

channel out *Endangered Species*

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We have decided to give you a guide as to how you would utilize your vacation or free hours to its optimum best. Instead of falling into the traps of terrorism, drug addiction, alcoholism and others, channel out your energy and be a wise person. To agree with us or not is entirely your decision this is just a suggestion on RS' part...

Guide to language learning

By Wara Karim

If the exam is over and you are sitting idly at home, take a chance and learn a language. I can swear it will help you in future. Here are some addresses given below:

The British Council

They take students in different forms of language courses. For example, General English Language courses for the S.S.S. and H.S.C. students. Course fee-TK 6400. Business English Certificate Preparation Course. Course fee- TK 11500. Professional Writing Course. Course fee- TK 7100. Young Learners' Course. Course fee- TK 5500. IELTS course. Course fee- TK10000. Address: The British Council Teaching Centre, 754-B, Sath Masjid Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka. Phone- 9116545, 9116171.

Alliance Francaise

Best place to learn French. Address: 26 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka. Phone: 505881, 505865.

Japanese language Institute

Japanese Language is taught in here. Address: House # 10, Rd. # 9 (new), Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka. Phone # 9126525, 9126526.

Iran Cultural Centre

Institution for Persian language that is, if you are interested. Address: House # 54, Road # 8/A, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka. Phone # 9116314.

Besides these, Modern (adunik) Language Institute under Dhaka University is a notable institution where many languages of the world are taught. So what are you waiting for, if you have time, grab the chance to enhance your language power who knows how it is going to help you in the future.

Virtually entire families of plants such as cactus, orchids and cycads are considered threatened or endangered because of over-collection for commercial purposes. Non-native species introduced to a new ecosystem have caused serious native species declines. The non-native, or exotic, species may be introduced either accidentally or intentionally, and either out-compete the native species or prey on them. Native plants and animals may have no defenses against these invaders, which can exterminate or greatly reduce the populations of many native species.

The damaging effects are generally irreversible, and there is often no way to keep the damage from spreading. The accidental introduction of blight, for example, virtually eliminated the American chestnut tree from North American hardwood forests. The zebra mussel first discovered in North America in Lake Victoria in eastern Africa as a sport fish. This large predator drastically reduced native fish populations and caused the extinction of as many as 200 endemic species of cichlid fish. Because the cichlids are important algae-feeding fish, the lake has since become choked with decomposing aquatic vegetation, depleting the oxygen in the water and leading to further species declines.

Pollution is another important cause of extinction. Toxic chemicals, especially chlorinated hydrocarbons, such as dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) have become concentrated in food webs, the interconnected food chains that circulate energy through an ecosystem. These toxic chemicals strongly affect species near the top of the food chain. Both DDT and PCB's interfere with the calcium metabolism of birds, causing soft-shelled eggs and malformed young. PCBs also impair reproduction in some carnivorous animals. Water pollution and increased water temperatures have wiped out endemic species of fish in many habitats. Oil spills destroy birds, fish, and mammals, and may contaminate the ocean floor for many years after the event. Acid rain, the toxic result of extreme air pollution, has been known to kill organisms in freshwater lakes and destroy large tracts of forested land.

In an effort to protect global bio-diversity and encourage the study, restoration, and sound management of endangered species the IUCN and the World Conservation Monitoring Center (ACMC) maintain a global list of endangered and vulnerable animal species called the Red List. A framework for international conservation efforts, the Red List database assesses the status of, and threats to, animal species worldwide. To add to this and other bio-diversity databases, non governmental organizations such as Conservation International and World Wildlife Fund conduct periodic rapid assessments (focused, intensive evaluations) of bio-diversity in various hotspots regions like Madagascar that are both rich in endemic species

and is also environmentally threatened. This information is used in the administration of international agreements such as the Convention on International trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), signed by 125 nations in 1973 and put into effect in 1975.

The purpose of CITES is to restrict exploitation of endangered plants and wildlife by regulating and restricting their trade. Despite legal protection, however, the future of many species, such as the African black rhinoceros, is in doubt because of poor law enforcement and the activities of poachers and dealers who supply the \$6 billion per year trade in endangered animals and animal parts. Similarly, the International Whaling Commission is charged with protecting global whale populations, but lacks the authority to enforce its rulings. Several private and governmental efforts in the United States have been mobilized to save endangered species. One immediate approach is to protect a species by legislation.

The Lacey Act of 1900 was enacted to protect wildlife from commercial trade and over hunting. The Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 banned the killing and importing of whales and nearly all marine mammals. In addition to promoting species and habitat protection in the United States, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) discouraged the exploitation of endangered species in other countries by banning the importation and trade of any product, such as elephant-tusk ivory, obtained from such species. Although the ESA is one of the most progressive national wildlife protection laws ever enacted, it is constantly threatened by development industries unhappy with the government restrictions.

