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Sudan keen to hire workers, import jute

Dipu Moni meets
Sudanese FM
UNB, Dhaka

Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr Nafie Ali Nafie said the recruitment of Bangladeshi workers and import of jute from Bangladesh would increase in the coming years.

The assurance came when Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, now in Kuala Lumpur attending a 3-day general assembly of Malaysia's ruling party, called on Nafie yesterday morning.

Nafie congratulated Dipu Moni and conveyed regards of the Sudanese president for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The foreign minister informed Nafie that Bangladesh has immense resources of skilled and semi-skilled workers whom Sudan could exploit for its economic and infrastructural development.

Dipu Moni also mentioned
SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

ACC hamstrung from SC stay

Proceedings of 150 cases against top politicians stayed

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) cannot contest over 150 cases regarding wealth statements mostly against different top politicians as a Supreme Court verdict stayed proceedings of a graft case against Awami League lawmaker Habibur Rahman Mollah.

People accused by ACC have so far filed over 150 petitions with the High Court questioning legality of the commission's filing and continuing cases involving wealth statement anomalies.

All of these cases were filed during the immediate past caretaker government under the Emergency Powers Rules. As a result, the petitioners felt that ACC "went out of its jurisdiction" in filing and proceeding the cases.

Some well-known names among the 150 petitioners are Nazmul Huda, his wife Sigma Huda, Mirza Abbas, his wife Afroza

Abbas, and brother Mirza Khokon, Harris Chowdhury, Aman Ullah Aman, his wife Sabera Aman, Tarique Rahman's friend Giasuddin-al Mamun, Mamun's wife Shahida Yasmin and brother former lawmaker Hafiz Ibrahim, Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin, his son Mir Helal Uddin, Officer-in-Charge of Fatullah police Ashrafur Islam, Mohammad Nasim, his wife Liala Arjumand Banu, Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Manjurul Ahsan Munshi, Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku, Dr Firoz Mahmud Iqbal, his wife Intiaz Begum, Orion Group Chairman Obaidul Karim, Salauddin Ahmed, former secretary ANH Akhter Hossain, his wife Naznin Banu, Rashid-un Nabi Millat, SM Ahsan Habib, Mofazzal Haider Chowdhury Maya, his son Dipu Chowdhury, Sheikh Helal Uddin, his wife Rupa Chowdhury, Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Mufti Shahidul Islam, Atiqullah Khan Masud and his wife

Shamima Khan.

On January 25, the SC granted the leave to appeal filed by Habibur Rahman Mollah against a previous HC verdict, which upheld ACC's legality and authority to continue proceedings against him.

The four-member full bench of the Appellate Division stayed the proceedings against Mollah and granted him bail for six months.

The apex court however asked Mollah to file a regular appeal with the SC against the HC verdict in four months.

ACC counsels Advocate Anisul Huq and Khurshid Alam Khan have recently told The Daily Star they cannot take any move against the petitions questioning legality of the ACC cases until disposal of Mollah's appeal.

The consequences of most of the ACC cases are involved with the case against Mollah, they said.

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Semutang gas to ease Ctg crisis

Bapex to start production in 2 years

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration Company (Bapex) expects to begin production of gas from Semutang gas field in Khagrachhari to help ease the deficit of gas supply in Chittagong city.

Preparations for production from the gas field have already begun, more than 40 years after the field was discovered.

High officials of the company said production of 15 million cubic feet of gas per day from the field is expected to begin by June 2011.

The Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecne) has already approved a Tk 340 crore project titled "Exploration and Production Capacity Building of Bapex" in this regard.

Under this project, Bapex is to get Tk 200 crore while Bakhraabad Gas System Ltd will get Tk 140 crore. Bakhraabad Gas System Ltd is to set up a 70 km high-pressure gas pipeline using 10-inch radius pipes this year from the field to Chittagong for smooth transfer of gas.

Md Mohsin, secretary of the energy ministry and Jalal Ahmed, chairman of Petrobangla, jointly visited the Semutang gas field area earlier this month and announced the production plan from well no 5 of the field.

They said that the additional gas produced at this field would help towards beating the severe energy crisis in the country.

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WAR CRIMINALS

Trial process may start next month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said the government may begin the process of war crime trial next month.

Referring to a decision of the home ministry, he said the government will form a body next month to probe war crime. If the allegation is found true, then the accused will be arrested, he said.

The government has decided to hold the trial under the International Crime (Tribunal) Act 1973. Those who committed offences against humanity and other crimes like killings, rapes, genocide and arsons from the aspects of politics or religion during the liberation war of Bangladesh in 1971 will be tried under this act, he said.

He told The Daily Star last night that those who had

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

Firemen try to douse the flames that gutted 10 shops and nine dwellings at Cheragi Pahar intersection in Chittagong city yesterday. Story on page 2.

SL offensives kill 31

2,000 civilians flee war zone

PTI, AP, Colombo

At least 31 Tamil Tigers were killed and over 30 injured in fierce fighting with Sri Lankan security forces in the northern war zone as the troops repulsed a series of LTTE attempts to breach their forward defence lines, the military said yesterday.

Successive bids by LTTE to launch concentrated assaults at the military forward defences north of Iranapalai and east of Puthukudiyirippu were comprehensively neutralised, the Defence Ministry said citing

battlefront sources.

Meanwhile, ground sources, quoting intercepted LTTE communication and civilian escapees from the 'No Fire Zone', said the LTTE had conducted funerals for a few of its senior cadres killed in recent fighting. The Ministry said sporadic fighting and small-scale door-to-door operations are continuing in the area targeting enemy pockets and resistance positions.

