



PHOTO: STAR

Fisheries Department organises a boat rally on the Ramnabad river at Galachipa in Patuakhali on the occasion of Jatka Protection Week 2010 that began yesterday.

JATKA PROTECTION WEEK 2010 BEGINS

Committee soon to prepare list of real fishermen

HELEMUL ALAM, from Bhola

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdul Latif Biswas yesterday said the government would form a committee soon to prepare a list of real fishermen across the country.

The 11-member committee, headed by chairman of a union parishad, will prepare the list and then every fisherman will get an ID card to avoid any kind of problem, he added.

"The ID cards will reduce the irregularities of distribution of food support to the fishermen," the minister said, adding that a circular will be issued in this connection soon.

He said this as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of 'Jatka Protection Week 2010' at Town Hall Square of Daulatkhani upazila in Bhola with Awami League lawmaker Tofail Ahmed in the chair.

Latif, who inaugurated the week, warned the concerned authorities of taking action against them for any kind of irregularity in distribution of food support to fishermen, who will be affected due to protection of jatka (hilsa fry).

Giving assurance to fishermen, he said the government has already increased the amount of food support from 10 kg to 30 kg of rice, which are being given to the affected fishermen for four months.

The government has been implementing a project to rehabilitate the fishermen who are involved in catching jatka and allocated Tk 2 crore to 18,355 beneficiaries, he added.

The fisheries minister said they have started a Tk 22.88-crore project in 20 upazilas under four districts, including Chandpur, Laxmipur and Patuakhali, titled 'Jatka Protection, Alternative Employment and Research Project' to increase hilsa production, build aware-

ness of preserving jatka and create alternative employment.

Tofail Ahmed urged the government to start giving fisheries loan to the fishermen like agriculture loan.

He also called for saving Bhola from erosion as a huge number of people, who were once rich, now turned into fishermen due to erosion of the river Meghna.

The minister and the AL leader later distributed 60 kg rice to each fisherman for two months' food support and a sewing machine.

Fisheries and Livestock Secretary Md Sharful Alam, Deputy Commissioner of Bhola Mejbaul Islam, Director General of Fisheries Department Md Mujibur Rahman and Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation Chairman Khurshida Khatun also spoke.

The programme was followed by a boat rally where some 100 fishermen took part.

QUALIFICATIONS OF HEADMASTER Edn ministry to scrap earlier decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The education ministry is going to retreat from its earlier decision that no teacher having two third classes in examinations will be allowed to be a headmaster of any higher secondary or secondary educational institutions, said a parliamentary body yesterday.

The chief of the parliamentary standing committee on education ministry informed reporters of the decision after the meeting at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban in the city.

"The ministry officials, including the education minister, agreed with the committee's recommendations to scrap the ministry's earlier circular that mentioned no teacher securing two third classes in any examinations will be able to be a headmaster of any secondary and higher secondary educational institutions," said Rashed Khan Menon, chairman of the committee.

The ministry officials at the said meeting they would publish a new circular scrapping the earlier one as soon as possible and recruitment of headmasters in the secondary and higher secondary educational institutes will be held as per the new circular.

Education ministry on October 24 in 1995 published a circular that barred any teacher with two third divisions from being a headmaster of any secondary or higher secondary educational institutions.

The parliamentary standing committee on August 3, 2009 asked the ministry to scrap the circular and allow teachers with two third classes eligible for the posts of headmasters.

Student, police clash in Bogra: 10 injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

At least 10 people, including a journalist, were injured in a clash between the students of Bogra Institute of Health Technology (IHT) and police yesterday afternoon.

The unruly students also ransacked some vehicles and houses and put up a barricade on the road in front of the institute for about one and a half hours.

Police lobbed 11 rounds of tear shells and fired blank shots to bring the situation under control.

Police and local people said the students of the institute had an altercation with local youths over playing in the field of IHT about a year ago.

When the students of the institute went to

nearly Jiladarpara to make phone calls yesterday, local people got engaged in an altercation with the students in a sequel to last year's incident.

At one stage, two students went to their hostel and told other students that local people has detained a student and snatched his cell phone.

He also said that the local people were demanding Tk 30,000.

As the news spread among the students, they rushed to the spot and ransacked the house of Ashraf Alam, an assistant of a lawyer.

On information, police rushed to the spot, but the students threw brickbats on the policemen and journalists from the rooftop of their hostel.

The camera of Shafiqul Azam Kamal, a photo-journalist of the Janakantha, was hit by a brickbat.

Religious leaders can raise awareness about extremism

Says US envoy

UNB, Dhaka

US Ambassador James Moriarty yesterday said religious and community leaders have ability to raise public awareness against communal violence, religious extremism, corruption and weak governance that have shaken the countries around the world, including in Asia.

"Promoting development, democracy, social harmony, mutual co-existence, and tolerance for diversity are urgent tasks for all nations... Where these values are not upheld, people suffer," he said at the opening session of a four-day regional conference on 'The Role of Religious Leaders and Community Leaders in Advancing Development in Asia'.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Md Shajahan Miah, Ari Alexander of USAID, Washington, Kamal Ahmed, acting Secretary to the Religious Affairs Ministry, Hasan Majumdar, country representative, the Asia Foundation, and Shamin Mohammad Afzal, director general of the Islamic Foundation, spoke at the opening session at Hotel Radisson in

the city.

Around 70 religious and community leaders from 14 countries in Asia are taking part in the conference. The countries include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, India, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Tajikistan.

The conference, co-hosted by the Asia Foundation, aims to facilitate dialogue and exchange of experiences among religious and traditional leaders of multiple faiths, political actors, and development practitioners.

Describing Bangladesh as a pioneer among Asian nations in engaging social and religious leaders in the national development, Moriarty said the regional conference in Dhaka is part of President Obama's commitment to advancing democracy and development through global engagement.

"America values the important role of social leaders. We are committed to supporting your efforts to create a better world for future generations," he told the conference.

3 murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One person was stabbed to death at Arambagh and two others were strangled in separate incidents at Dakkhinkhan and Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city yesterday.

Identified as Didarul Alam, 40, a trainer of Jubo Unnayan Department at Chittagong, the victim was found with stab injuries in front of the Al Helal Police Box of Arambagh around 5:30am.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Abu Nayem Mohammad Maksudur Rahman, Assistant Director of Dhaka Jubo Unnayan Department, said Didarul Alam came to Dhaka from Chittagong on official duty on Saturday.

Motijheel police said he might have fallen victim to snatchers who made off with his mobile phone.

Meanwhile, Dakkhinkhan police recovered the body of an unidentified young woman of around 22 from a building at Fayyadabad in the area.

Police said the legs, hands and throat of the body were tied with rope and scarf.

House owner Rafiqul Islam said one Faruque Hossain, identifying her as wife, rented the flat on March 10 and yesterday they found its door open and the body left lying on the bed.

Sher-e-Bangla Nagar police recovered the body of an unidentified youth from the International Trade Fair premises at around 3:30pm.

AL protests Shawkat's remarks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif yesterday protested BNP Chairperson's Adviser Shawkat Mahmud's derogatory remarks on the prime minister.

Some hired intellectuals like Shawkat Mahmud made audacious, defamatory and provocative remarks on the prime minister over the issue of Zia's grave, proclaimer of independence and Khaleda Zia's cantonment residence, Hanif said in a statement.

Shawkat, also the president of the Jatiya Press Club, made the remarks at a grassroots-level conference of the BNP in Cox's Bazar on Saturday.

AL leader Hanif called on Shawkat to refrain from making such provocative remarks.

He also alleged that Shawkat engaged himself in spreading falsehood for his personal gains.

Hanif also demanded that the government immediately bring Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman Koko back from abroad and put them on trial on specific charges.



PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka Metropolitan Potters' Multipurpose Cooperative Society takes out a procession from in the city yesterday protesting demolition of the makeshift shops on the footpath in front of Shishu Academy.

BDR MUTINY TRIAL IN SATKHIRA 12 witnesses give depositions

STAR REPORT

Twelve witnesses yesterday gave depositions before a BDR special court in a case of mutiny against 60 personnel of 7 Rifle Battalion at Nildumar in Shyamnagar upazila of Satkhira district, our Satkhira correspondent reports.

All the accused mutineers were present in the court during the witnesses' depositions.

Including yesterday's 12, 27 out of total 40 witnesses gave their deposition to the three-member Special Court-1 presided over by Maj General Md Mainul Islam, also the Director General of BDR.

Two other members of the court are Lt Col Gazi Khalid Hossain and Maj Lutful Karim. The court adjourned proceedings till 9:00am today.

