

WORLD'S NEW 7 WONDERS

Sundarbans books final berth,
Cox's Bazar in waiting list

QUAZI AMANULLAH, Khulna

The Sundarbans, world's largest single block of tidal halophytic and salt-tolerant mangrove forest, was at last selected for the final round of the competition for being among seven wonders of nature on Tuesday night.

Another marvel of the country Cox's Bazar, the largest natural sea beach in the world, has been kept in the waiting list.

The Sundarbans has been selected to compete along with 27 other countries of the world for the final round of competition as announced by the Switzerland-based New Seven Wonders Foundation.

The results of the second round of votes to select the new seven wonders of nature were announced from Bern, the capital city of Switzerland, at 7:10pm (BST), said the member secretary.

Sundarbans Supporters' Committee (SSC) Bangladesh Convener Liakat Ali and Member Secretary Rafiqul Islam

Khokan said the Sundarbans was named in the final list of 28 countries to retain its position as one of the seven wonders of nature after vying with 441 participants of 222 nations across the globe in the 2nd round early this month.

SSC sources said the voting for the final round to select the wonders of nature began yesterday which will continue till 2011 through e-mails and other online voting systems.

Liakat Ali, also the editor of the Dainik Purbanchal, and Rafiqul Islam visited India on November 3 last year as part of their hectic campaign to seek votes for the Sundarbans.

They met ministers of West Bengal state government, leaders of several development organisations and members of Kolkata Press Club and held separate meetings with them to mobilise their opinion and inspire them to launch campaigns in favour of the forest so that it can secure a place among the probable seven wonders.

Inaugurating a spectacular cultural

show on Tuesday, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam also informed the enthusiastic audience of the Sundarbans' berth in the final round of the competition after winning its second round.

The spectacular show was held at Zia Hall as part of the five-day programme of 'Celebrating Life' which is a joint-venture initiative of The Daily Star and Standard Chartered Bank.

The Dainik Purbanchal and non-government organisation Rupantar have been playing a key role for the last one year in launching campaigns to help the world's largest mangrove forest retain its position among seven wonders of world.

"Our hectic campaigns have not after all gone in vain as the Sundarbans, the pride of 300 crore people of Asia, has been selected for the final round," said both convener and member secretary of the organisation.

They called on the countrymen to cast their votes wholeheartedly in the final round.



Coastal areas at Patenga in Chittagong experience high tide yesterday following depression in the Bay.

PHOTO: STAR

BNP urged
to make JS
effective
for national
interest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Krishak Samik Janata League (KSJL) President Kader Siddiqui has urged the BNP to play its due role as opposition in parliament to make the house effective for the sake of national interest.

He also called upon the government to take necessary initiative for bringing the BNP back to parliament immediately.

Kader Siddiqui was addressing the party men after inaugurating the national council of the party to amend the party constitution as per the directive of the Election Commission (EC) at the Bangladesh Photo Journalists Association auditorium in the capital yesterday.

He demanded impartial investigation and trial of the masterminds of BDR carnage by raising question about the efficiency of different law enforcement agencies and intelligence agencies for not having any advance information about the massacre.

Terming the immediate-past caretaker government 'illegal', Kader Siddiqui demanded trial of former chief adviser to the caretaker government Fakhruddin Ahmed and former army chief Moeen U Ahmed for harassing politicians, businessmen and government officials.

Transport workers
clash with slum
dwellers
17 injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 17 people were injured in a clash between the leaders and workers of Bangladesh Truck and Covered Van Drivers Union and slum dwellers at Tejgaon truck stand in the city yesterday.

Police said they fired three rounds of bullets into the air and tear gas shell to bring the situation under control.

Slum dwellers claimed that 12 slum dwellers were injured, while the truck stand leaders claimed that five of them were injured in the clash. The injured were taking treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Al-Raji Hospital at Farmgate.

Police and truck stand sources said the hour-long clash erupted when several hundred leaders and workers of the union started evicting some parts of Abul Kalam's slum around 3:00pm which is adjacent to the truck stand at No 14 Tejgaon truck stand, opposite the Tejgaon rail station.