"Despite its successive setbacks at the Mullaitivu battlefield, LTTE is continuing shelling artillery barrages and mortar from the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Ctg clash hurts 30

Dispute follows claim over 'mass graveyard'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

More than 30 people including several freedom fighters were injured in a clash over a 'mass grave' of 1971 in Anwara yesterday.

Muktijoddha Sangsad leaders of Anwara alleged locals hired by Nawab Khan, an alleged razakar, attacked them when they went to Mohalkhan Bazar to visit a piece of land. They claimed the land as a mass grave of the Liberation War.

Officer-in-Charge of Karnaphuli Police Station Shahab Uddin said they had to fire 10-15 rounds of blank shots to quell the situation.

Abul Kashem, president of the Freedom Fighters Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society, said Nawab Khan, managing director of Nawab & Co and a resident of North Bandar, has long

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Save Jatka week starts today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdul Latif Biswas yesterday said sustainable production of hilsha fish is a must to retain its immense economic potential.

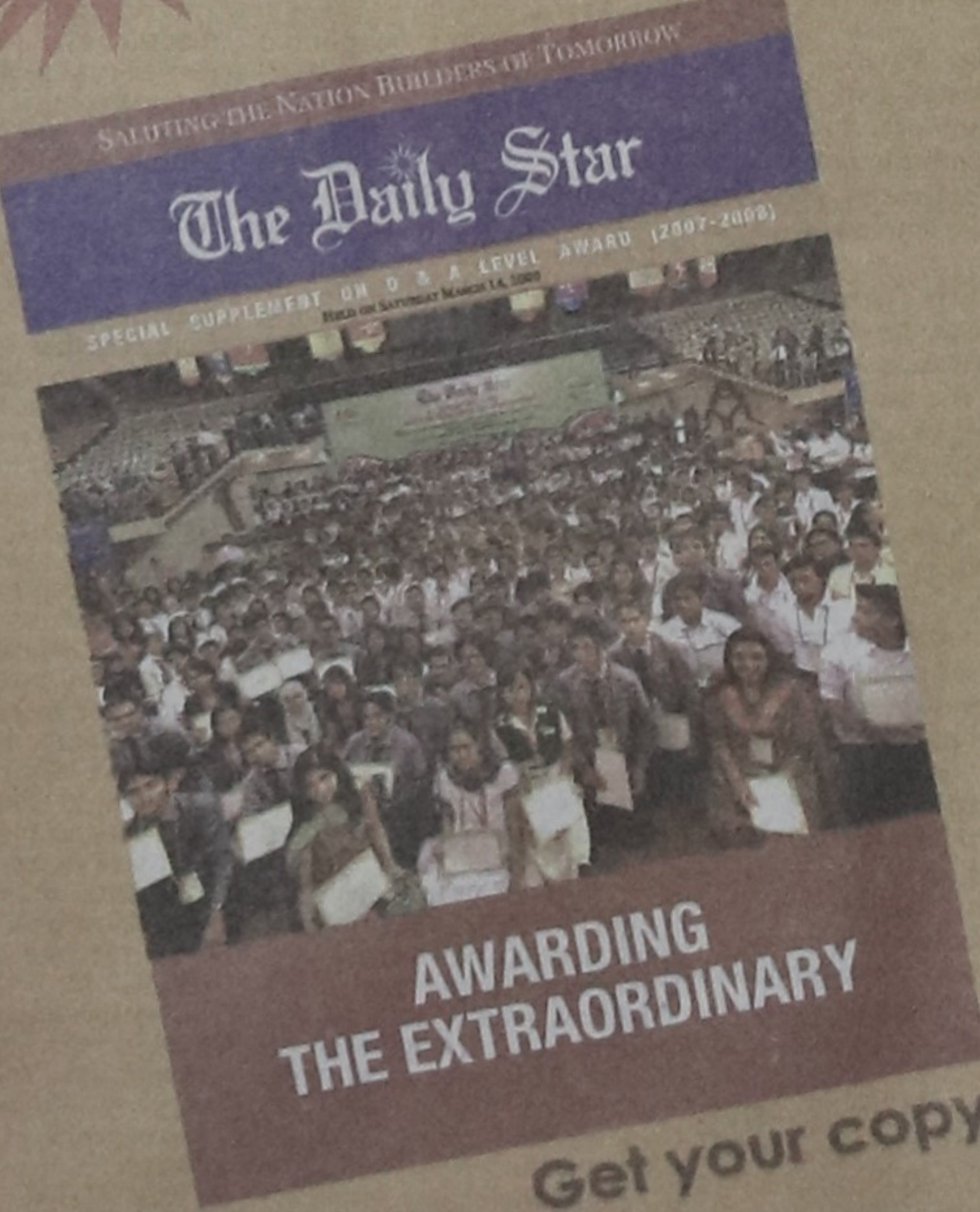
"The national fish hilsha contributes 1.25 percent to the gross domestic production," said the minister at a press conference at his office on the eve of Jatka Protection Week.

During the Jatka Protection Week that continues till April 4

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Nothing to fear in by-polls under elected govt: CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Urging all election-related officials of the upcoming by-polls to work without fear or favour, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda said there is nothing to fear in by-elections held under an elected government.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

63 BDR jawans sent to jail, four taken on remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent 63 suspected BDR mutineers to the Dhaka Central Jail and placed four others on a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Prayer Timing		
March 29		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-20	6-25
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

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