

**Metropolitan**

**President says**

**Appropriate use of technology to ensure dev of fisheries**

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday called for effective utilisation of vast scope of fish and shrimp cultivation in meeting the demand of protein of country's population and earning foreign currency through export, reports UNB.

In a message on the eve of "Fisheries Week-1998" to be launched today the President said employment of a portion of

the unemployed people is possible by proper utilisation of the water resources.

He said appropriate use of modern technology will ensure development of fisheries and the sector will play a significant role in the socio-economic development of the country.

"This requires people's zeal and participation" Justice Shahabuddin said hoping that the observation of Fisheries Week

will play an effective role in this regard.

**PM**

Meanwhile, in another message Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called for turning the fish cultivation and preservation into a social movement by ensuring people's participation to face the challenges in the 21st century of creating jobs and alleviating poverty.

"The fisheries sector has been playing a very encouraging role in overall economic development of the country," the Prime Minister said.

Hasina said the fish production in the country could be raised to the desired level by involving the people in fish cultivation and preservation through application of modern and appropriate technology.

**Need for integrated family planning information stressed**

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf yesterday underscored the need for a national integrated health and family planning Information, Education and Communication (IEC) strategy covering all elements of Essential Service Packages (ESP), reports BSS.

He said the IEC strategy which is now called Behavioral Change Communication (BCC) strategy should be planned to create a remarkable impact on the national health and family planning programme.

The minister was speaking as the chief guest at the concluding session of a two-day workshop on development of an integrated health and family planning IEC strategy at a local hotel.

Organised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), the objective of the workshop was to discuss and exchange views on various issues related to the development of a national strategy programme and structure.

Representatives from the concerned government departments and agencies, NGOs, private sector agencies, donors and partner agencies participated in it.

State Minister for MOHFW Prof. Dr M Amanullah, Director General of Health Service Prof A K M Nurul Anwar, Director General of Family Planning Md Sirajul Islam and Director of Primary Healthcare Dr A M Zakir Hussain also spoke at the concluding session while Health Secretary Muhammad Ali presided.

**NEOC report**

**Barisal by-polls were free, fair**

The National Election Observation Council (NEOC) visited Barisal to observe the by-elections held on July 20. The 8-member team was headed by NEOC Convenor Dr Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah, says a press release.

Though a few incidents of violence were reported, the team found that, in general, the by-elections were held in a free and fair manner. The reported incidents were confined to only a few specific areas. The center at the Sher-e-Bangla Night High School, for instance, had to temporarily be closed after a sudden outburst of violence.

It was reported that molotov cocktails were thrown and police were forced to disperse the crowds through firing blanks.

**Errata**

Due to oversight, the venue of the Businessmen's Conference printed in our July 20 issue was mentioned as Hotel Sheraton. It was actually held at Sopargaoon Pan Pacific Hotel. The inadvertent error is regretted.

The health minister said people had lost faith in the services provided by different health and family welfare centres as these could not deliver quality services in time due to shortage of trained manpower, materials and supplies.

He said the quality of service of these centres must be improved to attract the clients.

He said to create demand for receiving services by the clients people should be motivated and made aware of their need for services on a continuous basis.

The minister said the government wants to achieve 'health for all' and 'replacement level of fertility' by the year 2005. He said to achieve these objectives the health status of people should be raised further and the contraceptive prevalence rate should be raised to 70 per cent from the existing 50 per cent.


He said in the health sector, an important indicator of progress is the increase in life expectancy which is now nearly 58 years.

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Prof Amanullah said all the IEC programmes are now specially directed toward implementing programmes aimed at changing behaviour of the target audience for their own benefit.

Health Secretary Muhammad Ali said development of an appropriate strategy is just one step of the mission which should be followed by an implementation plan to make the strategy useful in the truest sense.

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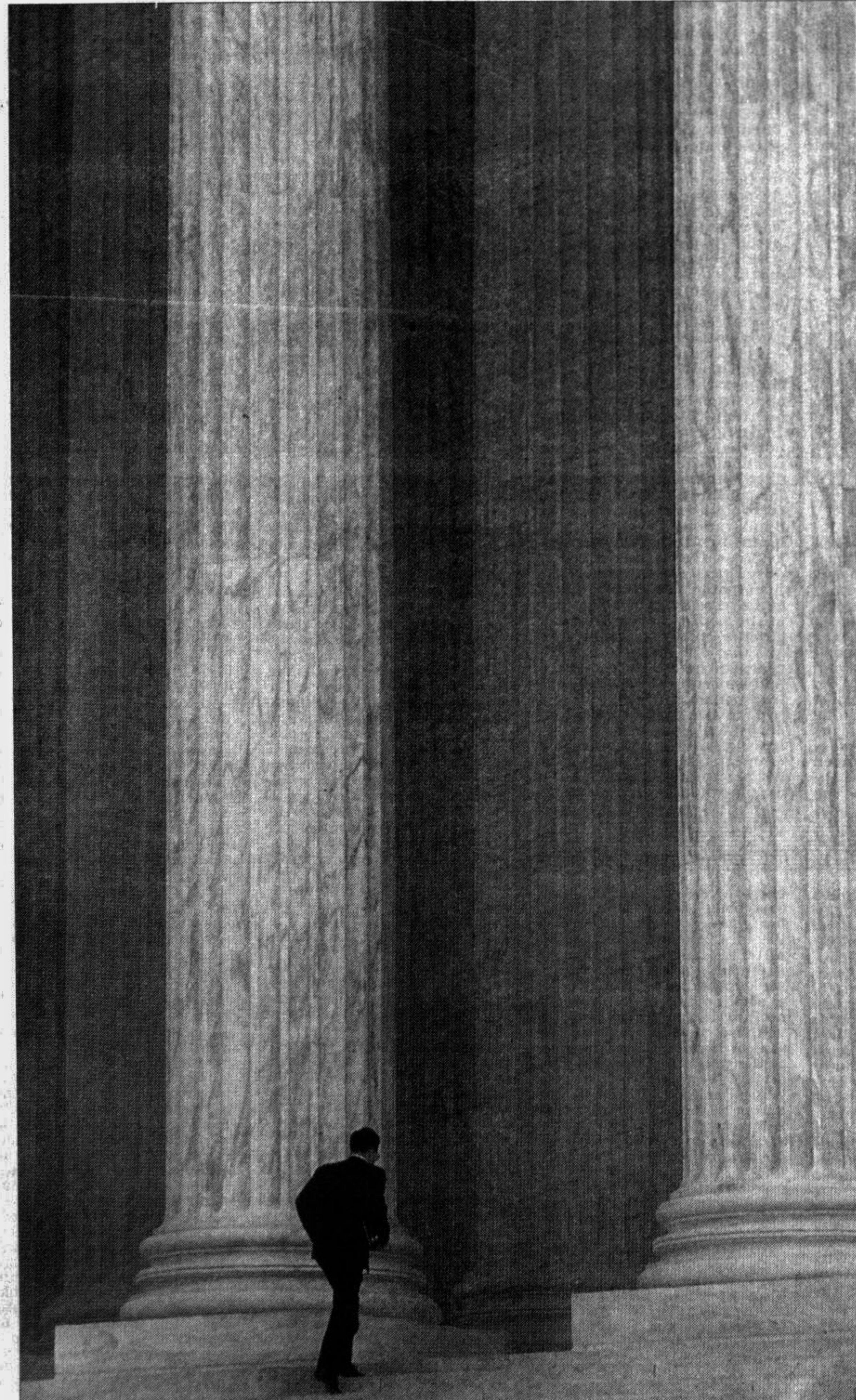


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