

## Caritas Seminar Aims at Saving River

Building awareness of dangers to artery which is important fish breeding ground



Spawn collection from the Halda River

Bangladesh  
June 13, 2011

Caritas joined a research group on June 10 in the southeastern port city Chittagong to organize an awareness building seminar for saving a vital river in the country.

The seminar, Drinking water of Halda: Public demand and reality at the Chittagong Press Club highlighted various challenges faced by the Halda river.

The Halda supplies 20 million gallons of drinking water to four million people in the city after purification.

It also is famous for being the only natural and pure breeding ground of the Indian carp in the country, perhaps the only one in South Asia.

About 1,100 spawn collectors and 1,600 fishermen depend on the Halda for their livelihood.

However, media reports say man-made and natural disasters are suffocating the river day by day.

The river, once a haven for brood fish for releasing their eggs has now turned into a quite dangerous one, resulting in a drastic fall in the availability of eggs and fish-fry.

About 60 participants including government and NGO officials, educationists, journalists, and people living by the river who attended the program were told to rethink their role in saving it.

Caritas Chittagong regional director James Gomes presided over the program.

***This Report collected from Union of Catholic Asian News <http://www.ucanews.com>.***