Stand leaders said they have been using the land since 1972 but the members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) with the help one

Mannan Mallik constructed a wall inside the stand and evicted a portion of the stand during the immediate past caretaker government.

They also said they broke the wall 1:00pm to bring the earlier look of the truck stand.

But, the slum dwellers attacked them all of a sudden prompting them to retaliate, they alleged, while the slum dwellers said they locked into a clash with the truck leaders only when the truck leaders started beating them.

Kalam, who claimed himself as the owner of the slum, told The Daily Star that they did not obstruct them while the truck leaders started breaking the wall. "But when they attacked us and started looting from the slums we started protesting," he said.

Mannan claimed that he is the owner of the 14 no truck stand as he had brought the land in 1985, but he could not take the position due to the stand.

Later, Rab personnel built the wall to protect the land from the truck leaders, he said, but the truck leaders tore down the wall and grabbed the land.

Subrata Bain's
nephew held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ramna police detained fugitive top terror Subrata Bain's nephew from the city's Moghbazar on Tuesday.

The arrestee identified as Opu Bain, 25, was handed over to Detective Branch (DB) of police yesterday for interrogation.

Deputy Commissioner of DB-South Monirul Islam told The Daily Star, "Opu was arrested from Moghbazar area on charge of his suspected connection with the underworld network."

Dhaka Club
signs MoU
with ICRI

METRO DESK

Dhaka Club Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ICRI Research Bangladesh, representing Institute of Clinical Research of India (ICRI), recently, says a press release.

Under the MoU, members of Dhaka Club and their families will get corporate benefits in top 40 hospitals of India.

As per the agreement, ICRI Research will provide assistance to the patient for all travel formalities and facilitate appointment with doctors and provide necessary assistance.

Ashrafuzzaman Khan (Puton), a member of the executive committee of the club, signed the agreement on behalf of Dhaka Club.



PHOTO: STAR

Tourism Promotion Association takes out a procession from Teacher-Student Centre at Dhaka University yesterday with a call to vote for the Sundarbans and Cox's Bazar to ensure their positions among the new seven wonders of nature.

APPOINTMENT OF FOUR JUDGES

Those who raise question don't want
Bangabandhu killers to be punished
Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Those who do not want the killers of Bangabandhu to be punished are opposing the appointment of four judges in the Supreme Court, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed said yesterday.

The president has appointed the powers conferred on him by the constitution to fulfil the people's demand for disposal of the Bangabandhu murder case and ensure quick justice, he told reporters in response to a question about former law minister Moudud Ahmed's remarks on

this issue.

Earlier in the morning, Moudud told a press briefing in his chamber at Motijheel that the intention of the government regarding the disposal of appeals in the Bangabandhu murder case is unclear and that the explanations from the government for the appointment are 'baseless'.

President Zillur Rahman appointed four senior-most judges of the High Court Division as judges of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on July 14, raising the number of judges in the Appellate Division to

eleven.

"The appointments were made constitutionally. Those who raise questions about the recruitment actually do not want the killers of the father of the nation to be punished," Shafique Ahmed told reporters at an orientation programme for the students of a private law academy at the Shishu Academy in the city.

The law minister also hinted that the government would appoint more judges in the High Court for quick disposal of various cases.

At the orientation programme, he also said the

government is planning to introduce alternative dispute resolution system to help clear huge backlog of cases and would formulate a law soon to this end.

The law minister also said the constitution was amended twice illegally during the period of military rulers. No military ruler can change the constitution and no parliament can legalise them, he added.



PHOTO: STAR

US Ambassador James F Moriarty speaks at the inaugural ceremony of the Prime Bank-NDDC 21st National Debate Competition 2009 organised by Notre Dame Debating Club at the college auditorium in the city yesterday.

