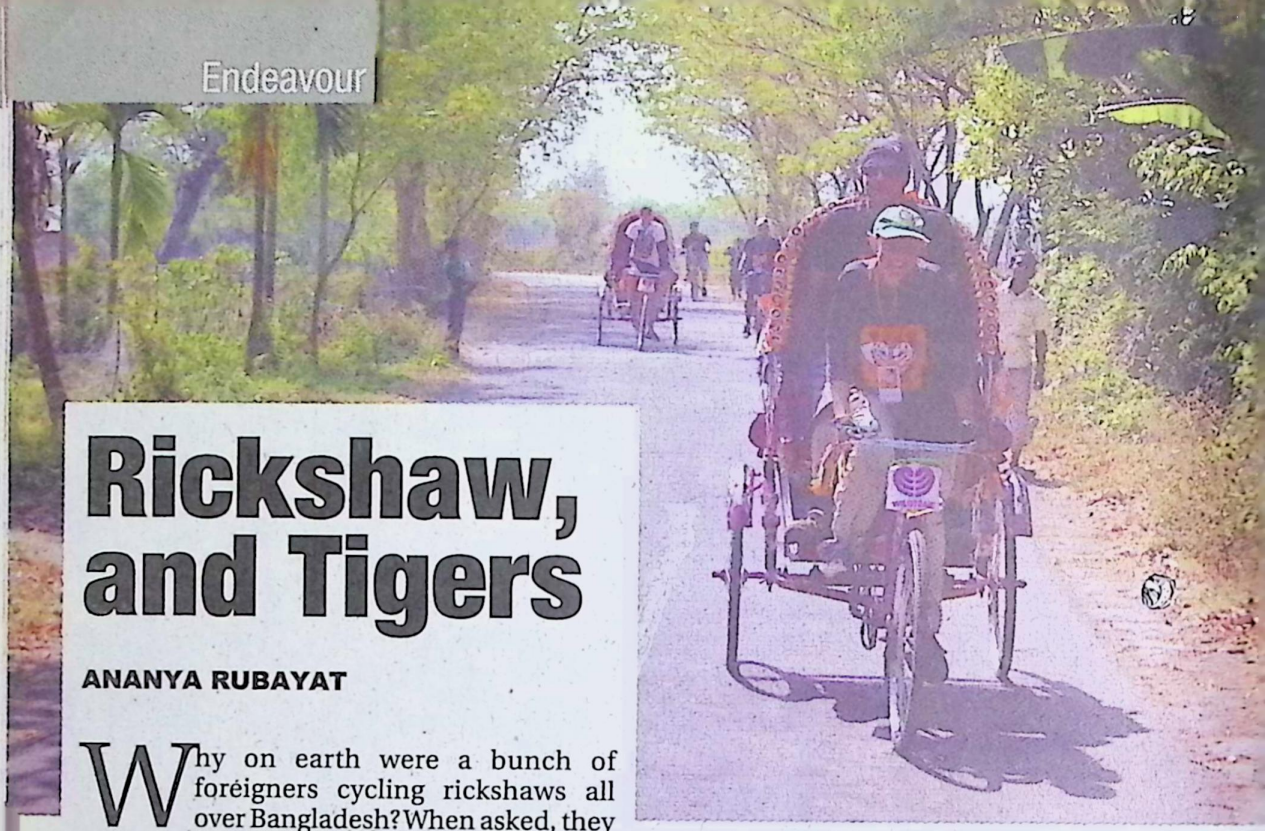
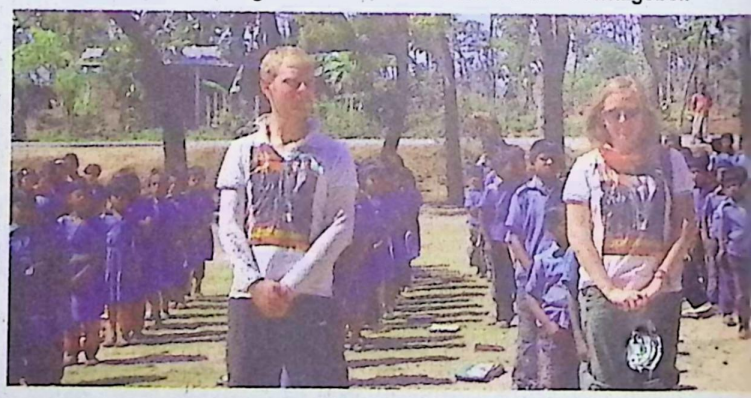


Rickshaw, and Tigers

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Why on earth were a bunch of foreigners cycling rickshaws all over Bangladesh? When asked, they said *"Amra Teknaf theke Sundarban Rickshaw chaliye jacchi, manushke Poribesh ar bagh bachanor kotha bolte* (We are cycling rickshaws from Teknaf to the Sundarbans to tell people about the need for protecting the environment and tigers.)."

Challenger Naile Busemann and Florian Scwitzgebel.



Challenger Matt Viccars and Sarah Jane Saltmarsh standing with school children in Eidgaon Cox's Bazar.

This is exactly what the 20 challengers from the 'Wild Rickshaw Challenge' did. 'Dare to care for tigers' was the guiding theme behind this unique challenge event organised by WildTeam, a conservation organisation based in Bangladesh. The aim was to unite people from all around the world and connect them through their love for nature and tigers – and 20 brave souls responded. Among them, the Danish Ambassador to Bangladesh Svend Olling, alongside researchers, students, entrepreneurs, photographers all from diverse backgrounds and age groups, stepped up for the challenge.

So why tigers? – because the Bengal tiger is one of the most majestic symbols of nature's greatness and in the tiger's mighty roar resonates the fighting spirit of the Bangladeshi people.

Why rickshaws? – because rickshaws are one of the most iconic symbols of vibrant Bangladesh and are an environmental friendly way to travel. Put the two of them together, mix in a great deal of passion and you have the Wild Rickshaw Challenge.

As part of the organising team behind such a never-before-done event, you plan, predict, anticipate, fear, calculate a lot of things – but nothing can really prepare you for the actual ride. Even getting on a rickshaw is sometimes challenging enough with trucks and buses zooming past you at full speed. But when the rickshaws are pulled by amateur rickshaw pullers, when the distance to go is 400kilometres, and when the country is going