

# World losing thousands of species every year

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 2: Experts say thousands of the world's natural species are wiped out every year, many without ever having been detected by mankind, reports Reuters.

According to Michael Bean, a lawyer with the Washington-based Environmental Defence Fund and author of a book on wildlife conservation law, between 45 and 270 species are lost to the world every day.

Another expert, Walt Reid of the World Resources Institute, also in Washington, says five per cent of tropical forest species alone are lost every decade. "Some say as much as 25 per cent," he adds.

If the figures seem a bit vague, it's a tribute to the diversity of life on earth. Scientists have only identified 1.4 million species. Anywhere from five million to 50 million may actually exist.

Most of these species, perhaps 90 per cent of them, come from tropical rain forests which, given deforestation, is one reason for the high rate of extinction.

Destruction of natural habitat is the greatest cause of species loss, the experts say, but the degradation range from water pollution to climate change. Broader problems in-

clude rapidly increasing populations, growing consumption and inadequate land distribution.

Hunting, which used to be a major issue, today threatens only 20 to 30 species, such as elephants.

A first step in addressing the problem of species loss is identifying those under threat in the first place. But it is a costly and lengthy process that can yield mixed results.

The United States, for example, has listed 700 species of plants and animals as being endangered within the country and another 500 outside.

By contrast Brazil, which has the world's greatest variety of trees, amphibians and primates, lists only 250. The country lacks the financial and other resources to make a more complete list.

Overall, the convention on international trade in endangered species, an international treaty, protects about 2,000 species such as whales, parrots and elephants.

After identifying endangered species, scientists say their habitats should be protected. "Parks are important. We are losing habitat so quickly we need to identify areas rich in species and protect them," says Reid.

# JUCSU election

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bickering over nomination of candidates now seems to be more confident with Masud Hasan Tajukder as their VP, Samsul Tabrez Mithu as GS and Badol as their AOS.

BCL (M-I) which failed to form an alliance with left leaning GCO has engaged in tough fighting with JCD.

BCL (M-I) floated the Mahibullah-Mitu-Sarwar panel with Md Mahibullah as their VP, Sadeka Sultana Mithu as their GS, and Sarwar Hossain as AOS.

Mitu, the first ever female competitor in the history of JUCSU, is likely to put up a good fight in the GS post.

GCO, the left leaning organisation which pledges to materialise the ten-point demands of the students floated Shyamol-Kapil-Mukta panel with Shyamol Kanti Chowdhury as VP, Kazi Afzal Hossain Kapil as GS and Ziaul Haq Mukta as AOS.

Jatiya Chhatra Dal, another left leaning students organisation, floated the Syeef-Asad-Shamim panel with anti-terrorism and anti-fundamentalism electoral pledges.

While talking to The Daily Star, all the candidates expressed their confidence about their victory in the polls.

The GS candidate of the JCD said that his party would accept the result even if it was not in their favour.

Meanwhile, the authorities have completed all preparations for free and fair holding of JUCSU election. Voting will commence at the halls at 9 am

and will continue till 3 pm without break, Election Commission sources said.

Police forces have been deployed at every strategic points on the campus to ensure peaceful polling. No one will be allowed to enter the campus without proper identity.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed, meanwhile, in a press briefing Tuesday prior to the election, sought co-operation from all concerned to retain the reputation of the university.

Results of the poll will be announced tomorrow (Thursday).

Earlier, 14 contestants of the hall unions were elected unopposed. The elected are the members of JCD.

# Power failure hinders normal life in city

By Staff Correspondent

A big area of Dhaka city plunged into darkness for about one-and-a-half hour due to power failure.

Power supply was disrupted at about 8.15 pm in Khilgaon, Maghbazar, Malibagh, Rampura, Motijheel, Faktreepool and other areas of the city and was restored at around 9.30 pm.

Newspaper offices suffered a considerable setback as power supply remained disrupted at the peak hour.

