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New species of crab found in St Martin's

By Shehab Ahmed



The newly found crab. — Star photo

A new species of crab has been found by a Bangladeshi wild life biologist in St Martin's Island.

The huge red crab — *Ozias Regulosus* — was never identified in Bangladesh earlier, the wild life expert, Dr Mohammad Ali Reza Khan told The Daily Star.

Dr Khan came across the 110 mm crab nestled among the corals of the St Martin's in July 1994. But its identification was confirmed in May this year by Dr B F Chaffig, a crab expert from Bombay, Michael Apel of Senckenberg Museum, Germany, Prof Qamar Banu and Nurul Huda of Chittagong University.

It joins about 50 species of crab found in the country. It may have already joined the lucrative crab and turtle export market of about Tk 100 crore.

But there has been no proper study on the crab population even though these constitute bulk of the export. There is no list of endangered species.

The crabs are also not being carefully trapped. They are caught indiscriminately threatening their stocks, eventually their export potentials, he said.

Dr Khan is now on a visit to Dhaka. A former teacher of

Netherlands to join

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implementation would also require billions of dollars. "You will also need an international consortium for the Meghna Delta project".

The Dutch government is also willing to participate in this project, but don't ask me about the amount the Netherlands could contribute because it's a matter of future," Pronk told the conference.

The Meghna Delta project will be a long-term scheme and its implementation will depend on the Bangladesh government's priority, cost-effectiveness

UNDP confce on governance begins today

UNITED NATIONS, July 26: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which prioritises governance as a key area of its development assistance, is organising an international conference on governance at the United Nations from July 28-30, 1997, reports Xinhua.

The event, organised by the UNDP as a result of increasing concern worldwide over finding effective and local solutions to poverty, inequity and human insecurity issues, will bring together hundreds of high-level ministers, parliamentarians, mayors, non-governmental organisations and representatives from media, private sector and development organisations.

Sri Lanka snatch Cup

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Aravinda de Silva once again won cheaply for six, but skipper Arjuna Ranatunga contributed an unbeaten 62 off 67 balls in an unbroken third wicket stand of 96 with Atapattu.

It was Sri Lanka's second Asia Cup title since 1986, giving the title to the winners a purse of 30,000 dollars and a 6-1 record over India in their last seven meetings.

Ranatunga's men have now won five of the six one-day tournaments played in the Indian sub-continent over the last two seasons. The lone title to elude them was the Singer Cup at Singapore in April, 1996, which Pakistan won.

The Indians, who had won the title in all their four previous appearances in the tournament, were dazed by the brilliant Sri Lankan catching.

The best was Muttiah Muralitharan's effort on the long-on fence when he grabbed Mohammad Azharuddin's shot that appeared to be sailing for a six by flinging himself near the boundary ropes.

Muralitharan had earlier dived to remove Navot Sidhu at mid-off. Aravinda de Silva took two low catches and the acrobatic Roshan Mahanama held a one-handed beauty at short mid-wicket.

India's score revolved around a 109-run fourth wicket stand between Tendulkar and Azharuddin after three top order batsmen were gone by the 18th over with the score at 59.

Azharuddin gave a stinging reply to the selectors who had asked him for the Independence Cup at home in May with a strokeful 81, the same score he made in the league match against Sri Lanka last week.

Tendulkar contributed 53 after coming in at number four instead of opening the innings. But his decision to drop down the order proved futile as Sidhu and Saurav Ganguly failed to provide a sound start.

Sidhu, batting for the first time in the tournament, looked woefully out of touch as he scratched around for 30 balls to score 10.

Rahul Dravid fell for seven and Ganguly made 34 before Azharuddin and Tendulkar dug in to prevent a total collapse.

The Indians stay on in Colombo for a short tour which includes two Tests and three one-day internationals.

(Scoreboard on page 10)

Aero Bengal to resume flights from today

By Staff Correspondent

Aero Bengal Airlines, the first private sector airline, resumes its regular flights from today, airline officials said.

The airlines will start operating flights from Dhaka, with its Russian made 48-seater Antonov aircraft, to three destinations — Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet. There will be two daily flights to Barisal and one each to Chittagong and Sylhet.

All flights will operate from domestic section of the 21a International Airport (ZIA).

The airline will also operate flights to Jessore and Cox's Bazar routes soon.

Air Commodore (ret'd) Moizul Islam, a senior official of the Airline, said all schedules have been approved by the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB).

Diarrhoea claims 3 more lives in Pabna

PABNA, July 26: Three more people died of diarrhoea that effected 78 others in the district in the last 24 hours till this noon, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Masum, 6, of Dapunia, Hadal Mia, 55, of Char Majhram in Sadar thana and Roni, 16, of Haiderpur village in Atghoria thana.

With this the death toll stood at eight in the recent outbreak of diarrhoea in the district, unofficial sources said.

Official sources admitted the outbreak of the water-borne disease in different areas of the district but did not confirm the deaths.

The affected areas are Dapunia, Charkoshakhali, Sardi-rampur, Hemayetpur, Ashutoshpur, Goshpur and Majhram of Sadar and Erdanta and Haiderpur of Atghoria thana.

JCD calls strike

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rally if the demands are not fulfilled by that time, the JCD leaders said. All examinations at the DU will be within the purview of the strike.

The press conference was addressed by, among others, JCD President Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anney, General Secretary Habib-Ul-Nabi Shohel, and its DU unit Convenor Nasir Uddin Asim.

Surya Sen Hall, stronghold of the JCD, was "captured" by BCL activists on Thursday, taking 'advantage' of an in-fight of the JCD.

Meanwhile, residents of Surya Sen hall were leaving the dormitory yesterday fearing possible clash. Sources at the hall said that identity cards of students were not being checked at the entrance of the hall. "BCL activists were controlling the hall", a source said.

Earlier, Vice-Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury held several rounds of talks with leaders of the JCD and BCL but failed to bring them to an understanding.

Meanwhile, BCL held a rally at the Aparajay Bangla yesterday said where its leaders "Normal academic atmosphere of university will be maintained at any cost."

BCL President Enamul Haq Shamim, told the rally that BCL did not believe in capturing halls. "We believe in peaceful coexistence", he added.

The rally was addressed by among others, Bahadur Bepari and Abdul Wadud Khokon, president and general secretary respectively of the DU unit of BCL.

Fish resources

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122.40 crore project — National Package Programme to Improve Fish Culture Entrepreneurship — will focus on private sector fishery development.

State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Satish Chandra Roy told The Daily Star the government wanted to carry out a survey of the country's EEZ in the Bay but didn't have a concrete time frame for the project's completion.

Director General of the Department of Fisheries Md Li-aquat Ali said the project would ensure a thorough survey of the country's waterbodies and its resources, sustainable fish production levels and conservation of different marine species.

Dr Aftabuzzaman, former state minister for fisheries and livestock, said the government had planned to conduct survey of the EEZ back in 1980-82. But the initiative failed due to a dispute among Bangladesh, India and Burma.

Aftabuzzaman, presently Secretary General of Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters' Association, said a survey was essential to estimate and exploit the country's sea resources.

He, however, said the government did not talk to them before preparing any list of fisheries projects. "We can help the government determine the priority projects."

The Daily Star

Bangladeshi who purveys Bengali books across US

From Jyotirmoy Datta

NEW YORK, July 25: When Bishwajit Saha arrived here in 1991 from Dhaka, he pined for the foods he was used to — food for both his body and soul.

At the ethnic grocery stores in Astoria and Jackson Heights neighbourhoods, he found fish from Bangladesh in abundance. But nowhere could he find a store that sold Bengali books.

Saha saw an opportunity in this. The Bangladeshi Hindu community was celebrating Durga Puja the next month; so he had 293 copies of books air-freighted from Dhaka and set up a book stand at the venue. He sold 271 of them.

Saha's mind was made. He would be North America's purveyor of Bengali books. Three months after Puja, he put up a replica of Shaheed Minar in front of the United Nations and displayed Bengali books for sale. The next weekend he organised the first Bengali Book Fair. Since then the book fair has been an annual affair.

He also started a mail order business from his Woodside home. He crisscrossed the country with books piled in the trunk of his van. He claims he held over 200 mobile book fairs at community events in 23 states in six years.

Last week he had 1035 kg of books flown from Calcutta and 376 kg of the latest newspapers, magazines and periodicals for the 17th North American Bengali Conference in Philadelphia.

History was made at his bookstore "Muktodhara" at the conference when one of Bangladesh's most popular writers, Humayun Ahmed, and West Bengal's best selling author, Samashree Majumdar sat side by side and signed books.

Saha sold out his entire stock of books by Ahmed and 50 sets of Majumdar's two-volume opus, "Saat Kahon" at the conference.

