

# Sundarbans risks

FROM PAGE 1  
sent a 63-page letter to M Shahidul Islam, permanent representative of Bangladesh to the Unesco.

Contacted, Nasrul Hamid, state minister for power, energy and mineral resources, yesterday told The Daily Star, "They [Unesco] did not include our reply in their report. They have prepared the report from their own point of view."

Asked whether the government would change its decision to implement the project at Rampal which is barely 14 kilometres off the forest, he said the construction work of the power plant has already started.

"We are going to use the ultra-supercritical technologies at the Rampal power plant. It is not going to harm the Sundarbans."

**THE REPORT**  
In the report, the Unesco also requested the government to submit a report on the state of conservation of the Sundarbans to the World Heritage Centre within December 1.

The World Heritage Committee will examine the report at its 41st general session in 2017, and decide on the listing of the property (the Sundarbans) on the "World Heritage in Danger" list.

A joint team of experts from the United Nations Education Scientific Cultural Organisations (Unesco) and IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) prepared the report following a visit to Bangladesh from March 22 to 28.

The mission was tasked with reviewing potential impacts from the construction of the Rampal power plant, assessing risks from climate change, and evaluating the overall management system of the Sundarbans, including provisions around shipping safety, says the report.

In the report, the expert team identified four key concerns related to the construction of the plant. The concerns include pollution from coal ash by air, pollution from wastewater and waste ash, increased shipping and dredging, and the cumulative impact of industrial and related development infrastructure on the forest.

It said the plant's construction would result in a substantial increase in shipping and dredging in the area.

Mentioning the Sundarbans with a fragile ecosystem, the report also expressed concerns over the issue, saying the freshwater flow into the forest has been drastically reduced, resulting in substantial increases in siltation and salinity that are threatening the overall balance of the ecosystem.

The report recommended the government's immediate action to secure adequate freshwater flow to the Sundarbans. It also calls for preparing a new integrated management plan that would consist how much pressure of development the fragile ecosystem the Sundarbans may bear.

The report also said though the government assured the Unesco that the power plant project of Orion had been cancelled, the Orion Group website states that Orion Power Khulna Ltd has already started implementation of the project at the site.

The Unesco inscribed the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forests, home to the famous Bengal Tiger and a hotspot for dolphins, turtles, and birds, on their world heritage list in 1997. Millions of people depend on this labyrinth of tidal rivers for food, homes, and flood protection.

Asked, Anwar Hossain Manju, minister for environment and forest, yesterday said he was not updated everything about the project as the ministry of energy and power was dealing with the matter.

"If they request for a conservancy plan for the Sundarbans, we will make it," he said.

Meanwhile, the National committee for Saving the Sundarbans, which is fighting to save the forest, issued a statement yesterday, hailing the report posted on the Unesco website.

"It would be a matter of shame for Bangladesh, a country that is vulnerable to climate change, if the Unesco inscribes the Sundarbans on the World Heritage in Danger list," said the statement, signed by the committee's Secretary General Abdul Matin.

It also demanded that the Indian government do not collaborate with Bangladesh in constructing the "second class" coal-fired power plant in Bangladesh that would harm the forest and also the people of Bangladesh.

# ALCWC to get bigger

FROM PAGE 16  
joint general secretaries, seven organising secretaries, one treasurer and 26 members.

The party held its last (19th) triennial council on December 29, 2012, which expired on December 28 last year.

The meeting approved an amendment to the party constitution with the provision of imposing restrictions on the family members of war criminals and Bangabandhu's killer to do AL politics, said sources.

Besides, Sheikh Hasina was treated as the party's main asset at the party's draft declaration.

Meeting sources said names of Radwan Mujib Siddiq Bobby, son of Sheikh Rehana, and Saima Wazed Putul, daughter of Sheikh Hasina, were dropped from councillor list. Earlier, they were named as councillors.

But Sheikh Rehana and Sajeeb Wazed Joy, prime minister's son and also her ICT adviser, will join the council as councillors.

Sources said the meeting also finalised a three-member election commission for the council. Prime Minister's Economic Affairs Adviser Mashur Rahman would be the chief election commissioner, while retired secretary Mohammad Rashidul Alam and AL Advisory Council Member advocate Yusuf Hossain Humayun would work as commissioners.

At her introductory speech, Hasina said the upcoming council would be held with an objective of organising the party to stay in power, aimed at completing the unfinished tasks to build a hunger- and poverty-free country by 2021, reports BSS.

"Bangladesh is progressing fast in every sector and rural people are enjoying the benefit of economic development as the Awami League

# 7 months on

FROM PAGE 16  
hope of getting justice.

"Now, my only wish to live longer is to see the justice of my daughter's killing as I do not know how long the investigators will take to arrest any of the killers," said Yaar Hossain, father of Tonu.