Residents of those areas came out of their houses as the hot and humid weather made it almost unbearable to stay indoors.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurating "the National Programme of Action for Children" at International Conference Centre yesterday. — PID photo

# Badre Alam college clash: Five arrested

From Our Correspondent

GAZIPUR, June 2: Police arrested five JCD activists today for their alleged involvement in Monday's gunbattle at Badre Alam College.

The arrested persons are Mostofa Anwar, Ashrafal Haq, Hasunur Rashid Tapan, Habibur Rahman and Khaled Ahmed Tutul. All of them were identified as activists of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)-backed students' wing, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

Police produced them before the district court from where Khaled Ahmed was released on bail while four others were sent to the Gazipur district jail.

Activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Gantantrik Chhatra Oikya clashed in and outside Badre Alam College Monday morning. Following the clash, the college authorities declared the college closed for 16 days.

# BCL (A-L) demands withdrawal of Mantu's expulsion decision

Chhatra League (Azad-Loni), a new faction of the student wing of Awami League, Tuesday urged the high command to withdraw the expulsion of Mostafa Mohsin Mantu in the greater interest of the party, reports UNB.

The dissident group at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club Tuesday afternoon said they had formed a 69-member central committee of BCL on May 28 to bury "districtism" in the organisation.

Mizanur Rahman Azad and B M Wahiduzzaman Loni were elected president and general secretary respectively of the separate committee of Chhatra League.

Addressing the news conference, Azad claimed the new committee under his leadership is the only legitimate central body of the organisation.

Out of the 78 district committees, he said, 31 had already expressed solidarity with them and hoped the remaining ones would also come under the banner of their committee.

BCL, being an independent organisation, doesn't constitutionally require any endorsement by Awami League for its legitimacy, he said

# Children's problems

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organisations (NGOs) and social workers to come forward with specific programmes for the development of children.

In the welcome address, M Mokammel Haque, Member, Planning Commission and Chairman, JGUAG, said the new government hopes to facilitate rapid progress towards the achievements of the goals for the 1990s.

Cole P Dodge, representative of UNICEF in Bangladesh, said: "It is this creation of hope, through the launching of the National Programme of Action, that is a big success."

He appreciated the 'universal primary education', the resolution which was recently adopted by the government.

"This NPA is a new dawn, a new reality for children in the coming eight years. This country is now set to achieve much more in the years ahead," said Cole P Dodge.

Other ministers present on the occasion expressed their appreciation of NPA and assured of full cooperation in the coming years.

The process of the preparation of NPA was initiated by the JGUAG in March 1991 with the formation of four working groups. These groups were one each for — health and nutrition, water and environmental sanitation, education, and social welfare.

The participants in these groups were drawn from different spheres of government bodies and development partners.

The outcome of the discussions and recommendations of these working groups were then discussed in two review meetings. The NPAs were finalised at a JGUAG meeting in November 1991. Immediately afterwards, that is in December, the summary of the NPA was published under the title 'Progoti'.

There are six main goals of the NPA for children and development by 1995. First, the stress is to reduce infant mortality rate from 110 to 80 per 1000 live births and mortality rate of children below the age of five from 188 to 135.

The issue which is at par with infant mortality and child birth is the condition of the mothers. Hence, it emphasises to reduce maternal mortality ratio from 6 to 4.5.

Virtual elimination of iodine deficiency disorders and nutritional blindness from

Vitamin A deficiency should also be given importance.

The number of illiterates is increasing every year. So, importance should also be on to increase adult literacy rate (15-35 years) to 40 per cent with the emphasis on female literacy.

School attendance in Bangladesh is around 50 per cent of enrollment or 38 per cent of eligible children. So, concerted effort is necessary to increase gross primary school enrollment rate to 85 per cent through formal schooling and non-formal education of comparable standards with emphasis on reduction of gender disparities.

Universal access to safe drinking water and increase in sanitation coverage from eight to 35 per cent is another target of the NPA.

Women's literacy rate is half that of males. Efforts are needed to reduce gender disparities by integrating women into the mainstream of development.

