

Tk 120cr project to assess marine resources

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD

A project of Tk 120 crore has been taken to conduct a survey to assess the quantity of marine resources in 1.64 lakh square kilometre areas under water territory of the country.

Under the project, Department of Fisheries (DoF) will conduct the marine survey in the Bay of Bengal, sources said.

The government in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) conducted such a survey in 1974, leaving the present state and stock of marine resources in the 1.41 lakh sq km area of Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) in the sea unknown that will hamper proper management of the

marine resources, they said.

The government approved the Tk 120 crore project funded by Islamic Development Bank (IDB), a financial institute of the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC), late last year, sources said.

A project director was appointed to prepare a "set-up" for the five-year project to be implemented by 2012, they said.

Having the survey vessel Anusandhan out of order since long, the DoF will have to procure another vessel before starting the survey under the project, partially funded by Malaysia.

As such preparation of the "set-up" that will also determine shape and requirements of the vessel for the survey has started

without delay, sources said.

The survey vessel will be procured following the requirement of the project, which might take around two years, said DoF Director (Marine) Md Sanullah.

Procurement of the vessel through tender is likely to cost around Tk 60 crore while rest of the fund will be spent for the survey, he added.

Project Director Anwarul Islam said preparation of the "set-up" that started in January has already been completed.

"We are now looking for recruiting people in the 'set-up' and expect to start the project work in full swing within this month," Anwarul said.

The "set-up" comprising around 70 personnel, includes

marine expert, researchers, surveyors and other staffs, he said.

The project director also said they expect to procure the vessel and go for conducting survey by the end of 2009.

DoF Director General Rafiqul Islam said the survey is needed to know the stock of marine resources in the Bay of Bengal.

He said the knowledge on the actual stock will help them determine the optimum level of harvest and go for proper management of the marine resources.

The survey will also help them identify the areas where fishing can be encouraged or restricted and thus help the country's marine resources enrich further, he added.

Police hunt for clues in 10 murders



Dalim Mallik, ringleader of a gang, and a CNG-run auto-rickshaw used in mugging.

DWAIPAYAN BARUA

Police are hunting for clues in ten murders committed by a gang of muggers during the last two years in the port city as one of the ringleaders was arrested recently.

The gang killed people, mostly CNG auto-rickshaw passengers, after mugging their valuables.

Earlier, police arrested seven members of the gang but did not submit charge sheets as they could not nab the masterminds, police said.

Detective Branch (DB) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) arrested Dalim Mallik, the gang leader, at a residential hotel in the Reazuddin Bazar area on January 30.

Police said Dalim never took part in operations as he had controlled the gang as ringleader that mug the victims, including the auto-rickshaw passengers, before killing them in collusion with a section of auto-rickshaw drivers.

Sources said at least ten people, including lawyers, government officials, expatriate businessman and student, fell victim to Dalim's gang, known as silent killer in the port city.

One Sabbir Azad was killed in the Bayezid area in the first such incident on July 3 in 2006. Akbar Said Chowdhury, a preventive officer of Chittagong Customs authority, was murdered in the Panchlaish area on August 29 the same year.

The criminals murdered Advocate Din Mohammad while he was returning home in a CNG-run auto-rickshaw on June 19 in 2007.

Besides, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) inspector Prity Ranjan Chakma was murdered on July 19, university student Fashiul Hoque Shaon on July 24, expatriate businessman Nurul Hoque Rafiq on August 29 in 2007.

The muggers also killed four unidentified people in Khulshi, Pahartali and Kotwali areas last year.

Five of the cases were transferred to the Detective Branch (DB) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) last year while three others to Criminal Investigation Department (CID) as the officials concerned at police stations could not find out any clue in these cases, sources said.

With Dalim, DB police arrested nine other members of

the gang so far, including four CNG auto-rickshaw drivers since July last year.

Tuku Rani Chakma, wife of Prity Ranjan, said her family life is in a complete mess after the murder of Prity.

She said she wants the law enforcement agency to arrest the criminals involved in the killing.

Of the arrestees, Al Amin Gazi, Billal Hossain, Shahid Raja, Zakir Hossain, Humayun Kabir, Md Sohel and Md Selim gave confessional statements before the magistrate under Section 164 in September last year.

Al Amin Gazi, the second-in-command of the gang, in his confessional statement to Metropolitan Magistrate Md Abdul Quyum on September 17 last year said they conducted each of operation in two groups hiring two CNG-run auto-rickshaws.

He said an auto-rickshaw halts with the target passenger at the designated place in the city where one group waits in another auto-rickshaw. The waiting group swiftly got into the auto-rickshaw with the target passenger from two sides as soon as it halts before them, he added.

They travel with the passen-

gers and strangle them with either napkin or electric wire and threw them into isolated and dark roadsides after looting their valuables, he said.

All the seven criminals mentioned Dalim as their ringleader in their statements during the interrogation, said DB Inspector Abu Jafar Md Omar Faruk.

Dalim remained absconding since August last year when his cohorts were arrested, the DB police sources said.

While talking to The Daily Star at DB office yesterday, Dalim said he stays at residential hotels and only buys the valuable mobile sets looted from the victims at cheaper rate and sell those to one Kaiser alias 'Culture' at Patenga.