Yaar has fallen sick after losing his only daughter and expressed such a wish while talking to The Daily Star over phone yesterday.

Contacted, Investigation Officer of the case Jalal Uddin, assistant superintendent of the CID of Comilla-Noakhali division, told a Comilla correspondent that the investigation was going on and there was no update to say.

Tonu, a second-year history student of Comilla Victoria College and a theatre activist, was found murdered inside the Comilla Cantonment on March 20.

Two autopsies could not determine the cause of her death though her father, who first spotted the body in a bush, saw the back of his daughter's head smashed and injury marks on her nose.

The police inquest report did not cite any sign of injury.

Talking to The Daily Star over phone yesterday, Tonu's mother Anwara Begum said, "We are frustrated with the investigation progress of the case. We will have some comfort, if we get justice."

CID officials are just saying they are looking into the case seriously, she said.

# Saudi prince executed

FROM PAGE 16  
that fact," he said.

According to Saudi reports, Prince Turki shot a man during "a group fight" that occurred a few years ago.

Prince Turki's execution rocketed around the kingdom's social media networks, with some Saudis saying they never imagined such a thing would happen and others arguing that it showed the quality of their justice system, which follows a strict interpretation of Shariah law and is often criticized by human rights groups and Western governments for what they consider harsh and arbitrary punishments.

# Twin sisters

FROM PAGE 16  
twin came forward to save her, but this only infuriated the attacker. The man slapped and kicked the twins.

Trying to get away from the attacker, the duo ran towards the college gate. The man followed them, picked up a bamboo stick and hit the siblings with it.

As a few college students tried to subdue the assaulter, some 10 men took up the cudgels for the attacker to keep the students at bay, said Meem.

A little later, students took the injured girls to the principal's room. The principal sent the two to National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Pongu Hospital).

The victims informed their parents about the incident over the phone. They were later taken home from the hospital.

Local businessmen identified the attacker to be Jibon Karim Babu, owner of Ahona Fast Food and Khabar Hotel in the area.

The hotel was found closed following the incident.

Victims' father Ahsan Habib said one of his daughters fractured her left leg while the other suffered several injuries.

Their mother Fatema Yasmin said she was afraid of sending her daughters to the college.

Locals said witnesses did not come forward to rescue the girls as Babu is an influential man in the area.

Anwar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Shah Ali Police Station, said Ahsan filed a case with the police station, accusing Babu and some unnamed men of the attack.

Police raided Babu's house near his hotel in the afternoon, but did not find him there.

The victims' parents and teachers demanded exemplary punishment for the attacker's.

# Bhabadah's tale

FROM PAGE 16  
upurge and retreats leaving sediment in the beels, thus keeping the river bodies alive.

The participants at the hearing demanded that the government declare Bhabadah an "affected area".

The TRM is the only solution to waterlogging in Bhabadah that covers five upazilas of Jessore and Khulna, they said. But a vested quarter and a handful of influential people have been obstructing the implementation of the TRM in their own interests.

The situation has turned acute this year after heavy rains in August, said Babu Krishnapada Dutta, chairman of 4-no Payra Union in Abhaynagar.

Things will become disastrous next year if the TRM is not re-introduced by the mid of Bangla month Magh, he added.

Mizanur Rahman, a student, said schools and colleges in his area remain shut for months, badly hampering their education.

"Everything is on the verge of ruin. Our homes, land, schools; everything. We have become broke," said Shekhar Chandra Roy, chairman of Mashati Union.

Chittaranjan Roy, an inhabitant of Abhaynagar, said people of the area could not cultivate Aus rice for the last 20 years due to waterlogging. "Our only appeal is to save us."

Mahfuzur Rahman, additional director of the Water Development Board, said the authority could not implement the water management method in Beel Kapalia due to opposition from local people.

The TRM was suspended following

# Five injured

FROM PAGE 16  
on the premises of Bahubal Police Station around 11:30am when a procession of students and teachers were returning to the school after submitting a memorandum of demand to Shamsunnahar Parvin, upazila education officer.

Out of the five injured with rubber bullets, Abdul Matin, 55, a teacher of the school, has been admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital. Ninth grade students Rezaul Karim and Abdur Rahman and 10th grade students Anhar Ali and Billal Hossain have been admitted to Habiganj Sadar Hospital.

Fifteen other injured are receiving treatments at Bahubal Health Complex, said Abdul Kuddus, on duty physician of the health complex.

Assistant teachers of Bahubal Din Nath Model School, Ashok Das and Golam Mohiuddin said the Upazila Education Office enlisted many newer schools for nationalisation already. This reputed school should have been nationalised ahead of other schools since it was established over sixty years ago.

