

22-day hilsa ban

FROM PAGE 1

would be conducted to tackle catching, selling, hoarding and transporting of hilsa.

The department of fisheries took various initiatives in the districts to raise awareness among the fishermen, traders and locals about protecting mother hilsa, according to reports of our district correspondents.

The catch of hilsa has risen significantly this year thanks to better management during the fish spawning season, enhanced vigilance against hilsa catching, marketing and trading during the ban period and increased frequency of drives against offenders.

The government has been providing rice package to the fishermen, whose livelihoods, otherwise, largely depend on hilsa catching.

In Barisal, officials of the department of fisheries hung posters and banners, saying not to catch hilsa during the ban period, at different places and held views-exchange meetings with fishermen about the importance of the ban, reports our correspondent there.

Bazlur Rashid, deputy director of the department, said around 2.5 crore hilsas would be saved from catching during the 22-day ban period.

"We have allocated 20kg of rice to each of 2,37,943 fishermen families in Barisal division for the ban period," he added.

In Chandpur, the district administration allocated 731 tonnes of rice to 41,042 fishermen there, said Abdus Sabur Mandol, deputy commissioner of the district.

He said they decided to close the cold storages in the district for the next 22 days to stop hoarding of hilsa.

Shafiqur Rahman, district fisheries officer, said they held campaigns with the fishermen and locals of 20 unions in Chandpur Sadar, Hymchor, Matlab Uttar and Dakshin upazilas to create awareness about protecting mother hilsa.

The government has been imposing fishing bans since 2003-04 to protect hilsa spawning.

But the annual ban, usually 15 days long, was extended this year as the researchers found that spawning hilsas were caught before and after the 15-day ban in the last few years.

The 27 districts where the ban would be in place are: Chandpur, Laxmipur, Noakhali, Feni, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Barisal, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi, Bagerhat, Shariatpur, Brahmanbaria, Dhaka, Madaripur, Faridpur, Rajbari, Jamalpur, Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Khulna, Kushtia and Rajshahi.

Retd teacher

FROM PAGE 16

from Chuadanga.

Morgue sources say his body bears the marks of six knife stabs.

His hands, legs and mouth were tied up with adhesive tape and blood was splattered all over the floor at a house on Road No 2, according to Sheikh Mohammad Shamsul Huq, security and executive officer of Banani DOHS Parishad.

He was killed around 9:00am in the building of Syed Group that was under construction. He had been living on the fourth floor of the seven-storey building to oversee the construction, added the officer.

The owner of the building does not live in the country as he left for Australia three or four months earlier, he confirmed.

The victim's brother Abdul Momin Malik said, "As far as we know my brother does not have enmity with anyone. The room was vandalised and vaults were found unlocked and robbed where he was murdered."

Ali retired from Eden College eight years ago where he used to teach botany. He joined Syed Group as the general manager three years ago, said Momin.

The security officer of DOHS said two staff of Syed Group -- Selim and Saifullah -- used to live beside his room in the same apartment.

Officer-in-Charge of Bhasantek police Nazrul Islam said Selim was arrested, but Saifullah was on the run.

The latter's phone was found switched off since the incident came to light, he added.

A knife was recovered from the scene, the OC said, adding, the body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Earlier on Wednesday, a retired brigadier general was murdered in the same area of the DOHS.

Japanese team

FROM PAGE 2

The Japanese vice-minister assured that Japan would continue to remain a strong development partner of Bangladesh.

Shahriar said the government was fully prepared to receive the Japanese delegation and appraise it of the security situation.

Earlier, the state minister had a bilateral meeting with his Russian counterpart Ig Murglov.

Law enforcers identify five

FROM PAGE 16

Sirajganj's Kazipur upazila.

According to police, Akash was the commander of the "Neo JMB's Dhaka region unit". He used to train JMB operatives in Patartek.

Neo JMB is an offshoot of the banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahedeena Bangladesh (JMB), claim law enforcers.

The two other suspected militants, whose identities have been given by the law enforcers, are Ahsan Habib and Aminul Ehsan. Ahsan was killed along with an unidentified militant suspect in Tangail and Aminul with another unidentified suspect in Leubagan area.

Ahsan was from Rani Nagar upazila of Naogaon while Aminul was from Kalai upazila in Joypurhat, Mufti Mahmud Khan, Rab's legal and Media wing director, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Rab on its official Facebook page last night released photographs of the "Neo JMB financier" and the two "unidentified militants", and sought information on them.

The "financier" died after he jumped off a five-storey building to flee during a Rab raid in Ashulia of Savar on the outskirts of the capital, said the elite force.

Though his passport says his name was Abdur Rahman, police believe either the passport or the permanent address mentioned in it was fake.

On Sunday, the DMP had released photographs of the seven Patartek militant suspects and asked for information on them.

SAIFUR Saifur's father Motiur Rahman said a youth, who was seen wearing a red T-shirt in the photographs released by the DMP, was his only son.

Saifur passed his SSC examination in 2012 from Shukurunessa High School in Sylhet's Chhatak and HSC in 2014 from Saarc International College in Raynagar of Sylhet.

Later, he got admitted to Sylhet MC College, Motiur told The Daily Star.

Motiur, a cattle trader, said his son went missing around two months ago, and his mobile phone had been switched off since then.

Worried sick, the family first informed the union parishad chairman about the matter and then filed a general diary (GD) with the local police station.

"I would neither see his face nor receive his body. It's because he was doing something that was against our country," said the father who claimed that he was totally unaware of his son's evil deeds.

AHSAN Altaf Hossain, father of militant suspect Ahsan Habib, said he was almost certain that one of the dead was his son.

Ahsan, who was an honours third year student of English in Rajshahi University, went missing from a student mess in Boalia area on July 15 last year, said Altaf, adding that he filed a GD with Boalia Police Station a few days later.

Following the Gulshan attack on July 1, he also submitted a copy of that GD to Rani Nagar Police Station in Naogaon.

"On being informed by Rani Nagar police that one of the slain Tangail militants was my son, I went to a Rab camp in Tangail. They showed me a photograph of a man that looks like my son," he told The Daily Star over phone last night.

He said he was waiting to identify the body.

Altaf said his son was facing an arms case filed in December, 2014. He went missing after securing bail.

Asked, he claimed that he had absolutely no idea whether his son was involved in any militant activities.

EHSAN Aminul Ehsan, one of the two killed in

'World's tallest'

FROM PAGE 16

skyscraper at a vast patch of sand.

The structure "will be the world's tallest tower when completed in 2020," said a statement issued at the ceremony.

Dubai's developer giant Emaar Properties announced plans to build the viewing tower in April, saying it will be "a notch" higher than Burj Khalifa, which stands 828 metres (2,700 feet) high.

Emaar has not revealed the exact final height of the tower.

It said in April that the structure will cost around \$1 billion (900 million euros).

Designed by Spanish-Swiss architect Santiago Calatrava Valls, the tower will have observation decks providing 360-degree views of the coastal city.

Emaar Chairman Mohamed Alabbar said the tower will be completed before the Expo 2020 trade fair which Dubai is preparing to host.

In April, Emaar said the tower will be slender, evoking the image of a minaret, and will be anchored to the ground with sturdy cables.

Low forms

FROM PAGE 16

thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind are likely to occur at most places over Mymensingh, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions.

Besides, moderately heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely in many places in Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions and elsewhere in the country, they add.

The Met office is specially monitoring the weather in Chittagong as a day-night One-Day International cricket match between Bangladesh and England is scheduled there today.

The Met office last night said they could make apparently accurate forecast about rainfall in Chittagong in the morning today.

They expressed the hope that the rain would stop by afternoon in Chittagong.

5 of a family

FROM PAGE 16

circuit and thus it would not ignite any fire.

Fire fighters pulled out dead bodies of the two sisters -- Tiya Rani and her sister Shondha Rani, and three others in a critical state from the charred debris of the house.

They rushed the three victims to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital.

With their condition deteriorating fast, the victims were soon transferred to Rangpur Medical College Hospital, where they succumbed to their injuries, said Hitler Haque, local union parishad chairman.

Locals echoed the claim made by Hitler and Hira Lal Roy, Khoresh Chandra's elder brother, that the snapped electric line of REB was the cause of the fire.

Farhad Ahmed, superintendent of Thakurgaon police, said two committees have been formed to investigate the cause of the fire incident.

The district police have formed a five-member committee, headed by additional police superintendent, while a seven-member committee, headed by additional district magistrate, was formed by the district administration, he added.

China, Russia blast US missile defence at regional forum

AFP, Beijing

China and Russia blasted Washington yesterday for its decision to deploy a missile defence system in South Korea in response to Pyongyang's nuclear programme.

Speaking at the 7th annual Xiangshan regional defence forum in Beijing, top military officials from the countries said the move by Seoul and Washington represented a threat to regional stability and was a step towards a new global arms race.

The US and South Korea agreed to install the system, known as THAAD, this summer following repeated nuclear and missile tests by Beijing's wayward ally Pyongyang.

Washington was using the North's actions as a pretext to gain military superiority over China, Chinese general Cai Jun told defence officials at a briefing on the forum's sidelines.

Deploying the system in South Korea, he said, was "not conducive to the peace and stability of the Korean peninsula", he said, adding "it has increased the risk of military conflict in the region".

Beijing fears that THAAD could be used against its own missiles, effectively undermining its nuclear deterrence capabilities against the US.

