

# 'Demarcate areas to protect marine biodiversity'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Discussions at a workshop yesterday suggested the government to demarcate and declare some coastal and maritime areas as "Marine Protected Areas" to avoid overfishing and protect the biodiversity of those areas.

The areas should be demarcated immediately as the rapid growth of population is putting tremendous pressure on the marine resources and biodiversity of coastal areas, they said.

The workshop, "Identification of potential marine protected areas and relevant stakeholders", was organised by Bangladesh chapter of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) at the capital's Brac Centre Inn auditorium.

Presiding over the inaugural session, IUCN Bangladesh Country Representative Ishtiaq Uddin Ahmad said coordinated efforts are essential for effective coastal management and improvement of coastal people's livelihoods.

He also suggested taking lessons from countries having expertise and experience in coastal management to effectively protect the country's coastal resources.

Dr Abul Hossain, dean of faculty of science of Noakhali Science and Technology University, presented a paper at the workshop.

In it, he projected the importance of sanctuaries in coastal areas, mangrove forests, island areas, sea beaches, continental shelves and other environmentally important areas to protect and conserve the ecosystem and for sustainable fisheries.

Due to the expansion of the maritime boundary following the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea verdict, the government must declare 1,200 square kilometres of the Bay of Bengal as "Marine Protected Area", said IUCN Bangladesh Programme Officer Shahad Mahabub Chowdhury.

The discussants, including government officials, environmentalists and academicians, placed several recommendations such as following an appropriate methodology to identify potential "Marine Protected Areas" and formulation of a government policy to declare such areas.

# BGB-BSF meet begins in Shiliguri today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A four-day-long conference between Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) will begin today in Shiliguri of India.

Deputy Director General of BGB Brig Gen Abu Sayeed Khan will lead a 14-member delegation from Bangladesh at the conference.

Sector commanders of Dinajpur, Khulna, Rangpur, Kustia and Rajshahi, among others, will be present in the delegation team, says a press release.

The two parties will discuss about the killing and detaining of Bangladeshi people by BSF and Indians; smuggling of arms, ammunition, drugs and illegal goods into Bangladesh; and setting up of infrastructure within 150 yards of zero points.

They will also talk on how to resolve the problems and increase amity between the two countries.



Guests with award winners of 'Rathnagarbha Ma' 2011 at a function at Hotel Sonargaon in the capital yesterday on the occasion of the International Mother's Day. Azad Products (Pvt) Ltd gives away the award to the mothers of talents every year.

PHOTO: STAR

# 2 'baby buyers' held at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested two women from Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) who allegedly came to the hospital to buy an infant.

The arrestees were Hazera Begum, 32, and Sultana Begum, 40 of Gausia Golakandail in Narayanganj.

Police said the duo went to DMCH ward-7 around 10:30am and requested nurses on duty Monwar Begum and Bilkish to bring them a newborn baby in exchange for money.

Police detained the women and handed them over to Shahbagh police.

Sultana told reporters that her neighbour Hazera Begum told her that some employees of DMCH could manage them newborn babies in exchange for money.

# Resume Rohingya repatriation

Bangladesh requests UNHCR

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday urged the UNHCR to resume repatriation process of the Myanmar refugees in Bangladesh.

She made the request during a meeting with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres on the sidelines of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Ministerial Meeting at Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, said a press release.

Guterres, however, opined that there might be some differences in understanding between the UNHCR and the government of the countries concerned about different aspects of this refugee problem.

To clarify the issues, he suggested that Bangladesh government may consider sending a team to Geneva or the UNHCR may send a team to Dhaka.

Dipu Moni preferred the latter option and requested the UN refugee agency chief to adequately sensitise the UNHCR Dhaka office to take necessary measures to resume the repatriation process of Rohingya that has been stalled since 2005.

The foreign minister later had a bilateral meeting with the leader of the Qatari delegation attending the OIC meeting.

The Qatari side reconfirmed that their deputy prime minister would be visiting Bangladesh on May 27.

Qatar also expressed its interest in investments in Bangladesh. Both sides recalled the recent successful visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to Doha for the UNCTAD meeting.

# CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

# Discharge of Kamaruzzaman, Quader Mollah sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Defence counsels of Jamaat leader Muhammad Kamaruzzaman yesterday sought discharge of their client from crimes against humanity charges at the International Crimes Tribunal-2.

