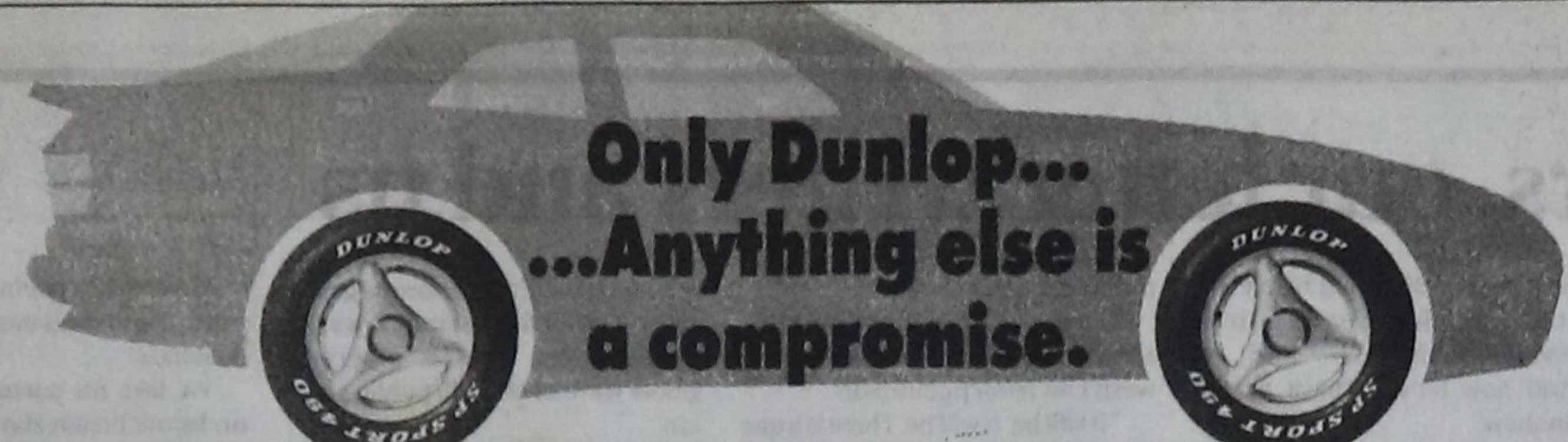


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60,000 plant species face extinction by 2025

UN report says

UNB, Dhaka

As many as 60,000 plant species - one quarter of the world's total - could be lost by the year 2025, ultimately contributing to huge buildup of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and threatening the ecosystem.

In the last few decades, as population growth has peaked, deforestation rates have reached the highest levels in history, said a report of the United Nations.

Some 65 million hectares of forest, out of a total of 3500 million hectares, were lost in between 1990 and 1995, and an increase of 9 million hectares in the developed world only slightly offset this loss.

In Bangladesh, there are about 5,000 species of flora and more than 100 species, mostly wild orchids and ginger groups, have already been endangered or become extinct.

"Bangladesh National Herbar-

ium will shortly release a red data book on the endangered or extinct species," said the Herbarium director, Dr M Matiur Rahman.

He said rapid human encroachment, indiscriminate collections of wild plants for medicinal use, destruction of habitats, practice of high yielding crop species and environment change are behind the threat or depletion of plant species in Bangladesh.

Modern agriculture has also reduced genetic diversity in the country, he observed. "Many rice species in the country are already lost for not practicing its cultivation and because of major practice of high yielding varieties," he said.

At present, more than 350,000 plant species exist around the globe. Of these, China alone have more than 30,000 species.

But use of lands for human dwellings, expansion of agriculture into primary forests, wetlands and grasslands, unwise collection of natural resources and replace-

ment of traditional native crops with high-yielding exotic species caused severe impacts on biodiversity and depleted floras.

Urbanisation, industrialisation, illegal trades of endangered species and poor management are also depleting plants and timber species, experts said.

According to the State of Population 2001 Report released by the UNFPA here on Nov 8, many countries with the largest blocks of remaining tropical forest are also those with the highest population growth.

