

31 species go extinct

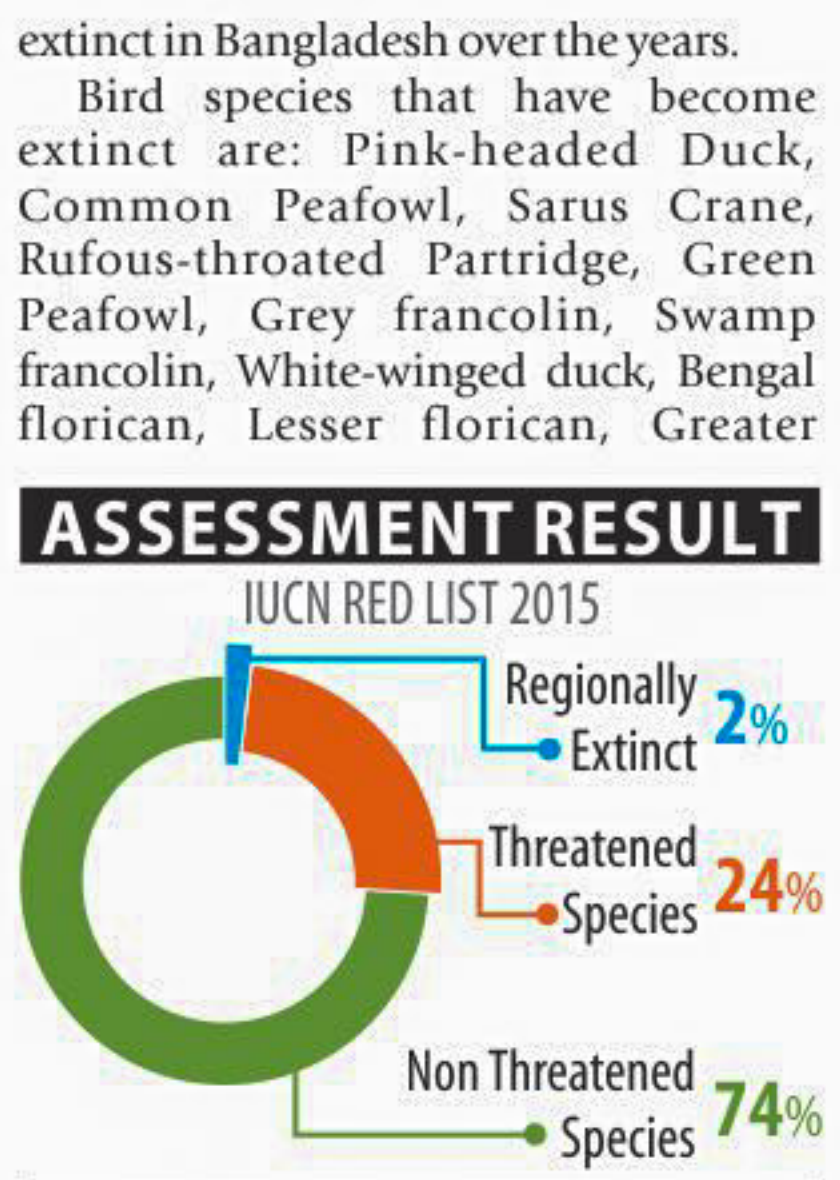
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 extinct. In the 2015 survey, 14 new species, including five butterflies and five rats, are recorded.

The latest update of the IUCN red list has enlisted a total of 1,691 species of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, crustacean, fish and butterfly. Of them, 390 are threatened species. Of the 390 species, 56 are categorised as critically endangered, 181 as endangered and 153 as vulnerable.

"The new red data list has opened an opportunity for the conservation of endangered wildlife in the coming years," said Mohammad Ali Reza Khan, chief national technical adviser of Updating Species Red List of Bangladesh.

He said the government must take stronger legislative efforts to prevent wildlife trafficking and trading in the country.

In the presentation, it was said that 11 mammals -- One-horned Rhinoceros, Javan Rhinoceros, Asiatic two-horned Rhinoceros, Banteng, Wild Buffalo, Nilgai, Swamp Deer, Blackbuck, Wolf, Sloth Bear or Honey bear and Striped Hyena -- have become



adjutant, White-bellied heron, Spot-billed pelican, Red-headed vulture, Rusty-fronted barwing, Black-breasted parrotbill, Spot-breasted parrotbill, Greater rufous-headed parrotbill and Bar-tailed treecreeper.

Marsh crocodile is the only reptile

species to become extinct in the country, the new red list reveals.

Of 390 threatened species, 56 are endangered. Of them, 17 species are of mammals, 10 of birds, 17 of reptiles, two of amphibians, nine of freshwater fishes and one of butterflies.

"A certain species is called extinct if it is not seen in the wild for 50 years. This way, we have identified 19 bird species which we think are extinct in the country," Enam Ul Haque, who led the bird assessor group in the red list, told The Daily Star.

Kamal Uddin Ahmed, secretary of the environment and forest ministry, disclosed the summary results of the red list.

Chief Conservator of Forests Yunus Ali and IUCN country representative Ishtiaq Uddin Ahmad, among others, spoke on the occasion.

As part of the Bangladesh forest department's project titled "Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Wildlife Protection (SRCWP)" funded by the World Bank, IUCN Bangladesh implemented the project from 2013 to 2016.

AL turns 67 today

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 law regime of General Ayub Khan in 1958. Its entire top leadership was put behind bars until 1963.

The AL joined an opposition alliance in 1962 and backed Fatema Jinnah in the 1965 presidential election against Field Marshal Ayub Khan.

In February 1966, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib placed the historic six-point plan of regional autonomy for Pakistan's federating provinces at a conference of opposition leaders in Lahore.

Bangabandhu was arrested in the Agartala Conspiracy Case in 1968 and was put on trial. But the mass upsurge in 1969 forced the Ayub regime to free him in February that year. Mujib gradually evolved as the unparalleled leader of the Bangladeshes. Under his leadership, the AL won a landslide victory in the 1970 national election.

The party led the country's Liberation War in 1971. Two years later, it secured victory in the country's first general

election.

In June 1975, the AL-led government introduced BAKSAL -- a one-party system of government -- by dissolving all other political parties, including the AL. But the BAKSAL government was overthrown in August that year after the assassination of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Bangabandhu along with most of his family members was brutally murdered on August 15, 1975. Only his two daughters, Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana, survived as they were in the then West Germany.

The party was revived during the martial law regime in 1977. Abdul Malek Ukil and Abdur Razzaq were elected party president and general secretary in the AL council in 1978.

Factional conflicts escalated before the party's next council in 1981. The party council elected Hasina, who was abroad then, as the AL president. She has been leading the party ever since.

During its long journey, the AL as a component of the Jukta Front earned a landslide victory against Muslim League in 1954 general election. It also led movements against the anti-people education policy in 1962.

PROGRAMMES
 The AL would start the day by hoisting national and party flags atop all its offices across the country today. Besides, pigeons and balloons would be released.

Party leaders would place floral wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu in front of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi-32.

The party would host a discussion at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre at 2:30pm, to be chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

In a press statement, AL General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam yesterday called upon the leaders, activists and supporters of the party and its front and associated bodies to observe the day with due respect.

Divided UK votes on its EU

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 French President Francois Hollande said a vote to leave could seriously jeopardise British access to the EU's prized single market. German Chancellor Angela Merkel said she did not want to speculate on what dangers would arise if Britain left, because she wanted it to stay in the Union.

The referendum will take place a week after the murder of ardently pro-EU lawmaker Jo Cox shocked the country, raising questions about the tone of an increasingly bitter four-month campaign.

Much of the debate has boiled down to two issues: the economy and immigration.

The City of London financial centre, the International Monetary Fund and the majority of British business leaders back Cameron and his Remain camp's stance that to leave the EU would plunge Britain into recession, costing jobs and raising prices.

Supporters of a so-called Brexit have struck a chord with many voters by saying Britain would regain control of immigration if it cut itself loose from a bloc they see as domineering and out of touch.

In what has become an ugly and personal fight, both camps have been accused of using unfounded assertions and scare tactics. Remain campaigners accuse their opponents of resorting to the politics of hate; the Leave camp say their rivals have run a "Project Fear" to scare voters about the economic risks.

Both sides hit the road and the airwaves to appeal to the large number of undecided voters who will be decisive, along with the level of turnout.

"It's our last chance to sort this out and take back control," said former London mayor Boris Johnson, the main leader of the Leave campaign and favourite with bookmakers to replace Cameron in the event of Brexit.

"If we don't vote to leave tomorrow we will remain locked in the back of the car, driven in an uncertain direction frankly to

a place we don't want to go and perhaps by a driver who doesn't speak the very best of English," he said.

He was flying around Britain in a helicopter to spread the Brexit message, making an unashamed play to British patriotism by declaring Thursday could be "independence day".

The leader of the anti-EU UK Independence Party (UKIP), Nigel Farage, also played the nationalist card in an address to supporters in London.

"At the end of the day tomorrow when people vote they must make a decision - which flag is theirs? I want us to live under British passports and under the British flag," he said.

Cameron, who called the referendum under pressure from his own Conservative party and from the insurgent UKIP, urged voters to remain in the club Britain joined in 1973.

"If we leave, we will diminish our country and our ability to get things done in the world," he told a crowd in Bristol in western England.

Standing alongside him, former Prime Minister John Major said the result would have to be respected but warned that if Leave won, "the gravediggers of our prosperity will have to account for what they have said and done".

World leaders including US President Barack Obama, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Nato and Commonwealth allies have urged Britain to remain in the EU.

The bosses of 51 of the FTSE 100 British companies, and 1,285 business leaders who together employ 1.75 million people, also signed a joint letter to The Times urging voters to remain.

Opinion polls have depicted a deeply divided nation, with big differences between older and younger voters, and between pro-EU London and Scotland and eurosceptic Middle England. Some polls published since Cox's murder have suggested a swing towards

Remain, though often within the margin of error.

Election experts say turnout will be crucial because of a gulf between generations. Young people, who have a poor voting record, strongly back staying in the EU, while elderly, more regular voters tend to favour an exit.

Polling stations open at 0600 GMT today June 23 and close at 2100 GMT with 46.5 million electors eligible to vote. The official result is due some time after 0600 GMT on Friday but partial results and turnout figures from 382 counting centres will be announced from about 0100 GMT.

Cameron's personal future hangs on the result. The EU issue has divided his Conservative Party since the days of his distant predecessor Margaret Thatcher, bringing an end to her decade in office in 1990.

A vote to leave would almost certainly cost him the top job, though he has said he will stay. But even narrow backing for remain could undermine his authority and shorten his term.

A Brexit vote could also lead to a wider political crisis in Britain and fragment the post-Cold War European order.

EU leaders, while unanimously urging Britain to stay, are already skirmishing over whether the right response to a Brexit would be closer integration of the remaining members or a rethink of the way Europe is governed.

The EU would have to weather the exit of its No.2 economy representing \$2.9 trillion of its gross domestic product, the only European financial capital to rival New York and one of its only two nuclear powers, while Britain's economy could stall.

Scotland's First Minister has said Brexit could also trigger another independence referendum if Scots backed staying the EU but were dragged out by the English.

Minority leaders worried

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 take action against police repression if there were any specific allegation.

Talking to The Daily Star, Ashim said police had detained the traders from the capital's Rampura area and took them to the CID office. The law enforcers asked them to pay Tk 1 lakh. "We managed to convince the police to free them for Tk 20,000," he mentioned.

Police launched the drive in the wake of recent targeted killings suspected of being carried out by militants. According to a release of the Police Headquarters, law enforcers rounded up around 11,684 people during the drive.

Ashok Barua, general secretary of the Buddhist Federation, told the meeting that target killings were being

committed to destabilise the country as part of national and international conspiracies.

Expressing worries about the law and order, he stressed the need for taking social, political and administrative actions to stop such killings.

Nirmal Rozario, secretary general of Bangladesh Christian Association, said secret killings were part of a deep-rooted conspiracy. "We believe that such killings can be prevented through public resistance."

However, many religious minority leaders hailed the government for its measures to curb militancy.

The health minister claimed that the BNP-Jamaat combine was carrying out secret killings to create unrest in the country.

"After facing defeats in all fronts,

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has been trying to prove to the world that Bangladesh is a communal country," he added.

Top leaders of the 14-party alliance were present at the meeting.

Earlier on June 12, the combine had a meeting with the leaders of Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad. Minority community leaders in that meeting expressed anger over the alliance's role in protecting them from attacks.

Parishad General Secretary Rana Dasgupta alleged that the alliance leaders didn't stand by them following attacks. He also viewed that the series of attacks on religious minorities reminded him of the brutality during the Liberation War in 1971 when they became the worst victims.

Govt plotting Victim in jail

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 protect the country as security forces of other countries were intruding into Bangladesh and killing its people.

"But this government can not dare protest any such incident. Such a fragile government can not ensure welfare of the country's people," she said.

'Democracy deficit'
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 able to handover the fruits to the young generation."

The PM's adviser said a Saudi minister termed Sheikh Hasina as an example of a model for Muslim women. This means leadership is the main factor.

"Democracy deficit is not a big problem," said Tawfiq, citing the economic advancement of countries such as South Korea and Singapore. These are good examples, he said.

Tawfiq said everything could not be achieved at once. "My appeal to the media is that you give support to the prime minister and her government."

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 from Setara's house in the narrow alley.

When Arona went out to see what had happened, she was accused of hurling acid on Setara.

Chanchal and his accomplices later went to the scene and beat up Arona's son Salam, an SSC examinee. Suchona too arrived at the scene after her private tuition job only to be assaulted by them.

Chanchal and his gang called police and handed over the entire family to the law enforcers.

The police saw burn injuries on Setara's arm and arrested the entire family of Arona.

They were placed on 12 days of remand in two phases.

However, the police investigation later discovered that the case was false and Setara's injuries were not from acid at all. They also found inconsistencies in her story.

"The plaintiff was supposed to provide the burnt clothes as evidence but failed," said Nazir Ahmed, additional deputy commissioner (Lalbagh division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

He said the case was filed following Chanchal's instruction and that Chanchal during primary interrogation admitted orchestrating the whole thing.

Setara had claimed that she heard the

voice of Arona when the acid was thrown at her.

Police did not even find any evidence which could establish such an attack.

On May 29, almost a month after the family's arrest, police submitted the final report to court acquitting them of the allegation.

The case has not been dismissed yet and Suchona is still in jail failing to obtain bail.

This correspondent visited the home of Arona. The four-member poor family lives in a one-bedroom house.

Arona said for two years Chanchal had been harassing her daughter, a third-year honours student at Badrunessa, over phone. When they brought the allegation before Chanchal's family, they outright denied it and Setara became angry for making the allegation public.

Arona's family eventually filed a case against Chanchal on May 30 for beating up the children.

He was arrested the same day but is now out on bail.

Arona worries how she would get her daughter married off. She thinks the stigma of her daughter being in jail and being in the mess Chanchal created would drive off potential groom.

Tension at

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 Contacted, Syed Nurul Islam, deputy commissioner of police (Wari division), who is supposed to be present at the planned meeting, said its schedule was yet to be decided. "It [meeting] may take place today or tomorrow," he said.

