

Campus chronicles

Earth Day celebrations at IUB

Environmental issues at centre stage

SABRINA F AHMAD

EARTH Day, on April 22, was first observed in San Francisco in 1970. Over the last few years, this day has now become a global event as a special day designated for discussions and activities centred on environmental and social issues.

In its countdown to Earth Day, Green Sphere, a student organisation run by students of the School of Environmental Science and Management (SESM), of the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), hosted a special bird photography exhibition.

The exhibition kicked off recently, at IUB's SESM campus in Baridhara. The chief guest, renowned bird photographer Enamul Haque, inaugurated the programme. Congratulating Green Sphere for their efforts in spreading awareness about birds, he took a few moments to comment on the current environmental crisis of disappearing birds. Out of the 9000 or so species of birds, 2000 are currently on the endangered list. The number of Bangladeshi birds on this alarming list comes around to 40, and is expected to include 'common' birds such as the crow in a few years. The factors that are contributing to the decrease in the bird community include loss of habitat as well as dwindling food supply, and increased pollution, problems which are mainly caused by human intervention.

Professor Dr MA Hussain of the Department of Environmental Chemistry and Waste Management,

spoke about some of the common sources of pollution that are causing concern for bird lovers and environmentalists around the globe. Professor Haroun Er Rashid, Director of the SESM, in a brief speech, thanked the chief guest for gracing the organisation, and also informed the audience about Enamul Haque's mountaineering project, which started sometime last year, when he took a group of students on an expedition to Mt Keokradong.

The speeches were followed by a short question-and-answer round, before the exhibition was formally opened. The show featured a collection of Enamul Haque's photographs of different birds of the subcontinent, from the egret to the mynah, to lesser-known species like the black baz. Students of the



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SESM, as well as from other departments of the university, thronged in to catch a glimpse of the photographs on display.

On April 22, Green Sphere had another impressive line-up for existing and aspiring environmentalists. The Earth Day Programme began at 10.30 a.m., at Campus 8 in Kalachandpur. It started off with speeches by the Vice Chancellor of the Independent University Professor Bazlul Mobin Chowdhury, Professor Haroun Er Rashid, Professor Dr MA Hussain, Head of the Population Environment Department Professor Dr Nashid Kamal Waiz, Ex-President of Green Sphere Sabrina Islam, and current Green Sphere President Rahat Bari Tooneen.

Each speaker had something to

say about the history of Earth Day, the issues surrounding it, the environmental and social problems that are at the root of these issues, and some achievements of environmentalists of this country and around the globe. The Green Sphere presidents spoke about the organisation, its roots, its achievements, and setbacks. They also presented the audience with the first issue of the Green Sphere newsletter, which outlines the various activities and concerns of the SESM.

The speeches were followed by a slide show, conducted by Green Sphere member Rumana Rashid. The slide show presented the SESM, its structure, programmes and achievements.

The show was rounded off with a short drama called *Modon Pori, O Gaach*, a hilarious story about an enterprising businessman who makes money from the logging industry. The businessman suffers from lack of oxygen, and his son Modon, wins the heart of the nurse Pori, by convincing his father not to fell the trees again. The actors of the play were Rubayat, Robin, Narmeen, Roman, Shantonu, Farah, and Shaikot with a cameo performance by Professor Ayaz Rabbani. The play's director, Prince, later spoke about how the entire skit was put together with very limited rehearsals.

Thus the celebrations ended on a happy note, followed by refreshments. Green Sphere hopes to be able to organise many more such events in the future.



The show featured a collection of Enamul Haque's photographs of different birds of the subcontinent.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Book launching

Academic Press and Publishers Limited (APPL) launches its book entitled *The Tale of the First Private University of Bangladesh: North South University* by Mustehuddin Ahmed at the Conference Hall of Presidency University of Bangladesh (House-11/A, Road-92, Gulshan-2, Dhaka) at 5 pm. Wahiduddin Mahmood will chair the programme while Justice Mustafa Kamal and Dr M Asaduzzaman will be present as the chief guest and special guest respectively.

May 02-03

The launching ceremony of the book *Surviving Dreams: the Struggling Circuses of Bangladesh* by Pierre Clauquin will be held at the Alliance Francaise (26, Mirpur road, Dhammandi/R/A) at 6:30 pm on May 2. The book will be launched again at the Tribal Craft (House-56, Road-7/A, Block-H, Banani) at 5:30 pm on May 3.

Exhibition

April 26-May 08

A 12-day long painting exhibition of five renowned contemporary artists will be held at Haque Art Gallery, Gulshan from April 26. Thirty five paintings on oil, tempera, acrylic and mixed media by Mahmudul Haque, Abdus Sakur Shah, Rokeya Sultan, Kanak Champa Chakma and Khalid Mahmud Mithu will be displayed in the exhibition.

