

‘No fertiliser crisis in country’

Food minister warns of stern action against hoarders

UNB, Dhaka

Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder yesterday said strict legal action would be taken against anyone trying to create an artificial fertiliser crisis in Bangladesh.

“Fertiliser supplies in Bangladesh have not declined even by a single tonne... The number of agricultural land has decreased instead. So, there is no chance of a fertiliser crisis,” Sadhan told reporters after visiting the under-construction rice silo in Naogaon.

A panic has been stirred and as a result those who need a sack of fertiliser are trying to collect two, said the minister. “Even those who don’t need fertilisers are lining up to grab a sack.”

“We will not spare anyone trying to create an

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Writ petition challenges govt decision to export hilsa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday filed a petition with the High Court challenging the legality of the government decision to export hilsa to India.

Lawyer Md Mahmudul Hasan submitted the petition to the HC, requesting it to direct the government to stop exporting hilsa to India or any other country.

In the petition, he said the commerce ministry has given permission to export hilsa without considering its demand to the people of Bangladesh.

The poor people of the country cannot imagine buying hilsa, the national fish in Bangladesh, and even the middle class cannot afford to buy it due to its excessive price.

The average price of hilsa is Tk 1,600 to Tk 1,800 per kg in local market. On the other hand, per kg hilsa is being exported at 10 US dollars (Tk 950) to India, he said in the petition.

The lawyer said the price of Hilsa has been increased in the markets of Bangladesh due to its export.

Mahmudul Hasan said hilsa is not an exportable product under the Export Policy 2021-2024. But the commerce ministry has approved its export to India, ignoring the interest of people.

The lawyer told The Daily Star that hearing of the petition may be held any day next week.



A truck, loaded with rusty iron bars, is kept parked right in front of a school in the capital's Mugda area. Despite there being a designated spot for parking such heavy vehicles in the area, the truck has been kept there, creating inconvenience for students and teachers alike. This photo was taken yesterday morning.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

‘Aid not reaching those who need it’

Finds MJF study on govt assistance to fishers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local government representatives who help prepare the list of fishermen eligible for government assistance, perform nepotism to manipulate the list and consider the political affiliation of the applicants. In the process, many fishers are left out, claimed Mizanur Rahman Bahadur, a leader of Cox’s Bazar Fishing Boat Sramik Union, at a press conference yesterday.

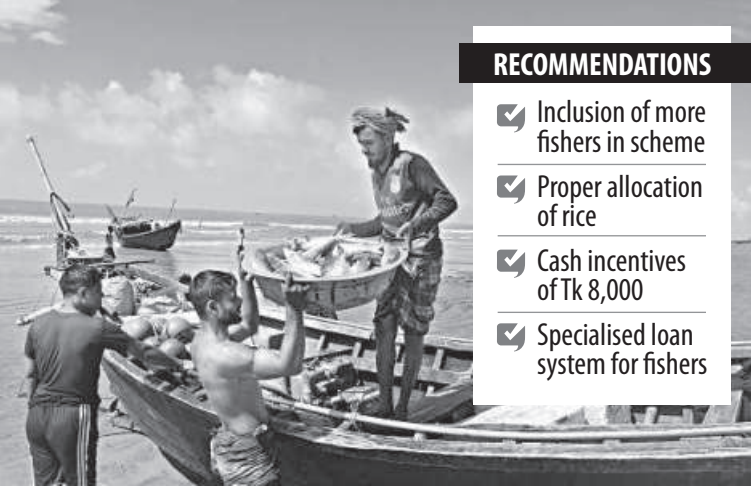
Fisher leaders also said many people, who do not know about fishing and have never gone anywhere near the rivers, have been provided with government food aid during the fishing ban due to the irregularities.

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) officials also revealed the same information yesterday at the press conference in the capital’s Jatiya Press Club.

“Our study found that a large number of fishermen in coastal areas remain deprived of government aid for years as their names were not included in the list,” said Banasree Mitra Neogi, director (programme) of MJF.

The study was conducted in two unions – Patharghata Sadar union and Kutubjom of Maheshkhali Upazila in Cox’s Bazar – where a total of 8,644 families of 42,896 members live.

While presenting the summary of the study, Shaikh Giasuddin Ahmed, senior programme



manager of MJF, said for some 99.27 percent of the families, the sole source of earning a livelihood is fishing.

However, only 42.6 percent of them hold ID cards, while the rest were either not aware of the assistance programme or put off the list by government officials.

