

## More fish cultivation to cut poverty

Food minister tells workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzaque yesterday said production of more fish and livestock will not only ensure protein of large number of people suffering from malnutrition, but also will reduce poverty in the country.

Calling on the officials at district and upazila levels to

introduce the new technologies of fish production to people, he said many new technologies have been developed, but those could not be spread among people.

The minister was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural function of an annual review workshop of Bangladesh Fisheries Research

Institute at Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council auditorium in the city, says a press release.

The developed countries did not play their due role in ensuring nutrition of the people in the developing countries, though they speak of reaching Millennium Development Goals, he said.

"For overall food security,

the agriculture should be modernised and more nutritious food should be produced besides food grains," the minister told the function.

The function was informed that Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute so far developed 47 new species of fish.

Principal Matiur Rahman MP, Fisheries Department Director General Rafiqul Islam and Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute Director General Dr Golam Hossain also spoke at the session moderated by Fisheries and Livestock Secretary Shah Alam.



State Minister for Science and Information and Communication Technology Yeafesh Osman speaks at the inaugural ceremony of the Premier Bank - Notre Dame National Science Festival 2009 and 19th General Knowledge Competition at the auditorium of Notre Dame College (NDC) in the city yesterday. On his right are Father Bakul S Rozario, NDC Principal Father Benjamin Costa CSC, Prof Naiyyum Chowdhury and Mukhlesur Rahman.

## 2 Shibir men arrested at Chhatak

UNB, Sunamganj

Police yesterday arrested two Shibir activists at Govindaganj in Chhatak upazila and seized an axe from their possession.

Iqbal Hossain, student of Sylhet Madan Mohan College and Borhan Uddin, student of Muktirganj Madrasa of Chhatak were arrested at about 1:00pm when travelling in an auto-rickshaw.

They were being interrogated.

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## Body to evaluate performance of PSI cos, customs dept

UNB, Dhaka

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) formed a five-member official committee to evaluate the performance of the customs department and the future of the pre-shipment inspection (PSI) companies, whose contracts end in December.

NBR member (customs and Vat admin) will lead the committee as convener while second secretary (customs evaluation) will act as member secretary. Other members of the committee include member (customs), first secretary (customs evaluation) and joint commissioner (customs evaluation and internal audit commissionerate).

The committee is to evaluate the manpower strength of the customs, automation and PSI companies and submit its report before August 1, as the parliamentary standing committee on finance ministry is scheduled to visit the NBR.

"The committee will rec-

ommend measures for implementation within a short time," an NBR official told UNB.

Some 2,762 posts, out of approved 7,399, remained vacant in the customs department for long.

Earlier, NBR formed a six-member taskforce headed by DG of customs intelligence Abdul Mannan Sikdar that suggested continuation of PSI until enhancing the capacity of the customs department.

Representatives from the business community in the taskforce included Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry first vice-president Abul Kashem Ahmed and adviser Monjur Ahmed.

The mandatory PSI system was introduced in February 2000 at the insistence of business community.

Contract with PSI agents Inspectorate Griffith was cancelled in December 2004 and Cotecna in March 2008 for irregularities.

At present ITS (UK), SGS (Switzerland), Bureau Veritas (France) and OMIC (Japan) are assigned for PSI activities in five blocks. Their contracts will end in December.

## BSTI-Rab team closes illegal food factory at Demra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A combined team of Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institute (BSTI) and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday seized different food items from a factory and sealed it off, as it was illegally producing and marketing these items at Demra in the city.

BSTI sources said they also filed a case with Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) Court against the owner of the factory.

Rab sources said the combined team seized five cartons of energy drinks, 25 cartons of mustard oil, five cartons of fruit syrup, 20 cartons of soya sauces, 30 cartons of honey and 10 cartons of jam from the factory at Shanir Akhra in the area.

They will continue the drive against the sub-

standard and adulterated goods for indefinite period, sources added.

## Attack on Studio 45 condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Furniture Industries Owners' Association has demanded impartial investigation into the attack on Studio 45, a furniture showroom, at Gulshan in the city on July 2 and exemplary punishment to the culprits.

They urged the government to realise compensation from the people responsible so that the showroom can resume its business.

The leaders also demanded security to the traders to run their business smoothly, said a press release yesterday.

In a written statement, the chairman of the organisation expressed grave concern over the incident.

"Furniture business in the country is booming. It has started contributing to make the country's economy vibrant. But the incident has halted the process."

Terming the looting barbaric, he feared the incident would discourage foreign investors.

He also conveyed sympathy to around 400 officials and workers who have been passing their days with certainty.

On the night of July 2, a group of plunderers attacked the showroom and looted valuables.



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