There are 14 million children under 15 in rural areas and about three million in urban areas who face acute poverty.

Enam Ahmed Chowdhury, Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, in his vote of thanks on the occasion of launching the NPA said referring to the programme: "This is a cornerstone of national development effort. With UNICEF and other international donors and organisations, we hope this will bring about a better future and better development for our children."

# Tk 7 crore EC food aid for Rohingyas

The Commission of the European Communities has approved an allocation of 10,000 tons of cereals, valued at 1.46 million ECU (approximately 70 million taka), for distribution to the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

This food aid will be channelled through the World Food Programme, according to press release of the European Communities in Dhaka.

This commitment is part of a special food aid programme for 1992, granted to countries which have been severely affected by drought or conflicts in different parts of the world.

# Remain vigilant against 'evil forces', Hasina asks partymen

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina Tuesday asked leaders and workers in all tiers of her party to work unitedly to shoulder the future responsibility of the country, reports UNB.

She also asked them to remain vigilant against machinations of any 'evil force' trying to undermine the party.

Hasina made the call while winding up the five-day meeting of the Awami League Central Working Committee.

The Awami League chief called for mobilising public opinion against "autocratic activities" of the present government and building the party on solid foundation from grassroots level.

Awami League had played the major and fundamental role under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in achieving the country's independence, she said.

"And the soldiers of Bangabandhu will now have to take the responsibility of reaching the fruits of independence to the common man."

Hasina also called for foiling all conspiracies against independence and sovereignty of the country and building active resistance against communal forces and terrorists.

Another reports says: Hasina will inaugurate a tree plantation programme at the national level today.

# Janata Tower

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country beyond those mentioned in the statement which is open for scrutiny," said the prosecution witness in reply to the defence.

There was no question from the defence counsel about Islam's deposition that he received Tk 10 crore including Tk 6.5 crore in cash from Ershad for construction of multi-storied building Janata Tower at Kawran Bazar.

Bureau of Anti-corruption prosecuted 62-year General Ershad who ruled the country nearly nine years for giving RAJUK land to Janata Publishers by abusing power and payment of Tk 6.5 crore for construction of Janata Tower from his possession which is beyond known sources of his income. Begum Rawshan Ershad, Chairman of Janata Publishers, is one of the 18 co-accused in this case.

Replying to the defence K Z Islam admitted that his passport was impounded along with some other businessmen but it was returned after 4/5 days. He denied that he was off-loaded from the plane at Zia International Airport.

Islam admitted one of his two sons from the first wife committed suicide but denied the defence suggestion that the boy had taken to the extreme course for being deprived of father's property.

"I stood witness to divulge the truth", Islam said when the defence counsel suggested that he came to the court for safeguarding his wealth which can be estimated in billions of Taka.

Sharfuddin Khan Mukul who appeared for Begum Rawshan Ershad also crossed examined the prosecution witnesses.

Replying to him Islam said he was called to the Bureau of Anti-corruption several days in connection of the case. Subsequently Bureau officials went to his office and seized lot of documents.

# The Midnight File

## Nouri elected Speaker of Iranian parliament

NICOSIA, June 2: Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri, a staunch supporter of President Hashemi Rafsanjani, was confirmed Tuesday as Speaker of Iran's newly-elected parliament. Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency, in a dispatch monitored in Nicosia, said Nouri was elected for a period of one year with 191 of 230 votes, reports AP.

## Serbs attack UN convoy

BELGRADE, June 2: Serb irregulars machine-gunned a UN escorted humanitarian convoy outside the Bosnian capital Sarajevo today in the latest assault on relief workers in Yugoslavia's ethnic war, local journalists said. UN observers in the besieged Bosnian capital confirmed the attack, which wounded two people, but did not identify the culprits. The barrage occurred in Serb-held territory, reports Reuters.

# Bank rate reduced

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recovery of outstanding bank loans," he added.

