



Blangladesh Forest Department brings out a procession in the capital yesterday marking International Tiger Day.

PHOTO: PID

International Tiger Day observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a bid to raise public awareness to save the Bengal tigers, the fourth International Tiger Day was observed yesterday with the theme "Save Tiger, Save Mother-like Sundarbans".

Different countries, especially the 13 Tiger Range Countries (TRC) where tigers are available in the wild, have been observing the tiger day on July 29 every year since 2010.

The environment and forest ministry and some development partners, including the World Bank, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and GIZ, brought out a procession from Osmani Auditorium to Doel Chattar at Dhaka University yesterday, said a press release.

On the occasion, Dr Reza Khan, eminent wildlife expert and head of Dubai Zoo, delivered a keynote speech at a discussion in Osmani Auditorium, hosted by Bangladesh Forest Department, while Environment and Forest Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud inaugurated the programme.

Shafiqur Rahman Patowari, secretary, the environment and forest ministry; Christine E Kimes, acting head, World Bank, Bangladesh; Ishtiaq Uddin Ahmed, country representative, IUCN; Yunus Ali, chief conservator of forest; and Dr Tapan Kumar Dey, conservator of the wildlife division, also spoke there.

In Khulna and Satkhira, the respective forest department offices organised processions and discussions, said a hand-out. The Sundarbans west zone division and the Khulna district administration jointly organised a discussion and procession in the city.

The Bengal tigers, the top predator of the Sundarbans, have been facing multiple threats like elsewhere in the world which are mainly linked to increase of human population, forest razing for agriculture, and illegal poaching for medicinal use.

At least 32 tigers have been killed in and around Sundarbans' Bangladesh part--12 by villagers and 20 others by poachers--since the government conducted the last census in 2004, which estimated the number of tigers in Bangladesh around 450.

The tiger population has declined to 3,000 now, available in 13 countries, while the number was 10,000 in 1990 and 50,000 in 1940, says the international tiger report.

TK 1 CR SWINDLING ACC okays charges against Oriental Bank's ex-officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday approved the charge-sheet of a case filed against seven high officials of now-defunct Oriental Bank, including former senior vice president Shah Mohammad Harun, for swindling Tk 1 crore.

The officials sanctioned a loan of Tk 1 crore on July 19, 2005 from the bank's Dilkusha main branch against a fake business entity, Alam Traders, said a high official of ACC. The loan amount with interest stood at over Tk 1.09 crore on June 30, 2006, he added.

Investigation officer Nur Hossain Khan, also deputy director of ACC, in the charge-sheet said the bank officials deliberately did not verify the loan documents only for the swindling.

On January 25, 2005, a bank account of non-existent Alam Traders opened by its fake owner Nur Hossain Khan with the bank and he [Nur] applied for the loan on July 17, 2005, said the ACC official.

ACC filed the case on December 29, 2006 with Motijheel Police Station.

BOAT PEOPLE SEEKING ASYLUM IN AUSTRALIA 'Bangladeshis' under identification process

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some people claiming to be Bangladeshis who were trying to enter Australia by boat without visas to seek asylum are under the process of identification, said Australian High Commissioner in Dhaka Greg Wilcock yesterday.

He, however, could not specify how many Bangladeshis were seeking asylum.

"Recently, around 1,000 people have been detained at the sea territory of Australia while they were trying to enter the country by boats without visa," he told reporters at a press conference in Australian High Commission.

The envoy held the press conference to disseminate his government's announcement that asylum seekers arriving by boat without a visa will never be allowed to settle in Australia.

Under a regional arrangement with Papua New Guinea, unauthorised arrivals would be sent to Papua New Guinea for assessment and if found to be refugees, they would be settled there. Wilcock, however, clarified his government's stance that asylum seekers must enter Australia through international organisations, which resettle people, and not through criminal operators.

Ashraf also smells AL's return to power

STAR REPORT

Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam yesterday said he believes his party will return to power and all the political parties will take part in the next general election.

"I don't have any information, but as a politician I can smell that Awami League will return to power through the next general election," he told an iftar party hosted by its publicity and publication sub-committee in the capital's Ladies' Club, reports UNB.

Ashraf, also LGRD and cooperatives minister, came up with the observation at a time when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her son Sajeeb Wazed Joy are claiming to have information about AL's possible victory in the polls.

He said they have started preparing for the national election and they will be out on the field with spirited programmes after Eid-ul-Fitr.

