

**Eco-friendly resort in 2014**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's first eco-friendly resort will start operation in Sylhet in 2014. Greenbeel, a unique venture in the tourism industry of Bangladesh, is being built on over 150 acres of land at Srimangal with the concept "living with nature". "We have a plan to build 100 cottages to serve the tourists who like peaceful environment and wildlife," said Hedaitul Islam Helal, managing director of Greenbeel.

But in first phase, 70 cottages will be built and area per cottage will be between 650 to 800 squares feet, he added.

Helal spoke at the launching ceremony of the Greenbeel project at Radisson hotel in the city Thursday.

Cottage area will cover less than one percent of the total area, and the total cost of the project stands at around Tk 170 crore, he said.

Investors, who want to care environment and community, can purchase a cottage with Tk 1.5 crore, as its price will be five times higher by the next five years, said Helal.

The cottage owner will gain 70 percent of the total profit, and they cannot sell or transfer the property to others except the blood relation.

The Greenbeel project will care for the wide water body enriched with aquatic beings, flora, and fauna, especially the extinct local and Siberian migratory birds. The project will have a complete accommodation and hospitality service for tourists.

It will have the facilities like restaurant, banquet halls, dormitory, and parking facility for the guests and community nursery schools for the local kids.

"Waste and water from the resort will be recycled and reused," said Helal.



The well-to-do of this society are not to forgive the less fortunate Piya and Shumi who do not understand what is right or wrong or what crime is. These two street urchins, who are forced to search for food instead of being at school, have become the curse of this society. The fear in their eyes reminds us how civil we are. A crowd in Lalbagh beats the two yesterday for allegedly stealing food.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

**Drugs worth Tk 23 lakh seized**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Contraband medicine worth around Tk 23 lakh from three pieces of luggage were seized at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the city yesterday.

Members of Armed Police Battalion also caught one Saidul who went inside the airport to receive the luggage and handed him to Airport Police Station.

In preliminary questioning, Saidul said two passengers, Jahangir and Sohel, landing from a Gulf Air flight from Bahrain, were carrying the luggage. Sensing presence of law enforcers, they abandoned the luggage, which later Saidul tried to receive.

**2 fined for pornography**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A mobile court fined two persons, including a schoolteacher, Tk 8,000 each at Bagmara upazila of the district yesterday for selling pornographic pictures and videos.

The two are Mohamamd Liton, assistant teacher of Taherpur Government Primary School, and his aide Jaker Hossain.

Bagmara UNO SM Abu Hurayra led the drive and also seized the computer from Liton's shop at Mohonganj bazar and mobile phones from the two.

**Spanish award to be conferred on DU VC today**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) Vice Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique will be conferred the prestigious Commander of the Spanish Order of Civil Merit award today for his outstanding contribution in enriching civil virtues in Bangladesh.

Spanish Ambassador in Dhaka Arturo Perez Martinez on behalf of Spanish King Juan Carlo will award Prof Arefin in a brief ceremony at his official residence on DU campus.

Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni will attend the function as the chief guest.

Prof Arefin was selected for the award for his role in establishing peace, progress and stability in society by mobilising civil society leaders' opinion for democracy during the 35 years of academic career in DU.

**CITY SLUM HEALTH**

**77pc elderly people at high health risk: Study**

UNB, Dhaka

The elderly people in the city slums are highly vulnerable due to absence of civic amenities, particularly lack of access to economic activities, healthcare and safe drinking water.

The overwhelming majority (77.8 percent) of the elderly people suffer from health related problems in the city slums, according to a recent study.

It revealed that the incidence of illness was higher (80.7 percent) among elderly women compared men (75.2 percent). The major health related problems of the older persons were fever (49.7 percent), pain (36.3 percent), weakness (21.2 percent), asthma or breathing problem (14.5 percent), gastritis or ulcer (13.5 percent) and other problems including rheumatism and eye diseases.

PRDA with financial support from

HelpAge International conducted the study titled "Older People in Dhaka Slums: A Socio-Economic Assessment" on 10 slums of Dhaka City from October 2010 to January 2011.

About 59.2 percent elderly people got treatment in a pharmacy or dispensary. Around 17.4 percent sought treatment from public health care facilities, 14.7 percent from private doctors and 7.1 percent from NGO facilities.

Nearly 11.6 percent also consulted homeopaths, kabiraj or hekim, health workers and unqualified service providers. They had selected these providers mainly because of low treatment cost and short distance, said the study.

Consultant of the Population Research and Development Associates (PRDA) Naushad Faiz said the poor elderly people in the city slums face various challenges in getting healthcare,

financial support, work opportunity, improved environment and infrastructure development.

Faiz said about two-thirds of the elderly people in slums are engaged in household works with the percentage of women higher than men.

Referring to the challenges of the elderly, he said about 6.5 million people in the country are visually impaired. Of them, 40 percent are elderly while most elderly slum dwellers are visually challenged. Naushad Faiz said that the elderly slum dwellers will face serious health hazards in about 8-10 years for lack of civic amenities.

While contacted, Shashwate Biplob, Social Protection and Policy Manager of the HelpAge International stressed the need for taking more collaborative work to ensure the income security, social protection and poverty prevention for older people.



Children busy painting pictures at an art camp organised by Centre for Neurodevelopment and Autism in Children at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University yesterday on the eve of World Autism Awareness Day.

PHOTO: STAR

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