'Alternative medicine ignored
in draft nat'l health policy'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Traditional or alternative medicine popularly known as Unani Ayurvedic and Homeopathy is largely ignored in the draft National Health Policy 2009, speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

They said about 80 percent of population in the country are still dependants on alternative medicine. About 400 crore people around the world depends on it even though allopathic medical science has excelled.

Terming Ayurvedic and Unani a pro-poor medical system they said, it should be incorporated in general hospitals with special training to hospital staffs. This will decrease extra pressure on

specialised hospitals, they said.

The discussion titled 'National Health Policy 2009: Expectation of Unani-Ayurvedic medical science' was organised by Bangladesh Unani-Ayurvedic Society (AUAS) at Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

Justice Golam Rabbani was present as the chief guest at the discussion while Dr Md Nuruzzaman Sarkar Milon presented the keynote paper.

The speakers pointed out that traditional medicine depend on locally produced herbs for raw materials that is why it is affordable.

Promotion of traditional medicine will increase agriculture of herbs as well as create job opportunity.

They demanded reform of policies in different medical

institutions of the country, establishment of separate council and a training centre for alternative medicine. Quality control of the alternative medicines was also stressed.

Hakim Khoddad Ahmed, chairman of AUAS, Prof ABM Farooque, chairman Bangladesh Pharmaceuticals Association, Prof Dr Mohammad Abu Sayeed, community medicine, Ibrahim Medical College, Prof MM Akash of Dhaka University, Prof Dr Hosne Ara Tahmin, additional director general, Directorate General of Health Services, and Jalal Uddin Ahmed, director of Homeopathy, DGHS, spoke at the discussion.

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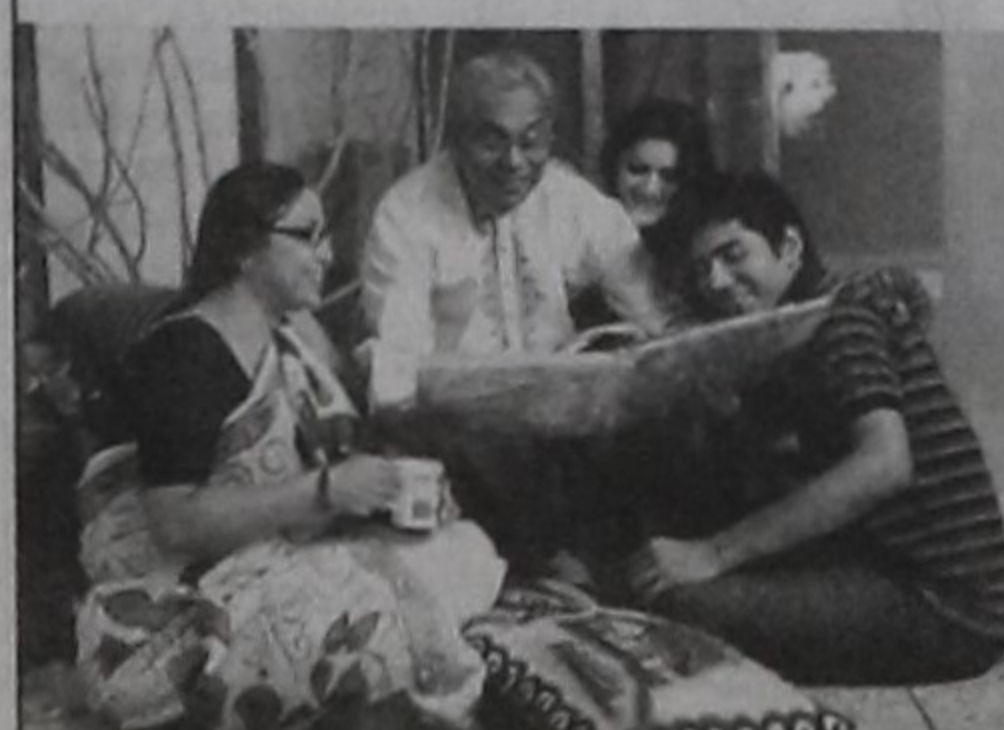
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