The United States also has various agreements with other nations like Canada and Mexico for the legal protection of migratory birds. These include the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, the Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929, and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan of 1986. Canadian laws designed to protect endangered species include the Migratory Birds Convention Act of 1917, the Canadian Endangered Species Protection Act of 1996, and the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Inter-provincial Trade Act of 1996.

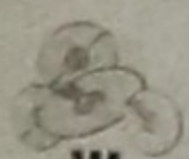
The current global extinction crisis is one of the greatest challenges posed by the rapid growth and expansion of human populations. The protection of endangered species and habitats should be a top priority for international organizations, governmental agencies, industry, and individuals if there is hope for preserving the earth's valuable bio-diversity for future generations.

Dear Mehrose,

Yours is undoubtedly a good piece of research work, but it is only proper to give credit to the books you have done your research from, otherwise there is always the risk of others calling it a plagiarized work. —RS Desk

Whatz up this week

By Shoitana cum bitka



Weekly CD review

Compiled from my wee-little brain after 6 hrs of continuous listening to the album.

TLC---FANMAIL

Rating: *** 1/2

Who hasn't heard of the 'Crazy, Sexy, Cool' trio, with great costumes, funky videos & phycadellic make-up? Well in case you missed out on them before, check them out. Not that with Chartbusters like 'No Scrubs' & 'Unpretty' you have much of a choice. I actually didn't expect the album to be that, that good. Well, boy was I wrong! This album is found in abundance in all CD shops everywhere and I'd be surprised if you don't have it. Read on anyway...

you from!!!) get online RIGHT NOW!!!

Here are some pointers for beginners:-

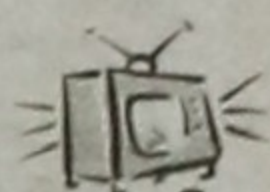
- # never use your real name, be careful when choosing your nick, it can say a lot
- # watch out for DEVIL, YETS-UNITED, ami-chagol.... Just kidding! They're the nicest guys there....(I think)

- # Do NOT chat with people of the same sex, it's absolutely no fun unless you know each other from before.

- # Never piss off the operators, it sucks when you get banned. Watch out for the people with + signs too. One of them happens to be a REAL *@*#!

- # Save your money and don't be surprised if your parents cut you allowance because of the sky-high bills. (believe me, it really happens!!!)

Something good always comes out of chatting. (I'm forced to say that) You know more people, surprisingly cool ones, too and your typing improves drastically.



Songs 2 watch out 4

I miss you so much, Shout, Dear Lie, Unpretty.

Da best of da best: Silly Ho, If they knew, I'm good at being bad, No Scrubs

When my friend gave me this album I was prepared for something along the lines of pop and a bit of soul. But believe me, these gals have re-defined pop all anew.

With a very saucy fusion of rap, hip-hop and even a bit of rock this makes a very weird and very, very cool album. Silly Ho should send your adrenaline pumping in your body, the "hoo, hoo" chanting is way too catchy. Track 6, 7 & 10 are just plain wicked, bitchy and about all us females breaking hearts the 'fun' way. The love songs are good listening, surprisingly depressing. The lyrics make killer poetry, at least most of them anyway. I'm not exactly sure, but they were away from the music scene, T'boz, Chilli and Left-Eye have been going through. At first they went bankrupt, one of them had a kid, Chilli found the father and family she had never met, T'boz was busy writing a book, I forgot the rest, get the saucier details at their web site. Listening to this album you get a wider view about the Ghetto, & Hood, at least I did.... These ARE the "Spicier Girls" with a fantastic album and a different message.



Book of the Week

THE RAIN-MAKER—John Grisham

If you're a movie buff, then you might have spotted this movie on Star Movies. If you haven't, and plan on the reading the book, then be sure to watch the movie first, not vice versa, because then you're sure to be disappointed. Books are always better. This is how the story goes....

Rudy Baylor is a newly qualified

lawyer, on the rocks, jumping from job to job. He has one case and this case alone can save him from his mounting debts. It's a bad faith suit against a giant insurance company, which could've saved 18-year-olds life, but instead they decided to refuse the claim until it was too late. The settlement or verdict could be worth of millions of dollars, only, there's a small problem, Rudy's never argued in court before and he's up against the most expensive lawyers money can hire.

GOOD BOOK, very Good book. It's all I can say. Trust me and go read it. If you're familiar with Grisham's law-related books you'll love it.



Movie of the week

SCREAM 3

The movie is very hush-hush, and I really have no idea what's going to happen this time. So far Scream 1 & 2 have been groundbreaking horror flicks, so I'm gonna watch this one. It's a movie surrounding the making of another movie (stab 2 or 3). That's all I know. Even if the movie stinks (some people have told me it does), at least the story will be a surprise. (which is just an excuse for not doing my homework on the movie section.)

That's all for this week, so adios mes amigos.



Thing to do for the week

MIRC.....

Ok, this isn't anything new for me, since I'm quite an addict. In case you haven't chatted before (My God, which planet are