Dalim discloses names of a few other kingpins like Panu, Kamal and Hossain who also cooperated with him in this regard.

Faruk said they will pray for a 10-day remand for the accused for interrogation when he will be produced before the court.

Asiqul Hoque Bhuiyan, assistant commissioner (AC) of DB police, said they will be able to know about the whole ring after interrogating Dalim and submit charge sheets in this regard soon.



A project has been taken to conduct a survey to assess the quantity of marine resources in the Bay of Bengal.

theweekthatwas

Seminar on ethics in business held

Khondaker Ibrahim Khaled, former governor of Bangladesh Bank, at a seminar on Thursday emphasised the need for coordinated efforts to prevent the illogical price hike of essentials.

He said this while he was presenting a keynote paper at the seminar titled "Ethics in business" at the auditorium of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI). Noted social scientist Dr Anupam Sen chaired the seminar.

"There is a bad tendency among the business community of our country not to adhere to the sense of rightness, for which adulteration of food and selling of substandard goods are rampant and unabated in Bangladesh," Khaled said.

PHP Group Chairman Sufi Mizanur Rahman, Shippers' Council President Mahub Ali, Researcher Shakhawat Hossain, Managing Director of Masud & Brothers Abul Bashir Chowdhury, TV

personality Abdur Noor Tushar and Executive Director of Radio Today Shakil Manzur also spoke. Dr Fahmida Khatun of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) moderated the seminar.

Duplicate Bridge competition held

Duplicate Bridge Competition, one type of Intelligence Question (IQ) competition, was held in the port city on Friday. Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) Chittagong and Bangladesh Bridge Federation jointly organised the competition at the IEB centre.

The IEB Chairman M Ali Ashraf inaugurated the competition at a ceremony while the Federation General Secretary Mejbaur Rahman, ADC (General) Chittagong Mofazzel Hossain and IEB Honorary Secretary Abul Kashem were present as the guests.

Termining the game as a new addition in the arena of Chittagong sport, Ali Ashraf assured of all sorts of coopera-

tion in holding such competition. Thirty pairs of competitors took part in the contest.

Proper dev of port city underscored

Speakers on Sunday emphasised the need for coordination between the developing and service providing institutions for proper development of the port city.

"Implementation of planned development is not possible without coordination between the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC), Chittagong Development Authority (CDA), Wasa, district and police administrations, Telephone and Telegraph Board, gas, public health department, port, railway, public works and other concerned departments," they said.

They were addressing a view exchange meeting on "Development of

Chittagong city and service activities" organised by the CCC at its auditorium.

Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Hossain Zamil was the chief guest at the meeting while Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Commissioner M Akbar Ali was the special guest with acting CCC Mayor M Manjur Alam in the chair.

The speakers also stressed the need for conserving fields and waterbodies, construction of lakes for recreation, garden at all wards, walkway on the both banks of the Chaktal Khal (canal) and protecting the historical places and constructions on priority basis.

CCC Chief Executive Officer AKM Khairul Alam, Ward Commissioner Reha Alam Chowdhury, SM Iqbal Hossain, Mohammad Shahidul Alam, Niaz Mohammad Khan, Chittagong Press Club President Mohammad Ali Abbas, General Secretary Ezaz Yusufi, Chittagong Union of Journalists' (CUJ) President Mohammad Shahidul Alam and General Secretary Riaz Haider Chowdhury spoke at the meeting.

Luxurious bus introduced

Saudia Paribahan of Mostafa Group and S Alam Paribahan of S Alam group jointly introduced luxurious air-conditioned bus services on Chittagong-Dhaka and Chittagong-Cox's Bazar routes.

Mostafa Group Director and Chief Executive Zahir Uddin and S Alam Group Director Abdus Samad Labu inaugurated the service in the Garibullah Shah Mazar AC Counter area in the port city recently. Saudia Paribahan Managing Director Kafil Uddin and Shahidul Alam of S Alam group were present.

Zahir in his speech said they will introduce 100 buses on different routes, including Dhaka-Chittagong-Sylhet and Dhaka-Benapole-Chittagong.

He said introduction of the luxurious Mercedes Benz Aircor brand of Germany will help passengers to have a comfortable journey.

The fare for Chittagong-Dhaka route has been fixed at Tk 470 per head and family single Tk 500 while Tk 280 on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar route. Each of the buses costs Tk 1.5 crore. The passengers will be able to collect ticket in advance on on-line.

Discussion on works of Bankim held

Surid Fulki organised a discussion on Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyaya titled "Literature Artist Bankim" at Fulki auditorium on Monday.

Prof Anisuzzaman put up details on the works of Bankim Chandra, a pioneer in the Bengali literature.

Surid Fulki organises such a programme titled "Mukta Chintar Asar" every month. Resident Editor of Daily Prothom Alo and Poet Abul Momen also spoke in the discussion.



Participants display an array of traditional winter cakes at a stall at a daylong Pitha festival organised by Shatayu Angan on the DC Hill premises on Friday.



Artists of Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad perform at a function marking the first death anniversary of Tagore exponent and journalist Wahidul Haque at Theatre Institute of Chittagong (TIC) on Thursday.