

Hilsa export ban to help meet domestic demand

Says Adviser Dr CS Karim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has imposed a six-month ban on hoarding and exporting hilsa fish only to make them more available in the local market and there are no other motives behind the ban, said Fisheries and Agriculture Adviser Dr CS Karim yesterday.

"We export hilsa to not only India, but also many other countries in North America and Europe. Our only target is to keep the price of hilsa stable in the local market," he told reporters at a press briefing at the conference room of the fisheries and livestock ministry.

He also said that the ban would not be applicable to those exporters who have already opened the Letter of Credit (L/C) or received remit-

tance for export of the fish. The commerce ministry issued an order in this regard yesterday, he added.

Any commodities can be exported only after the local demands are met, the adviser said, adding that "We have found that hilsa is quite pricey in the local market, which is beyond the reach of common people. This prompted us to take such a decision."

Majority people of Bangladesh do not get sufficient protein in their diet, while the demand for protein will increase during the upcoming Ramadan, he said. "We want that hilsa price becomes stable soon so that common people can afford it."

Nazrul Islam, director general of the department of fisheries, said a survey conducted in 10 wholesale and 8 retail markets following the

ban revealed that the price of the fish has decreased by 10 to 15 percent on an average.

The price of hilsa depends on its supply chain, adviser CS Karim said, adding that the government has taken initiatives to develop the landing stations so that the fishermen can directly sell fish to the customers there instead of selling fish to the middlemen.

Additional Secretary of the commerce ministry Golam Mostakim said Bangladesh exported 4,495 metric tonnes of hilsa only through Benapole port, earning Tk 71.50 crore in 2005-06.

Fisheries and livestock ministry Secretary Syed Ataur Rahman and Bangladesh Bank Economic Adviser Habibullah Bahar were also present.



PHOTO: STAR

Conference and Exhibition Management Service (CEMS) Director Shahid Sarwar speaks at a press conference on the 7th Education and Immigration Exposition (EDIM EXPO)-2007 at a city hotel yesterday. On his left is CEMS Managing Director Mehrun N Islam.

Tk 374.85cr SCC budget announced

No new tax imposed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) yesterday announced a Tk 374.85 crore budget for 2007-08 fiscal without levying new taxes.

Acting Mayor Azam Khan announced the budget at a press conference at the SCC conference room in the afternoon.

The ward commissioners and officials of the SCC were present. The mayor said the budget has been down sized to stop corruption and misuse of money.

Last year, the SCC budget stood at Tk 544.87 crore.

Of the total revenue income in the new budget, Tk 298.79 crore will be available as government grant.

These include Tk 75 crore for Annual Development Programme (ADP), Tk 50 crore as special allocation, Tk 60 crore for flood rehabilitation programme, Tk 46 crore for improvement of important roads and drainage and Tk 15 crore for Water Supply & sanitation project.

Tk 36.11 crore will be mobilised from its own resources.

UNB adds: The main sources of income include holding tax Tk 12 crore, property transfer tax Tk 4 crore, tax on building construction and re-construction Tk 2 crore, and tax on profession and business Tk 5 crore.

Tribute paid to Sher-e-Bangla, Suhrawardy

Dr Ferdous Ahmed Qureshi, initiator of a new political party, along with about 500 leaders and workers yesterday paid tributes to national leaders Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq and Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy by placing wreaths at their graves in the city yesterday, says a press release.

They also offered fateha and munajat. Adv Fazlur Rahman, Kazi Firoz Rashid, Tajul Islam Chowdhury, Noor Mohammad Khan, Moulana Sakawat Hossain, Lt Col (ret'd) HMA Gaffar, Mashur Rahman Ranga and Sayeed Khokon were present.

Remove restrictions on Hasina's movement

Says US Congresswoman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Congresswoman Corrine Brown has asked US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to urge the caretaker government to give Awami League President Sheikh Hasina her "full civil rights, remove restrictions on her movement, lift the travel ban" and restore due process for all Bangladeshis.

