

Amusement park eyed at nat'l zoo

Govt mulling proposal of a pvt consortium

TAWFIQUE ALI

The national zoo in the capital's Mirpur may fall victim to commercialisation, as the government is considering a private company's proposal to set up an amusement park on one-third of the zoo's land.

The zoo is intended to conserve wild animals and serve academic purposes, whereas an amusement park will deviate from these objectives and deprive people of recreational opportunity at a cheaper price, experts and officials concerned say.

A consortium of Malaysia-based Kopeda Group and local Maisha Group has submitted a proposal to the fisheries and livestock ministry for setting up the park similar to Fantasy Kingdom and Nandan Park located on the outskirts of the capital.

The company proposes modernising the Dhaka Zoo in exchange for 35-acre land and an 18-acre lake of the zoo where it intends to build a "world class" amusement park under public-private partnership.

The land the company sought has a number of animal enclosures, sheds and several hundred trees.

The government itself in the current fiscal year had proposed a Tk 114-crore project for developing the zoo.

In August, the livestock ministry sent a nine-member team led by its secretary on a 10-day visit to Malaysia and England at the expense of Kopeda-Maisha consortium to see models on the concept.

The ministry on September 22 authorised the company to conduct a survey in the zoo even before the team that went on the trip submitted its report.

Returning from the trip, most members of the team opposed the move to set up an amusement park in the zoo.

"An amusement park is not compatible with a zoo at all," said Md Akbar Ali, professor of animal husbandry at Bangladesh Agricultural University and a team member.

Prof Anwarul Islam of Dhaka University, SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



The proposed amusement park on one-third of the Dhaka Zoo includes this serene lake. The zoo area, which is metaphorically the lung of the capital and one of the greeneries that conserves biodiversity besides the caged animals, may fall prey to commercialisation. Inset, satellite view of the zoo. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

TRANSIT FACILITIES TO INDIA, NEPAL, BHUTAN \$2.3b net profit in 30 years projected

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh could reap a net profit of \$2.3 billion in 30 years by giving transit facilities to India, Nepal and Bhutan, shows a study of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

The country would have to invest \$1.17 billion in capital expenditure, operation and maintenance costs for more than 30 years to develop corridors for transit traffic, says the independent study

that will be made public on November 10.

Of the amount, \$53.74 million and \$769 m would be required to set up road and rail links, \$79 m and \$129 m to upgrade Chittagong and Mongla ports, and \$99 million to operate and maintain them.

Transit revenue would be low in the first five years since many constructions and arrangements would be done during the period. Bangladesh would be able to reap about 10 percent of the full potential

benefits at that time, says the study.

"From the sixth year onward, full potential benefits are assumed to be realised," it mentions.

A team of experts from Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Bhutan prepared the study report. Dr Rahmatullah, former director of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, led the team.

Bangladesh could gain three benefits SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Faridpur stalker still at large

Nahid assures Champa's family of justice

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid has assured the bereaved family members of Chanpa Rani Bhowmik of bringing her accused killer Devashish Saha Rony to justice.

"Law enforcers have already arrested the alleged killers of Natore college teacher Mizanur Rashid. They will also be able to capture the SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Cessna crashes into Jamuna

Search goes on for pilot of the training plane; co-pilot rescued

STAR REPORT

A training aircraft of Bangladesh Flying Club, with two pilots on board, crashed into the river Jamuna at Omarpur of Chowhali upazila in Sirajganj yesterday morning.

Chowhali police rescued co-pilot Shamsuddin while pilot Captain Kamrul Hasan remained missing, Sirajganj Superintendent of Police (SP) Mosharrarf Hossain told our local correspondent.

Shamsuddin jumped into the water during the crash. He was rushed to Khwaja Yunus Ali Medical College and Hospital at Enayetpur and later shifted to Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka by an Air Force chopper.

The training plane, Cessna-152, took off from Dhaka around 10:30am for Rajshahi and plunged into the river around 11:40am, added SEE PAGE 15 COL 6 PHOTO ON PAGE 13



Jubo League yesterday arranged a meeting at Muktangan in the capital causing serious disruption to traffic movement. PHOTO: STAR

Pushed off running bus, man dies in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man died at a city hospital yesterday, hours after the conductor of a bus allegedly pushed him onto the street following a squabble over fare at Kakrail intersection.

The deceased, 32-year-old Badruzzaman, was a lift operator at Summit Group Bhaban in Karwan Bazar.

His co-worker Mujahidul Islam said the victim, along with his nephew, took a Gulistan-bound bus from Karwan Bazar around 9:30am to meet a friend at Kakrail.

On the bus, he had a heated argument with the conductor over fare. At one stage, the bus staffer shoved him and his nephew Shakhawat from behind, added Mujahid.

Critically injured, Badruzzaman was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and later shifted to United Hospital at Gulshan, where he died in the afternoon. SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Biman spreads wings again

'Sick' pilots go back to work upon PM's assurance; airline, cockpit crew apologise for stalemate

SOHEL PARVEZ

Flights of Biman Bangladesh Airlines have started taking off as per schedule yesterday after the pilots rejoined work calling off their strike.

This has significantly reduced worries of passengers who got stranded in airports and hotels.

Biman said 362 passengers, who stayed in hotels during the stand-off between the airline and its pilots, would reach their destinations in the Middle East today.

Of the 13 flights scheduled for yesterday, six international flights departed Shahjalal International Airport on time as of 8:00pm. The rest would leave on time, said Biman officials.

"I am happy that it's over. We are getting back to normalcy. And by tomorrow [Sunday], we will be in top gear," said Biman Managing Director Muhammad Zakiul Islam at his office yesterday.

His remarks came hours after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked cockpit crew to resume flying at a tripartite meeting where representatives of Bangladesh Airline Pilots Association (BAPA), Civil Aviation Minister GM Quader and Chairman of Biman Board Jamal Uddin Ahmed were present.

Pilots said they went back to work as the prime minister assured them of settling their dispute with Biman under the supervision of the civil aviation and tourism ministry. SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Physician 'self-injected' to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A female physician allegedly committed suicide by injecting herself with poison at her family residence at East Senpara in Kafrul in the city yesterday.

The deceased physician, Nigar Sultana Anny, 32, of Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, was in the city to attend a training program.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Mosharrarf Hossain of Kafrul Police Station said, on information, police reached Anny's residential flat on a six-storey building's fifth floor around 12:30am and, breaking open the door, found her body lying on the bed.

The SI said Anny might have committed suicide by taking a poisonous injection, as an injection syringe was recovered from her bed.

Samples of Anny's blood and the chemical in the syringe have been preserved SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Signing Ceremony

welcome to safety

গত বুধবার ২৭ অক্টোবর ২০১০ তারিখে বঙ্গবন্ধু আন্তর্জাতিক সম্মেলন কেন্দ্রে একটি আড়ম্বরপূর্ণ অনুষ্ঠানে এক দ্বিপাক্ষিক চুক্তির মাধ্যমে জাপানের কাওয়ামুড়া ইলেকট্রিক ইনকরপোরেশন থেকে বাংলাদেশে একমাত্র বাজারজাত করণের অনুমোদন পায় আই. আর. বাব্ব কোং লিঃ। কাওয়ামুড়া ইলেকট্রিক ইনকরপোরেশনের জি. এম. মি. ওয়াবাইয়াশি তয়নবু এবং আই. আর. বাব্ব কোং লিঃ এর এম.ডি. জনাব মোঃ ইব্রাহীম চুক্তিতে স্বাক্ষর করেন। অনুষ্ঠানে প্রধান অতিথি হিসেবে উপস্থিত ছিলেন গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের মাননীয় শিল্প মন্ত্রী দীলিপ বড়ুয়া। বিশেষ অতিথি ছিলেন বাংলাদেশে নিযুক্ত জাপানী রাষ্ট্রদূত মি: তামুতছু সিনটসুকা।

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