The "Muktodhara" story really begins not with his arrival in New York, but with the Saha family fleeing to Calcutta during the Pakistani massacre of Bengali intellectuals in 1969. Saha's elder brother Chittaranjan Saha published the first book under the "Muktodhara" imprint, "Raktakto Bangla", in Calcutta in 1971. In the 25 years since, "Muktodhara" has emerged at the front rank secular publishers in Bangladesh and West Bengal.

Saha likes to add another name to the "Muktodhara" story: Sayed Mohammed Ullah, editor of the New York Bengali weekly "Probashi" who has published Saha's book ads for free in his paper since 1972.

Now Saha has his own permanent outlet in Jackson Heights. "Muktodhara" store was opened in March this year on the eve of the Bangladesh Independence Day.

Saha now has over 10,000 copies of more than 3,000 titles by West Bengal and Bangladeshi authors in stock. He also stocks 476 Bengali videos and 193 CDs.

— India Abroad News Service

Minister urges SKOP to call off July 30 strike

State Minister for Labour and Manpower MA Mannan yesterday called upon the SKOP leaders to call off their July 30 strike in the greater interest of the country, reports UNB.

During a meeting with the SKOP leaders held at the Manpower, Employment and Training Bureau, the state minister openly discussed the demands placed by SKOP, said an official handout.

Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP), a conglomerate of labour organisations, has called the countrywide strike on July 30 to press for fixation of Tk 3,000 as minimum wage.

It also wants implementation of the wage commission award like the pay commission and halting of denationalisation.

Mannan stressed that the demands could be met through discussion.

SKOP leaders Abdus Salam Khan, Ahsanullah Master MP, Abdullah Al Noman, Nazrul Islam Khan, Abul Bashar, Dr Wazedul Islam Khan, Abdullah Sarkar, Shirin Akhter, Shah Md Abu Zafar, Moklesur Rahman, Iqbal Majumder, Mamunur Rashid Chowdhury, Babu Roy, Ramesh Chandra, Shah Atul Islam, Abdul Kader Hoiwader, Abdul Wahed, Shah Alam, Shariatullah, Omar Faruk Khasru and Mesbauddin Ahmed were present.

UF, Cong nominate Krishan Kant for vice president's post

NEW DELHI, July 26: The Andhra Pradesh governor and veteran freedom fighter, Krishan Kant, has been nominated as the joint candidate of the United front and the Congress for the vice president's post, reports PTI.

The announcement was made today at a joint press conference by the Prime Minister, I K Gujral, Congress President Sitaram Kesri, the United Front Convenor and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, the DMK leader, Muralisoli Aran and the front spokesman, S Jaipal Reddy at the prime minister's residence.

The UF and the Congress will jointly file his nomination papers on Monday, the prime minister announced.

Two multinationals

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billion US dollars in the next 3 years.

Shell is one of the pioneering oil companies which had discovered gas fields in Bangladesh in the 50's and 60's. Titas Gas field is among those discovered by the Shell. Cairn discovered the Sangu Gas Field in 1995.

Together, these companies have already invested in 15 wells.

The proposal said Bangladesh can earn about 500 million US dollars through export of gas and gas by-products if its gas resources are explored and properly developed. It expressed optimism about finding gas reserves which would be able to supply fuel for generating 10,000 MW of power.

The proposal said, "As recent experience has shown, the gas fields of Bangladesh need to be treated with respect. Cairn's experience as the leading explore in Bangladesh over the last 3 years and Shell's experience from drilling highly over-pressured gas reservoirs around the world will ensure optimal performance."

On utilisation of gas, the proposal emphasised on power generation and pipeline export, saying these have better economic returns than setting up fertiliser factories or Liquefied Natural Gas plants.

On gas supply potential, it said, "The current and proposed exploration campaigns on licensed and bid round acreage are likely to create a formidable inventory of potential gas developments which will be more than able to satisfy domestic demand for a considerable time to come."

Bangladesh now has a proven recoverable gas reserves of 10.9 trillion cubic feet (tcf), which, at current production levels, will last for 49 years.

The Energy Minister recently said that there is a potential for discovery of another 50 tcf gas in Bangladesh.

Ramna Park

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the Works Ministry.

"We will build the high wall for protection of the park," said the official requesting anonymity. Asked whether they had consulted the relevant planners of the proposed cultural village, the official replied in the negative.

Under the park improvement project, the official said, three existing gullies would be 'improved', the footpaths would be broadened and the banks on both sides of the lake would be repaired.