"Freedom of movement and due process are human and civil rights essential to any democracy. The recent actions taken by the caretaker government raise serious questions about respect for the rule of law and the future of representative democracy in Bangladesh," Brown said in a letter to Rice, dated June 29.

Regarding the crackdown on corruption, she stated, "While I recognize that Bangladesh is trying to address endemic corruption, the blatant disregard for due process and basic freedoms is an unacceptable deviation from democratic norms and rule of law."

"One extreme example is the effort against Sheikh Hasina," she said. The Congresswoman, who is from Florida, also mentioned in the letter that Sheikh Hasina's daughter, who is due to give birth soon, lives in her state.

"I write to express my strong concern over recent developments in Bangladesh, including the abrogation of civil liberties and abuse of human rights under the current military-backed caretaker government," Brown said.

"I am extremely troubled by the mass arrests of over 200,000 people, including the detainment of 170 senior political leaders, along with ongoing extra-judicial killings and torture," she added.

NGO worker Robbed

A gang of armed muggers robbed a female NGO worker of Tk 30,127 in broad daylight at Nabinbagh in the city's Jurain area on July 2.

The muggers attacked the worker of Sajida Foundation when she was returning after collecting installments from the members of its micro-finance programme at 12:30pm. Hearing the scream of the worker, local people and passers-by rushed to the scene, but the gang managed to escape with a bag containing money and some important documents of the micro-finance programme.

A case has been lodged with Shyampur Police Station in this regard, said a Sajida Foundation press release.

Such incidents have also taken place in the area in the past.

Sajida Foundation has also expressed concern that NGO workers have been attacked in different locations in the last few months while they were returning after collecting money.

It also urged the government to take necessary measures to stop such attacks.

Dr Madhabi new DG of AERE



Dr Madhabi Islam, chief scientific officer of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC), has been appointed director general

(DG) of Atomic Energy Research Establishment (AERE) recently, says a press release. She is the first female DG since the inception of AERE in 1978.

She joined BAEC in 1982 and served the Institute of Computer Science (ICS) in different capacities.

EWU scholarship award ceremony

The Merit Scholarship award ceremony of East West University (EWU) for Summer Semester 2007 was held at the University auditorium yesterday, says a press release.

Fifty eight students received merit scholarships and 21 students were awarded scholarships from 'Medha Lalun Fund' in the ceremony.

Dr Saadat Husain, Chairman, Bangladesh Public Service Commission, graced the programme as the chief guest and distributed certificates amongst the merit scholarship earners.

Jalaluddin Ahmed, president, Board of Directors, East West University, also attended the programme as special guest.

In this semester, a total of 329 students have been awarded merit scholarships and financial aid amounting to Tk 1.15 crore.

EWU Vice Chancellor Professor Mohammad Sharif chaired the programme while University Registrar Colonel (Retd) Shah Murtaza Ali delivered the welcome address.

Dr Mohammad Farashuddin, founder vice chancellor, HN Ahequr Rahman and Razia Samad, founder directors, Deans of the faculties, faculty members and guardians were also present on the occasion.



PHOTO: STAR

Health and Family Welfare Adviser Maj Gen (Retd) Dr ASM Matiur Rahman speaks at the 50th Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) workshop at Birdem auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left is Prof AK Azad Khan and on his right is Maj Gen (Retd) Prof Ziauddin Ahmed.

CARDIO-PULMONARY RESUSCITATION 11pc population in city at risk

Says health adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health and Family Welfare Adviser Maj Gen (Retd) Dr ASM Matiur Rahman has said 11 percent population of the capital are under the risk of Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).

He was speaking as chief guest at a function organised by the Department of Critical Care Medicine of Birdem to mark the end of its 50th Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) workshop in the city yesterday.

A total of 24 doctors and nurses of Birdem took part in the workshop that provided a basic training course on maintaining spontaneous respiration and circulation during the critical moment.

The participants were awarded certificates at the function.

Referring to the importance of CPR course, the adviser said around five percent of rural population are also under the risk of CPR.

He underscored the need for arranging CPR course for fire fighters and police members as they play a significant role at a primary stage of rescue operation during different types of disasters.

