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INDUSTRIES INSIDE BHAWAL NATIONAL PARK

Green light to 300 units

PINAKI ROY

The Awami League-led government is issuing environmental clearance certificates for industries on "private land" inside the Bhawal National Park in Gazipur, backtracking on its stance and lifting a ban imposed in 1999 during its previous tenure.

industries set up in eight mouzas during or before the BNP-Jamaat rule inside the National

This move will legalise around 300 illegal

two decades allowed industrialists to set up industries. And now the incumbent government is giving them legal status.

The National Environment Committee led by the prime minister at a meeting on

September 16 last year took this decision and a gazette to that end has already been issued.

The committee decided that the industries on "private land would get clearance certificates if they don't pollute environment".

"We've already started the process to provide environmental clearance certificates to the industries. Already we have forwarded applications of five industries to the ministry," said Zafar Ahmed Khan, director general of the Department of Environment (DoE).

"We have put conditions that they would set All the successive governments in the last up green industries in the reserve forest," he

> Environmentalists fear the decision would turn the National Park into an industrial zone where influential people have already grabbed **SEE PAGE 15 COL 4**



Here comes the spring, Basanta, king of all seasons. City people, especially women dressed in symbolic yellow sari, celebrate Pahela Falgun, first day of the joyous and colourful season, singing and dancing at the Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University yesterday.

City dances to Falgun beat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The city put on a colourfully festive look yesterday celebrating Pahela Falgun, the first day of spring.

Socio-cultural organisations and educational institutions held a wide range of

programmes to mark the day. Jatiya Bashanto Utshav Udjapan Parishad organised programmes in two phases. The first phase began with recitation of Bangla poems and instrumental music at 7:15am at Bakultala of the

Institute of Fine Arts. Noted singer Priyanka Gop presented classical songs. The parishad then brought out a procession from the institution

that ended around 10:00am. **SEE PAGE 15 COL 1**

for Turkey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday said Bangladesh would be happy if Turkey became a member of the European Union.

She said this during a meeting with the visiting Turkish President Abdullah Gul at his hotel suite in the capital.

The leaders underscored increased trade and cultural exchange and hoped that the **SEE PAGE 15 COL 6**

Opposition returns to JS today Will place one

demand STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led opposition lawmakers will return to parliament today with the demand for expunging the

remark on late president Ziaur Rahman. Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Farroque said this while talking to The Daily Star yesterday.

home minister's recent

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Khaleda pulls Dhaka seeks help for rail, river projects

PM meets Turkish president

BSS, Dhaka

Turkey will provide support for power generation, transport, information and communication technology, road infrastructure and other development sectors of Bangladesh.

The assurance came when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called on visiting Turkish President Abdullah Gul at his hotel suite here yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed different bilateral issues, including expansion of trade and business between the two countries and increasing Turkish investment in Bangladesh.

Terming Turkey as a development partner of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina called for Turkish investment, especially in railway and waterway sectors of Bangladesh in a large scale, the Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad told journal-

terday evening after a two-day state visit to Bangladesh was conferred Doctor of Laws degree by the Dhaka University. Sheikh Hasina also hosted a luncheon at Sonargaon Hotel in

Turkish President Abdullah Gul who left here for home yes-

honour of the Turkish President. Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia also called on

Abdullah Gul. He joined a breakfast meeting hosted by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry at the hotel. During talks over the government-sponsored massive pro-

the country, Sheikh Hasina sought help from the Turkish government to expedite the dredging project to save the rivers.

--- MORE STORIES IN METROPOLITAN, BUSINESS PAGES

133 more picked up

At least 60 injured as BCL, Shibir clash in Nilphamari; district Jamaat chief held

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday arrested at least 133 more cadres of Jamaat-e-Islami and its associated student organisation Islami Chhatra Shibir in the ongoing countrywide combing operation.

Sources in Dhaka Metropolitan Police

said the law enforcers arrested 27 more Shibir activists in the capital. With this, the number of arrestees in Dhaka in the last two days has risen to 88.

In Chittagong University, the law enforcers picked up 24 Shibir men and recovered several books on jihad.

On information that Shibir cadres

were gathering to create anarchy, police raided the Shibir-controlled cottages and rented houses on and around the campus from 1:00am to 4:00am.

"We raided over 30 cottages and arrested the cadres residing there," said Additional Superintendent of Police

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Rejoinder

The Rajshahi University authority has sent a rejoinder to a report of The Daily Star's February 11 issue headlined "Shibir grows under teacheradmin care".

Signed by the Administrator, Public Relations Office of the university, the rejoinder said many points mentioned in the news are "untrue and also illmotivated."

It said incumbent VC **SEE PAGE 15 COL 3**





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