

Protecting

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the environment, while informing the community about the vulnerable nature of the habitats.

There is a severe lack of recreational facilities and open space for the common people in the country. The Butterfly Park has 60 acres of land with a wealth of plants, waterfalls and lakes.

5 killed

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others could not be known immediately.

Aslam Uddin, sub-inspector of Bangabandhu West Police Station, said the accident occurred around 5:00 pm at Konabari when a bus of Bismillah Paribahan overturned on the highway, leaving a passenger dead on the spot.

The driver of the Narayanganj-bound bus lost control over the steering in trying to save a pedestrian, the SI said quoting witnesses.

Police with the help of locals rescued 31 injured passengers and sent them to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital. Four of them succumbed to their injuries on way to the hospital.

Of the 27 injured, the condition of eight passengers was critical, hospital sources said.

A case was filed.

Big-eyed

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poaching, the team of UK and US scientists said.

Analysing the facial markings of slow loris in the Indonesia island, the researchers concluded that the nocturnal Nycticebus kayan is new to science, and two others that were previously considered sub-species should be recognised as unique species in their own right.

The lemur-like slow loris is found across south-east Asia, and is notable for having a toxic bite – a rarity among primates. But the species are listed as vulnerable or endangered by the gold-standard IUCN Red List of threatened wildlife.

Rachel Munds, a University of Missouri doctoral student who was one of the team who identified it, said: "Unfortunately, in addition to habitat loss to deforestation, there is a booming black market demand for the animals. They are sold as pets, used as props for tourist photos or dismembered for use in traditional Asian medicines."

She added that technological advances had enabled the team to identify it as a separate species. "Historically many species went unrecognised as they were falsely lumped together as one species. While the number of recognised primate species has doubled in the past 25 years some nocturnal species remain hidden to science."

The findings were published in the American Journal of Primatology.

US school

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lots of bangles, and we thought that it was the custodian knocking stuff down. We heard screaming. And so went to the wall, and we sat down," a young boy told WCBS television.

"Then the police came in. It's like, is he in here? Then he ran out. Then somebody yelled get to a safe place, so we went to the closet in the gym and we sat there for a little while," he said, as stunned parents arrived.

"Then the police like were knocking on the door, and they're like, we're evacuating people, we're evacuating people. We ran out.

"They're police at every door leading us down this way, this way. Quick, quick, come on. We ran down to the fire-house. There's a man that pinned down to the ground with handcuffs on," he said.

Police swarmed into the leafy neighborhood after the shooting, while other area schools were put under lockdown, police and local media said.

Deadly shootings are a frequent occurrence in US public places, often ending only when the gunman is shot or kills himself.

Despite the tragedies support for tougher gun ownership laws is mixed, with many Americans opposing restrictions of what they consider to be a constitutional right to keep powerful firearms at home.

HSBC-Star honour

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one-minute token silence in honour of the country's best academics, journalists, educationists, humanists and social workers who were brutally killed on December 14, 1971, during the Liberation War.

The Tangail Forest Division, a government department, received the award in the Climate Champion in Community Engagement category for turning 700 inhabitants of Madhupur forest from encroachers into volunteers, who now protect and conserve the once-endangered greenery.

The project is a glaring example of how community engagement can help save a forest if the locals are made stakeholders of an effort. The initiative has provided means of livelihood to around 5,000 families that previously used to depend on the forest for earnings.

The Butterfly Park Bangladesh Ltd, the country's first butterfly-themed amusement park and entertainment zone of Intraco Group, received the Climate Champion award in Green Business category for its effort to protect the fast reducing population of butterflies and attract people towards nature in the seaside town of Patenga in Chittagong.

Kenpark Bangladesh Apparel (Pvt) Ltd, a leading readymade garments manufacturer, received the Climate Champion in Green Operation award in companies with full or partial foreign ownership category for installing energy-efficient equipment and integrating sustainable procedures like usage of natural light, water treatment plant, proper waste management system, complete recycling policy and extensive vegetation in its factories, as part of its plan to cut the emission of greenhouse gases by one-third.

Prokriti O Jibon Foundation, a non-profit organisation, got the award in Knowledge Management category for its awareness campaign on biodiversity, nature and climate change adaptation and risk mitigation.