Tension

FROM PAGE 16

Speaking in Strasbourg, Hollande said France and Russia had had a "major disagreement" over Syria.

"It is necessary to have dialogue with Russia but it must be firm and frank," Hollande told the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe rights body.

On Saturday, Russia blocked a draft French UN resolution calling for an end to the barrage of air strikes on the rebel-held east of Aleppo that have escalated in the last month, leaving hundreds of people dead, including dozens of children.

It was the fifth time that Russia used its veto to block UN action to end the five-year war in Syria.

'WAR CRIME'

In the aftermath of that decision, Hollande described the bombing of Aleppo as a "war crime".

He said in a TV interview on Monday: "Those who commit these acts will have to pay for their involvement, including at the International Criminal Court."

Yesterday, at least eight civilians were killed in the heaviest Russian bombardment in days of rebel-held areas of Syria's second city Aleppo, a monitoring group said.

Despite cancelling his visit to Paris, Putin is still considering travelling to Berlin on October 19 for a meeting on the conflict in Ukraine, one of his aides told Itar-Tass on Monday.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel proposed the meeting along the lines of the so-called Normandy format, bringing together Germany, France, Russia and Ukraine.

The sticking point there is whether Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko is prepared to take part.

It is not the first time in recent years that Moscow's foreign policy has strained relations between France and Russia.

The outbreak of the Ukraine crisis in 2014 eventually prompted France to cancel the delivery to Russia of two Mistral assault ships and repay almost 950 million euros (\$1.1 billion).

'First' operation

FROM PAGE 16

(RA), grandson of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH).

Shias are minorities in Bangladesh with some 10 lakh of them living across the country. They will observe the Holy Ashura today as in every other year -- but this time with fears of recurrence of last year's horror.

The DMP has already taken strict security measures and suggested bringing out Tazia procession in the morning.

Unlike in the previous years, blades, sharp weapons and sticks will not be allowed, while all the Imambaras, the congregation centres, will be under closed-circuit camera surveillance.

People entering the sites will be frisked under a three-layer security arrangement. Once the procession begins, nobody else will be allowed to join it.

LIFE WITH SPLINTERS

Sumi Begum from Kholamora of Keraniganj came to join the congregation with her 12-year-old daughter Sneha and son-in-law Sazzad Hossain Sanju.

Sazzad died in the attack.

Sumi is still living with splinters in her right leg. She often suffers unbearable pain while Sneha has splinters in her abdomen, said Nazrin Akhter, sister-in-law of Sumi.

Sneha, a class-IV student, at times gets traumatised, Nazrin told The Daily Star yesterday.

NEW GROUP ON SCENE

After the blast, the attackers were initially believed to be JMB members but investigators found they were operatives of the offshoot that law enforcers of late began to call "Neo JMB".

This group attracted the attention of investigators after it carried out a bank heist in Ashulia Industrial Area on April 21 last year, leaving eight people killed.

After the Hussaini Dalan attack, Jahid and his accomplices melted into the crowd and left the scene undetected. Jahid was in panjabi and jeans, said Deputy Commissioner of Detective Branch (South Division) Mashruque Rahman Khaled yesterday.

Investigators have found involvement of 13 "Neo JMB" members in the attack and submitted charge sheet

Holy Ashura today

FROM PAGE 1

followers embraced martyrdom at the hands of Yazid's soldiers at Karbala desert for the supremacy of justice and righteousness.

The day is a public holiday. Various religious and socio-political organisations have drawn up programmes to observe the day. Bringing out Tazia processions by Shia mourners is one of the main features of Ashura.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police has made three-tier security arrangements to ensure security during the Tazia processions, following last year's terror attack near the Hussaini Dalan in Old Dhaka.

Police have set time limits on processions and imposed restrictions on carrying all types of metallic objects such as swords, knives, spears, scissors, and any bag.

At least two people were killed and over 150 injured in bomb explosions in front of Hussaini Dalan before the beginning of the Tazia procession on October 23 last year.

Meanwhile, President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday issued separate messages on the occasion.

In his message, the president said holy Ashura is a day of mourning for the Muslim Ummah.

"The message of Ashura inspires us to be vocal against injustice and repression as well as encourages us to follow a fair and true path. I hope the great teaching of the holy Ashura would be reflected in our life," he added.

In her message, the president said holy Ashura is a day of mourning for the Muslim Ummah.

"The message of Ashura inspires us to be vocal against injustice and repression as well as encourages us to follow a fair and true path. I hope the great teaching of the holy Ashura would be reflected in our life," he added.

In her message, the president said holy Ashura is a day of mourning for the Muslim Ummah.

"The message of Ashura inspires us to be vocal against injustice and repression as well as encourages us to follow a fair and true path. I hope the great teaching of the holy Ashura would be reflected in our life," he added.

