

'Resist any move to export gas'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar in the city yesterday vowed to resist any move of the government to export gas to India through pipeline and urged the countrymen to be united on this issue.

They also demanded scrapping of all existing Production Sharing Contracts (PSC) between the Petrobangla and the international oil and gas exploration companies operating in the country.

The seminar titled 'Internal resource is enough instead of exporting gas for exploration of new gas field and setting up of gas pipeline across the country' was organised by the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Power and Port of the country.

Engineer Sheikh Mohammad Shahidullah, convenor of the committee, presided over the seminar held at the Shaheed Tajul auditorium.

Addressing the seminar, noted

economist MM Akash said only four to five hundred crore taka is needed for exploration, transmission and distribution of gas across the country which is possible to manage from internal resources.

He said if the Petrobangla could be made profitable, then 20 to 25 per cent of its net profit could be used for exploration and development of gas filed in the country.

Akash also observed that if we export gas today, we might have to import it later at a comparatively higher price.

Dr Mainul Islam, former president of Bangladesh Economic Society, said if Bangladesh exports gas under the existing PSC, it would not be profitable.

Dr Dil Afroz said it is not feasible for Bangladesh to export gas with a small reserve at present. She further said the country would not be able to purchase renewable energy when the gas reserve will be finished as its price is very high.



Former advisor of caretaker government Rokia A Rahman hands over a 21-inch Philips colour television to Nusrat Jahan of Rajshahi at the prize giving ceremony of the Horlicks-Shaptahik 2000 quiz competition in the city yesterday.

Horlicks-Shaptahik 2000 quiz contest 35 winners receive prizes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prize giving ceremony of the 'Horlicks-Shaptahik 2000 Quiz' competition was held at a city hotel yesterday.

A total of 35 winners selected from 25,000 contestants through lottery received the prizes under two categories - 'Smart Mother 2002' and 'Genius Bangladesh 2002', says a press release.

Runa of Dhaka and Nusrat Jahan of Rajshahi received a refrigerator and a 21-inch Philips colour television respectively as first

prizes in the first and last rounds of the 'Smart Mother 2002' category.

In the 'Genius Bangladesh-2002' category, Nahid Ferdous Noushin of Kurigram and Nahian Binte Alam of Dhaka won the first prizes in first and last rounds of the contest respectively. They received a sports bicycle and Dhaka-Kolkata-Dhaka air tickets (three) respectively.

The other prizes included books, palmtop organiser, and digital diary. All the winners were also given crests.

Former advisor of caretaker government Rokia A Rahman, Publisher of the Shaptahik 2000 and Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, Editor of the Shaptahik 2000 Shahadat Chowdhury, Chairman of Mutual Foods Limited Azim Uddin Ahmed, Country Manager of Glaxo Smith-Kline Consumer Health AN Bose, Account Group Head of Grey AZM Saif, litterateur Imdadul Haq Milon and Shaptahik 2000 Executive Editor Mohsiul Adnan and the weekly's chief reporter Golam Mortuza attended the ceremony.

Speaking at the ceremony, Rokia A Rahman welcomed such initiative by the Horlicks and the Shaptahik 2000. She stressed the importance of such competitions to help the intellect of women and children flourish.

Prof Yusuf made VC of Bhasani University

BSS, Chittagong

Eminent environment Scientist Dr Yusuf Sharif Ahmed Khan, now the professor of the Institute of Marine Science (IMS) and Dean of Science Faculty of Chittagong University (CU), has been appointed vice-chancellor of the Tangail Mawlana Bhasani Science and Technology University for next four years.

Born in Barisal in 1950, Prof Yusuf joined as a lecturer of Marine Biology Department of CU in 1973.

4 listed criminals arrested

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested a total of 1,448 people, including four listed criminals, from different parts in the country in last 24 hours ending at 6am yesterday.

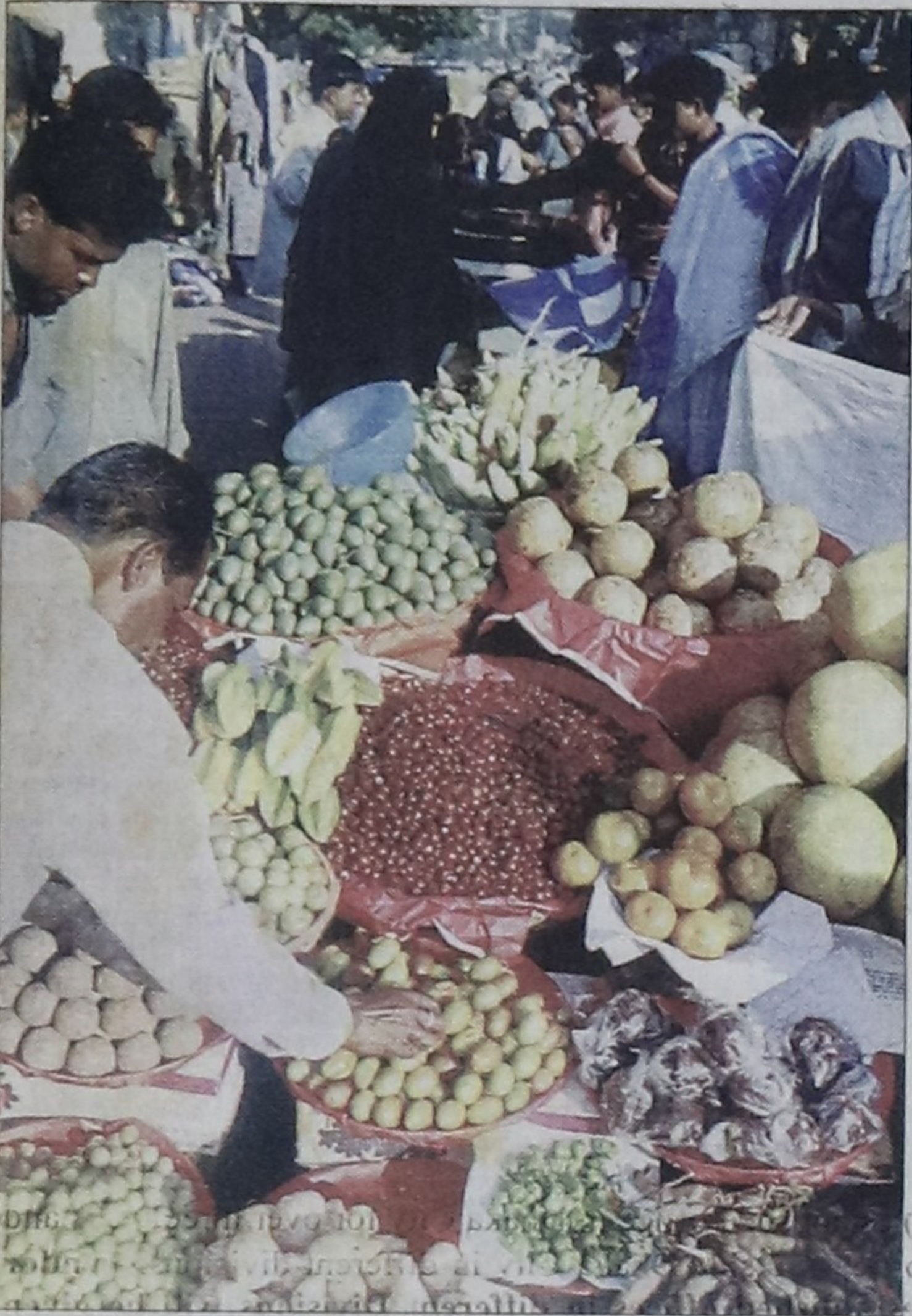
The listed criminals are identified as Tozammel Hossain alias Taz of Magura, Mohsin Ali of Natore, AKM Shafi Ahmed of Moulvibazar and Hasan Jahan Arzu of Chittagong.

Team of China Radio Int'l arrives today

UNB, Dhaka

A five-member delegation of China Radio International (CRI) arrives in the city today on a week-long visit to Bangladesh at the invitation of Bangladesh-China People's Friendship Association.

During their stay in Bangladesh, the delegation members, led by CRI Vice-president Su Ke Bin, will call on Speaker Jamiruddin Siraj and leaders of different political parties.



Customers buy fruits from a vendor in the city yesterday. Fruit vendors are doing brisk business during Ramadan when the demand for fruits is high. Although various kinds of fruits are available in the market, the prices are beyond the reach of common people.

Festival with a difference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was a festival with a difference. The festival was for welcoming the migratory birds that have started coming to this part of the globe with the advent of the winter.

These birds come here every year to flee freezing cold at their homes in Siberia and to find new feeding ground here.

Thanks to Nature Conservation Committee (NCC) and Bangladesh Bird Watchers Society (BBWS) which organised a function titled 'Welcome Festival for Birds' on the bank of Mirpur Ceramic Lake in the city yesterday.

Over the decade, the Ceramic Lake has been serving as safe sanctuary to migratory birds.

Eminent environment activist Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury inaugurated the festival which was attended by some 200 bird lovers.

Shajahan Sardar, president of BBWS, Ronald Halder, president of NCC and Amanullah Kabir, chief editor and managing director of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha, Prof Sohrabuddin Sircar and Ali Imam spoke at the festival.

Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury said this festival demonstrates our profound love for birds.

He said birds are the part of our eco-system and we should protect them for our healthy life.

He said human greed was behind destruction of kaleidoscopic natural beauties including colourful bird species.

But local birds as well as guest ones are under the threat of extinction as their feeding ground is getting squeezed day by day due to filling up of the wetland of the country' said an eminent bird expert Prof Sohrabuddin Sircar.

Ali Imam, another bird expert, said the winter birds usually come to the haors of Sylhet, Sunamganj, Pabna and Natore and the low-lying wetland of Dhaka district.

He said the unscrupulous bird traders net the migratory birds from these remote haors creating serious bio-diversity problem in the country.

He warned that the number of local birds in Bangladesh are also declining alarmingly and sug-

gested for slapping a complete ban on netting and shooting of all local and migratory birds.

Bird experts at the festival said around 230 species of bird including Common teal, Ferruginous Poachard, Bears Poachard, Common Shell duck, Ruddy Shell duck, Red Coastal Poachard and Spot Bill duck visit Bangladesh every year.

They expressed grave concern over the extinction of some local birds including Nakta and Pink King Vulture and declining of migratory birds every year.

At the festival, bird-related books and posters were exhibited and a film was screened.

Inter-service Qirat, Azan competition begins

BSS, Dhaka

The Inter-service Qirat and Azan competition-2002 began at the Sailors' Colony mosque at the Dhaka Cantonment amidst great religious fervour yesterday.

About one hundred Quarries belonging to Bangladesh Army, Navy and Air Force are taking part in the competition.

Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Shah Iqbal Mujtaba formally inaugurated the competition as chief guest after Jumma prayers.

He also listened to the recitations from the verses of the holy Quran and Azan rendered by some of the participants.

Principal Staff Officers, senior military officers and a large number of service personnel were present on the occasion.

Earlier, Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff and Naval Administrative Authority Dhaka Commodore M Atiqur Rahman received the chief guest on his arrival at the mosque.

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