Earthquakes Don't Kill People. **Buildings Do! Build Safe!** 

**Red-headed Vulture** 







# 31 SPECIES GO EXTINCT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Once thought to be extinct in Bangladesh, Gaur, a species of wild bison of the Chittagong Hill Tracts region, and Hog deer have been spotted recently. A new study, however, says they are on the verge of extinction.

The official status of the two species is "critically endangered" and could be extinct if adequate conservation measures are not taken, experts say.

The Department of Forest (DoF) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) conducted a joint study on wild animals in Bangladesh between 2013 and 2015. The findings of the study, called the Red list 2015, were released yesterday.

According to the study, a total of 31 species --11 animals, 19 birds and one reptile -- have become extinct in the country.

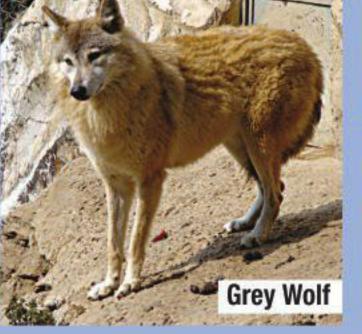
The first red list, published in 2000, recorded 13 species, including Gaur and Hog deer, as SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



















### Pak Qawwal Amjad Sabri shot dead

One of Pakistan's best known Sufi musicians was shot dead by unknown assailants riding a motorcycle in Karachi yesterday, triggering an outpouring of grief over what police described as an "act of terror". Amjad Sabri, aged around 45, was travelling by car from his home in the city's eastern Korangi area to a television studio, when a motorcycle pulled up

alongside the vehicle and the attackers SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

## Divided UK votes on its EU fate today

European leaders, big businesses warn over Brexit as polls show outcome too close to call

REUTERS, London

British Prime Minister David Cameron and his eurosceptic opponents made final pitches for wavering voters yesterday on the eve of a defining referendum on European Union membership with the outcome still too close to call.

The vote, which echoes the rise of populism elsewhere in Europe and the United States, will shape the continent's future. A victory for "out" could unleash turmoil on financial markets and foreign exchange bureaux reported a surge in demand for foreign currency from Britons wary sterling

"It's very close; nobody knows what's going to happen," Cameron told Wednesday's Financial Times, with opinion polls showing the rival camps neck and neck.

The Leave camp was on 45 percent, just one point ahead of Remain, with 9 percent undecided, in the last poll published by Opinium, which called it a "statistical tie". Leave had a two-point advantage in a separate poll by research firm TNS,

down from seven points in a previous TNS survey on June 14. TNS said the lead could evaporate on polling day, as in past referendums in Scotland and Quebec. European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker warned there would

be no further renegotiation whatever the result on Thursday, after EU leaders reached a deal on a new settlement for Britain in February.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

#### AL turns 67 today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League, one of the oldest political parties in South Asia, turns 67 today.

Formed in 1949 as a challenger to the then Muslim League, the AL turned out to be a secular and democratic force.

For more than six years since its inception, the party had carried the name Awami Muslim League. In 1955, it shed the word "Muslim" from its name.

The party was led by Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani, Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy and Maulana Abdur Rashid Tarkabagish until its then general secretary Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was elected as the party chief.

The party's journey has not been smooth. It was banned during the martial

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## Life expectancy now 70.9 years

Hindu population increases, says BBS survey

POPULATION		
Muslim	88.2pc (2015)	89.2pc (2014)
Hindu	10.7pc (2015)	9.9pc (2014)
Christians, other minorities	1.1pc (2015)	0.9pc (2014)

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Life expectancy at birth in the country rose to 70.9 years last year from 70.7 years in 2014, according to a survey by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

The gain is more pronounced in females with their life expectancy being 72 years. It was 69.4 years for males.

The average annual increase in life expectancy was 0.38 years over the last five years.

The findings of the survey titled "Bangladesh Sample Vital Statistics 2015" were released at a seminar in the capital's Bangabandhu International Convention Centre.

According to the survey, Hindu population rose to 10.7 percent last year from 9.9 percent in 2014. Christians and other religious minorities accounted for only 1.1 percent of the population.



SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS



**PRAYER TIMING JUNE 23** Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha AZAN 3-46 12-45 5-00 6-53 8-17 SEE PAGE 10 COL 5 JAMAAT 3-51 1-15 5-15 7-03 8-45 SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Vehicles and pedestrians try to avoid and get through the piles of garbage and building materials left on the Bir Uttam Rafigul Islam Avenue at Madhya Badda in the capital. The photo was taken at 10:20am yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

#### Minority leaders worried about attacks, torture Meet 14-party leaders STAFF CORRESPONDENT

**Buddhist and Christian** community leaders yesterday expressed concern at the prevailing law and order as the religious minorities have been the victims of recent targeted attacks.

In a meeting with the leaders of the Awami League-led 14-party alliance, a Buddhist leader came down hard on police repression during the June 6-13 anti-militant drive.

Health Minister Mohammed Nasim, also an AL presidium member, chaired the meeting at the party president's Dhanmondi office. Speaking at the meeting,

**Buddhist Federation** President Ashim Ranjan Barua alleged that two small traders from their community were picked up by police during the special drive. Cops demanded Tk 1 lakh for their release and freed them after receiving TK 20,000, he added.

Nasim in response said the government would SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



"Today 23rd June, 2016 marks the second death anniversary of Tabibul Huq, eminent industrialist, philanthropist and beloved founding managing director of Creative Engineers Ltd, Creative Paper Mills Ltd, Sponsor director and then Vice-Chairman of Mercantile Bank Ltd."

We honor his memory and remember him with respect. He inspires us everyday and remains a guiding figure behind our daily activities. We pray to almighty Allah for his departed soul.

"Our father left an irreplaceable void in our lives. We remember your joyous laughter, infinite patience, your kindness and your heart always full of love. You are the greatest source of inspiration for us and InshaAllah, Allah grants you Jannatul Ferdous"- son and daughter.