The students, on way back to school, became agitated and engaged in a scuffle with police after they saw SI Delwar Hossain assault their teacher Ashok Das in front of Bahubal Police Station, said Golam Mohiuddin, adding that at one stage the police started firing from inside the police station without warning.

Police detained six of the students, yet to be identified, during the clashes, said locals.

Abdul Karim Kim, convenor of Songkhudho Nagorik Andolon, said the police action was uncalled for and absolutely illegal as every citizen of the country has right to protest.

"The students attacked and vandalised the police station while they were returning from their programme and several of our personnel sustained injuries [during the attack]. We fired rubber bullets to bring the situation under control," said Moniruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Bahubal Police Station.

"A sub-inspector has been withdrawn for misbehaving with the students," he added.

Joydeb Kumar Bhadra, superintendent of Habiganj police, said police fired about a hundred rounds of rubber bullets and tear gas to control the situation. SI Delwar has been withdrawn after the incident.

Deputy Commissioner of Habiganj Sabina Alam visited the scene and assured of resolving the matter at the earliest.

# Magpies help

FROM PAGE 16  
other bird species tested for 'proactive prosociality,' according to the researchers from the University of Vienna.

In these instances, the birds were found to be entirely indifferent to helping out other members of their group - or, they would only provide food when repeatedly begged.

Magpies, however, were found to be the exception.

'This so-called "proactive prosociality" has long been believed to be a human hallmark,' says lead author Lisa Horn.

'But so far results from other animal taxa were missing,' Horn says, noting that this behaviour has also been seen in cooperatively breeding primates.

Researchers set up an experiment in which the birds would land on a perch and operate a seesaw mechanism.

Doing this would bring food into reach of their group members.

But in order to access the food themselves, the operating magpies would have to leave the perch, causing the seesaw to tilt back and move the food out of reach of the group.

The researchers found that, despite being unable to get food when they

# PM for foolproof

FROM PAGE 2  
Over 200 speakers, including 43 from renowned organisations such as Microsoft, Facebook, the World Bank, ZTE and Huawei, will take part in 18 sessions of the exposition.

Besides, seven ministers from as many countries will join an inter-ministerial conference.

# Insensitive

FROM PAGE 1  
materials on Tuesday, they were prevented by some hospital staff from entering the unit, alleged Mohammad Mostaq, supervisor of the firm.

Seeking anonymity, a firm official and a number of hospital staff said two to three staff of the institute demanded money from the firm officials. As the engineer and supervisor refused to give them the money, the staff prevented them from entering the institute.

"Finding no other way, we left the hospital keeping the pipes on the ground floor of the institute and brought back other costly items to our office at Basila," Mostaq told The Daily Star.

Fearing consequences, Mostaq refused to name those who prevented them from installing the pipes.

"We could have completed the work within a few hours if we were allowed to start work Tuesday night," he said.

Being informed, Prof STM Abu Azam, director of the institute, yesterday visited the NICU with the firm officials and instructed them to start work immediately.

He told this correspondent that a vested quarter of the institute were out to get undue benefits.

"You are worse than beasts. How could you prevent those men from working inside the NICU?" Azam yelled at the hospital staffs.

"What will I say to the children's guardians if any one of them dies due to this?" he asked.

Azam also said he would enquire into the matter and take stern actions against the culprits.

Finally, the work started around 3:00pm yesterday.

Azam said the six children moved from the NICU have been given proper treatment at general beds. "In case of emergency, we'll provide them ICU facilities through alternative ways."

The babies would be sent back

## National Bank Limited

System & Operations Division  
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### Tender Notice

Sealed tenders in prescribed schedule are hereby invited from the bonafide and reputed firms to finalize the rates for procurement of different types (3KVA, 6KVA & 40KVA) of online UPS, STS and Laptop Computer. The tender schedule and general terms & conditions for the tenderers will be available at System & Operations Division (6th floor, South side of NBL Head Office) against cash payment of Tk.1,000/- (non refundable) on all working days during **Office hours upto 06th November, 2016.**

Interested tenderers may drop their sealed quotations in the prescribed schedule in the Tender Box of this Division between **10.00 AM to 4.00 PM on 09th November, 2016.** The tender will be opened on the same date at **4.30 PM** in presence of the tenderers, if any remain present.

The tender committee reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the quotations without assigning any reason whatsoever. The Tender Committee is not bound to award the work to the lowest bidder. The tender committee also reserves the right to negotiate with any of the bidder and award the work order to that firm.

For any further queries, the tenderers are requested to contact at 02-9565818, 02-9565887 between the office hours 10.00 AM to 06.00 PM.

**A K M Altaf Hussain**  
Sr. Asstt. Vice President  
& Divisional Head (cc)