

## Navy nabs 51 foreign fishermen, two trawlers

CHITTAGONG, Feb 4: Bangladesh Navy Wednesday nabbed 51 foreign fishermen along with two trawlers from the Bay, 110 miles southwest off St Martin's Island, on charge of intruding into Bangladesh water territory, reports UNB.

Navy Ship Shaheed Ruhul Amin during its routine anti-smuggling and anti-piracy patrol spotted the trawlers while fishing into the Bay at about 3 pm.

The fishing trawlers tried to speed away even after getting signal from BN ship to halt, but the BN ship successfully captured the trawlers after hot pursuit and firing of some warning shots.

Arrangement was being made to hand over all the 51 crew, arrested unhurt and in good health, to the appropriate authorities for legal action.

Earlier on Monday, the ship held 18 foreign fishing crew from the Bay near the St Martin's Island.

To avoid arrest, the fishermen of the foreign trawler set fire to their vessel and jumped into the Bay. But they were rescued unhurt.

The ISPR press release said the BN ship extinguished the fire although the super structure of the trawler was completely burnt. The trawler sank in the sea in spite of vigorous attempts by the BN ship to tow it ashore.

## Killing at Azimpur colony Motia visits Faisal's house

Agriculture Minister Motia Chowdhury yesterday visited the Azimpur colony residence of the officer of her ministry whose son was killed by robbers Thursday, a PID handout said, reports BSS.

The minister stayed for some time at the residence of Anwar Hossain and consoled the bereaved family of A B M Faisal, who was killed by robbers.

Later, Motia Chowdhury visited Dhaka Medical College Hospital to see the condition of the maid, Parul, who also sustained serious injuries in the incident.

The minister asked doctors to ensure proper treatment of Parul.

## Cadet College Council meets tomorrow

A meeting of the Bangladesh Cadet College Council will be held at the Rajshahi Cadet College in Rajshahi on Sunday, an ISPR press release said, reports BSS.

Important matters related to various problems faced by the cadet colleges and their possible solutions as well as development and other related matters will be discussed at the meeting.

Defence Secretary and Chairman of the Cadet College Council M Idris Ali will preside over the meeting.

Chairman, Governing Bodies of Cadet Colleges and Adjutant General, Bangladesh Army, Major General Muhammad Masudur Rahman, Bir Protik, High Civil and Military officials including representatives from the Ministry of Defence, Bangladesh Army, Navy and Air Force as well as principals of all cadet colleges will take part in the deliberations.

## Tofail opens construction work of road

BHOLA, Feb 4: Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed said the present government has created a better field conducive to economic development of rural people, reports UNB.

The rural economy has been bridged with national economy with constructing roads and bridges and spreading electricity to the villages, he said in inaugurating the construction work of a road here today.

The 2.2-km Kaperhat-Majirhat road will connect 18,000 people of Rajapur char area where construction of another 1.5 km Shantirhat-Kaperhat road has already been completed.

As the area is a victim of everlasting river-erosion, the minister said construction of an 8-km ring embankment will begin soon. The Asian Development Bank will finance the project also aiming at flood control and irrigation.

The function was also addressed by Mofazzal Hossain Shahin, Fazlul Kader Manju, Abdul Matin Jamadar and Maulana Mofizul Haq.



Agriculture Minister Motia Chowdhury addressing the inaugural session of 12th Biennial Conference of the Zoological Society of Bangladesh at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University yesterday. — Star photo

## Biennial confce of Zoological society opens Planned measures in preserving healthy environment stressed

Agriculture Minister Motia Chowdhury yesterday stressed the need for planned measures and people's participation in preserving a proper and healthy environment in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Educating our people about environment would help them protect environment, she said while inaugurating the 12th biennial conference of the Zoological Society of Bangladesh at TSC auditorium of Dhaka University.

The three-day conference was presided over by society's president and pro-vice chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Md Shahadat Ali, Environment and Forest Secretary Sayed Marghub Murshed spoke on the

occasion as special guest. Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof AK Azad Chowdhury welcomed the guests.

The theme of the conference of this year is '21st Century and Environmental Issues of Bangladesh'. A total of 300 delegates across the country including nine from Egypt, India, Nepal and UK attended the conference.

Agriculture Minister Motia Chowdhury said that the whole world is now concerned about environment. She pointed out that population boom and poverty, natural hazards, competition for use of land, extensive use of ground water, loss of forestry, over exploitation of the fishery resources and pollution of air are the environmental issues in Bangladesh.

Mentioning different measures taken by the government the minister said that the government is fully aware of the environmental problems and taking tremendous efforts to solve them.

The minister urged the zoologists to pinpoint the environmental issues of the country and fixed up priorities for solving the issues.

The environment secretary outlined the government policies and said that there would be environmental courts in Bangladesh by the end of the year. Bangladesh would be the first country in South Asia to establish such courts, he added.

On the first day, a juvenile art competition will be held at 4:30 pm. Releasing ceremony of an audio cassette 'Basanto Diner Gan' will be also held in the evening.

On the first day of autumn of February 14, the programme will begin at 6:30 am by welcoming the autumn by singing.

Triak Natya Gosthi, Gananatya Sampradaya, and Uchhi will stage six dramas in the festival including Saptabat, Ithas Katha Kao, Nawkar Shaitan during the festival.

The festival will remain open from 5 pm everyday.

