins

A ten-day training course on credit and savings management in alleviating poverty was inaugurated at the ASA central office in the city yesterday. Representatives of 20 NGOs from 15 districts are participating in the course, says a press release.

The opening session was presided over by Md. Shafiqul Haque Choudhury, Chief Executive of ASA. Mrs. Aeroma Goon, Director in-charge of PACT-Bangladesh, was present as chief guest, while the CDF Chairman Sukhen Roy and PACT's Programme Director Maniruzzaman were the special guests.

The training course is being conducted by the ASA.



Mrs Aeroma Goon, Director-in-charge, PACT-Bangladesh is inaugurating the training course. Md Shafiqul Haque Choudhury, Chief Executive of ASA, is seen on the extreme right.

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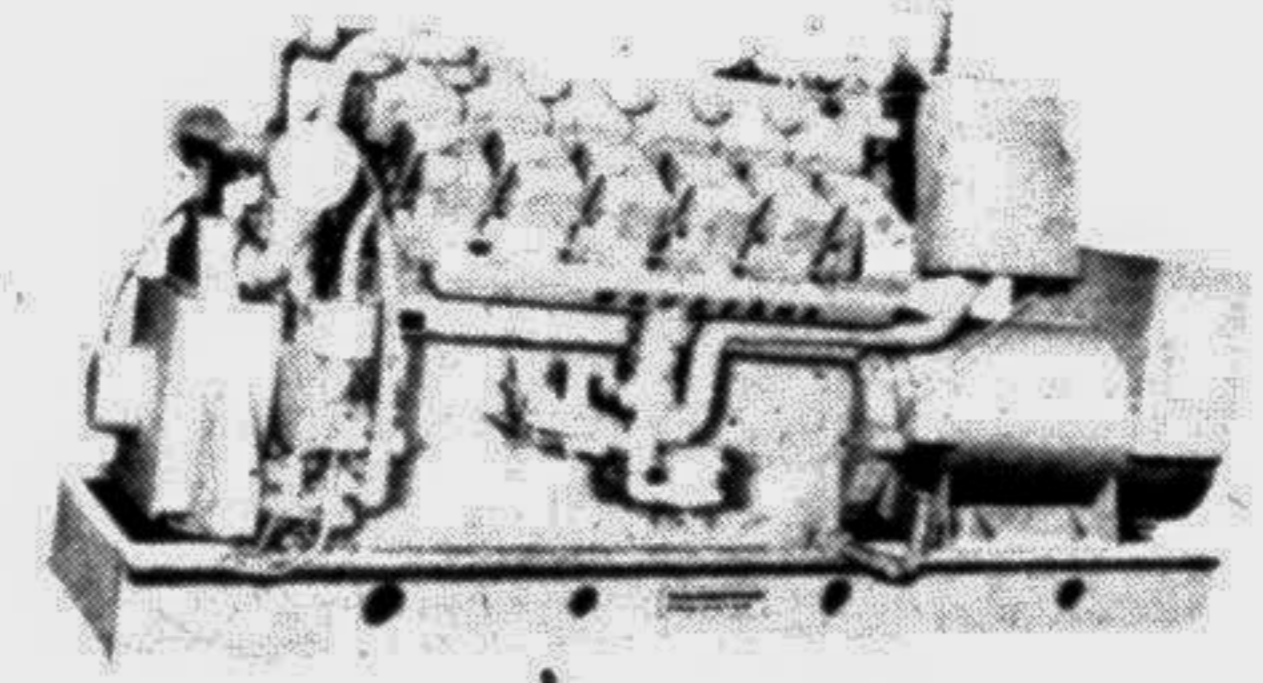
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