The foundation researches and explores the latent biological resources of the country and broadcasts a documentary, Prokriti O Jibon, every Sunday night on private television network Channel i.

Rural Services Foundation, a non-profit organisation of Rahimafroz Group, working since 2006 to make renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies accessible to remote rural communities, received the Climate Champion in Green Operation award as the fully-Bangladeshi-owned company for promoting renewable energy and adopting in-house environment management practice in its zonal offices across the country.

Speaking as the chief guest, Food Minister Abdur Razzaque said the government did not wait for donors' support to act on the climate change challenges. "We are spending \$100 million every year to fight the impacts of the climate change."

He said the climate change is not a national or regional issue, but global. "That is why policymakers around the world are concerned about it."

The impacts of the climate change are now visible in different parts of the globe, said the minister.

Razzaque said in case of natural disasters, it is always the poor that are the most affected. "Poverty also needs to be addressed alongside environmental concerns if we are to mitigate the effects of climate change."

Shitangshu Kumar Sur Chowdhury, deputy governor of the central bank, thanked The Daily Star and HSBC for taking up the issue very timely.

He said climate change is a very important issue for an emerging country like Bangladesh and although it is a low emitter of greenhouse gases, the government has opted for low carbon path.

Industry, Dhaka, lauded The Daily Star and HSBC for choosing "a subject relevant to the daily life which needs consideration, advocacy and awareness about."

Andrew Tilke, chief executive officer of HSBC Bangladesh, said the climate awards have motivated individuals, communities and businesses to increase their green initiatives and take environmental concerns very seriously and found better ways to manage the impacts of climate change.

He also highlighted HSBC's continuing efforts to promote green initiatives globally. "HSBC understands that protecting our climate is also vital to ensuring a long-term business model. And we have engaged in many programmes globally and locally."

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, said there are people who think that the climate change would not put impact on them, but in the lives of their next generations.

"So they wonder why they should be concerned about the issue. I think this type of mentality is amounting to living in fools' paradise," he said, adding that Bangladesh has already started to see changes in the natural consistency "we are accustomed to".

Bangladesh would face two challenges -- the melting of snow in the Himalayas and rise in sea level, Mahfuz Anam continued, "We have to be aware of these challenges as Bangladesh always tops in all surveys and studies when it comes to which country is the most vulnerable to climate change impacts."

"So we have to have an all-out preparation. It's an opportunity for us to reinvent," he observed.

Anam said the solutions to the climate change challenges must and can only come from science rather than approaches based on backwardness, prejudice and religious conservatism.

The editor of The Daily Star also announced that from next year The Daily Star and HSBC would organise quizzes and debates on climate change in schools at district levels to raise awareness about global warming.

AH Md Maqsood Sinha, executive director of Waste Concern, the knowledge partner of the awards, said the government cannot tackle the challenges of the climate change alone. "It has to be participatory."

He said there is a common misperception among businesses that going green is expensive and increases cost of production. "But we have observed that the cost of production has rather gone down at factories that have adopted green business practices."

RSF's Niaz Rahim said the corporate sector has a duty to develop the country. "We set up the RSF to take solar energy to every house of the country out of our social responsibility."

He said the RSF is a social business and all of its profit is reinvested in the company.

Md Riyadh Ali said it is very important to preserve butterflies to fight climate change impacts, as they keep the trees healthy.

He also said he took up the initiative as it is a green business.

Namal Rajapakse of Kenpark apparel said it was a policy of their group to make all of its business sustainable. "So we have incorporated sustainable features in our every initiative."

Muqeed Majumdar Babu said the biodiversity across the world, including in Bangladesh, is disappearing due to lack of awareness. "Our aim is to stop the disappearance of the nature's various species and preserve what we have."

Ashit Ranjan Paul said the Madhupur Forest was thinning fast because the local community, that was heavily dependent on the forest, was not engaged with the process.

"Now, they are protecting the forest. If this system is applied in every forest of the country, we will be able to save them all," he said, terming the climate award initiative a noble step.

Top criminal

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Bikash has served 15 years in several cases since 1997 while Prokash is on the run.

Cargo vessel catches fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A cargo vessel of Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) anchored at jetty No 3 of Chittagong Port caught fire yesterday evening when an economizer of its engine room became overheated.