Meanwhile, moves are underway to allocate 2.6 acres of Ramna Park land to the Kakrai Mosque for construction of an "educational and other facilities for the growing number of visitors" to the mosque. PWD sources said the proposal was awaiting the Prime Minister's approval.

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BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia among the members of the newly set up Kamolkuri Academy at Malibagh in the city yesterday. —Star photo

Fire at city garments factory

By Staff Correspondent

A fire broke out at a garments factory at Mirpur in the city yesterday afternoon.

Police said that the origin of the fire was not known immediately but none received any injuries. It affected the godown of the Seraj Apparel Limited located on the third floor of the four storied building at about 4:10 pm.

On receipt of information, four units of the fire fighting vehicles reached the spot at the Road No. 8, Plot-11, Section-10, Senpara Parbata and brought the fire under control after an hour long effort.

The actual cause of the fire and extent of damage are under investigation, police said.

Govt pushing nation towards confrontation, says Jammat

The Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday expressed concern over the present political scenario, saying the government is pushing the nation towards conflict and confrontation in the name of national consensus, reports UNB.

A meeting of Majlis-e-Sura, chaired by party chief Prof Gulam Azam, observed that the ruling party was pursuing the politics of vengeance and narrowness instead of the politics of democratic tolerance, peace and harmony.

Majlis-e-Sura, the highest policy making body of the party in a resolution said the government is trying to enchain the nation by an autocratic rule instead of creating a democratic political environment in the country.

It observed that serving showcase notice on Obaidul Huq, Khatib of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque, and giving calls to offer prayers in the national mosque to make it 'Jews-free' are irrational and objectionable.

Kashmir

From page 1

"I am extending my hand of friendship to Pakistan and I hope they will accept it and reap the benefits of an era of new friendship."

"The money we spend on guns should be used for development by both the countries," Gujral told a gathering of some 3,000 people in Qazikund.

"I am also asking Pakistan to extend its hand of friendship to us, and I say you (Pakistan) will benefit and the peoples will benefit."

Gujral said bilateral talks which began between the two countries in March will continue.

"I have met the prime minister of Pakistan. I have started talks with them at the level of foreign secretaries and these official talks will continue in the future," he said.

Ceasefire

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ical level discussions."

Earlier this month the chief minister of Nagaland, SC Jamir, announced he would hold an unprecedented meeting with tribal rebel leaders in the United States on July 28.

The Atlanta talks are to be sponsored by the Baptist Group of America, a Church body, most of the Nagaland Christians are Baptists.

Nagaland is one of seven northeastern states in India, comprising Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura, which have been wracked by separatist violence since India's independence in 1947. The states have been dubbed the "seven sisters."

More than 20,000 people have died in the region during separate campaigns for home-lands, thousands of Indian troops are deployed in the remote region.

Kamolkuri Academy opens Zia to remain in hearts of people: Khaleda

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday said Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman will be ever remembered by the countrymen despite the government's vindictive design to erase his name, reports UNB.

"Shaheed Zia will remain in the hearts of the people for his contribution to the nation, patriotism and love for the soil and its sons," she said inaugurating 'Kamolkuri Academy', a cultural training organisation for children, here in the afternoon.

The academy has been established at Malibagh Chowdhurypara in the city under the patronisation of Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Prof AGM Badruddoza Chowdhury and Begum Hasina Warda Chowdhury.

Kamolkuri Academy will provide training to children on different branches of art and culture including music, dance, drawing and painting, instrumental music, recitation and acting, academy sources said.

Begum Zia said Shaheed Zia liked children very much and established Shishu Academy and Shishu Park for them. "But the government is trying to wipe out all his works and contribution," she alleged.

The BNP Chairperson said many organisations have been established across the country to preserve the memory of Zia. "These organisations should be properly guided and coordinated to raise protest against the government's evil design."

Coach passengers robbed in Pabna

PABNA, July 26: Dacoits looted cash and valuables from the passengers of a night coach on the Rajshahi-Nagarbari highway Friday night inflicting 14 people, reports UNB.

Police said six dacoits overpowered the driver of the Dhaka-bound coach of MR paribahan at gunpoint at Dhanidih and went on looting.

Some 14 people on board were knifed by the dacoits.

The dacoits left the coach at Rajapur under Pabna sadar thana, witnesses said.

The injured passengers were treated at Pabna general hospital.

Rain halts play at Headingley

LEEDS, England, July 26: Australia were 373 for five, a lead over England of 201, when rain prevented any further play on the third day of the fourth Test at Headingley today, reports Reuters.

SCORES: England 172, Australia 373-5.

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