Speaking as special guest Prof AK Azad Khan, president of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh, said the CPR course should be compulsory for all doctors, nurses and paramedics of Birdem, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University and Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

Prof MO Faruq, course director,

and Dr Md Rawshan Ali Basunia, course coordinator of CPR workshop, and Prof Nazmun Nahar, director of Clinical Services and Academy of Birdem also spoke at the function chaired by Maj Gen (Retd) Prof Ziauddin Ahmed, director general of Birdem.

NILA MURDER None held yet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yet to arrest anyone in connection with the murder of a housewife Nila who was allegedly killed after being raped in her residence at Uttara in the city on Sunday.

It was initially reported that nothing was taken away from Nila's house but on Sunday night, victim's family claimed that cash and valuables including 10 tolas of gold ornaments and a mobile set worth Tk 2.5 lakh were missing from the house.

Investigation Officer Nibaran Chandra Barmon of Uttara Police Station told The Daily Star that they are suspecting former house tutor for the murder.

Barmon said the house tutor used to visit Nila's house frequently and police are now looking for him.

DMC morgue sources said Nila was strangled and they had collected specimen to test whether she was raped before her murder.

Nila's body was taken away by her family members yesterday.

Madrasa teacher shot dead in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A madrasa teacher was shot dead by a gang of armed miscreants at village Pashchim Chandimandap under Muktagacha upazila here yesterday.

The victim was identified as Rafiqul Alam, 40, son of Giasuddin of village Binnakuri in Muktagacha Upazila. He was a teacher of Bandachitalia Dakhil Madrasa in Jamalpur.

Police said Rafiqul Alam was shot dead on the spot at around 7.15am when he was going to his workplace in Jamalpur. The cause behind the killing could be known immediately.

Sub-Inspector Golam Nabi of Muktagacha Police Station said hearing gunshots local people rushed to the spot and caught red-handed two alleged miscreants identified as Saiful of Phulbaria upazila of the district and Shuhag hailed from Bogra district.

The body was sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) for autopsy.

A case was lodged with Muktagacha Police Station in this connection.

LAID-OFF PEOPLES JUTE MILLS

Clerk dies without treatment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A clerk of the finishing section of a laid-off Peoples Jute Mills died of massive cardiac arrest at his house in Khalishpur on Sunday night.

Feroza Begum, wife of late Hemayet Uddin, 50, said her husband died without any medical treatment.

Shumi, a candidate of next SSC examination from Peoples Jute Mill High School and eldest daughter of Hemayet, alleged that her father could not be provided with proper treatment as the authorities concerned refused to pay his arrear salaries for last eight months and other dues amounting to Tk 7 lakh despite fervent appeals.

His body was taken to Banaripara under Nazirpur upazila in Barisal district yesterday for burial.

"We were not given any money for burial. Some of our relatives donated money for that purpose," said Feroza.

BJMC Zonal Coordinator Shamim Ahmed said payment of arrear wages or any other financial benefits was not possible as the government did not allocate any fund.

Hemayet was the first employee of a jute mill to die without medical treatment due to non-payment of his dues.

'Dhaka to get int'l nod for N-energy development'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar A Chowdhury yesterday said Bangladesh is well placed to receive international endorsement for developing nuclear energy, as the country has 'impeccable' non-proliferation credentials.

In a press statement after his meeting with Russian Ambassador Gennady Trotsenko in the city, Iftekhar said there is no reason why the international community would not endorse nuclear power here.

"Bangladesh is a signatory to the Non-proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty. Our non-proliferation credentials are impeccable. There is nothing to fear from us," he added.

Iftekhar said nuclear energy is a complex issue and decision-making in this regard will involve many stages.

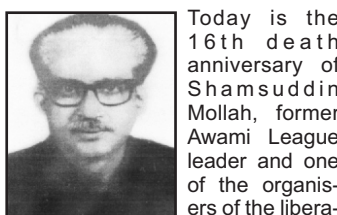
During the talks the two sides discussed energy, trade and cultural cooperation, but neither side mentioned whether nuclear energy was discussed between them.