No significant damage had happened in the ship's engine room as six fire fighting units from the Fire Service Headquarters at Agrabad rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control.

On-duty staffs at the control room of Fire Service and Civil Defence and the Port Radio Control said the fire broke out in the engine room around 5:40pm.

There was no significant damage to the engine room as the ship's crew along with the fire fighters brought the situation under control soon, BSC Managing Director Commodore Moqsumul Quader told The Daily Star over the phone.

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Secretary Syed Farhad Uddin Ahmed said a three-member committee has been formed to investigate the incident.

Gas explosion

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Parul's son Arman, 4, Taslima's son Tanvir, 3, and her daughter Sushmita, 4.

The injured were admitted to the DMCH burn unit.

Deceased's cousin Helal Uddin said the guests had come to the capital to attend the wedding ceremony of one of his cousin sisters. The guests were staying at the two-room house of the family and were supposed to leave for Comilla along with the family today.

"The accident happened when Faruk had lit a match in the kitchen early in the morning. Suddenly there was a big explosion and fire engulfed both the bedrooms. The children and the guests were asleep then," said Helal.

Jatrabari police suspect that the gas cylinder was leaking and the kitchen had turned into a gas chamber as its windows were kept shut. The windowpanes and plastic doors of the kitchen and bathroom were found broken, perhaps due to the impact of the explosion, said police, adding that the fire had damaged most of the belongings of the family.

No conspiracy

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"They will try their best to disrupt the trial of the war criminals by delaying the trial proceedings or stopping it forever," she added.

The premier urged the people to remain vigilant so that the conspirators could not confuse people in their bid to stop the trial.

He mentioned that the conspirators were active to put "black spots in the courts and the government to foil the trial."

The Awami League (AL) president urged the party workers to remain careful so that no one could intrude into the party changing their political colour, and carry out any sabotage to put the blame on the AL.

Hasina said a section of the press was not giving proper coverage to the atrocities committed by the anti-liberation forces.

"Rather, they are giving huge coverage to even a simple mistake of the government," she added.

The premier hoped that no propaganda would mislead the people, who are eagerly waiting for the punishment of the war criminals.

AL General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam, who was present at the meeting, criticised the BNP for lending their support to Jamaat's movement for protecting the war criminals.

"The government is ready to discuss the next election issue with BNP at any place and at any time," he said.

"They (BNP) are not interested in any discussion, rather create trouble to protect the war criminals," Ashrafur added.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, AL advisory council member Dr Pranab Barua, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Dhaka to seek

FROM PAGE 1
In the first week of November, the foreign ministry sent its report to other ministries for taking follow-up actions on the issues discussed during the dialogue.

An 18-member Bangladesh delegation headed by outgoing foreign secretary Mohamed Mijarul Quayes attended the dialogue in Washington on September 19-20. US Assistant Secretary of State Robert A Blake led the US delegation.

According to the foreign ministry report, the US side expressed concern over the Grameen Bank issue and hoped it would be resolved in an acceptable manner.

The report further said the issue of the Nobel prize winning organisation was linked to women empowerment and advancement of small and medium enterprises in Bangladesh. An acceptable settlement of the "troubling" issue was mentioned in relation to Bangladesh's accession to the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC).

In the meeting, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's issues Melanne Verbeer described Bangladesh as a "model of the world" for what could be done for uplifting women from the lower stages of the society.

She said both Grameen Bank and Brac, the world's largest non-governmental organisation, are globally enviable Bangladeshi brands, which have been replicated throughout the world, according to the report.

Verbeer, who toured Bangladesh in September

this year, also mentioned that Bangladesh government's recent steps regarding Grameen Bank were perceived to have disenfranchised the women borrowers of the bank.

She hoped that the issue would be amicably resolved soon, said the report.

Ambassador Michael Kozak, senior advisor of bureau of democracy, human rights and labour of the US State Department, said the US hoped the proposed Foreign Donations (voluntary activities) Regulation Ordinance 2011 would not create any impediment to smooth operation of NGOs in Bangladesh.

