



Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

## Forests and bandits



SHEIKH HASAN / DRINKNEWS

It is now an open secret that poaching of deer has become a day to day business of some goons of the Sundarbans area. Who are they, where do they live, what is their source of protection, everybody in the local area knows it all. Thanks to the reporter and The Daily Star for unfurling the story on the poaching, though partial, yet. (The Daily Star: 04.11.09)

But who will take action against them? If you want to get venison or hide you need not go into the jungle, just ask the villagers near the Sundarbans, they will tell you the names who can arrange it for you in lieu of money. Having the familiarity of their mischief they are doing brisk business in public. There are even groups who used to go to the Sundarbans or arrange hunting on frequent schedule to poach deer, its skin and venison.

The groups of dacoits who live inside the forests are also big killers of deer. I

would like to request you to run a story on the people who are a great threat to the local wood cutters (locally called Bawalis), honey collectors and fishermen. The thugs live inside the forest, extort the bawalis and collect ransom frequently from abductions, and kill deer for their sustenance.

But ask the law enforcing agencies including the forest officials they will pretend that they know nothing of the offence or the offenders.

Actually, lawlessness in and around the Sundarbans are mainly responsible for the poaching while the staff and officials of the forests fan the offence for their own gains. It's a profitable regular business of some people run with the help of some local goons and political elements. The reporter should unearth the full story which is more horrendous than even a fiction.

Monzur Rahman  
Dhaka

### Climate change!

Perhaps talking about biodiversity or wildlife protection and conservation is against the present-day politics and those who speak about it are also on the wrong side of politics. The reason is 'CHANGE' - change in politics, change in time (DST), change in office time, change in the season (winter is approaching), change in wind direction and finally the most important 'CLIMATE CHANGE'. Climate change has earned so much fame that for anything good or bad, the admiration or the criticism - IT IS CLIMATE CHANGE.

The Buriganga river does not have any life- it is because of climate change.

The untreated effluents discharged in the rivers are killing aquatic life - it is climate change.

Land grabbers filling in floodplains for housing or other purposes - it is climate change.

Forest land acreage declining due to land conversion, deforestation, etc - it is climate change.

Tiger population is declining - it is climate change.

Garials are on the verge of extinction - it is climate

change.

Dolphins are disappearing from our rivers - it is climate change.

Freshwater turtles, frogs declining - it is climate change.

Use of lethal chemicals to increase shelf-life of fruits, vegetables - it is climate change.

Forest department cannot stop poaching - due to climate change.

So, we see that many bad things are being done by climate change. BUT nothing to worry. Climate change has done one big favour for us that to make news line headings just use CLIMATE CHANGE, for anything that can not be explained use CLIMATE CHANGE, to ask for money use CLIMATE CHANGE and so on. If you mention the problem and/or highlight/address the root cause - you are on the wrong side. Our biodiversity/wildlife really need friends like 'friends in need are friends indeed' and not friends who change with the climate change. The root causes of wildlife extinction - the human elements - are to be addressed.

I wish that this CHANGE NEVER ends soon and we get back to the real world and save the life forms and their habitats that we are knowingly destroying.

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