In her message, the president said holy Ashura is a day of mourning for the Muslim Ummah.

"The message of Ashura inspires us to be vocal against injustice and repression as well as encourages us to follow a fair and true path. I hope the great teaching of the holy Ashura would be reflected in our life," he added.

against them on April 20.

The charge-sheeted accused are Albani alias Huzza, Abdullah alias Alauddin, Hiron alias Kamal, Masud Rana alias Sumon, Kabir Hossain alias Rashed alias Asif, Abu Saeed alias Salman, Md Arman alias Monir, Jahid Hasan Rana alias Mushab, Rubel Islam alias Sajib, Chan Mian, Omar Faruq alias Manik, Hafez Ahsanullah Mahmud and Shahjalal Mian.

Of them, Albani, Abdullah and Hiron were killed in "crossfire" involving detectives. The rest are now in jail.

Five of the charge-sheeted accused made confessional statements before the court. They are Masud Rana, Kabir Hossain Rashed, Arman, Jahid and Rubel Islam.

In their confessions, Rana and Arman said the attack was carried out to make their existence known and cause widespread panic.

The confessional statements given on January 29 also mentioned that the group supported global terror body Islamic State and they attacked the congregation because they did not consider Shias as Muslims.

Soon after the blasts, the US-based SITE Intelligence Group tweeted that Islamic State claimed responsibility for the bomb attacks.

Talking to The Daily Star recently, DC Mashruque said, "We have completed investigation into such a big militant attack which was internationally significant and which drew huge public attention in a short time."

Firoz Hossain, an organiser of Hussaini Dalan, yesterday said he believes last year's attack could not strain the Shia-Sunni relations.

WAIT FOR MINISTRY APPROVAL Although the charge sheet was submitted around six months ago, trial of the case is yet to start as the home ministry has not yet given its approval.

As per law, the ministry's approval is required to begin the trial in any case filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

DB sources said when the investigation officer submitted the charge sheet before the court, he sent a letter to the home ministry via the police headquarters, seeking approval for the trial.

Contacted, Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Abdullah Abu on Monday said the trial will start soon after they

and justice in the national life.

Khaleda in her message said the supreme sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) will remain as an example for all Muslims.

Bangladesh Betar, Bangladesh Television, private TV and radio stations will air special programmes while national dailies will publish articles highlighting the significance of the day.

Samsung kills

FROM PAGE 16

positive reviews, the Note7 first came under fire -- quite literally -- after reports of units exploding surfaced on the internet.

After 35 cases had been reported, Samsung issued an official recall of the device, which sent everyone in a tizzy and airlines and airport authorities calling for an official ban on usage of the device in several countries.

Samsung did what it could, replacing not just the affected but every Note7 it sold and issuing a new device with an updated battery pack and a green battery indicator so the customers and authorities alike could tell them apart. It even restricted the older devices from charging beyond 60 percent so people who hadn't replaced theirs yet wouldn't overcharge them.

But after the replacement units also started catching fire, most notably one on a Southwest Airlines flight 994 from Louisville to Baltimore, which had to be evacuated when a passenger's replacement Note7 caught fire, Samsung eventually asked everyone to power them down. And finally did what was inevitable and, some might argue, what should have been done from the beginning, pulled the plug entirely on the Note7.

Harmony to be proud of

FROM PAGE 2

Shankor Chandra Chakrobarty says he had never faced any trouble in conducting puja. "Great love, peace and respect for each other have always prevailed in the area," he says, adding that during times of Muslim prayers they stop playing instruments at the temple as a sign of respect.

Indeed, the fruitful cooperation between the two places of worship has become so renowned that people journey from afar to see it. "I heard about this harmony," says Debesh Chandra Das, 48, a tourist from Rajshahi, "So I came to see the temple and mosque in the same yard. To have a heritage of over six decades of communal harmony between Hindus and Muslims is a shining example to all Bangladesh, even to the whole subcontinent."

Founder president of Lalmonirhat's Press Club and prominent journalist Gokul Roy, 66, says the example of coexistence has endured the test of time. The mosque was constructed shortly after the Partition in 1947.

"Many people come here to conduct research on our social framework, to find out what has helped our two communities to perform their religious rituals so peacefully, in such close proximity," he says. "The religious harmony we have, may it continue forever!"

Turkey says open to Russia offer for air defence system

AFP, Istanbul

Turkey is ready to receive an offer from Russia in a long-running multi-billion dollar tender for an air defence system, Turkish media reported yesterday.

The reports came almost a year after Ankara cancelled a preliminary deal with China amid concerns from its Nato partners.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin vowed at a meeting in Istanbul on Monday to tighten cooperation in all areas including the military-technical sphere.