

## TK 55CR ESTUARY DEV PROJECT LAUNCHED

# Dutch govt to continue support for water sector development

BSS, Dhaka

The Dutch government is committed to supporting the development of the water sector in Bangladesh, said Aart van der Horst of the ministry of foreign affairs, the Netherlands, yesterday.

The Netherlands has been providing support for more than 30 years and the support is linked to the Bangladesh government's intention to address the crucial issues in the water sector, Horst said.

He was addressing the launching ceremony of a Dutch-supported Tk 55 crore Estuary Development Programme of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) in the city.

Presided over by BWDB Director General Sharif Rafiqul Islam, the ceremony was also addressed by

first secretary of the Royal Netherlands Embassy Neils Veenis, additional director general of BWDB Golam Mostafa, Bram van der Boon of the Netherlands, BWDB chief of planning Habibur Rahman and project director Wadud Bhuiyan.

"This day marks the start of the exciting new project of BWDB that is co-funded by the government of the Netherlands. Today begins the implementation of Tk 55 crore Estuary Development Programme. The Dutch government is providing a grant of Tk 50 crore to help the BWDB in its efforts to improve management of coastal areas," the Dutch foreign ministry official said.

Neils mentioned that through scientific studies and pilot projects at different locations, the Estuary Development Programme is expected to raise the living standard

of the people in the coastal area and contribute to attaining the national goal of poverty reduction.

He also said that his country is ready to support Bangladesh, especially in the water sector, since it is crucially important for the overall development and poverty reduction in Bangladesh, which is just a meter of two above the sea-level and is threatened by the climate changes.

In the near future, Neils said, the Netherlands will explore the possibility for a multi-agency, multi-donor programme for integrated coastal zone management, provided the government agencies concerned agree on a common cooperation framework, under the Coastal Zone Policy and Coastal Development Strategy.

51521 birds of 42 species found at Hakaluki haor in Moulvibazar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 51521 birds of 42 species were found at Hakaluki haor in Moulvibazar district this year, according to a recent census.

Of them, 18555 of 29 species were identified as migratory birds while the others are the local inhabitants of the haor.

The census team found four new migratory birds at the haor this year.

These are Falcated Duck, Gray leg goose, Northern Lapwing and Common Shell Duck.

Last year, the team found Spotbill duck, Comb Duck and Grey headed lapwing but this year those three species were absent.

The number of total birds was 46 712 last year.

This year most of the birds were found at Nagua-Loribai beel of Hakaluki haor. Their number is 30262.

Eminent birder Inam-Ul Haq led the census team while wildlife experts Dr ASM Rashid and Md Abdul Aziz and teachers and students of Jahangirnagar, Khulna and Chittagong universities took part in the census.

Md Jafar Siddique, the project director of Coastal Wetland Biodiversity Management Project (CWBMP), disclosed the information at a press conference at the office of Kulaura upazila nirbahi officer on Wednesday last.

Mobile court recovers port land in Ctg

BSS, Chittagong

A mobile court here on Thursday demolished a large number of illegal establishments from Newmooring Port area in the city.

A nine-katha land of the port was recovered during the drive jointly conducted by Chittagong City Corporation and Chittagong Metropolitan Police.

The court, led by First Class Magistrate Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, also fined 20 motor vehicles for emitting toxic black smoke in a separate drive in the city the same day. The court realised over Tk two lakh as forfeiture from the owners of the vehicles on the spot.

In another drive, the mobile court removed a large number of illegal billboards from the roadsides in Agrabad to Patenga area on the day.

Ferry service on Daulatdia-Paturia route disrupted

BSS, Rajbari

At least 400 vehicles stranded at Daulatdia Ghat as movement of ferries on Daulatdia-Paturia route has been disrupted due to shortage of ferries for the last couple of days.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) sources said the disruption took place when five ferries out of the 14 were sent to Narayanganj dockyard for repairing some days back.

On the other hand, the ferries on the route have been carrying a minimum load since the current dry season as the water level of the river fell to 6/7 feet against the required 8/12 feet.

Besides, emerging of numerous chars at different points of the route has narrowed the width of the channel and made the movement of large water transports risky, BIWTC sources said.

Unauthorised mini-telephone exchange unearthed

UNB, Jessore

Police unearthed an unauthorised mini-telephone exchange at Sharsha and arrested a man in this connection yesterday.

The arrested was identified as Habibur Rahman Asgar of Pairadanga village in Jhikargachha upazila of the district.

Police said Asgar had set up the mini-exchange in connivance of some dishonest T&T employees and had been doing a brisk business dodging huge taxes.

Police recovered one antenna, huge quantity of telephone equipment and two SIMs of an Indian cellphone company from Asgar.

Discussion on poetry at JU

JU CORRESPONDENT

A day-long discussion titled 'Poetry Matters' will be held at Jahangirnagar University (JU) today.

English department of the university is organising the discussion with a view to introducing new traits and trends of writing to students and admirers of poetry.

## Two killed in Mymensingh road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The driver and the helper of a truck were killed in a road accident on Mymensingh-Sherpur road in the early hours of today.

Driver Alfaz, 40, and helper Bharat Chandra Roy, 40, died on the spot as the iron rod-laden truck coming from Dhaka fell into a roadside ditch at Bakshimul in Tarakanda, Phulpur, at around 5:30am, according to police and local sources.

Police sent the bodies to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) for autopsy.

A case was lodged with Tarakanda police station.

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a discussion yesterday emphasised ensuring the rule of law in the country, bringing accountability in administration and democracy with a view to materialising the dreams of the freedom fighters of establishing a poverty-free Bangladesh.

They were speaking at a discussion on 'Bangladesh's Liberation War and Bangabir MAG Osmani' at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city.

Bangabir Osmani Smriti Parishad organised the discussion to mark the 23rd death anniversary of the commander-in-chief of liberation forces Gen Osmani. Parishad President Syeda Masuda Khaja chaired the discussion.

Foreign Affairs Adviser Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury addressed the occasion as the chief discussant while eminent lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain was the special discussant.

Former adviser to caretaker government Maj Gen (Retd) Mainul Hussain Chowdhury, Bir Bikram, Parishad advisers Maj Gen (Retd) M Azizur Rahman, Bir Bikram, Maj Gen (Retd) Syed Mohammad Ibrahim, Bir Pratik, Jatiya Janata Party President Sheikh Asad, Biswa Bangali Parishad President Abdul Khaled, Dr CM Delwar Rana, Chief Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BBS) Zagul Ahmed Chowdhury, among others, spoke.

Highlighting the historic and patriotic role of Gen Osmani in the pre-liberation, liberation and post-liberation era, the foreign affairs adviser said Gen Osmani per-

formed his duties with unparalleled courage and rising above personal interest.

As ardent believer in democracy and humanity, Gen Osmani could realize that stability of democracy and its growth was not possible without good governance, honesty and transparency.

Gen Osmani believed that implementation of these principles should begin from top of the administration, not from the bottom, Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury said adding the liberation war hero

always wanted to see the reflection of these qualities in the administration.

Dr Kamal Hossain said Gen Osmani led the freedom fighters in the liberation war to secure the independence of the country so that people could enjoy their democratic rights.

Pointing to the recent developments in the country, he appreciated the Bangladesh Army for playing a very important role at every juncture of the national life including the war of liberation.

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