

Death threat to Pankaj condemned

**DU CORRESPONDENT**  
 Different socio-political organisations yesterday condemned the death threat to Gono Forum Presidium Member Pankaj Bhattacharya. Leaders of the organisations demanded proper security to the Gono Forum leader and immediate arrest of the culprits responsible.  
 On March 19, a man claiming himself to be a member of UPDF threatened Pankaj over phone to kill him if he continues working for the indigenous people, says a press release.  
 Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain and Acting General Secretary Subrata Chowdhury, Chittagong Hill Tracts Hill Students' Council, Sammilita Samajik Andolan and Jubo Gono Forum, in separate messages, protested the threat.

Tiger kills fisherman

**UNB, Satkhira**  
 A tiger killed a fisherman while he was catching fish at Podkhali canal near the river Chuna in Sundarbans yesterday.  
 The victim was identified as Mohammad Morol, 60.  
 A local forest official said the body, which bore several injury marks, was recovered from Satkhira range of west forest department at 3:00pm.

Death anniversary

**METRO DESK**  
 The 18th death anniversary of former secretary, freedom fighter and social worker Nurul Momen Khan Mihir will be observed today, says a press release.  
 On the occasion, Qurankhwani and doa mahfil will be held at mosques and orphanages at village Shologhar in Bikrampur, Munshiganj.  
 Relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the doa mahfil.



PHOTO: PID  
 Li Jing, vice governor of Yunnan province of China, receives Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Kunming when the Bangladesh premier reached the airport yesterday.

2.5 lakh children die from preventable causes a year

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 Around 2.5 lakh children die from easily preventable causes in Bangladesh a year before they reach the fifth birthday, speakers at a national consultation on newborn and child survival said yesterday.  
 Save the Children organised the consultation to launch a five-year worldwide campaign titled 'Every One' to create a common platform for all the agencies working to save the children's lives.  
 Millennium Development Goal 4 requires a two-thirds reduction in child mortality by 2015.  
 Though Bangladesh is on the track to achieve the goal, the country still has to do a lot to stop preventable deaths of children, the speakers said.  
 The direct causes of deaths include pneumonia, measles,

diarrhoea, malaria, HIV and Aids and neonatal conditions, which are easily treatable diseases, according to a Save the Children report presented at the consultation.  
 Nearly 90 lakh children die a year across the world before reaching their fifth birthday, meaning one child dies every three seconds, said the report. Around 97 percent of those children die in low- or middle-income countries.  
 Around 69 children in every 1000 die in Bangladesh before reaching the fifth birthday, said Country Director of Save the Children-USA Kellend Stevenson.  
 "The deaths are preventable and the health conditions of which they die are treatable," he added.  
 Country Director of Save the Children-Sweden-Denmark Niels Bentzen said all the children, who are mem-

bers of the human family, have the right to life and survival.  
 "Every child has right to family care, healthcare and education and must have protection against negligence, cruelty and exclusion," he said.  
 The aim of the campaign is to provide every child an equal chance to survive, said Bentzen.  
 The campaign is a collaborative effort by all the Save the Children agencies.  
 Save the Children reaches 8 lakh children in Bangladesh with various life-saving programmes.  
 Country Director of Save the Children-Australia Sultan Mahmud, Country Director of Save the Children-UK Suman Sengupta, women's rights activist Farida Akhtar, Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury of Gonoshasthaya Kendra and FBCCI President Annisul Huq also spoke.