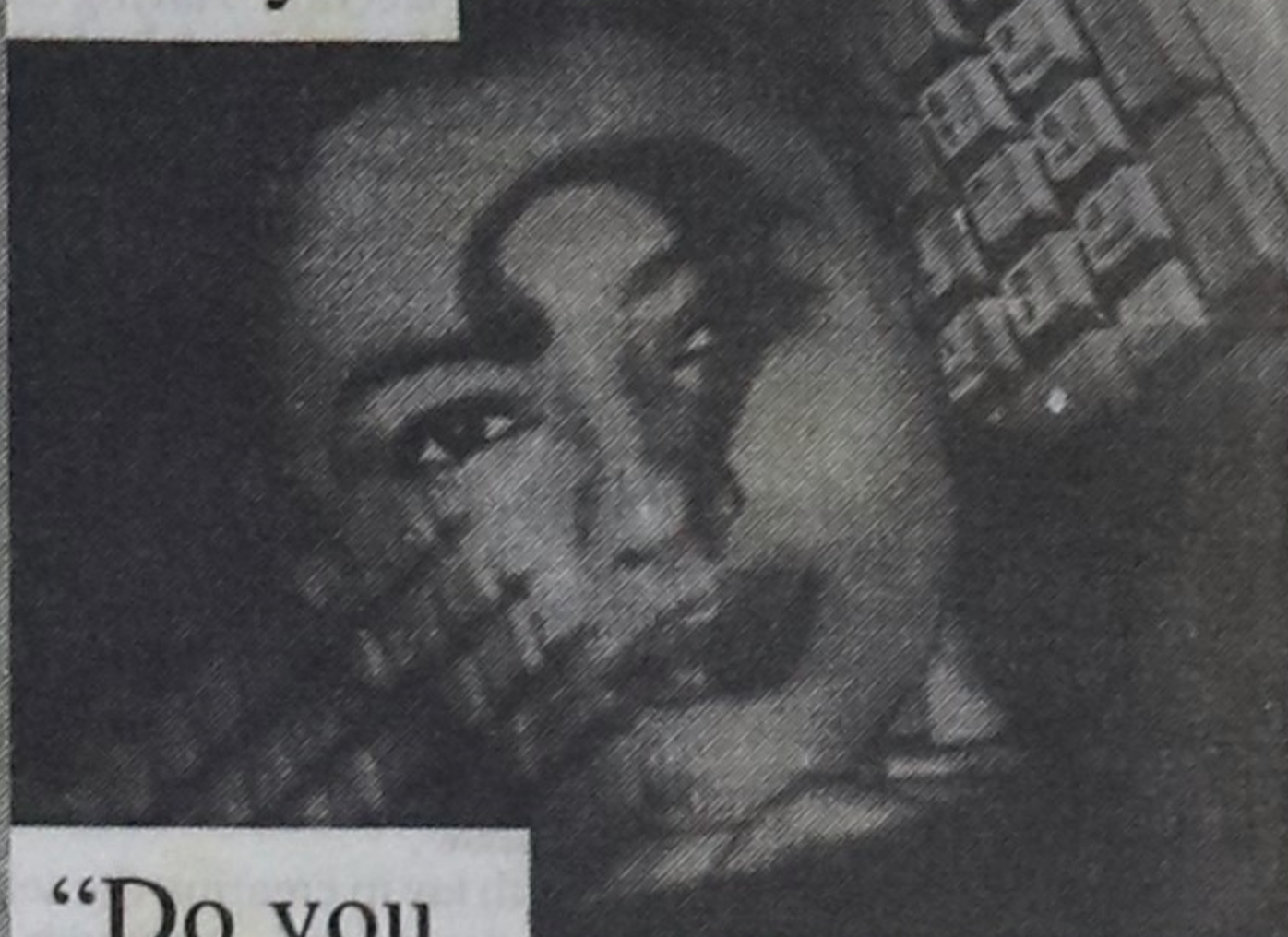
In last 60 years, the world population grew rapidly and reached 6.1 billion (in mid 2001), and it is projected to grow by 50 per cent to 9.3 billion by 2050. "All of the projected growth will take place in today's developed countries."

Population in Bangladesh now (in mid 2001) reached 140.4 million and it is expected to grow to 265.4 million by 2050, the report said.



Visitors admire a *Sattranj*, a product from Nishbetganj, Rangpur, at an exhibition at the Drik Gallery in the city yesterday. The exhibition will continue till November 17.

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The Winners are requested to contact immediately with Mr. A R M Khalid Reza

Phone: 8116764, 8111442, 8128783, 8128784, Fax: 880-2-8128637, Email: ena@dotbd.com

Bangladesh Power Development Board BPDB's International Short Tender Notice

International sealed tender is hereby invited by the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) for procurement of 230 KV Bus Potential Transformer (PT) for Ghorasal Thermal Power Station, against Tender Enquiry No Pur-320/2000 dated 12-11-2001. The source of financing will be cash foreign exchange allocation.

A complete set of tender document including detailed specifications, terms and conditions may be sold to the interested bidders against a written application to the undersigned on payment of non-refundable fee Taka 2,000/- (Taka two thousand) in the shape of Bank Draft/Pay Order favouring Director of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.

All bids must be accompanied by Bid Bond in the prescribed Bid Format @ 2% of the total Bid Price from a schedule bank in Bangladesh in accordance with instructions to the bidders. Tender will be received on 09-12-2001 up to 11.00 AM Bangladesh standard time and shall be opened on the same day at 11.30 AM in presence of the interested bidders or their representative if any. Tender document will be sold up to 08-12-2001.

No tender document will be sent by post and no Telex/Fax offer will be acceptable.

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