## Unicef urged for more aid to fight arsenic problem

Bangladesh has urged the UNICEF for a coordinated programme with adequate resource supply for effectively tackling the arsenic contamination problem of drinking water in Bangladesh, according to a message received in the city from New York, reports BSS.

Economic Relations Division, Secretary and leader of Bangladesh delegation to the first regular session of the UNICEF Executive Board 2000 Dr A K M Masihur Rahman apprised the UN Body on February 2 about the seriousness of the arsenic contamination in drinking water and its fatal consequences.

Acknowledging the UNICEF's commitment as well as professional expertise in the area of safe drinking water he sought a coordinated action programme with adequate resource support to end this growing menace.

He mentioned that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had launched the national testing programme which was the clear manifestation of her concern and the importance that her government attached to this problem.

Acknowledging the interventions already made and efforts being taken by the UNICEF, UNDP, WHO, the World Bank and bilateral donors, Rahman called for more support to the national integrated programme and expressed the confidence that 'Working together and pooling the available knowledge and technology, it should be possible to contain the problem.'

He also presented the highlights of the proposed country programme strategy in the meeting which broadly conform to the government's policy priorities.

## GrameenPhone wins GSM Assoc Award

GrameenPhone Limited has won the prestigious GSM Association Award for its innovative village phone programme, reports UNB.

GrameenPhone Managing Director Trond Moe received the 'GSM in the Community Award' at Cannes in France on Wednesday.

The GSM Association, based in Dublin, represents over 400 Global System for Mobile telephone operators around the world. Over 250 million people use GSM telephone services in over 140 countries.

GrameenPhone, which started its operation on March 26, 1997, is the largest mobile telephone operator in the country with network in over 1200 villages with 65000 subscribers.

GrameenPhone currently has over 200 base stations across the country with coverage in 21 districts, including three largest cities.

## Accident on Dhaka Aricha highway: 1 killed, 15 hurt

MANIKGANJ, Feb 4: An unidentified person was killed and 15 others were injured when a newspaper carrying bus of Daily Inquilab met an accident on Dhaka-Aricha Highway in Dhamrai thana early today, reports UNB.

Identity of the victim could not be known immediately.

Police said the mishap took place at Jhapura on the highway at about 2:30 am when the newspaper carrying Khulna-bound minibus of the daily hit a roadside tree after deflation of its wheel.

Eight of the injured were admitted to Manikganj Sadar Hospital, five in Dhamrai Gano Sashitha Hospital and two others in a hospital in the capital.

Of the injured, condition of one Abdul Alim, 38, at Dhaka Medical College Hospital was stated to be critical.

A case was filed with Dhamrai thana.

## 51 Thai fishermen held for illegal fishing in Bay

CHITTAGONG, Feb 4: Fifty-one Thai fishermen were caught while fishing illegally in the Bay of Bengal inside Bangladesh territory near Saint Martin Island in Cox's Bazar on Wednesday.

Members of Bangladesh Navy arrested the fishermen for illegal fishing during routine patrol in the coastal area at around 1.30 pm on the day.

The arrested fishermen were handed over to Bondar thana police last night and were later taken to court custody today.

## 3 inter-district dacoits held in Bagherhat

BAGERHAT, Feb 4: Ch'almart Police Thursday night arrested three inter-district dacoits, including the ring leader, while preparing for committing robbery in Hija village, reports UNB.

Police said they arrested gang leader Akram and his associates Motahar and Sohail along with a shotgun and three rounds of bullet while taking preparing of robbery in the village at about 1 am.

Another shotgun was recovered following their confessional statement in thana.

Akram of Dighalia in Khulna, surrendered two arms and ammunition to Dighalia Police taking advantages of government's general amnesty and joined in Anser Bahini last year.

## First SAARC cardiology congress next week

The recent progress in cardiology with special emphasis on problems of cardiac care facilities will figure prominently at the first SAARC Congress of Cardiology to be held in the city next week, reports BSS.

The programme of the two-day congress includes special and plenary lectures, symposium and pharmaceutical and electro-medical exhibitions.

Organised by the SAARC Cardiac Society and Bangladesh Cardiac Society, the congress is expected to bring together about 400 cardiologists and cardiac surgeons from home and a number of countries including Australia, India, Italy, Nepal, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, the United Kingdom and the USA.

## Need for stronger doctor-patients relation stressed

Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof A K Azad Chowdhury yesterday stressed the need for strengthening relations between doctors and patients to make treatment process easier, reports BSS.

"The knowledge about the physical condition of a patient is not enough for a doctor, he has to be familiar with his social and cultural conditions," the VC said while addressing a workshop on 'doctor-patients relation' at Dhaka Community Hospital.

Prof Azad said that private treatment in the country is very expensive and the government treatment systems are hazardous and limited.

The workshop was organised jointly by DFID, North East London Practitioners, Royal College of General Practitioners and Dhaka Community Hospital.

The workshop was moderated by the researcher of Quinermery and Westfield College under London University Magi False, General Practitioners and Instructor Dr Ana Livingstone, general practitioners Dr Harun-or-Rasheed and Health Advocate Rafia Begum.

The workshop was attended, among others, by Chairman of Dhaka Community Hospital Prof Kazi Kamruzzaman, coordinator of the trustee board of the hospital Prof Mahmudur Rahman, Director General of Centre for Medical Education Majharul Haque, representative of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Done Bandar Nayak, Prof of Soil Science of Dhaka University Imamul Haque and Doctor Mahmuda Hassan.

The workshop observed that the physicians could play a pioneering role in evolving an expected treatment policy.

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