

Save tigers of subcontinent

Indian environmentalists to seek Bangladesh's help

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

New Delhi

India will seek cooperation from Bangladesh and other neighbouring countries to help preserve the dwindling tiger population in the subcontinent.

"We will take up tiger poaching at a bilateral level with the neighbouring countries, particularly those touching the tiger reserves on the border areas of West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh where a few big cats are left in the wild," said Rajesh Gopal, member secretary of National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

He said unless there is a collective initiative to save tigers, it would not be possible to protect the endangered animal.

China has, however, given a lukewarm response to the issue of tiger poaching and India is now banking on other

neighbouring countries having a population of the big cats to curb trade in parts and skins of the animal.

Body parts of tigers are of great demand in China for traditional medicine for cure of number of ailments.

Around 3,000 tigers are left in the world with India having nearly 1,300 in the wild.

Meanwhile, India is forming a special force to save tigers from poachers at the world famous Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve in the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand.

After studying the impact of the force in securing the 160-odd tiger population in the Corbett Park, the project would be replicated in other national parks, said Uttarakhand's Chief Principal Conservator of Forests R B S Rawat.

Ethnic people who live in the vicinity of the Corbett Park would be a part of the special force to guard the tigers.

Tough time

FROM PAGE 1

Many passengers at bus counters at Gabtoli alleged that they were charged additional Tk 100 to Tk 150 for a ticket for long routes.

"They usually charge Tk 200 for a trip to Khulna from Gabtoli but this time they charged Tk 330 for a ticket," said passenger Anisul Islam.

Satkira-bound passenger Saiful Azam said he had to pay additional Tk 170 for a ticket against a regular fare of Tk 250.

The operators of buses running on Dhaka-Faridpur route also charged around Tk 80 to Tk 100 more than the usual fare.

However, many bus operators denied charging passengers extra money. They claimed that they charged fares in line with the government-fixed rate.

All bus counters hung fare charts signed by the representative of Bangladesh Bus-Truck Owners' Association.

Meanwhile, railway passengers were seen purchasing standing tickets at Kamalapur Rail Station as most tickets had already been sold out.

Northern districts-bound Ekota Express, like the previous day, made a two-hour delay to reach Kamalapur Rail Station yesterday.

MA Jinnah, manager of Kamalapur Rail Station, told The Daily Star, "Like the previous years, we have made special seating arrangement for home-bound people by adding several compartments to almost all trains."

A correspondent from Madaripur adds: Hundreds of homebound people crowded the ferry stations at both Mawa and Kewrakandi that link the capital with 23 South and Southwestern districts.

Meanwhile, movements of

Israel warns of impending attack in India

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel said on Thursday it had concrete information of plans by the same group that carried out the 2008 Mumbai attacks to hit Western and Israeli targets in India.

The terrorist group that carried out the serious Mumbai attack in India is planning to carry out a number of attacks across India, particularly against concentrations of Western or Israeli tourists," warned a statement from Israel's counterterrorism unit.

India blames the Pakistani-based Lashkar-e-Taiba for the November attacks in which 10 gunmen killed at least 188 people and wounded more than 300, in a three-day rampage through Mumbai.

Among the targets hit was a Jewish centre run by the ultra-Orthodox Lubavitch movement. Thursday's statement warned the impending attacks could target other Lubavitch centres in India.

The statement said the travel warning was based on "a concrete, very serious threat."

India is one of the most popular destinations for young Israelis and thousands of backpackers visit the country every year.

The warning called on Israeli travellers to stay away from crowded places and the disputed Kashmir region.

City malls

FROM PAGE 1

The streets were quite free until yesterday afternoon as many remained at home to observe Jumatal Wida, the last Juma in the holy month of Ramadan.

But the streets saw a surge of traffic in the afternoon with tailbacks mainly on Mirpur Road and Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in front of top shopping arcades like New Market, Gausia and Bashundhara Shopping Complex.

Alamgir, who went shopping with his family, said he had little time for shopping before. "Besides, I knew that shopping malls will be comparatively less crowded on Friday and Saturday," he said.

