DHAKA SUNDAY MARCH 21, 2010

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

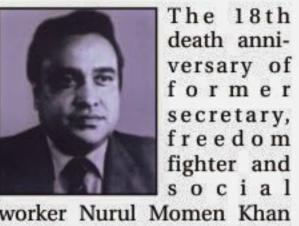
the body, which bore several injury marks, was recovered from Satkhira range of west forest department at 3:00pm.

Death anniversary

The 18th

former

METRO DESK



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.



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

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 middleincome countries. Around 69 children in every

> reaching the fifth birthday, said Country Director of Save the Children-USA Kellend Stevenson. "The deaths are preventable and the health conditions

1000 die in Bangladesh before

able," he added. Country Director of Save the Children-Sweden-Denmark Niels Bentzen said

all the children, who are mem-

of which they die are treat-

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

METROPOLÎTAN/NEWS

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 portprogramme. programme.

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 Bhaban in the city yesterday on the eve of Jatka PreservationWeek 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.

to the national economy is beneficiaries.

UNB, Dhaka

Office said.

Srimangal.

City/Town

Chittagong

Cox's Bazar

Rajshahi

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

Dhaka

6:01am tomorrow.

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 sup-

Although netting of jatka is Around five lakh fishermen banned according to Fish Protection Act since 1950, the law could not be implemented at different times earlier due to a 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 hilsha 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 allo-"Contribution of hilsa fish cated Tk 2 crore to 18,355

Humidityin

percentage

Evening

44

Morning

64

77

65

45

72

WEATHER

Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met

The sun sets in the capital at 6:10pm today and rises at

Yesterday's highest temperature of 38.4 degree Celsius

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity

Min

21.5

21.6

19.9

21.0

20.4

21.0

23.5

was recorded at Rangamati and the lowest of 18.3 degrees at

recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Temperature in

Celsius

Max

35.5

34.5

37.2

35.7

36.2

36.8

34.2

Dry weather likely

the country in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

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.

Woman held in connection with rape of teenage girl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

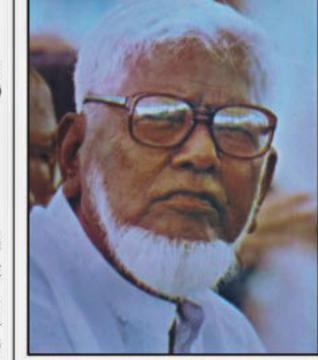
Police arrested a woman yesterday in connection with the rape of a teenage girl at Nandipara in the city's Khilgaon area early Friday.

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.



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 Bhuyian, 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 died 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.