The Finance Minister said that the government was considering formulating a bankruptcy law or insolvency act similar to that in the United States or in Great Britain.

Saying that the interest rates on the Defence Savings Certificate were 'atrociously high', the Minister said that their yield had been refixed at 18 per cent instead of the current 21 per cent.

Similarly, the yield of the five-year term Bangladesh Savings Certificate would be reduced to 16 per cent from the current rate of 18 per cent while that on the one with a three-year-term would be 15 per cent from 19.55 per cent.

The investment ceiling for the five-year-term certificate has been raised to Taka five lakh from the existing Taka three lakh in one name and Taka 10 lakh from Tk six lakh in joint names.

The rate for the Wage Earners Development Bond would remain the same at 16 per cent while that for the Postal Savings Certificate (general) had been reduced to eight per cent from the current rate of 11.5 per cent and that for the three-year-term one from 19.55 per cent to 15 per cent.

In his concluding remarks, the Finance Minister said that these monetary measures were "steps towards internal resource mobilisation and a self-reliant economic growth."

## N-S battle

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Washington announced last Friday it would not sign one of the meeting's main treaties, a "biodiversity" agreement to protect endangered species and share the riches from new products developed from nature.

Delegations from the European Community to Brazil condemned the move, though it later became clear other leading nations including Britain and Japan also had serious reservations.

Diplomats said a drafting lapse during preparatory talks in Nairobi had produced a document which could be interpreted as giving convention authorities the right to dictate how much money individual countries should pay to finance the agreement.

An announcement that Washington would instead set aside tens of millions of dollars a year to help preserve the world's forests did not impress some disappointed delegates.

Marcos Azambuja, chief negotiator for host-nation Brazil, said the US forest money was a unilateral gesture which was out of tune with the Earth Summit's planet-wide agreements.

"There is no linkage between not signing the biodiversity agreement and giving 100 million dollars for forests," he said. "One doesn't rescue the other."

Botswana's delegation head Seiso David Liphuko said: "The US itself contributes greatly to the sort of problem we are facing."

The environmental group Greenpeace described the US forest money as a "cynical move to mask Washington's attempts to sabotage the Earth Summit"

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# Earth Summit today

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extinct in another 40 years.

The audit report on the State of the Environment just released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) says that "efforts to improve the environment depend mainly on eliminating poverty and wasteful habits of the very rich. The world's richest billion people consume the most resources and generate the most waste."

From 1970 to 1990, the population of the world increased by more than 40 per cent, about 1.6 billion people. In the coming two decades it is expected to grow by another 1.7 billion people, bringing the total to seven billion.

Though the growth of population is slowing, during the current decade the world will have to support three more people every second, almost 97 million a year. Demographers are of the opinion that 'this decade will see the largest increase in population in human history.'

Increasing pressure of population creates pressure on meagre resources. The invading population encroaches on lands and forests. This has already resulted in a telling effect on the natural environment and in the process women are facing more strains in collecting fuel, food and water for the family.

They are also facing difficulties in conserving income and cutting expenditure.

There have been scientific and technological advance-

ments over the years contributing to the life span of people, specially in ensuring a better life.

Much of this progress has been in the rich industrial countries, where people now expect to live until 73 and where only nine children out of 1000 die before the age of five. As against this, a South Asian expects to live 57, a Latin American 66 and an African only 52.

Population level and disease are linked. Besides, population increase limits the access to primary health care, sanitation, education and so on.

When the survival of the poor has become difficult, so is the case of many animals. Human activity is rapidly depleting the number of plant and animal species on the earth.

Industry and agriculture depend on this biological diversity for many of their needs.

Conservationists claim, over the next three decades the number of losses are likely to increase to 15000 to 50000 species per year, or about 40 to 140 species per day.

The craze for development has also contributed to speedy development of transport, a greedy consumer of both land and energy.