Ehsan A Siddiq, one of Kamaruzzaman's counsels, made the plea in response to the prosecution's prayer to indict Kamaruzzaman who is facing nine charges of crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War in 1971.

The tribunal, headed by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir, adjourned the proceeding till tomorrow.

When yesterday's proceeding stated at 11:00am, after half an hour of the schedule time due to delay producing of Kamaruzzaman by the jail authorities, the tribunal asked the prosecution to give the jail authorities' explanation about the delay.

Reading out the discharge petition,

Ehsan A Siddiq, said prosecution did not place sufficient legal ground or provide factual information maintaining domestic and international standards.

At one point of his argument, the tribunal drew defence counsel's attention to the prosecution's accusation of around 120 peoples' killing in Shohagpur village of Nalitalbari during the war as per the instruction and guidance of Kamaruzzaman.

Ehsan said as per the accounts of the prosecution witnesses of the incident, Kamaruzzaman "was not involved in the killing."

Kamaruzzaman was produced before the tribunal yesterday.

Case against Quader Mollah After the lunch break, Abdur Razzaq, chief of defence counsels, placed his argument supporting the petition seeking discharge of another Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah.

Razzaq said investigation against his client started on 15 July, 2010 and

prosecution submitted formal charges on December 12, 2011.

The prosecution takes around 18 months to submit the formal charge as everything against Quader Mollah is "fabricated," said the defence chief.

Referring to a part of the formal charges, Razzaq said the part was taken as "verbatim" from a newspaper and the newspaper made the report quoting a book edited by Shahriar Kabir, executive president of Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, published on February of 2007.

After 40 years, Quader Mollah has been implicated not on the basis of investigation but on the book published in 2007, said Razzaq.

The tribunal adjourned the case proceeding till today.

Earlier, the defence counsels of former BNP lawmaker Abdul Alim sought discharge of their client from the same charges at the tribunal placing almost the same grounds.



PHOTO: STAR

Guests with winners of 'The Daily Star-BSRM English Debate Competition' organised by Drishti Chittagong at a hotel in the port city yesterday. North South University and Bangladesh Elementary School were adjudged champions, Islamic University of Technology and East West University the runner-up and 2nd runner-up respectively from the university level and Cider International School the runner-up from the school level.

# WEATHER TODAY

## Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Noakhali and Comilla in 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

Mild to moderate heat wave is sweeping over Khulna division and the regions of Rajshahi and Pabna and may it continue.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:33pm today and rises at 5:16am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 38.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 21.5 degrees Celsius at Sylhet.

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	34.0	23.4	67	72
Chittagong	30.2	23.5	97	72
Rajshahi	38.5	24.9	67	56
Rangpur	32.6	22.8	84	72
Khulna	37.0	27.2	79	70
Barisal	34.5	22.5	70	78
Sylhet	30.6	21.5	84	78
Cox's Bazar	32.8	26.6	69	77

# TRIAL OF CIVILIANS UNDER ICT ACT HC bench gives dissenting orders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two judges of a High Court bench yesterday delivered dissenting orders on a writ petition filed challenging the provision of trying civilians in connection with the crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971.

A Morshedur Rahman Chowdhury from Chittagong filed the petition last month challenging the government's action incorporating the words--"individual or group of individuals"--in The International Crimes Tribunal Act, 1973 through an amendment for trials on charges of crimes against humanity.

Senior judge of the bench Justice Farid Ahmed issued a rule upon the government to explain in four weeks why insertion of the words--"individual or group of individuals"--in the ICT act should not be declared illegal.

Junior Judge of the bench Sheikh Hassan Arif summarily rejected the petition.

Deputy Attorney General Motaher Hossain Saju told The Daily Star that the judges would now send the petition along with their orders to the chief justice.

The chief justice would then forward the petition to a third bench of the HC for its final disposal, he said.

The government brought amendments to the ICT act inserting the words--"individual or group of individuals"--on July 14, 2009 so that civilians can be tried on charge of crimes against humanity.

Advocate TH Khan appeared for the petitioner, while Attorney General Mahubey Alam opposed the petition.



# Hamlet: the Clown Prince

Directed by Rajat Kapoor

The Cast



Neil Bhoopalram Kalki Koechlin Rajat Kapoor Atul Kumar Namit Das

with Sujay Saple & Puja Sarup

Date : May 18th, 2012

Time : 7:00 pm

Venue : Uthab - Banquet Hall, at the Radisson Blu

Ticket Hotline 01685414596

Organized by:

