

Preserve local species of fish: President

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday called upon the people for launching a "social movement" for preservation and development of local species of fish.

The president made the remark while addressing a function marking the release of fish fry at the 'Singha' pond of Bangabhaban.

Fisheries and Livestock Adviser CS Karim, Military Secretary to the President Maj Gen Aminul Karim, Secretary to the President's Office M Sirajul Islam, and Fisheries and Livestock Secretary Syed Ataur Rahman were present on the occasion.

Iajuddin regretted that habitats of fish and their movement and breeding places are gradually shrinking due to overpopulation and decrease of natural water bodies.

He also attributed the dwindling

of fish resources to increased use of water bodies for crop cultivation, use of water for irrigation, of fertiliser and insecticide in agricultural production, and ignorance of people.

"None of us want such a situation," he said, calling for immediate initiatives and effective steps for protecting the traditional local fishes.

He called upon all the beneficiaries and other government and non-government organisations involved in the fish sector to play "more responsible role" for preservation, expansion and development of the sector having huge potential.

Iajuddin said people should be further encouraged to cultivate and preserve the local species of small fishes alongside farming commercially profitable fishes for protecting the country's water environment and bio-diversity.

He said the government has already taken various steps for the preservation of local species of fishes. All out cooperation of people and mass awareness are needed to derive full benefit out of these steps.

The president hoped that the campaign to preserve and increase the local varieties of fish would generate massive awareness among the people and help enhance their output.

He also hoped that Bangladesh would be made prosperous through the preservation and development of the local species of fishes

Iajuddin welcomed the initiative to release fish fry at the pond of Bangabhaban marking the 'campaign for preservation and expansion of local species of fish-2007'.

CS Karim and Director General of Fisheries Directorate M Nazrul Islam also spoke on the occasion.

Several DU teachers feel they are under surveillance

DU CORRESPONDENT

A number of teachers of Dhaka University (DU) feel that they have been under surveillance of law enforcement agencies as they observed two-day protest programmes earlier this week.

Some of them yesterday said they had received calls from intelligence agencies inquiring about the protest. The teachers also worry that their telephones might have been tapped.

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) observed the two-day programmes on July 21 and 22 to protest the arrest of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and the reported harassment of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia. The teachers wore black badges and did not take classes as part of the protest.

Duta President Prof Sadrul Amin said an intelligence official phoned him on July 22 to seek an appointment with him to inquire about Duta's protest programme.

"I agreed and told him to come at a certain time, but nobody turned up," he added.

At the night of July 21, police from special branches came to the Duta office and talked to Duta General Secretary Prof Anwar Hossain and Dean of Social Sciences Faculty Prof Harun-or-Rashid.

The issue was discussed at a meeting of the advisory council committee on law and order on Tuesday. The meeting asked the law enforcers to keep watch on developments on the DU campus.

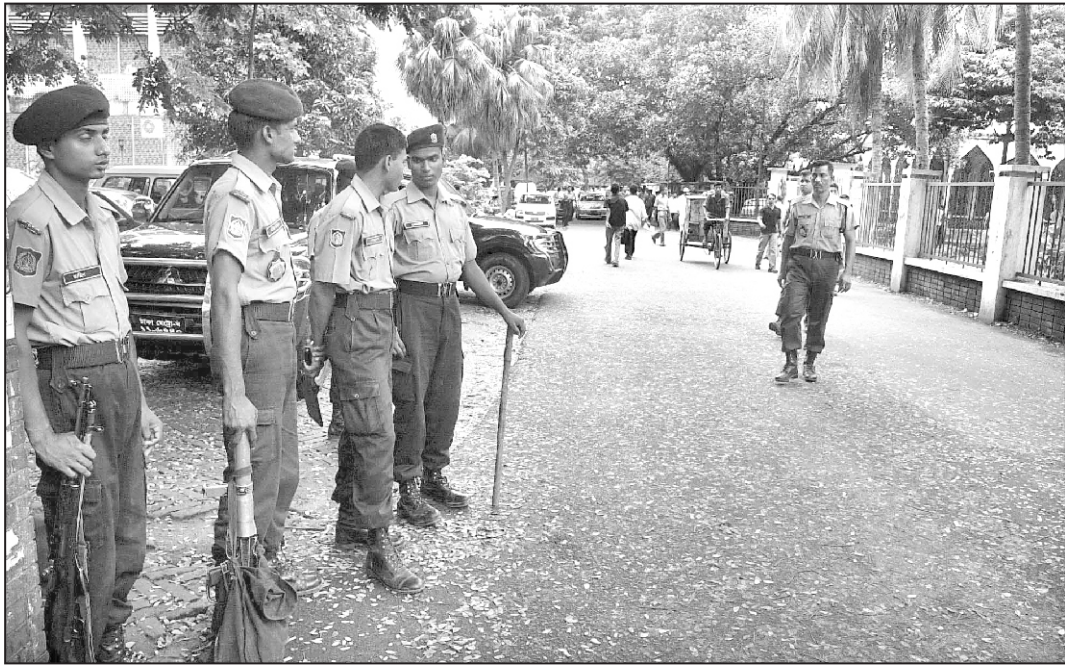


PHOTO: STAR

Policemen stand guard on Dhaka University campus yesterday as security has been beefed up in the wake of protests against the arrest of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina.

MICS 2006 REPORT LAUNCHED

Only 20pc delivery assisted by skilled health personnel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Only two in 10 women are assisted by skilled health personnel at delivery and only about one in 10 women aged 15-49 years has comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS, said a survey report yesterday.

However, the rate of iodized salt consumption, breastfeeding, immunisation coverage, and primary school attendance has been raised among the children.

According to the survey, about four in 10 infants aged 0-5 months are exclusively breastfed, eight out of 10 households consume iodized salt, about eight in 10 primary school age children attend school, and about nine in 10 children aged 12-23 months are protected against measles through immunisation.

These findings were revealed from Bangladesh Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2006 which conducted by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) and released at a city hotel.

The survey also found that four in 10 households have access to improved sanitation.

A total of 62,463 households were covered in the survey from 1,950 enumeration areas. The rate of household response was 93 per cent.

Adviser for Finance and Planning Mirza Md Azizul Islam

and Unicef representative to Bangladesh Louis Georges Arsenault were present at the launch of the survey report.

MICS is an international household survey designed by Unicef to assist countries to plug data gaps for monitoring human development in general and the situation of children and women in particular.

MICS 2006 is the ninth round of the survey in Bangladesh, the first round was conducted in 1993.

This is the only household survey in Bangladesh that provides disaggregated data up to district level.

Improved coverage of iodized



PHOTO: STAR

Recipients of 'Uro Child Literature Award 2006 and 2007' pose with the guests at the award giving ceremony at Liberation War Museum auditorium in the city yesterday.

5 litterateurs get 'Uro Child Literature Award'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five litterateurs were awarded 'Uro Child Literature Award 2006 and 2007' yesterday for their outstanding contribution to child literature.

Late poet Shamsur Rahman, writer and academician Muhammad Zafar Iqbal and writer and columnist Anisul Huq received the award for 2006 while novelist Rabeya Khatun and Ekhlassuddin Ahmed received the award for 2007.

The award carries a crest, a certificate and a cheque for Tk 20,000. The award giving ceremony organised by Bangladesh Shishu Sahitya Sangstha was held at the Liberation War Museum in the city.

Shamsur Rahman was awarded for his book titled 'Hirar Pakhir Gan', Zafar Iqbal for his book, 'Doshshi Kojon', and Anisul Huq for his book, 'Boka Goyenda', Rabeya Khatun for her book, 'Chhotoder Upuhar', and Ekhlassuddin Ahmed for his book, 'Onno EkApur'.

Dramatist Mamtazuddin Ahmed, language movement veteran Mahbub Ul Alam Chowdhury and Khairul Anam, director, Sales and Marketing of Globe Soft Drinks Ltd, gave away the awards to the recipients.

The wife of Shamsur Rahman and the wife of Zafar Iqbal received the awards on behalf of their husbands.

Speaking as the chief guest, Mahbub Ul Alam Chowdhury said the quality of education has deteriorated to such an extent that a child cannot understand literature properly.

"Stem action should be taken against the 'corrupt people' who destroyed the education system by appointing teachers in exchange of money over the years," he said and urged all to work hard to put the education system back on right track.