Apparently rejecting the opposition's demand for arranging the next election under caretaker government, Ashraf said military and undemocratic government cannot be an alternative to a democratic government.

Joy's speech indicates a conspiracy

Says Mirza Fakhru Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday said Sajeeb Wazed Joy's recent statement on the results of the next parliamentary polls was nothing but "a sign of a conspiracy being hatched".

"Who is Joy [son of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina] in the Awami League? I don't know whether he has any post in the government."

"But his comment, based on data which show the AL will certainly retain power through the next election, is part of a government conspiracy," he told an iftar party at the capital's Institute of Diploma Engineers.

Separately, Fakhru said the prime minister's comment made on Sunday on her party's re-election would fail to boost the morale of her party men.

If voted to power, the BNP will introduce a government that will remove corruption, ensuring good governance and bringing a change in politics, he told reporters after visiting an injured Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activist at the capital's Apollo Hospital.

CTG ARMS HAUL IO denies questioning two Ulfa leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The latest investigation officer (IO) in the Chittagong arms haul cases yesterday denied interrogating Indian separatist group Ulfa leaders Arabinda Rajkhowa and Anjan Chowdhury in connection with the 2004 arms and ammunition haul in Chittagong.

IO Mohammad Moniruzzaman Chowdhury denied this while being cross-examined by advocate Kamrul Islam Sazzad, a lawyer for the accused and former DGFI director Brig Gen (ret'd) Rezzakul Haider Chowdhury.

When the lawyer showed Moniruzzaman a news report published in The Daily Star on August 7, 2010, mentioning that the two Ulfa leaders were interrogated by the Task Force for Interrogation on the arms haul, the IO said he had no idea about such an interrogation.

The lawyer also asked the investigator whether he had questioned former Jatiya

Party lawmaker Golam Faruk Ovi, ex-army chief Gen Moyeen U Ahmed, Lt Gen (ret'd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury, Lt Gen (ret'd) Mahbubur Rahman, Lt Gen (ret'd) HM Ershad, businessman Abdul Awal Mintu, Col (ret'd) Wasif Ashraf and Brig Gen (ret'd) Bari. Moniruzzaman said he had interrogated none.

Talking to The Daily Star, advocate Kamrul said several witnesses and accused in their statements mentioned the names and some activities of those people and also of businessman Salman F Rahman.

When the lawyer claimed that Rezzakul was made an accused on the direction of the incumbent prime minister and the present government since he denied giving any statement involving BNP leader Tarique Rahman and the then Prime Minister's Office in the arms haul, Moniruzzaman replied that it was absolutely false. The cross examination was recorded by Chittagong Metropolitan Special Tribunal-1.

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বিস্মিল্লাহির রাহমানির রাহিম

মানুষ মানুষের জন্য

আর তাই, ইসলামী শরীয়াহ মোতাবেক সেবার জন্য সবসময় সেবার অঙ্গীকার নিয়ে ফার্স্ট সিকিউরিটি ইসলামী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড আপনাদের জন্য এনেছে অনন্য দু'টি সেবা।

মুদারাবা ক্যাশ ওয়াক্ফ ডিপোজিট স্কিম

- ★ মুদারাবা ক্যাশ ওয়াক্ফ জমা একটি চিরস্থায়ী দান।
- ★ ন্যূনতম ওয়াক্ফকৃত টাকার পরিমাণ ৫০০০/-। এককালীন অথবা কিস্তিতে টাকা জমা দেয়া যাবে। ন্যূনতম ১০০০/- দিলে হিসাব খুলতে হবে।
- ★ সম্ভাব্য ১২.৫০% হারে (প্রতিশ্রুত) মুনাফা প্রদান করা হবে।
- ★ মুনাফার অর্থ জনকল্যাণমূলক বিভিন্ন খাতে ব্যয় করা হবে। ওয়াক্ফকারী নিজেও খাত নির্ধারণ করে দিতে পারবেন অথবা মুনাফার অর্থ নিজ দায়িত্বেও ব্যয় করতে পারবেন।

যাকাত ফান্ড

- ★ আপনার যাকাতের অর্থের যথাযথ ব্যবহারের নিশ্চয়তা দিচ্ছি।
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- ★ সংগৃহীত অর্থ আর্ত-পীড়িত মানুষের কল্যাণে, শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য ও কর্মসংস্থানের মতো জনকল্যাণমূলক কাজে ব্যয় করা হবে।

বিস্তারিত জানতে: ০২-৯৮৯২২২৯, ০১৭৩০ ৩৯৬৯৬৮

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