Rangamati: a Silent Bracket?

Kudos to STAR magazine for featuring neglected Rangamati, within Chittagong Hill Tracts, in last week's photo feature. It made a welcome change from the city-centric stories that our newspapers print.

I was rather surprised that the accompanying text made no mention of the political context of the region. The CHT is not simply a National Geographic tableau, with peaceful natives as local colour for our regional sports meets and international events. The region's history should not be made a silent bracket in your magazine.

Shambhu Rahmat
Dhanmondi, Dhaka



Use of Roadside Plantation as Conservation Site

In Bangladesh, the total forest area is decreasing at an alarming rate in recent years. The pressure of a rising population is the main reason behind this. Because of destruction of both homestead and wild forests, a lot of indigenous plant varieties are going to become extinct. Our indigenous plant varieties are a source of medicinal and genetic resources. In our country extensive physical and biological characterisation of these plants are not yet done. As a result we do not know their potential in future environment.

Because of a lack of sufficient raw plant products of different plant species, the century-old herbal medicine is now fighting for its existence. The organic chemical derivatives of these medicinal plant species have not been discovered. Sadly there is no initiative at any level of our government and commercial entrepreneurs to discover these chemicals as tools for future commerce. It needs a lot of investment but it would yield a high rate of return.

As it is not practical to create an artificial forest, we need to look for new conservation places. There are many vacant spaces besides the roads and highways. At present when there is planting in these places, only a single species is considered. Because of density of a single species, disease and pest infestation easily kill a lot of plants. So if we plant different types of indigenous plants one after another, then this will help to conserve a lot of indigenous species. This will help to maintain a sound environment as they have a positive effect on our ecosystem.

Abu Kausar Mohammed Sarwar
MS Student, Department of Agricultural Chemistry,
BAU, Mymensingh

Saving Banani

It is really frightening and claustrophobic how the peaceful residential area of Banani is turning into a chaotic place. I do not understand how the government is sitting idle and saying nothing.

I would like to request the authorities as an old resident of Gulshan and Banani to relocate the development of certain establishments to another place; for example schools and Universities, manpower offices and endless commercial buildings. The roads are already clogged and arrogant driving has become common here too. I really hope someone relieves us from this pain.

Shakila Paveen Khan
Banani