UNEP figures say 'There are 600 million bicycles in China and India. Unfortunately for the environment, there are almost as many vehicles in the world -- roughly twice as many as there were in 1970. More than 80 per cent of all vehicles are produced and

owned in developed countries. In the United States every other person owns a vehicle, in Africa the figure is 9 for every thousand inhabitants, in India 2 and in China 0.4."

Against this background, the nations of the world would try to reach a consensus to save the earth. The conference is being held at a time when the world will be celebrating the World Environment Day June 5 with the slogan "Only one Earth, Care and Share."

The environment has no boundary and its degradation effects everybody. Justifying the slogan for this year's Environment Day, Mostafa K Tolba, Executive Director of UNEP has rightly said "We have only begun to fight to ensure Care and Share become the watchwords of the twenty-first century."

The Rio Conference is expected to end with a Charter -- a document outlining the responsibilities of human beings for the coming years. There is nothing new in man defending his rights and survival.

Seven thousand years ago the Aryans of the Indus Civilization wanted to protect the five elements (earth, water, energy, air and the sky) essential for survival.

The concern is age-old but the world is yet to take a common initiative.

The Earth Summit is likely to initiate the actions despite the intransigence of many of the developed countries.

(Editorial on Page 4)

**বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক**  
প্রধান কার্যালয়  
ঢাকা  
বিজ্ঞপ্তি

মাননীয় আদালতের অনুমোদনক্রমে বাংলাদেশ কর্মস এ্যান্ড ইনভেস্টমেন্ট লি: (বিসিআই) এর সর্বশেষ প্রকৃত অবস্থা যাচাই করার জন্য বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কর্তৃক পরিদর্শন ও নিরীক্ষা কাজ আরম্ভ করা হয়েছে। এই পরিদর্শন ও নিরীক্ষা কাজ যাতে যথাযথভাবে সম্পন্ন করা যায়, সেজন্য উক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানের সংশ্লিষ্ট কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারীদের স্ব স্ব শাখায়/প্রধান কার্যালয়ে উপস্থিত থেকে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের পরিদর্শন ও নিরীক্ষকদের সাথে সহযোগিতা করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

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**ঢাকা ওয়াসা জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

খেলাপী গ্রাহকদের সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নতার কাজ পূর্ণদোমে চলছে। সম্মানিত গ্রাহক সাধারণের সুবিধার্থে ইতিপূর্বে সারচার্জ ব্যতিরেকে হালনাগাদ বিল পরিশোধের সময় ৩১শে মে, ১৯৯২ইং পর্যন্ত নির্ধারিত ছিল। গ্রাহক সাধারণের বিশেষ অনুরোধে এককালীন বকেয়াসহ হালনাগাদ বিল পরিশোধ সাপেক্ষে সারচার্জ ব্যতীত বিল পরিশোধের সময়সীমা ১৫ই জুন, ১৯৯২ইং পর্যন্ত বর্ধিত করা হল। উল্লেখ্য যে, বকেয়া আদায়ের লক্ষ্যে খেলাপী গ্রাহকদের সংযোগ তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে বিচ্ছিন্ন করার জন্য ঢাকা ওয়াসা পরিচালিত "বিশেষ অভিযান" ৩০শে জুন ১৯৯২ইং পর্যন্ত বহাল থাকবে।

উল্লেখ্য যে, খেলাপী গ্রাহকদের সংযোগ তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে বিচ্ছিন্ন করণসহ পি,ডি,আর, এ্যাক্টের অধীনে গ্রাহকের মালামাল ক্রোক করা অব্যাহত আছে। সারচার্জ ব্যতীত বকেয়াসহ হালনাগাদ বিল পরিশোধের এই বর্ধিত সুযোগ গ্রহণ করে সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্ন ও পি,ডি,আর, এ্যাক্টের অধীনে শাস্তিমূলক ব্যবস্থা এড়াবার জন্য আজই নির্দিষ্ট ব্যাংকের নির্ধারিত শাখায় আপনার পানি ও পয়ঃবিদ পরিশোধ করুন।

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