The report said the US delegation acknowledged Bangladesh's concern about the work of some NGOs and the need for strong monitoring system and transparency of accounts. But at the same time, it advocated for easing the procedure of funding, registration and work permit for the interested local and international NGOs to work in the country.

During the dialogue, the Bangladesh delegation said the country had already fulfilled 10 out of 20 requirements to qualify for assistance from the MCA.

It said a number of countries ranking lower than Bangladesh on the indicator receive assistance for both compact and threshold programme. It urged the USA to consider Bangladesh's case.

The MCA is a US government programme that provides grants to poor countries to fight poverty. There are two primary types of MCC grants: compacts and

threshold programmes.

MCC has approved over \$8.4 billion in compact and threshold programmes worldwide.

Compacts are large, five-year grants for countries that pass MCC's eligibility criteria. Threshold programmes are smaller grants awarded to countries that come close to passing these criteria and are firmly committed to improving their policy performance.

A country needs to show good performance in 17 such indicators, including corruption, health, education, rule of law and the government's effectiveness, to become eligible for finance from the MCC that was created in 2004 by the US congress.

Bangladesh lags behind in nine out of 17 measurement indicators to qualify for MCC fund, according to the MCC website.

In October, US Ambassador to Bangladesh Dan W Mozena told reporters in Dhaka that corruption remains the major barrier for Bangladesh to getting funds from the MCA.

Bangladesh's scorecard in all measurement criteria is not up to the mark to qualify for assistance from the MCA, he said.

There are certain areas where Bangladesh's scorecard is green, and in some cases the scorecard is red, he said. "So, we started discussions on how to turn red to green and how to deal with more difficult issues like corruption."

"I singled out corruption because it is the one that must be green," said the US ambassador.

From predator

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Under the project, 700 people have been trained for two months. Known as Community Forest Worker (CFW), they are acting as local guards.

In addition, about 5,000 forest-dependent families have been selected for rehabilitation. They have each been given 50 fruit-bearing and 50 timber-yielding trees, 100 fuelwood species and also grants for cattle purchase, composting, vegetable cultivation and converting environment-friendly homestead so that they themselves can change their living standard.

The forest land, which was earlier converted into banana and pineapple cultivation fields, has been brought under the plantation coverage. Some 2,520 acres of land have been planted with native and fodder species.

It has not taken long for the project to pay dividends.

The CFWs now patrol the forest, thus boosting the forest department's regular manpower to protect it.

Forest officials said their involvement in conservation was helping protect the forest. The CFWs do not allow anybody to fell trees.

Under the project, each CFW has also been given Tk 10,000 in grant so that their reliance on the forest goes and they become engaged in income-generating activities.

All CFWs have as well moved to other income-generating vocations such as pisciculture, seedling raising, cow-fattening, cattle rearing, turmeric-chillies grinding, packaging and small businesses.

A cooperative society named "Madhupur Forest Conservation Cooperative Society" has been formed.

Promoting

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Recently, the firm has also introduced a fuel efficient alternative to traditional stove by providing users with a mechanism to remove pollutants from indoors.

These improved cooking stoves (ICS) halve the fuel consumption, cut indoor air pollution and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The resulting environment is beneficial for the health of women and children who traditionally inhabit kitchens.

In addition, the use of these stoves also reduces deforestation by villagers who otherwise use sticks, branches and wood for creating fires. So far RSF has constructed 4,850 such stoves.

In the rural areas, people burn biomass, firewood or cow dung in the open air, creating a lot of smoke that is harmful for the health and

environment. The company has also installed 1,164 biogas plants to mitigate the harmful impacts of using these substances in conventional ways.

The RSF Model School and College in Bogra provides free education to 175 underprivileged children in English version. The school has planted 1200 trees on its premises. Every week, students attend an awareness session on environment related issues.

As part of its awareness raising campaign on Green Earth, it organises the "Poribesh Utshob Quiz Competition" for students at the SSC level. The competition asks questions on climate change, renewable energy and the corporate social responsibility.

In this year alone, about 10,000 students from 30 upazilas joined the quiz competition.

Teletalk DGM

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former divisional engineer of Bangladesh Telecommunication Company Limited (BTCL), before a metropolitan magistrate court and sought 20 days' remand.

After hearing, Magistrate M Saifur Rahman granted a 16-day remand.