Trotsenko told reporters that "significant developments" can be expected in Bangladesh-Russian relations in the near future.

Meanwhile at a meeting with Iftekhar, Philippines Ambassador Norberto Basilio hoped that Bangladesh would sign the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation with the Association of South East Asian Nations during its chairmanship which ends this year.

Earlier in the day, Danish Minister for Development and Cooperation called on Iftekhar to thank the government for rescuing a DANIDA employee in the Chittagong Hill Tracts two days ago.

Death anniversary



Today is the 16th death anniversary of Shamsuddin Mollah, former Awami League leader and one of the organisers of the liberation war, says a press release.

He was also the vice chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council and president of Faridpur Press Club.

On the occasion, his family members and Shamsuddin Mollah Smriti Sangsad has chalked out elaborate programmes, including offering Fateha and placing wreaths at his grave in the morning. Quarkhwan and milad mahfil will be held at his Khabaspur residence at 4:00pm.

All have been requested to attend the programmes to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Roadmap

FROM PAGE 1 by July 15 for holding the parliamentary polls. "Wait for a few more days. You will be able to know everything," he said declining to elaborate on the EC's plan.

CEC ATM Shamsul Huda on June 30 said a complete roadmap for holding the next parliamentary elections with a specific timeframe for preparing the voter list with photographs and a date for announcing the election schedule would be made public by July 15.

Since then the CEC has been working to finalise the roadmap with the help of two election commissioners. CEC Huda earlier said that the parliamentary polls might be held at the end of November or in December next year.

Officials at the EC Secretariat said the task of preparing the voter list with photographs has to be completed by October next year. The EC in its roadmap will announce the timetable for completing the electoral roll.

The EC is now also evaluating the field-level experience obtained from the Sripur pilot project where a voter list with photographs was prepared simultaneously with national identity cards. It earlier announced that it would start field-level work for preparing the voter list from mid-July.

The EC, reconstituted on February 4, prepared a draft amendment to Electoral Rolls Ordinance, 1982 and the rules to prepare the voter list with photographs.

The CEC on April 5 at a press briefing announced a set of draft proposals for electoral reforms and said they would finalise the proposals after consulting political parties. But it cannot hold such meetings due to the ban on indoor politics.

On April 4, Huda at a meeting with the law adviser asked the government to lift the ban on indoor politics, allowing the EC to hold talks with political parties.

In the roadmap, the EC may clarify its stance regarding dialogues with political parties to finalise the proposals for electoral reforms.

Listed criminal dies in shootout with police

UNB, Kushtia

A listed criminal was killed in a shootout between police and his cohorts in the district early Monday.

The dead was identified as Shamim, 27, of Kacharipara village under Daulatpur upazila.

He was a convicted fugitive in an arms case and wanted in another eight cases.

Police said they arrested Shamim from Badda area of the capital on Saturday.

According to his statement, they went to Sonaikundi village along with him (Shamim) for recovering arms and arresting his associates.

But as soon as they reached the spot at about 2:00am, the miscreants opened fire on them triggering a gun battle.

"Shamim was caught in the crossfire and died on the spot," said a spot account of the shootout.

Later, police recovered one gun and some bullets from the scene.

WEATHER TODAY				
Rise in temperature likely				
UNB, Dhaka				
Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet, Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.				
Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.				
Highest temperature 35.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 24.0 degree Celsius at Cox's Bazar.				
The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 5:18am tomorrow.				
Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:				
City/Town	Temperature in celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.5	26.4	75	73
Chittagong	30.0	25.6	87	83
Rajshahi	35.6	26.6	80	89
Khulna	32.7	27.0	88	90
Barisal	1.5	26.5	79	84
Sylhet	32.2	25.0	87	86
Cox's Bazar	31.3	24.0	80	--



Recipients of East West University (EWU) merit scholarships for Summer Semester 2007 pose for photograph with the guests at the scholarship giving ceremony in the city yesterday.