Mad rush

FROM PAGE 3
 crowds, said Chittagong Railway Station Manager Md Abul Kalam Azad.

Md Abdul Hai, general manger of Bangladesh Railways (East Zone), while visiting the station yesterday, told the reporters that a new intercity train Sonar Bangla will start operating from Sunday.

LAUNCH TICKET
 Advance cabin tickets of private launches of Dhaka-Barisal routes have been exhausted. Of the tickets, around 80 percent are already sold out, while the rest are reserved for VIPs, according to launch booking office sources.

Passengers, who will travel on launch deck, will have to buy tickets before boarding, reports our correspondent in Barisal.

CID quizzes 3

FROM PAGE 3
 second-year student of History of Comilla Victoria College and a member of Victoria College Theatre, was found dead in a bush beside a culvert inside the cantonment on March 20.

In April, doctors of the Forensic Department at Comilla Medical College Hospital revealed that the autopsy did not find any sign of rape before her death.

On March 30, Tonu's body was exhumed from her grave for collecting DNA sample, fresh postmortem and proper investigation into the case.

Later, members of Crime Scene Unit of CID brought the DNA and other samples of teeth, nails and body to Dhaka for examination.

On June 12, revealing the second autopsy report, doctors of the Forensic Department of Comilla Medical College Hospital said they did not find any specific cause of the death of Tonu in their second autopsy report, but got the "sign of sexual intercourse".

Floods maroon

FROM PAGE 2
 amount of vegetables will be damaged," said Afsar Ali, a farmer in Sholmari village under Kaliganj upazila.

Mostafizur Rahman, executive engineer of the WDB in Dalia upazila, said if water continued to increase for the next 24 hours till today, more people in river basin areas would be affected.

The affected people of Dawabari village in Hatibandha upazila told this correspondent that erosion of the Teesta had taken a serious turn in the last one week, and the river was devouring homes and croplands one after another.

Our Nilphamari correspondent reports, around 10,000 people have been stuck in flood water in 14 villages in Teesta shoals and low-lying areas of Dimla and Jaldhaka upazilas as the river started swelling on Tuesday night.

With the rise of the Teesta water, water in other major rivers of the district has also increased, inundating jute, vegetable fields and Amon seedbeds on a large scale.

The affected people are facing a shortage of dry food and pure drinking water.

Our Gaibandha correspondent adds, Jamuna erosion made 150 families homeless, and it also gobbled up over 350 bighas of jute land in Shaghata upazila in the last five days.

Good news for govt

FROM PAGE 1
 make up for July 4 on July 16, a Saturday.

The Eid will be held either on July 6 or 7 depending on sighting of the moon.

The private sector, however, is not going to have such a privilege. Many private jobholders will not have off for more than the three-day official holidays.

The official holiday for Eid is three days if it is not followed by weekend or other government holidays. Those who celebrate Eid at their village homes find the three-day holiday insufficient. Therefore, they either take leave or manage their offices before the beginning of Eid holidays. Some even take leave of a few days or come late after the vacation.

"I don't think the officials would need to take such leaves this year," said an official of the health ministry preferring anonymity.

The long vacation will not only enable the public servants to have a proper celebration of Eid-ul-Fitr, it is also expected

to make the travel on the country's highways, waterways and rails a bit trouble-free.

Every year the rush of holidaymakers reaches its peak just two to three days before Eid when a large number of people leave the capital by three modes of transports -- bus, train and vessel -- braving sufferings in their journey to be home.

Photographs of launches swarming with passengers or the long tailback in the two ferry ghats at Paturia and Mawa are very common for quite a long time.

But this time there might be a change in the scenario. The pressure on the transports may come down if people start leaving bustling Dhaka for their homes much ahead of Eid.

