

PM rues lacking in extraction of sea resources

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said it's unfortunate that Bangladesh has not been able to extract resources from the deep sea, although it has attained vast maritime territories.

"Actually, we are not getting any entrepreneurs for this purpose. This is the reality," she said.

The PM said this while addressing the inaugural session of Livestock Services Week and Fair to promote poultry and dairy farmers and the development of the sector.

Department of Livestock Services of the Fisheries and Livestock Ministry organised the two-day fair at the old Trade Fair (Banijjo Mela) Ground at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, beside the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Hasina said Bangladesh has attained huge maritime boundaries and to utilise

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visits a stall at Livestock Services Week and Fair after inaugurating it yesterday. Organised by the Department of Livestock Services of the Fisheries and Livestock Ministry, the two-day event at the old Trade Fair Ground at the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar is open for all.

PHOTO: PTD

UNPRECEDENTED FLOODING Thousands remain stranded at airports in Dhaka, Dubai

RASHIDUL HASAN

Several thousand Bangladeshi passengers remained stranded at the Dubai and Dhaka airports for the last two days as flights to and from Dubai got delayed or cancelled due to unprecedented flooding in the Middle East country.

Of the passengers, many are migrant workers. Also, there are Bangladeshi travellers who are scheduled to visit third countries via Dubai.

Air Arabia, Emirates, and Fly Dubai cancelled 10 flights on Dubai-Dhaka-Dubai route in the last two days, said Group Captain Kamrul Islam, executive director of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka.

Air Arabia cancelled five flights, Emirates three flights, and Fly Dubai cancelled two flights, he added.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines and US-Bangla Airlines have rescheduled all their flights on this route.

While visiting the HSLA yesterday, it was seen that many passengers bound for UAE and other countries via Dubai gathered at the departure terminal of the airport.

Many passengers were seen sitting outside the departure terminal wearing ihram who were scheduled to go to Saudi Arabia via Dubai to perform umrah.

Officials of the respective airlines were seen informing the stranded passengers about the update to the flight schedule.

Kamrul Islam said the airport authorities have asked all the respective airlines to give updates to passengers through phone calls, short message service, and email about their flights.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

TIME MAGAZINE Marina on 100 most influential list

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Renowned Bangladeshi architect Marina Tabassum has been named in Time magazine's list of the 100 most influential people for her contributions to the field of innovation.

Known for her contributions to environmentally sustainable design, Marina's approach to architecture is rooted in local communities, breaks from commercialism, and serves the needs of common people.

According to Time's entry for Marina on the list published on Wednesday night, "Tabassum's altruism even extends to buildings themselves. She cares for her creations as creatures partaking in the resources of our earth; describing her Bait Ur Rouf Mosque in Dhaka, Bangladesh, which won the prestigious Aga Khan Award, she said a building 'has to be able to breathe without artificial aids'."

"Elsewhere in the country, which faces increased flood risks due to climate change, she has developed houses that are cost-effective and easy to move. While she practices

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

ATTEMPTED MURDER CASE Pori Moni summoned on June 25

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday summoned two people, including actress Pori Moni, to appear before it on June 25 in a case filed by Uttara Club Limited's former president Nasir U Mahmud in July 2022.

In the case, Nasir brought allegations of assault, vandalism, attempted murder, and issuing threats against them.

After accepting charges brought against them, Dhaka Senior Judicial Magistrate M Saiful Islam summoned Pori Moni and her costume designer Junayed Karim Jimmy alias Jimmy.

The magistrate also discharged another accused Fatema-tuz-

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

PNEUMONIA, ASSOCIATED SYMPTOMS 89 children die in 17 days at Shishu Hospital

AHMED DEEPTO

With a canola in her right hand, three-and-half-year-old Madeya Momtaz was receiving treatment while lying on a bed in the pneumonia ward of Dhaka Shishu Hospital.

Madeya had a cough along with fever and cold symptoms for three days before Eid-ul-Fitr. On Eid day, she got admitted to the hospital as her condition deteriorated. She was later diagnosed with pneumonia, said her mother Salma Begum.

"The sweltering heat recently left my daughter sweating a lot, from which she later caught a cold with fever, cough, and runny nose, eventually ending up with breathing difficulty," she also said.

Like Madeya, 19 other children were also seen being treated in the same ward, all of them suffering from pneumonia.

Of the 16 general beds and three cabins in the pneumonia ward at Shishu Hospital, not a single one was vacant when this correspondent visited there on Wednesday.

A total of 259 children have been admitted to the hospital with pneumonia and diarrhoea this month till Wednesday, while 89 children died with pneumonia and other associated symptoms, showed Shishu Hospital's data.

Earlier in March, 57 children died with pneumonia-related symptoms.

In 24 hours till Wednesday afternoon, a total of 76 children suffering from pneumonia received treatment at the hospital's outdoor department. Of them, 25 were later admitted to the hospital.

At present, 91 children are undergoing treatment at the hospital for pneumonia.

Also, 80 children suffering from diarrhoea were treated in the outdoor department during this time. Of them, seven were later hospitalised.

Moreover, a total of 250 children have so far received treatment for common cold

complications at Shishu Hospital.

With a heat wave sweeping across the country, children and elderly people have been rushing to hospitals over the last few days, with symptoms including breathing difficulty, fever, cough, pneumonia, and diarrhoea, said doctors.

According to Bangladesh Meteorological Department, the heat wave is likely to continue throughout the rest of the month across the country. Due to that, the situation may turn worse, warned doctors.

In this weather, the heat causes dehydration among children, leading to symptoms like constipation, vomiting, and diarrhoea. Children's digestive capacity also decreases. Therefore, special attention should be given to children during this time.

SURIYA BEGUM
Honorary professor, BSMMU's pediatric endocrinology department

The situation at Shishu Hospital's general ward-1 painted a grim picture in this regard. All 56 seats in the ward are occupied by child patients, most of whom are suffering from pneumonia.

"Many of the children admitted here are suffering from pneumonia, breathing difficulties, and diarrhoea. The critical ones have to breathe with ventilator or oxygen mask all the time," said a doctor on duty, wishing anonymity.

Md Jahangir Alam, director of Dhaka

Shishu Hospital, said, "Every day, around 1,000-1,200 patients are coming to the hospital for treatment, most of them with pneumonia, diarrhoea, and respiratory complications."

Children are more likely to get affected by extreme heat and therefore are more likely to suffer from pneumonia and related symptoms, including cold, cough, fever, and diarrhoea, he said.

"As such, the number of child patients coming with pneumonia and related symptoms is on the rise at the hospital. Those in critical condition are being admitted to the hospital," he added.

Globally, pneumonia is among the top five infectious diseases that cause fatalities in children aged under five, according to data of International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease and Research, Bangladesh (icddr.b).

Last year, pneumonia caused 14 percent of the 0.7 million deaths among children aged under five across the world, the icddr.b data revealed.

Approximately 2.3 children die every hour and at least 24,000 die every year from pneumonia in Bangladesh, it added.

Meanwhile, the number of patients with diarrhoea and fever is also rising, with around 450-500 patients being treated daily at icddr.b hospital in Dhaka's Mohakhali, most of them being children.

"In this weather, the heat causes dehydration among children, leading to symptoms like constipation, vomiting, and diarrhoea. Children's digestive capacity also decreases. Therefore, special attention should be given to children during this time," said Suriya Begum, honorary professor of BSMMU's pediatric endocrinology department.

"Children should take plenty of water to stay healthy in extreme heat and wear loose and cotton clothes so that they don't accumulate too much sweat," she advised.

ABDUCTION OF THREE EC summons UZ chairman aspirant Lutfol Habib

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission has summoned Lutfol Habib, a chairman aspirant for Singra upazila polls in Natore, as he is facing allegations of abducting three people – including another chairman aspirant Delwar Hossain from the same upazila.

In a letter, the commission asked Lutfol Habib to appear before the EC at 4:10pm on April 22 to explain why his candidature will not be cancelled.

The EC said that media reported that three people, including Delwar Hossain and his brother, were abducted on the last date of submission of nominations for the first phase of upazila polls slated for May 8.

Delwar submitted the nomination form online and then went to the district election office to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

8 arrested over bus helper's murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eight people were arrested yesterday in connection with the murder of Rihan Islam alias Pavel, a bus helper, in Dhaka's Pallabi area on April 14.

The arrestees are Rayhan alias Babu, 24; Sohel alias Tota Mama, 24; Bachchu alias Kajal Bachchu, 23; Anis, 22; Milon Hossain, 37; Sahabuddin, 28; Sohan Islam, 26; and the mastermind Habib, 28.

Rashed Hasan, additional deputy commissioner of Detective Branch (Mirpur Division), confirmed the matter.

Of the arrestees, three were arrested during special drives in Barishal, Barguna, and Tangail, while Habib and four others were arrested by Pallabi police. A motorbike used during the murder was also recovered from their possession.

"Rihan and Habib had a longstanding dispute

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

'I don't remember what I said' MP Ekramul claims on his threat to stop projects if his son is not voted for

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noakhali-4 lawmaker Ekramul Karim Chowdhury, who had threatened on Tuesday to stop development projects if his son did not receive votes in the upazila parishad polls, yesterday claimed that he cannot remember what he had said and why he had said it.

"Those who wrote it can tell better. I attended 14 programmes that day. I don't even remember under what context and for what reason I said that. They [journalists] wrote it," Ekramul told The Daily Star when asked about his statement that went viral on social media.

While addressing local voters at a street rally at Ward-6 of Mohammadpur Union in Subarnachar upazila on Tuesday, the ruling Awami League MP Ekramul threatened to halt development projects if his son was not voted for in the upazila parishad polls.

"I will not undertake any development projects in areas where fewer votes will be cast in favour of my son. Give and take. If you support me with your votes, I will reciprocate," the MP was seen saying in the viral video.

When asked to explain his statement, Ekramul said he doesn't see any reason to give any explanation.

"I am the lawmaker in that area. I was speaking about development. If I were a one-time MP, that would have been a different thing. This is my fourth time. I am not supposed to say such things without a context," added the AL lawmaker.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



From left, Prothom Alo Editor Matiuur Rahman; professors Firdous Azim, Mirza M Hassan, MM Akash, Fakrul Alam, Rehman Sobhan, Rounaq Jahan, Hossain Zillur Rahman, Selim Jahan, Mustafizur Rahman, Selim Raihan, and Zahid Hussain; and University Press Limited Director Mahrukh Mohiuddin at the publication ceremony of a book titled 'Fifty Years of Bangladesh: Economy, Politics, Society and Culture'. The event was held at CPD office in the capital's Dhanmondi yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR