



Members of the dance troupe Sadhona perform at the HSBC-Daily Star Climate Awards ceremony at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in Dhaka yesterday. PHOTO: STAR



Food Minister Muhammad Abdur Razzaque addresses the awards night



HSBC Bangladesh CEO Andrew Tilke also makes a speech.

Laurels for climate champions



Riyadh Ali, MD, Butterfly Park Bangladesh

Protecting butterflies

Champion in green business

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Butterfly Park Bangladesh Ltd, the first butterfly-themed amusement park in Bangladesh, is more than just a tourist attraction. It is a centre for education, scientific research and nature conservation. With its butterfly sanctuaries and a research centre to study breeding strategies for butterflies, the park aims to enhance public interest in the protection of butterflies and nature.

Situated at Patenga in Chittagong, the theme park has butterfly sanctuaries that host thousands of butterflies belonging to different groups. It offers guided tours of its butterfly museum and their breeding centres, fish tanks, lakes and greenery.

With the disappearance of rain forests and other natural habitats, butterflies are declining all over the world, especially in tropical countries like Bangladesh. The park wants to create public awareness so that people refrain from killing butterflies and take an active role in conserving butterfly habitats instead.

It arranges awareness campaigns and outdoor educational programmes for children as well as adults. Visitors to the park can learn about the species and the part butterflies play in maintaining ecological balance.

The authorities of Butterfly Park said they invite schools to send their students to the park for educational tours and offer the students 15 percent concessions on entry fees.

Floral arrangement in the park protects butterflies as well as their host plants, where the butterflies lay eggs. The park boasts an abundance of host plants, some of which are considered weeds and are destroyed by people. Visiting the park, children and adults alike can learn how to safeguard the habitats of butterflies.

The park's research unit identifies butterflies and other insects that are under threat and explores ways to conserve them. In the near future, the park wants to organise countrywide training programmes on breeding, nurture and protection of butterflies.

The amusement park has a long-term plan to build sanctuaries for many other endangered species like freshwater fish, frogs and fireflies. It aims to popularise eco-tourism, travelling to areas that conserve

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From predator to protector

Champion in community engagement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Only a couple of years ago they used to prowl the large swathe of Madhupur Forest to chop down trees and encroach on the land of the vast forest illegally, putting the forest in great danger.

But now the 700 inhabitants of the area, known as Madhupur Garh, have turned into a strong workforce of volunteers to police, protect and conserve the forest, thanks to a government project supported by the US.

For decades, the forest, conserved by Tangail Forest Division, had been vulnerable to illegal encroachment and also logging to cater to the demand of firewood for locals and surrounding brickfields in the area.

The illegal felling of tress and encroachment upon the forest land was so widespread that about 50-odd security personnel of the Tangail Forest were powerless to stop them.

With the forest being the main source



Ashit Ranjan Paul, divisional forest officer, Tangail Forest Division

of firewood, people of Madhupur consumed about 18,000 tonnes of logs every year for cooking alone. The forest also fed brick kilns with another 39,000 tonnes of firewood.

In reality, economically disadvantaged people in those areas had no other income sources but to make the most out of the forest.

The situation turned so bad that the forest shrunk to a 10,000-acre area from its previous 45,565 acres, ringing alarm about its very existence.

The worsening situation forced the authorities to take an initiative in April 2010 to save the forest.

The Tangail Forest authorities launched a new management approach under a project titled "Revegetation of Madhupur Forest through Rehabilitation of Forest Dependent Local and Ethnic Communities."

The project aimed to get back green coverage of the forest; ensure that forest-dependent families have better access to and control over forest resources; ensure income generating activities for the forest-dependent people; reduce the dependency of local people on the forest; ensure secure habitat of wildlife; and reduce carbon emissions and adapt to climate change impacts.

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Niaz Rahim, chairman, RSF

Promoting energy efficiency

Champion in green operations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Established in 2006, non-profit organisation Rural Services Foundation (RSF) has been working to make renewable energy and energy efficient technologies accessible to remote rural communities.