The residents of Dhaka may also have a respite from the gruelling traffic jam just for a few days before Eid when people in their hundreds turn to shopping arcades.

Pak Qawwal Amjad

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 opened fire, Farooq Sanjarani, a police officer told AFP.

Sabri was hit by five bullets and was declared dead at Abbasi Shaheed Hospital while a companion, named as a relative, Saleem Sabri, was in critical condition, a hospital source added.

"It was a targeted killing and an act of terrorism," Muqaddas Haider, a senior police officer said, without naming possible suspects.

Grisly mobile phone footage of the scene of the crime shot by an onlooker showed the singer's head slumped on his right shoulder and a pool of blood on the ground by the driver's side where he sat.

TARGETED SECT
 Sabri was a 'Qawwal', or singer of 'Qawwali', which is a traditional form of Islamic devotional music that is popular across South Asia with roots tracing back to the 13th century.

The music is closely associated with Sufism, a mystical sect of Islam that is viewed as heretical by hardline groups such as the Taliban.

The Taliban and other Islamist groups have carried out major attacks on Sufi mosques and shrines in recent years, including the 2010 bombing of the Data Darbar shrine in Lahore that killed more than 40 people.

Sabri, the son of another legendary Qawwali singer, Ghulam Farid Sabri who

died in 1994, was a fixture on national television and regularly performed on a morning show during the ongoing holy Muslim month of Ramadan.

In May 2014 he was asked by a court to respond to blasphemy charges following the broadcast of a controversial song-and-dance routine that was set to a Qawwali piece about the wedding of the Prophet Mohammed's daughter to his cousin. 'MISSION OF LOVE'

His killing was met with shock and condemnation. Neighbours congregated outside the singer's home to offer condolences to his relatives, while TV channels broadcast recordings of his music in tribute.

"Totally shocked to hear the news of @AmjadSabri. May Allah bless him with Jannah (heaven) for he praised Him & His Prophet beautifully all his life," tweeted Ayaz Sadiq, the speaker of Pakistan's parliament.

"Shocked and saddened by news of the killing of Amjad Sabri, not just a crime but an attack on our culture and heritage," added Mustafa Qadri, a human rights researcher at Amnesty International.

While the motive behind the killing was not immediately clear, Ariebe Azhar, another popular Sufi singer, told AFP he believed Sabri may have been targeted because of his religious views.

Life expectancy now 70.9 years

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 Muslim population dropped to 88.2 percent last year from 89.2 percent in 2014.

The survey was conducted last year, and data was collected from 215,811 households in 2,012 sample areas.

Presenting the survey report, AKM Ashraf Haque, project director of Monitoring the Situation of Vital Statistics Project of the BBS, said the use of contraceptives increased moderately to 62.1 percent last year from 58.3 percent in 2011. The use was more prevalent among urban women, he added.

Infant mortality rate dropped to 29 per 1,000 live births last year from 30 in 2014. The rate was 35 in 2011.

Under-five mortality rate also

decreased to 36 per 1,000 live births from 44 in 2011.

Ashraf Haque observed that the Sample Vital Statistics was the most important survey in policy formulation of the government, especially in health and population sectors.

Edouard Beigbeder, country representative of Unicef, lauded the progress in the demographic indicators of Bangladesh.

Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal said Bangladesh's largest demographic dividend is its young population, who are able to work and take the country forward.

Life expectancy	70.9 years (2015)	70.7 years (2014)
AVERAGE ANNUAL INCREASE (LAST 5 YEARS) 0.38 YEARS		
Fertility rate per woman (15-49 years)	2.10 (2015)	2.11 (2014)
Use of contraceptives among population	62.1pc (2015)	62.2pc (2014)
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	29 (2015)	30 (2014)
Under-5 mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	36 (2015)	38 (2014)
Maternal mortality ratio (per 1,000 live births)	1.81 (2015)	1.93 (2014)
Disability (per 1,000 population)	8.8 (2015)	9.0 (2014)