



Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) demolishes illegal portion of a multi-storey building at Shantinagar in the city yesterday.

# JATKA PROTECTION CAMPAIGN PAYS OFF

## Hilsa production up by 6 lakh tonnes in 7 yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The production of hilsha has increased by 5.96 lakh metric tons in the past seven years since the launch of a campaign to protect jatka (hilsa fry), according to the official statistics.

The figures were presented at a workshop on the evaluation of the National Jatka Protection Programme at the Bangladesh Medical Association auditorium in the city.

The evaluation report on Jatka Protection Programme says that the annual harvest of hilsa has gradually increased since 2003-04 when the campaign kicked off officially.

Fisheries department, the local

administration, the navy and the Coast Guard have conducted drives against catching of jatka in seven districts during the campaign. Fishermen were provided with rehabilitation programmes under the programme, the report says.

During the drives, they have seized 198.48 metric tons of jatka and 112.4 lakh metres of illegal fishing nets.

Speaking as the chief guest at the workshop, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Md Abdul Latif Biswas said the number of jatka have increased in recent times after the campaign was undertaken, which is a positive sign.

"Hilsa is our national resources; we

must protect jatka and the mother hilsa to protect them from being extinct," he added.

He also said, "Some fishermen have faced problems due to the campaign, but we have tried to rehabilitate them properly."

The jatka protection campaign continues from November to May each year. Under the campaign, the fisheries department and local administration also conduct awareness campaign. The campaign is conducted in 20 districts and 92 upazilas.

Director General of the Fisheries Department Md Majibur Rahman also spoke at the workshop chaired by Md Sharful Alam.

# 'Plant at least 3 saplings to make country green'

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday urged all to plant at least three saplings at their own initiative at homes and on roadsides and embankments to make the country green.

The president gave the call while inaugurating the tree planting programme at Bangabhaban as part of the ongoing National Tree Plantation Campaign-2010.

Addressing the function, he said there is no alternative to planting trees for protecting the environment.

Mentioning that Bangladesh is a disaster-prone country due to its geographical position, he said it is essential to build a greenbelt across the huge coastal region at southern part of the

country to protect it from natural calamities.

"I'm happy to know that the government has taken a special programme in this regard and also taken necessary steps to protect bio-diversity."

Zillur described tree as a close friend of human race and nature and said the role of trees in fulfilling the basic need of human beings including food, cloth, housing, healthcare and employment generation is

immense.

"Tree is playing an important role in keeping the globe livable through maintaining the ecological balance," he said, adding that plants could play a significant role to protect the human race from the adverse impacts of the climate change.

Quoting Prophet Muhammad (sm), the president said the prophet had asked the human beings to plant saplings

even if they know that the doomsday is imminent.

Wishing all success of the national tree plantation campaign, he hoped that the country would be turned into a 'Sabuj Bangla' (green Bangladesh) with combined efforts from all.

State Minister for Environment and Forest Dr Hassan Mahmud and secretaries concerned were present on the occasion.



A view exchange meeting was held at Burhanuddin Post Graduate College in the old part of the city yesterday demanding removal of chemical and inflammable products from the residential areas in the capital.

# Protect HR: President

BSS, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday urged all concerned to take effective measures for protecting human rights across the country.

The President was talking to a five-member delegation of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) at Bangabhaban in the city.

The delegation, led by the commission Chairman Justice Amirul Kabir Chowdhury, submitted its annual report for 2009-2010 to the president.

During the meeting, the delegation told

the president that the human rights situation of the country is improving and the commission is relentlessly working to ensure human rights for all.

The delegation also apprised the president of its regular activities and sought his cooperation for further development of the commission.

Zillur assured the delegation of extending his all-out support for protecting the human rights in the country as well as allocating the necessary budget to build the commission's office and recruit its staff for smooth activities.

## PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

# Increase budgetary allocation

## Demands NFOWD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) yesterday demanded an increase in the budgetary allocation for the people with disabilities to improve their living standards and ensure their rights.

It also called for initiating comprehensive development projects under the coordination of different ministries for the development of physically and mentally challenged people.

NFOWD leaders placed the demands at a press conference on 'Expectations and achievement of people with disabilities in the national budget' at the National Press Club yesterday.

NFOWD president Khandaker Jahurul Alam, secretary general Jawherul Islam Mamun, lawmakers Advocate Fazle Rabbi Miah and Advocate Mir Shawkat Ali Badsha were present at the press conference.

"Before the formulation of the national budget, we placed some proposals to the finance minister for sustainable development of the people with disabilities. But we found no reflection of our proposals in the

national budget," Mamun said.

"So, we categorically demand steps to implement our proposal," he added.

According to the Allocation of Business System of ministries, only the social welfare ministry is solely responsible for initiating different projects for the people with disabilities. Mamun said.

"So, we demand amendment to the Allocation of Business System immediately and implementation of development projects under coordination of all the ministries to transform the people with disabilities into human resources," he said.

Their other demands include allocation of Tk 25 crore for countrywide survey on the people with disabilities, their identification and registration, allocation of Tk 10 crore for rehabilitation of the acid victim and physically challenged women, free textbooks for them and allocation of Tk 18 crore for their primary education projects, allocation of Tk 5 crore for legal aid and allocation of Tk 35 crore for construction of sports complex.

## Trader shot, Tk 13 lakh looted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of armed muggers shot a trader in the left leg and made off with Tk 13.90 lakh in his possession injuring him at Shyampur Lalkuthi in the capital yesterday noon.

Jalil Dhali, 35, a wholesaler of onion and garlic at Farashganj in Old Dhaka, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with bullet injury to his leg.

Dhali told reporters at DMCH that a gang of around seven intercepted him on his way to North Brook Hall Road branch of National Bank.

The muggers fired at his left leg as he resisted snatching the money he was carrying to deposit in the bank, he said.

One of his employees, who accompanied him, took him to DMCH, he said, adding that the muggers fled after snatching.

Officer-in-charge (OC) Kazi Nazrul Islam of Sutrapur Police Station said the muggers were lying in wait in the area.

The OC said they are investigating the incident.



Journalists hold a rally in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding immediate release of the daily Amar Desh Acting Editor Mahmudur Rahman.

## Journalists demand continuous publication of Amar Desh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalists held a rally in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding immediate release of the daily Amar Desh Acting Editor Mahmudur Rahman and steps to ensure uninterrupted publication of the newspaper.

People from different professions expressed solidarity with the journalists during the two-hour demonstration that began at 11:00am. Later, they took out a procession, said a press release.

National Press Club President Shawkat Mahmud, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) President Ruhul Amin Gazi, BFUJ Secretary General MA Aziz, Sammito Peshajibi Parishad member secretary Dr AZM Zahid, Dhaka Union of Journalists President Abdus Shaheed, among others, spoke at the rally.

A rally of professionals will be held in front of the National Press Club at 3:00pm today to press home the same demand.

Meanwhile, the Ain o Sallish Kendra (ASK), a human rights organisation, expressed deep concern over the torture of Mahmudur Rahman in the remand.

In a statement yesterday, ASK Executive Director Sultana Kamal said the directives of the High Court are not being followed during the interrogation of the accused, including Mahmudur Rahman, who has brought allegation of inhuman torture during the remand.

The constitution also does not allow such torture or cruel behaviour with any person, ASK said, adding that such attitude of the government is no different from undemocratic behaviour of previous government.

"We do not expect such behaviour from a democratic government. Rather, we want to see a change in the political culture," it added.

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