Through its different projects and initiatives, the RSF has enabled thousands of rural families and businesses adopt energy efficient measures.

More than half of Bangladesh's population does not have access to national grid. The situation is particularly deplorable in rural areas, where a lot of economic activities are hampered due to power shortage.

To address the problem, the RSF had initiated its solar home system (SHS) programme in 2006. So far it has installed 2,86,013 SHS through its 500 unit offices, enabling households and small businesses use solar power. By using these solar panels, households save 38,982 tonnes of kerosene each year, which reduces emission of carbon dioxide by 112, 763 tonnes.

To further enhance the accessibility of the SHS among the lower income groups, the company has designed a miniature version (16 Wp and 21 Wp) with a low power LED (light-emitting diode) lighting device. A total of 900 small SHS has been installed so far.

It has also developed an even smaller version for small grocery shops, small home businesses and homes in rural areas. So far 500 such mini SHS have been installed.

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Target to be a green factory

Champion in green operations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kenpark Bangladesh Apparel (pvt) Ltd, a leading readymade garment manufacturer, plans to scale up its green initiatives to help Bangladesh mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change.

In its factories at Chittagong Export Processing Zone, the company has already implemented several measures to fulfil its vision to be a "Green Factory" and cut emissions of greenhouse gases by 30 percent.

The energy efficient units use natural light and run water treatment plant, recycling and waste management systems. The company saves 30 percent of energy and regularly analyses the benchmark data of energy.

Kenpark conducts regular training on environment for its workers and staff to make them understand "green measures" and its positive impact. It won an award from the Marks & Spencer, UK's leading retailer, for its eco-friendly policy.

Committed to work towards a healthy and clean environment, the firm is seeking to improve the energy and water efficiency systems



Namal Rajapakse
CFO, Kenpark Bangladesh Apparel

in its factories and develop a recycling system to reduce pollution of air, land and water.

Vegetation in the factories helps cut emissions of carbon dioxide. Its aluminum fiberglass insulation for the roofing area helps reduce cooling loads.

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Muqeed Majumdar Babu, chairman, Prokriti O Jibon Foundation

Awareness is the key

Champion in knowledge management

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prokriti O Jibon Foundation, a non-profit organisation, was founded in 2009. Its aim is to create awareness about nature and climate change among the masses and encourage sustainable development.

The organisation, founded by Muqeed Majumdar Babu, has produced a television series featuring biodiversity in Bangladesh. Titled "Prokriti O Jibon", the series is telecast every Sunday 11:30pm on Channel-i. It portrays the country's plants and animals; their availability, role in nature, habitats, and life patterns and how they are related to humans.

The show covers non-venomous snakes, wild birds, caves, hills and rivers. The series is the first of its kind in the country to deal with biodiversity and nature. It highlights the importance of protecting wildlife, points out the ways in which humans contribute to their destruction and suggests how they can be preserved.

In one of its episodes, Prokriti O Jibon brought to people's attention a turtle fair, organised as part of the Bengali New Year celebration, that had been around for 150 years at Rajapur village in Kotalipara, Gopalganj. The episode showed endangered species of turtles slaughtered and sold publicly at a local market. The episode had a real impact on people and the fair was closed.

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POSSIBILITIES UNBOUND FOR THE GOLDEN FIBER



Jute Products of Bangladesh has opened up an emerging marketing frontier for the investors in Bangladesh. Jute Diversification Promotion Center (JDPC) and Katalyst are organizing a day-long **Buyer-Seller Meet on December 20th, 2012**. The focus of the event is on effective market exposure for the Jute Diversified Products of Bangladesh.

This event of international standard can help you foster connections with businesses within the jute industry, explore the fine quality jute products available in our country, and contribute to the growth of the golden fiber. To register, call: **01742368000**.

Venue: IJSG Bhaban, Monipuripara, Dhaka 1215
Time: 11:00am – 7:00 pm.