Traders said besides clothes, many were buying Atar (perfume), caps, gift items, and cosmetics for their relatives. Many of the low-income groups, including readymade garment workers and rickshaw pullers also joined the shopping frenzy yesterday afternoon.

"My holiday begins from Saturday [today] but I left the factory earlier today [yesterday] to buy things for my family members," said Nasima Akter, a garment worker at Karwan Bazar yesterday afternoon.

"Nato wants Russia to be a real stakeholder in European and international security," Rasmussen said at the western alliance's Brussels HQ. "We need Russia as a partner in resolving the great issues of our time."

As Rasmussen was speaking, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin praised as "correct and brave" Washington's decision to

shelve former president George W. Bush's plans.

The change comes at a time when Cold War-style western reflexes have been on edge following Russia's short war with US ally Georgia, tense posturing over efforts to bring Ukraine into Nato's sphere of influence and fears for energy security given Moscow's vast oil and gas reserves.

Poland and the Czech Republic -- where parts of the missile shield were to be based -- officially put a brave face on Obama's decision, saying it did not signal any deterioration in ties with Washington.

"I believe that a Nato-Russia dialogue could provide real added value. We must all aim for a Euro-Atlantic security architecture in which Russia sees herself reflected," he stressed.

On September 11, the Curator of Rangpur Zoo Dr Ruhul Amin with Abul Hossain came to Dhaka and completed arrangements for taking the animals.

The waterbuck might have been infected with germs while they were being carried on an open truck, officials of Rangpur Zoo suspected.

Ruhul Amin, however, refuted the allegation and said, "What can one do if its death is written in the stars."

The autopsy report will unravel the actual reason, he said.

Usually, animals from one zoo to another are carried on the assigned vehicles of zoo, which are safe, Rangpur Zoo officials said.

Probe finds

FROM PAGE 1

urged Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC) Chairman Ronojit Kumar Biswas for taking legal actions against the sugar swindlers.

The special 2 will leave Rajshahi at 11:15pm and reach Dhaka Cantonment next dawn 5:00am while Eid special 1 will leave Dhaka Cantonment at 5:45am and reach Rajshahi at 11:05am.

Eid special 2 will not run on the day before the Eid and Eid day while Eid special 1 will not run on the day of Eid and the day after.

The trains will stop at Dhaka Airport, Joydevpur, Tangail, Bangabandhu Bridge east and west, Sadanandapur, Boral Bridge, and Chatmohor, Abdulpur and Arani stations.

The special trains 3 and 4 will ply till October 1 except for the Eid day.

The trains will have stoppages at Ahsanganj, Natore, Abdulpur, Iswardi, Chatmohor, Boral Bridge, Ullahpara, Sadanandapur, Bangabandhu Bridge, Mirzapur, Mouchak stations between Shantahar and Joydevpur.

Shootouts' kill

FROM PAGE 1

knife and Tk 23,440 in cash on the scene.

According to Rab, Shahor Ali was also killed in another shootout with Rab in Mirpur on September 12.

Mohammad Ali was one of the accused in the attack on Rab Major Khandaker Golam Sarwar and snatching a criminal from Rab custody in Mirpur on September 13.

ASP Kaniz Hossain of Rab-4 said the gunfight took place when the elite force members were conducting a block raid in the area.

A correspondent from Jessor reports: An unidentified mugger was killed in gunfight with police while fleeing after robbing a passenger-carrying human hauler on Jessor-Chawgachha road at about 2:00am.

"On information, we chased the gang members who hurled bombs forcing us to fire back," said a police official.

He added that other criminals however managed to flee the scene. A case was filed with the Chawgachha police station in this regard.

On Wednesday evening, Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) and police seized 20,000 bags of sugar from the godowns of three businessmen at Khulna Bazar and Station Road.

The executive magistrate

earlier discharged judicial

Nato calls for new partnership with Russia

AFP, Brussels

Nato Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen called for a new partnership with Russia in a major speech seeking "practical cooperation" with Moscow on global defence issues.

Outlining his vision of a harmonised global defence architecture, the former Danish premier's remarks came the day after US President Barack Obama's decision to pull back from a plan to install an anti-missile shield and radar in eastern Europe.