Amirul Islam, general secretary of Bangladesh Shishu Sahitya Sangstha, said good child literature can help children grow up mentally.

Poet Asad Chowdhury and litterateur Ali Imam also spoke.

Road accidents kill 3

STAR REPORT

At least three people were killed in separate road accidents in Pabna and Rajshahi yesterday.

Our correspondent from Pabna reports: Two people, including a schoolgirl, were killed in separate road accidents in Pabna yesterday.

The dead are Lamia Khatun, 7, a primary school student of Ratanpur village in Chatmohar upazila and Ezibar Mondol, 60, of Razapur village in Pabna Sadar upazila.

Police and the locals said the accident occurred when a passenger bus bound for Chatmohar hit Lamia on Pabna-Chatmohar highway at the village Ratanpur when she was going to school.

She was rushed to Chatmohar Hospital in critical condition where the doctors declared her dead.

Meanwhile, One of the two motorcycle riders was killed when a truck hit their motorcycle on Pabna-Nagarbari Highway at about 10:00am yesterday.

Of the motorcycle riders, Ejibar Mondol of Rajapur village died on the spot while Ismail Hossain was injured.

Ismail was rushed to Pabna General Hospital in critical condition. But the doctors transferred him to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated.

The truck driver managed to flee the spot.

RU correspondent adds: A minor girl was killed in a road accident at Godagari upazila of Rajshahi yesterday.

The victim was identified as Fatema Khatun, 4, daughter of Abu Bakkar Siddik, of village Sonadighi of Godagari upazila.

Local sources said the accident occurred when a Chapainawabganj-bound bus hit Fatema while she was crossing the road at Sonadighi at around 11:00am, leaving her dead on the spot.

BSF returns 3 trafficked children to BDR

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Members of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) returned three children, who were trafficked to India, to Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) at the Benapole check post yesterday.

The trafficked children were identified as Nivell Mandal and 14, Rintu Hossain, 12, of Kushitia and Shahidul Islam, 9, of Rajshahi.

They had been trafficked to Kolkata two years ago by an organised gang.

Police detained all three at Shialdaha Rail Station and sent them to Alipur Jail on charges of infiltration.

Projok, a Kolkata-based NGO, rescued them and kept at their shelter home.

BDR has handed over the children to Rekha Bishwas, a representative of Bangladesh Mahila Ainjibi Samity.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over Chittagong, Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at many places over Barisal and Khulna divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy rainfalls are also likely at places over Chittagong, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions, Met office said in a forecast.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. Highest temperature 32.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 23.7 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:45pm today and rises at 5:25am 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 | 30.9 | 24.0 | 88 | 88 |
| Chittagong | 28.8 | 25.0 | 85 | 97 |
| Rajshahi | 32.0 | 24.7 | 97 | 91 |
| Khulna | 31.3 | 26.8 | 83 | 88 |
| Barisal | 29.5 | 26.3 | 85 | 96 |
| Sylhet | 27.8 | 23.7 | 98 | 92 |
| Cox's Bazar | 29.8 | 24.0 | 88 | 81 |

Nowshin's father asked to resubmit application for fresh autopsy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The general recording officer of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court yesterday asked the father of Sadia Nowshin Priyanka, a college student found dead at her home at Moghbazar in the capital, to resubmit the application regarding fresh autopsy of his daughter.

Nowshin's father Sultan Faruque submitted an application with Ramna Police Station on Tuesday demanding a second autopsy of his daughter and the Ramna police forwarded it to the court for further instruction.

But the General Recording Officer MA Haque said the forwarding report was "not written accurately" and lacks "proper recommendations". So, proper action could not be taken on the basis of the report, he said and advised Nowshin's father to resubmit the application.

Meanwhile, Nowshin's parents are also planning to file a general diary as they fear that their son Rownok Shihab Jim might come under attack by her uncle Zahidul Haque Rintu, the main accused of Nowshin Murder Case.

They also refrained from sending their son to school fearing attack by Rintu.

According to family sources, General Recording Officer MA Haque told Nowshin's father that the forwarding report should have specific recommendations such as "second autopsy of Nowshin is needed for the investigation" or "a committee should be formed to conduct the autopsy report".

"In the forwarding report, the police only recommended taking 'necessary steps'," Nowshin's father said.

He now suspects that the police request report was also not made "accurately".

When contacted, Kazi Didarul Alam, sub-inspector of Ramna police station and investigation officer of the case, said, "I do not know what was written in the forwarding report. I will correct the report if the court gives such direction. But it is not our duty to make such recommendations."

Nowshin, a brilliant student of Vigarunnisa Noon School and College, was found strangled on July 18. Her father filed a murder case accusing his brother-in-law Rintu and security guard of the building.

BNP reformists to form bodies

FROM PAGE 1

The leaders admitted they now cannot contact the party chairperson to discuss various related issues due to some obstacles. Even they have no chance to talk with her over phone unless she contacts them.

"Definitely we will try to keep her in a respected position but the final decision in this regard will rest with the councillors," former state minister and pro-reform leader Shah Abul Hossain said replying to questions from reporters yesterday.

Asked about speculations that Khaleda might expel from the party some pro-reform leaders including Mannan Bhuiyan, he said, "We will take decisions according to the party constitution if she does so. But I believe she spoke against some of the party leaders due to her resentment."

On Khaleda's comments during a recent teleconference with Australia chapter of BNP, Abul Hossain said, "It is not acceptable that the party chairperson terms

some leaders betrayers."

Responding to a question, he said preparations for the party council are going on.

"About two thirds of the councillors of the party are with us and more than 105 former lawmakers have already expressed their support for the reform proposals," he said after meeting the party secretary general at his Gulshan residence.

They will organise the council with the consent of the party chairperson, he said.

Meanwhile, when contacted several councillors said they want to see the council is held with the party chief in the process.

Amjad Hossain, general Secretary of Shailakupa upazila unit of BNP in Jhenidha, said, "Reforms have to be implemented under the leadership of Khaleda Zia ... Field level leaders and workers will not accept any decision keeping her away."

Obaidul Islam Badol, General secretary of Nalchhiti upazila unit of

BNP in Jhalakathi, said, "BNP means Khaleda Zia... No reform) would take place keeping her in the dark, and party workers will not accept anything without her participation."

ABM Mosharraf Hossain, President of Kolapara upazila unit of BNP in Patuakhali, said "We also want reforms but Khaleda Zia must be involved in the process. Otherwise, people will not accept those."

On the other hand, former lawmaker Abdul Mannan Talukder and Humayun Islam Khan, president and general secretary respectively of Sirajganj district unit of BNP, said they will join the council, if asked by the party secretary general. And they will accept any decision taken at council.

President of Chuadanga district unit of BNP Mozammel Haque, also a former lawmaker, said they want to bring reforms in the party, and it does not matter whether Khaleda Zia joins the council or not.

Dismissed BSS journos urge CA to reinstate them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eighteen dismissed journalists and employees of the state-owned news agency Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) have sought intervention of the chief adviser and the information adviser to reinstate them as per directives of the High Court.

The High Court on May 21 declared the dismissal of 18 BSS journalists and staffs illegal. It also instructed the government to reinstate them within two months as the then BSS management dismissed them without showing any reasons.

The dismissed journalists said they submitted joining report to the chief editor and managing director of BSS on May 26 after the High Court verdict. "But still we are not allowed to work," one of them said.

In a letter to the chief adviser, they said the BSS authorities had 'inhumanly' dismissed 27 journalists and several staffs from the news agency after 2001 general elections.

Ctg CA student found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Police recovered the body of a young man at Mehediabagh in the port city yesterday.

The victim was identified as Fasiur Rahman Shaon, 27, son of Saidur Rahman of House No#14/A, Road No#2 at Karnaphuli Residential Area at Halishahar in the port city.

Police quoting local people said Fasiur was found dead on Badsha Mia Road at Mehediabagh at around 11:45am. His neck was tied with a cloth, police said.

Family sources said Fasiur went to Surf CAFirm near GEC intersection for coaching on Tuesday afternoon and he was missing since then.

Victim's nephew Khalilur Rahman filed a case with Kotwali Police Station in this connection.

Two missing after falling into Karnaphuli

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

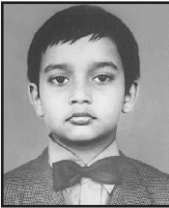
Two workers of a ship at Chittagong port went missing after they fell in the river Karnaphuli while painting the ship yesterday morning.