Asaduzzaman on Thursday from his office in the capital's Gulshan area on charges of giving illegal connections to some so-called international telecom carriers and embezzling government revenue.

Earlier on November 5, the ACC filed five cases against 14 people, including six officials of the BTCL, for pocketing Tk 205 crore.

Target

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It uses HVAC technology, a complete system of heating, ventilation and air conditioning, to cut energy consumption by 30 percent.

It has a sewage water treatment plant to reuse waste water for gardening. It operates a reverse osmosis plant to treat waste water.

Instead of using conventional pesticides, the company has introduced cheaper and eco-friendly pest control system for its premises under vegetation.

It has provided bins with lid in its factories to ensure proper disposal of waste. Its rainwater harvesting system ensures optimum use of the natural resource.

Kenpark uses 50 percent recycled products as garments accessories, labels and cartons.

The firm has installed carbon dioxide sensors to measure the changing CO2 levels in factory premises. There are also designated non-smoking areas in the factories.

It conducts comprehensive electrical audits in its factories to minimise risk of fire.

Kenpark plans to cut its energy consumption by 40 percent and water consumption by 50 percent. It will also introduce solar electric system.

The company will use skylight technology to supplement natural light for the production and cutting sections in its factories.

BNP, Jamaat

FROM PAGE 1
placing wreaths at the Rayerbazar mass grave in the capital commemorating the martyred intellectuals on behalf of his party, the Awami League.

Party leaders Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Matia Chowdhury, Mahbubul Alam Hanif, among others, accompanied him there.

Nine leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami and BNP are facing trials in two international crimes tribunals on charges of committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971.

Terming Khaleda Zia "saviour of the war criminals", Syed Ashraf, also general secretary of ruling AL, alleged that the opposition leader was trying her best to stop the trials.

"But none will be able to do that. No matter how hard Khaleda Zia tries to save the war criminals, she won't succeed," said Ashraf, adding, "We are pledge-bound to the people and hence no power or whatsoever can foil the trial."

"We have heard that they are preparing, collecting weapons. They would not hesitate to use the weapons, if necessary, to foil the war crimes trials. They are getting ready for a mass killing," he said, urging people to remain as alert as the government is.

The trial was taking a little longer time for the sake of transparency and fairness, said Ashraf, hoping that the verdict delivery would start from this month.

Awareness

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Each episode of the series has a quiz in which 3000 to 5000 people take part each week.

The organisation produces books, DVDs and other materials on related issues and supplies them to schools, colleges, and government and non-government institutions for free. It also sells such materials and publications at book fairs at affordable prices.

The foundation has a research cell that explores areas such as biodiversity and environmental conservation.

Every year, the foundation confers the "Nature Conservation Award" on individuals who have made outstanding contribution to conserving wildlife and biodiversity of the country. It hopes the award will encourage the awardees to carry on with their work and motivate others to follow their examples.

Prokriti O Jibon Foundation has organised various events such as butterfly fairs, nature fairs, bird and turtle fairs, National Nature Festival, World Migratory Bird Festival and rallies and talk shows on environmental issues.

Islamist parties

FROM PAGAE 20
making the hartal a success. They alleged that Jamaat was becoming desperate to foil the ongoing war crimes trial.

The Gonotantrik Bam Morcha also called a country-wide dawn-to-dusk shutdown for the same day [Tuesday] to realise their seven-point demand including that for stopping power, oil and gas price hike. The party yesterday held a procession and is also set to hold a rally today in front of the Jatiya Press Club in favour of the hartal.

Meanwhile, Zafarullah Khan, member of the 12 like-minded Islamist parties, yesterday told The Daily Star that they would formally announce their dawn-to-dusk hartal for Thursday at a press conference on Tuesday if the left parties do not withdraw their hartal.

Against such backdrop, the city dwellers are likely to suffer three hartals next week while Sunday is going to be a holiday for the Victory Day.

An organisation named Gorbo Bangladesh Biplobi Dal called a half-day hartal in the capital for December 17 [Monday] demanding Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's retirement from politics.

On Wednesday, spokespersons of the organisation Shaheda Obaid and Kamrul Hasan announced the eight-hour hartal at a press conference in Dhaka Reporters Unity.