JATKA PRESERVATION WEEK BEGINS TODAY  
 Additional 4.8 lakh tonnes of hilsa produced in 6 yrs

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 An additional 4.83 lakh tonnes of hilsa worth Tk 12,075 crore has been produced in the last six years since the government started implementing jatka (hilsa fry) preservation programme.  
 Around five lakh fishermen are directly involved in catching hilsa in rivers as well as sea and 20 lakh people are engaged in processing hilsa for export.  
 Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdul Latif Biswas said this at a press conference organised by the ministry at Matsya Bhavan in the city yesterday on the eve of Jatka Preservation Week 2010.  
 In a message on the occasion, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said this is the best time to take all-out steps to protect jatka to increase hilsa production.  
 "Contribution of hilsa fish to the national economy is enormous," she added.  
 The fisheries minister will inaugurate the week today and distribute VGF cards among the fishermen, who will be affected due to protection of jatka, under food support programme.  
 Although jatkaning of jatka is banned according to Fish Protection Act since 1950, the law could not be implemented at different times earlier due to number of reasons.  
 The minister said jatka protection programme is being implemented at 91 upazilas under 20 districts.  
 The programme was started in 2003-04 fiscal, he said, adding that the production of hilsa was 1.99 lakh tonnes before the programme.  
 Latif said they have also been implementing a project to rehabilitate those fishermen who are involved in catching jatka and have allocated Tk 2 crore to 18,355 beneficiaries.

The allocation for the programme in the current fiscal is Tk 2 crore, he added.  
 The government has been giving food support to 1,64,740 fishermen at 59 upazilas under 10 districts.  
 Every family has been receiving 30 kg food per month, the minister said, adding that the food support programme was started in February and will be continued until May.  
 They have also started a project titled 'Jatka Protection, Alternative Employment and Research Project' at 20 upazilas under four districts, including Chandpur, Laxmipur and Patuakhali.  
 The total project cost is Tk 22.88 crore which will run for five years aimed at increasing production of hilsa, building awareness of preserving jatka and creating alternative sources of income.



Moti Master passes away

**METRO DESK**  
 Matiur Rahman Bhuiyan (Moti Master), an organiser of the War of Liberation and educationist of Keraniganj, passed away due to old age complications at his residence at village Bhawal Monoharia in Keraniganj on March 18 (Thursday) at the age of 91, says a press release.  
 Moti Master, father of former secretary general of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, left behind his wife, five daughters, four sons, and a host of students and admirers to mourn his death.  
 He was laid to rest at Joynagar graveyard after a namaz-e-janaza on the Ati Bhawal High School premises in Keraniganj after Asr prayers the same day. He was one of the founder members of Ati Bhawal High School.  
 His qulkhwani will be held at his village home at Bhawal Monoharia in Keraniganj after Zohr prayers today.  
 His elder son freedom fighter Habibur Rahman Bhuiyan had of a cardiac arrest at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Disease in the city on March 13, a week before his death.  
 State Minister for Law and local Awami League lawmaker Quamrul Islam and AL lawmaker and Keraniganj Upazila AL Convener Nasrul Hamid Bipu, Keraniganj Upazila Chairman Shaheen Ahmed and Dhaka Zila Awami League Organising Secretary Abu Siddique expressed deep shock at his death.  
 They prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family.

**WEATHER**

**Dry weather likely**

**UNB, Dhaka**  
 Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.  
 Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.  
 The sun sets in the capital at 6:10pm today and rises at 6:01am tomorrow.  
 Yesterday's highest temperature of 38.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Rangamati and the lowest of 18.3 degrees at Srimangal.  
 The 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	35.5	21.5	49	36
Chittagong	34.5	21.6	64	34
Rajshahi	37.2	19.9	56	44
Khulna	35.7	21.0	77	60
Barisal	36.2	20.4	65	56
Sylhet	36.8	21.0	45	44
Cox's Bazar	34.2	23.5	72	69

Woman held in connection with rape of teenage girl

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 Police arrested a woman yesterday in connection with the rape of a teenage girl at Nandipara in the city's Khilgaon area early Friday.  
 With the arrest of Nasima Begum, a neighbour of the victim, three people have been arrested so far.  
 Officer-in-Charge (OC) Nazim Uddin of Khilgaon Police Station said they arrested Nasima as she helped the criminals by giving them information about the victim.  
 The victim's sister said they started staying at the rented house on March 4.  
 OC Nazim said they are trying to arrest eight other accused, but refused to disclose their names for the sake of investigation.