Port sources said the incident occurred at around 11:00am at the CUFL (Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Company Ltd) jetty of the port.

The two workers, identified as Nizam and Sohail, were engaged in painting Banglar Kollol, a ship of Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC), with two other fellow workers.

Rescuers couldn't trace the missing workers till filing of this report at 5:45pm yesterday.

Death anniversary



The seventh death anniversary of Daiyan Malik, eldest son of Malik Abdullah Al-Amin Sadi, divisional special judge, Dhaka, will be observed today, says a press release.

Daiyan Malik died of dengue fever on this day in 2000 at the age of only nine years and nine months.

On the occasion, milad mahfil will be held in orphanage and madrasa. Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Annual Urs

Annual Urs of Hazrat Shah Syed Azizul Bari (Rh) Shah Saheb of Paribagh will be held on Paribagh Mazar premises tomorrow, says a press release.

The munajat will be offered at about 11:00am.

With more misery Tigers end tour

FROM PAGE 1

opener Tamim Iqbal's second one-day fifty was not enough to stop the visitors from drowning into a second 3-0 whitewash after their Test black-out.

Bangladesh's top-order batting misery remained as they were bundled out for 157 runs in 37.1 overs in reply to Sri Lanka's 196 in the 40-overs-a-side match.

After confirming their series victory in the previous game, Sri Lanka only had an academic interest in the game, wholly reflected as skipper Mahela Jayawardene preferred to deploy his reserves against a team that had lost all their confidence following one embarrassing defeat after the other.

Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraful won the toss and put his opponents into bat in difficult conditions after the match started more than two hours late from the scheduled start, following overnight and early morning rain.

The bowlers responded brilliantly to reduce the Lankans to 61-4 but man-of-the-match Jehan

Mubarak snatched the initiative as he made 72 off 82 balls. He put on a 78-run stand with Tillakaratne Dilshan (39) for the fifth wicket.

But it could have been a different story had Abdur Razzak not dropped the lanky left-hander off Forhad Reza when he was just on 17. The fact remained that the Bangladesh fielders, including wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim, missed as many as six easy opportunities.

It was unbelievable the way Reza himself dropped Chamara Kapugedera at second slip after Shakib Al Hasan failed to clutch on to Sanath Jayasuriya's mistimed drive at cover in only the second over of the match. Pacer Shahadat Hossain was the bowler on both occasions.

Rahim, who had a miserable day, missed one easy stumping after he had dropped two chances early on, one each off Shahadat and left-arm pacer Syed Rassel.

But in the 39th over, Tamim pulled off one of the finest catches in

the history of one-day cricket. Posted at long-on, Tamim timed his leap to perfection when comeback man Upul Chandana (1) lifted off-spinner Mahmudullah Riyad's delivery for what was a sure boundary. But Tamim's superbly-timed swivel made sure that he grabbed the ball in his right hand and after he pulled off the stunner, he had a slight glint in his eye.

Bangladesh restricted their opponents to a manageable total and had an almost second-string Sri Lankan attack to face when the home side rested strike bowler Lasith Malinga, who destroyed the visitors in the second game.

But they made another disastrous start when Javed Omar (0) comically edged a wayward Farveez Maharoof delivery to Jayawardene at second slip in the fourth ball of the innings while Rahim, promoted further in the batting order, got out for a duck as well.

Ashraful joined Tamim to repair the innings during their 42-run third-wicket stand, but the Bangladesh skipper

was a little unlucky to be adjudged lbw to Nuwan Kulasekara although television replays showed ball was too high.

Bangladesh lost two more wickets to reach 5-69 when all-rounder Shakib (2) ended his terrible tour and Aftab Ahmed was brilliantly caught by wicketkeeper Kumar Sangakkara off Kulasekara, who used the condition beautifully after the two new-ball bowlers' erratic display.

Debutant Riyad and Tamim revived the hopes before left-arm spinner Sanath Jayasuriya started the carnage to become man-of-the-series by taking four wickets once again.

The 60-run sixth wicket partnership was broken when a limping Tamim came down the track to clear the mid-wicket region but was only caught by Kapugedera. Riyad played with some purpose to score a 54-ball 36.

Bangladesh are scheduled to leave Colombo tomorrow.