April 01-29

Russian Cultural Centre has arranged a photo and stamp exhibition on aviation and cosmonautics to celebrate the International Day of Cosmonautics and Aviation at the center's library.

Sculpture

April 13-30

British Council Bangladeshi holds a bamboo sculpture exhibition at its compound at 5 Fuller Road. The display presents works of 9 sculptors and two traditional bamboo artisans. The display remains open from 10 am to 7 pm daily.

Music

April 30

The Indian High Commission in Dhaka, in conjunction with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, will present a light classical music programme by Penaz Masani at 7 pm at the Osmani Memorial Hall, Dhaka.

News-makers



Winners of Pantene You Got the Look Contest 2004 (L-R): Best hair (male) Ziaul Faruk Apurbo, Best look (male) Mirza Mohammed Ghalib, Best look (female) Shabnam Munir Tanisha and Best hair (female) Saria Hossain. Pantene Pro-V held this glamorous contest on April 23 at the Hotel Sheraton, portraying beauty along with brains. Young men and women participated in this show, showcasing their talents in singing, dancing and also showed an immense amount of self-confidence. The contest has been bringing forth young and budding models of Bangladesh in recent years.



Sushmita Sen has refused attempts to lure her towards television. The former Miss Universe has been contacted with offers on a number of occasions, including a possible talk show for Balaji Telefilms. However the offers have always been politely rejected. 'I am not ready for such a thing as yet,' Sushmita confesses.

SOURCE: HINDUSTAN TIMES

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

BTW

News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.

News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.

News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.

Late Night News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

CHANNEL-i

Breakfast News at 7:15 am, 9:00 am.

News (Bangla) at 7:15 pm, 9:00, 10:30, 12:15 am.

Telecast of BTW News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA

News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.

Telecast of BTW News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

Latest News (Bangla) at 9 a.m., 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

ntv

News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am.

12:00 am, 5:00 pm, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.

News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.

Telecast of BTW News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA

NewsHeadlines(Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm.

Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.

Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

BBC WORLD

Every hour on the hour

BTV

10:00 *Bangladesh Hridoy* Hote Drama Serial: *Juboraj*

12:30 *Shastha Tathyo*

01:05 *Ananda Jhama*

01:30 *Shilpo O Sahitya*

02:05 *Computer Protidin*

03:05 *Drama Serial*

03:35 *Shukhi Parbar*

04:05 *Lekhpora*

04:30 *Open University*

05:05 *National Television*

05:55 *Debate Competition*

06:00 *Shamokalin Authorittee*

06:00 *Des Janopod*

06:10 *Dolon Charpa*

06:35 *Ritter Talev Talev*

07:00 *Weather Forecast*

07:05 *Shishu Kishor Nritya*

11:20 *Din Darpan*

07:30 *Drama Serial: Alo Chhaya*

08:30 *Shamokalin Natok*

09:30 *Drama Serial: Hoyto Tomor Jonryo*

10:35 *Anandalok*

NTV

09:30 *Ei Shomoy*

10:05 *Hello Music*

10:30 *Dhakar Cinema*

02:30 *Zoo Adventure*

03:40 *Right Click*

04:15 *Medhabi*

05:10 *Putulnach*

05:40 *Aprna Jigysa*

06:20 *Shubho Shondhya*

06:50 *Khoborer Shondhane*

08:10 *Drama Serial: Charpa*

08:50 *Band Music*

09:40 *Drama Serial: Obosheshe Prapot*

11:20 *Din Darpan*

12:20 *Bengali feature film: Saat Manush*

12:30 *Hok ATN Dye*

09:05 *Thunder Stone*

09:40 *Drama Serial: Baajakhi*

10:15 *Omega Doom*

11:25 *Drama Serial: Swapno Kapoth*

12:00 *The Story of Us*

02:00 *Bangla Feature Film: Dargabajar*

04:20 *Meena*

05:00 *Gram Gorjer Khabor*

05:00 *Nirasha (Rozeena/Jony)*

05:00 *Sa Re Ga Ma*

05:50 *Music Plus*

06:15 *Drama Serial: Johu*

06:20 *Special Programme*

06:40 *Priyo Tarokar Shera*

07:00 *Gan*

07:50 *Drama Serial: Keboli Raat Hoye Jai*

08:30 *Drama Serial: Mogabali*

09:00 *Live Health*

08:25 *Drama Serial: Shunno Theke Shamudre*

09:00 *Shunno Theke Shamudre*

09:35 *Drama Serial: Thief of Katha Mala*

10:35 *Talk Show: Katha Mala*

HBO

10:15 *Omega Doom*