"I believe that Nato and Russia should immediately look

to reinforce our practical cooperation in all the areas where we

we agree we face the same risks and threats to our security -- and

there are many of those areas," Rasmussen added.

Saying he was aware that Nato-Russia relations "can quickly become hostage to domestic politics," Rasmussen admitted that his proposals will require "considerable political will."

The change comes at a time when Cold War-style western

reflexes have been on edge following Russia's short war with US ally Georgia, tense

posturing over efforts to bring Ukraine into Nato's sphere of influence and fears for energy

security given Moscow's vast oil and gas reserves.

"I believe that a Nato-Russia dialogue could provide real added value. We must all aim for a Euro-Atlantic security architecture in which Russia sees herself reflected," he stressed.

On September 11, the Curator of Rangpur Zoo Dr Ruhul Amin with Abul Hossain came to Dhaka and completed arrangements for taking the animals.

The waterbuck might have been infected with germs while they were being carried on an open truck, officials of Rangpur Zoo suspected.

Ruhul Amin, however, refuted the allegation and said, "What can one do if its death is written in the stars."

The autopsy report will unravel the actual reason, he said.

Usually, animals from one

zoo to another are carried on the assigned vehicles of zoo, which are safe, Rangpur Zoo officials said.

Rangpur Zoo

FROM PAGE 1

Rangpur Zoo during the vacation of Eid-ul-Fitr.

The other animals are a Royal Bengal Tiger, a sambar deer and two olive baboons.

Of them, the sambar deer has been sick at the Rangpur Zoo, sources said.

On September 11, the Curator of Rangpur Zoo Dr Ruhul Amin with Abul Hossain came to Dhaka and completed arrangements for taking the animals.

The waterbuck might have been infected with germs while they were being carried on an open truck, officials of Rangpur Zoo suspected.

Ruhul Amin, however, refuted the allegation and said, "What can one do if its death is written in the stars."

The autopsy report will unravel the actual reason, he said.

Usually, animals from one

zoo to another are carried on the assigned vehicles of zoo, which are safe, Rangpur Zoo officials said.

Rajshahi 'landless'

FROM PAGE 1

last May following recommendations of the Upazila Committee for leasing khas lands, headed by the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO).

Razzak has now begun to erect a two-story building on the land. He allegedly forced a landless bicycle mechanic Govinda, who used to run his workshop at one corner, to leave the place or pay him Tk 50,000 as toll.

Govinda has been running the repair shop in a tin-shed facility for long. "How come the authorities sanction government land to the rich when we are the real landless people," he said.

Razzak inherits five bighas of land of his family and owns Mollah Food and Oil Ltd, an oilseed grinding mill and co-owns Padma Agro and Fisheries Ltd, a fish feed factory. He also owns a motorised local vehicle.

Asked, Abdur Razzak said, "My father posses some land, not me. I am a genuine landless man and the chairman of the Upazila Bittoheen (haven't) Samity."

He, however, admits owning industries, but denied the allegation of demanding toll from the bicycle repairman.

Asked how such an affluent

person got lease of khas land

meant for the landless, Bagmara UNO SM Nazim Uddin said, "The lease was approved prior to my joining here. We are investigating the matter to see if any irregularities occurred during sanctioning of the lands."

Contacted, Goalkanda

Union Council Chairman

Alamgir Hossain said he recom-

ended Razzak, as the latter does not have any land of his own. Hossain, however, remained silent when asked about Razzak's financial standing.

Razzak inherits five bighas of

land of his family and owns

Mollah Food and Oil Ltd, an

oilseed grinding mill and co-

owns Padma Agro and Fish-

eries Ltd, a fish feed factory.

He also owns a motorised

local vehicle.

Razzak has now begun to

erect a two-story building on

the land. He allegedly forced

a landless bicycle mechanic

Govinda, who used to run his

workshop at one corner, to leave

the place or pay him Tk 50,000 as

toll.

Govinda has been running

the repair shop in a tin-shed

facility for long. "How come

the authorities sanction go-

vernment