Deputy Attorney General advocate Khasruzzaman was present in the court as a representative of Attorney General. He helped the court as per the BDR Act 1972.

Prosecutor Lt Col Badrul Alam produced the witnesses

including 11 BDR soldiers and a civilian Rabiul Islam, also member of Burigoalini union.

The court, which has been set up at 41 Rifle Battalion Headquarters in Satkhira to conduct the trial of the 7 Rifle Battalion yesterday resumed its proceedings after adjourning it on January 21.

The trial began on December 7 last year and the court framed charges against the 60 accused on January 18.

Sixteen of the 60 accused in this case admitted to their involvement in mutiny and begged for mercy in writing before the court on January 20.

Meanwhile, our staff correspondent in Rajshahi reports: 93 BDR members were produced before the District Judge's court of Rajshahi yesterday in a sedition case, which was filed after the mutiny in Rajshahi.

However, the Third Additional District Judge Rasheda Sultana fixed May 23 for next date of appearing as the district judge was transferred recently.

1,025 Yaba tablets recovered, 5 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-1) recovered 1,025 pieces of Yaba tablets from separate places last night and arrested five people, including two suspected Myanmar nationals.

Senior Assistant Director Raihan Asgar Khan of Rab-1 said they first arrested Rabbi with 50 Yaba tablets at Gazipur at about 1:30pm.

Acting on his information, Rab then arrested Mehedi, Mainul, Rafique and Anwar and recovered the remaining tablets from Mohakhali, Malibagh, Jatrabari and Ahmedbagh in the capital.

The Rab suspected that Rafique and Anwar might have been Myanmar nationals and they smuggled the drugs to Bangladesh through Teknaf border.

UK welcomes BNP's return to parliament

UNB, Dhaka

The UK government has welcomed opposition BNP's return to parliament and appreciated its role in strengthening democracy, said British High Commissioner Stephen Evans after a meeting with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office last night.

Evans told newsmen that his government has appreciated the role of BNP in parliament, which will strengthen democracy.

The British envoy said his discussion with Khaleda covered various issues, including cooperation in energy sector, exploration of gas and minerals and protection of the environment where the British companies are investing. The discussion was fruitful, he added.

Khaleda assured the British envoy of extending her party's cooperation to the initiative of Westminster Foundation.

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প্রতি বর্গফুট ২৭০০ টাকার ফ্ল্যাট-এর মালিক হবেন।
মাত্র ১ (এক) লক্ষ টাকার ফ্ল্যাট সুবিধা, কোন ডাউন পেমেন্ট ছাড়াই।
সহনীয় মাসিক কিস্তিতে দীর্ঘমেয়াদী ঋণ সুবিধা।
সংলগ্ন ভবন থেকে ২০ মিনিট সময়ের দূরত্বে প্রকল্পের অবস্থান।
খোলামেলা প্রকৃতির কোলা মনোরম স্থাপত্য-শৈলীর সমারোহ।
নিজস্ব স্থায়ী পানি সরবরাহ ব্যবস্থা।
মহানগরীর অতি নিকটে কোলাহলমুক্ত প্রাকৃতিক মনোরম পরিবেশ ও প্রকল্প সংলগ্ন বহমান নদী।
কোলাহলমুক্ত সামাজিক অনুষ্ঠানগুলির জন্য পর্যাপ্ত খোলা জায়গা ও ব্যাপক কমিউনিটি সুবিধাসমূহ।
প্রকল্প সংলগ্ন প্রকৃতির অত্যাধুনিক শপিং কমপ্লেক্স।
বিশিষ্ট পুশিফ অফিসারসহ বহুমুখী সমবায় সমিতির মালিকানাধীন 'এ্যাডভান্সড পুশিফ টাউন' প্রকল্প কর্তৃপক্ষের ব্যবস্থায় প্রকল্প এলাকার সার্বক্ষণিক বিশেষ নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা সুবিধা।
প্রকল্প অবস্থান ও ঢাকা-৩ উত্তরমুখী বোশাঘাটের জন্য সার্বক্ষণিক সীতাতপ নিয়ন্ত্রিত শাটেল সার্ভিসের সুবিধা। অদূরপরিষেবে প্রকল্প সংলগ্ন স্থায়ী পাবলিক বাস স্ট্যান্ড।
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