The study also mentioned that due to a lack of human resources, fisheries officials took help from Union Parishad under the local government.

“There is a chance to drop off many names from the list as the officials tend to include names of people well-connected to them. Some names were also dropped off from the list due to personal feuds or political identity,” mentioned the study.

While thousands of fishers

remain deprived of government facilities, those who can manage to access them do not enjoy the full facilities either, especially during the fishing ban periods every year.

According to the study, some 45 percent of fishermen worked as day labourers, while 15 percent failed to manage any work during the fishing ban.

During the ban, the government usually allocates a fund of 40kg of rice as an incentive for fishers who hold the government fisherman card as they are left with no other sources of income during these periods.

However, the aid is insufficient, to say the least. Moreover, most beneficiaries do not receive the full amount, found the study.

It mentioned that during

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

SC stays Chandpur UP chair’s bail order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed a High Court order that granted anticipatory bail to Chandpur’s much-talked about UP chairman Md Selim Khan in a corruption case.

Chamber judge of the SC’s Appellate Division Justice M Enayetur Rahim also ordered Selim to surrender before the trial court concerned by September 27.

The judge passed the order following a petition filed by the ACC.

ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told the court that there is specific allegation of corruption against Selim and therefore, he is not entitled to get bail.

Meanwhile, Selim’s lawyer Md Momtaz Uddin Fakir opposed the petition saying that the allegation brought against his client is vague. Fakir, a senior lawyer and president of SCBA, told The Daily Star that his client will seek bail from the trial court after surrendering to it.

On September 14, the HC granted four weeks’ anticipatory bail to Selim, also an expelled Awami League leader, in the corruption case filed on charge of amassing illegal wealth worth Tk 34.53 crore.

ATTACK ON BNP RALLY Case against Kamal Majumder, 19 others dismissed

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday dismissed the case filed against 20 people, including Awami League leader and State Minister for Industries Kamal Ahmed Majumder, on charges of attacking a procession of BNP in Dhaka’s Mirpur on September 15.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Tofazzal Hossain dismissed the case after “finding no cogent grounds to take cognisance of the charges”.

In his order, the magistrate said the complainant was neither a victim, nor a witness of the incident. Also, he was not assigned from the high authorities of the party to file the case, Advocate Masud Ahmed Talukder, one of the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

DU student found dead at dorm

UNB, Dhaka

A student of Dhaka University (DU) was found dead at Jagannath Hall of the university yesterday.

Amit Sarkar (24) was a post graduate student of the Institute of Leather Engineering and Technology.

Amit was found unconscious in the dormitory around 11:30am and taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Amit’s roommate Sajib Mitra said, “We are residents of Jagannath Hall. Last night, Amit fell asleep around 1:30am. When we tried to wake him up around 10:30am today, he did not respond.”

DMCH police camp in-charge Inspector Md Bachchu Mia said the student was brought dead to the emergency unit of the hospital.

The body was kept at the morgue for post-mortem, he added.

A ‘castle’ long-forgotten

143-year-old historic building now in ruins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Surrounded by greenery, a two-storied tin-shed “castle”, with a banyan tree in front of it, stands at the heart of Mymensingh city with its head held high.

The European architectural design of the establishment bears testimony to the sense of aesthetics and wealth of the then Mymensingh Zamindars.

The structure comprises wooden staircases made of iron, alongside various other metal accessories. The sheer quantity of iron used in constructing and decorating the structure meant that the historical establishment was also known as “Lohar Kuthi” among locals.

The two-storied building was placed on a high plinth, which historians say was done to protect the castle from floods.

The building hosts two Greek sculptures in white on both sides of the front gate, which are standing examples of the magic that was ancient Greek art.

However, the dismembered hands of both the sculptures show how decades of negligence made this 143-year-old building a forgotten “castle”.

Maharaja Suryakanta Acharya Chowdhury, one of



The legend of this 143-year old two-storied building, formerly known as Alexander Castle, and now Rabindra Botomol, is unknown to the youths. The “castle” is now in dilapidated condition, thanks to negligence of the authorities concerned.

PHOTO: STAR

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Dengue death toll 45

Total number of patients 1,2007

1560 still undergoing treatment

Number of recovered patients 1,0402

438 more hospitalised yesterday

SOURCE: DGHS

PRAYER TIMING  
SEPTEMBER 21



Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-40 12-45 4-30 6-05 7-30  
JAMAAT 5-15 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION