

Safari Park: A safe haven for wildlife

Most interesting and recreational leisure spot for the visitors



STAR PHOTO

A huge sculpture of dinosaur, left, greets visitors at Safari Park and clockwise from top left are bear, owl, hippopotamus and snake bird in Safari Park at Dulahazra.

SHAHIDUL ISLAM

Dulahazra at Chokoria Upazila. Wide varieties of herbivorous and carnivorous animals like lion, tiger, deer, bear and elephant have now found their safe haven here over an area of 900 hectares of land in natural environment.

The park project was started in 1998-1999 at a cost of Tk 9.90 crore on a 300 hectares of land. Later, 600 more hectares of land were included in second phase, which was completed this year.

The park is now a beautiful sanctuary for wildlife in the country. With good road communications from Chittagong city and beach city Cox's Bazar, it is located at a serene place of

Dulahazra at Chokoria Upazila. The park has large varieties of trees, shrubby plants, bamboo, climbers and a large orchid house. Colourful collection of orchids is put on show in the orchid house. The park has many observation towers to have a glance of the animals grazing in their enclosures. Riding on a protected minibus, visitors can take the opportunity to see live those ferocious animals. There is also a natural history museum few yards inside the main gate. The remains, specimen and stuffing of about 2000 animals and birds were kept in this museum.

Another attraction of the park is its 'Nature Interpretation Centre'. The visitors can get the thrill of an

artificial dense forest, once they enter it. At the entrance, there are few murals. Of them one is of a gigantic dinosaur, enough to remind one the 'extra terrestrial' (ET) world. The park has nice accommodation for visitors to stay at night.

More features: background

The evergreen forests of Cox's Bazar once enriched with lofty Dipterocarps, Boilum, Telsur, Civit, Chapalish, Champa, and various climber and medicinal plants were endowed with enormous rare wildlife species like elephant, leopard, deer, bear, wild boar, monkeys, flying squirrel and

various reptiles. The reptiles include python, fauna like Black Drongo, Hair Crested Drongo, Rufous Nickel Hornbill and White Breasted Kingfisher.

Ever increasing population pressure and poaching resulted in adverse impact on the biodiversity including wildlife community. The Royal Bengal Tiger became extinct in the forests of Cox's Bazar in sixties.

A team of Bangladesh Civil Service Forest Association called on the then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for setting up of such a park on November 26 in 1996. She responded positively and ordered the concerned ministry and department to take necessary

steps in this connection, sources said.

This safari park was built with a view to saving the wildlife from extinction and helping them in reproduction. It will contribute to research and education as well. In addition, it will also help expand eco-tourism as out-door recreational spots and contribute to protecting the environment through creation of employment opportunities.

Objectives

>To help breeding of major animals like tiger, cheetah, deer, elephant and Hog Deer by conserving them into the park;

To conserve the extinct or near-

extinct animals like ox, lion, bear, crocodiles, gharial, zebra, impala and spring duck;

To create sanctuary for guest birds;

To create natural food sources for herbivorous animals by creating grazing ground for them and

To create scope for eco-tourism, education and research.

Lone hog deer

The Dulahazra Safari Park is now gifted with a rare animal – country's only Hog Deer (known as Pera Hareen / scientific name *Axis porcinus*).

"It was collected from

Khagrachari in 2002 and probably it came from India," said Dr Tapan Kumar Dey, project director of the park.

Latest arrival

Twenty-nine freshwater crocodiles of an endangered species, out of 40 collected from Madras Crocodile Bank Trust (MCBT) in India on Friday last, were released on Saturday and these crocodiles added new attraction to the park.

The park authorities, as Dr Tapan said, are contemplating to breed this rare species here in a planned way to enrich the world of wildlife.

Illegal structures contribute to sticky traffic situation

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD

The traffic situation in the port city is getting worse following construction of high-rise buildings, roadside markets, educational institutions and community centres in violation of rules.

It is forcing different city points to fall under the clutches of unbearable gridlock gradually. The high-rise buildings without adequate parking lots and entry spaces are contributing to the traffic congestion in the city.

Forum for Planned Chittagong (FPC), a voluntary organisation, sent a letter to the Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) chairman recently in this regard.

FPC in its letter gave some details on violation of rules and by-rules related to the construction and use of buildings.

It said a number of high-rise buildings were constructed recently beside the important thoroughfares like CDA Avenue, OR Nizam Road, Golephahar More and Mehedibag in violation of the rules resulting in serious traffic jam.

The letter signed by FPC Executive Vice President Engineer ABMA Baset, urged CDA to take immediate measures to check it.

Meanwhile, CDA identified some buildings and markets constructed flouting the approved designs. It also asked the owners to keep parking lot and adequate space in front of their buildings for smooth movement, CDA sources said.

Besides, mushroom growth of educational institutions along the city streets is also creating gridlock at different points of the city roads. Jamal Khan, Dampara CDA Avenue, Chittagong College road, Ice Factory road and Zahir Hossain road are the most affected areas.

Community centres, without sufficient parking spaces, also contributed to the menace. Vehicles of bridal parties, parked

expand roads and set up several intersection in the city at a cost of Tk 8 crore.

CDA also decided to determine a new alignment for the road stretching from Panchlaish junction to Muradpur Rail Gate No-1 with a width of 72-ft and fixing new alignment for Muradpur junction with 100-ft radius.

But, very little progress has been made so far.

Under the project, CDA demolished a good number of structures that stood in the way of expanding the roads and intersections and hindered acquisition of land at Bahodderhat and Anderkilla areas.

But, after the eviction the expansion work is now going on in a snail's pace that has been inspiring illegal occupants in many points of the areas to resettle.

Expansion of road and intersection at Anderkilla at a cost of Tk 4 crore could not be of much help as the narrow entry point of an adjoining diversion road creates traffic jam there.

Some 50 yards of the diversion road stretching from Anderkilla intersection to Red Crescent Maternity Hospital needed expanded to reap the fruit of expansion, sources said.

A boundary wall of a hospital stood in the way of expanding 50-yard stretch of the diversion road, CDA sources.

On June 8, CDA asked the civil surgeon, Chittagong to stop construction of the wall, they said.

Mushroom growth of educational institutions along the streets is creating gridlock at different points of the city roads

in rows in front of the community centres at Love lane, Mehedibag, Nasirabad, Muradpur and Chawk Bazar, hinder traffic.

Moreover, there are several unofficial bus stands at Dampara, Station Road, Kadamtoli, Cinema Palace and Olonker intersection where buses stop illegally causing round-the-clock gridlock.

At the backdrop of the situation, CDA took up a project to

some buildings and markets constructed flouting the approved designs. It also asked the owners to keep parking lot and adequate space in front of their buildings for smooth movement, CDA sources said.

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CU debating club installation held

The installation ceremony of Management Debating Club (MDC) of the department of business management of Chittagong University (CU) was held at a local hotel in the city on Sunday.

Professor Dr. Monzoor Morshed Mahmud, dean of business faculty, was the chief guest and Mohammad Jasim Uddin Chowdhury, managing editor of the Dainik Purbokone special guest.

Professor Abdulla Mamun, chairman of business management department, presided.

Help develop fisheries

Fishermen should get themselves incorporated with development process and play strong role in developing fisheries sector of the country.

Golam Akber Khondoker, the newly appointed Bangladeshi envoy to Oman, said this while he was inaugurating the biennial conference of Matsyajibi Dal, Chittagong (north) district unit here on Saturday.

Khondoker, also a ruling party central leader, was addressing as chief guest at the conference on the Nasiman Bhaban premises.

He was addressing the passing out parade of the 46th batch of Railway Nirapatta Bahini (RNB) as chief guest at RNB Training Centre at Pahartali on Friday.

The speakers at the meeting called for intensified activities of the organisation that

the week that was

CU debating club installation held

Matsyajibi Dal central president Rafiqul Islam Mahtab also spoke with organisation's Chittagong (north) district unit convenor M Morshed Ali in the chair.

BDS course begins

The first BDS course at Chittagong International Dental College, the first private dental college in the port city, began here on Saturday.

Former commerce minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury attended the course launching ceremony as chief guest on the college premises at Noyabazar Rampur at Halishahar.

Professor Dr. ANM Munir Ahmad Chowdhury of Chittagong University, dental college principal Professor Dr. AKM Joarder and vice-principal Dr. Salimullah were special guests. SMA Naser, the founding chairman of SMA Naser Foundation, presided.

Cooperative Book Society AGM

The 28th Annual General Meeting of Bangladesh Cooperative Book Society Limited was held at Muslim Institute hall here on Friday.

The speakers at the meeting called for

intensified activities of the organisation that

started its journey through publications of valuable books and import of different education materials in 1949.

With Society Vice-president Mohammad Amir Hossain in the chair, Dr. Mohammad Siddique Rahman, SM Rais Uddin, Engineer Mizbah Uddin Khan, Israfil Hossain, Advocate SM Kamal Uddin and Abdul Gaffar and shareholders Professor Mofizur Rahman, Helal Humayun, Abdul Awal and Advocate Jasim Uddin also spoke. Society directors Saifullah Mansoor and Mohammad Ullah conducted the function.

Protect Rly property

Bangladesh Railway Director General AFM Mostafizur Rahman urged the members of Railway Nirapatta Bahini to play more effective role for resisting theft of railway properties and goods.

He was addressing the passing out parade of the 46th batch of Railway Nirapatta Bahini (RNB) as chief guest at RNB Training Centre at Pahartali on Friday.

He expressed concern over the recent incidents of theft of materials and fittings from rail tracks and called upon the RNB members to protect those.

Chief Commandant Abdur Rouf made the address of welcome at the ceremony.

Twelve Assistant Sub Inspectors and 328 constables took part in the training course.

CCC: first meet of ward commissioners

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury said the proposed city government plan will be implemented through coordination among different service and development agencies.

He said this while he was addressing the first meeting of ward commissioners at the CCC auditorium on Sunday.

"City government will not be an alternative government. Its objective is not to control any agency. It will complement the government by bringing about coordination among the works of 21 agencies with a view to ensuring better civic services to the city's 40 lakh dwellers," he said.

He said city government proposal was already placed for approval and exchange of views and opinions in this regard will be solicited from experts, personalities and citizens soon.

"Commissioners will lead the Ward Nagarik Committees to carry development works of their respective wards and the committees will realise taxes of their localities," he said. "The committees will also look after the work like road development, repair and drain and street light maintenance," he added.

Mohiuddin Chowdhury in the meeting also highlighted his measures to resolve the water and power crises and sought cooperation from the commissioners in this regard.

Sandhani Insurance woman branch opens

The Sirjuddawla Road woman branch of Sandhani Life Insurance Company was inaugurated here on Monday.

Senior Executive Vice-President Goutam Kumar Chowdhury inaugurated the branch at a simple ceremony.

Executive vice-presidents Mohon Devnath, SVP Sheli Das, SVP Nurur Rahim, AVP Halima Kabir, AVP Mira Das, DSM Rupanjali Dharr, Sanchita Chowdhury and ASM Nilima Chowdhury also spoke. Sajal Das conducted the ceremony.



Singer Mahmud Uz Zaman Babu sings at the 10th anniversary ceremony of Pantomime Movement at the Muslim



Subhra Sengupta and her group perform at an AIDS awareness campaign programme on Wednesday. Square Bangladesh organised the event titled "Express 2005 Chittagong" at the Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), Chittagong centre auditorium.