



LULA FACES JAIL

Brazil's top court rejects ex-president's plea to delay sentence for graft

PAGE 8

SALMAN IN TROUBLE

The Bollywood star jailed for 5 years for poaching antelopes

PAGE 10

Licence to harm Sundarbans

Govt allows 190 industrial units within 10km of the forest; 24 of them extremely harmful

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Going against its own policy, the government over the last few years permitted setting up of 190 industrial and commercial units in the ecologically critical area (ECA) of the Sundarbans, which, according to experts, poses a serious threat to the biodiversity of the world's largest mangrove forest.

Bangladesh declared the 10-kilometre periphery of the mangrove forest as the ECA in 1999, a couple of years after the Unesco listed it as a natural world heritage site.

As per Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act 1995 (amended in 2010), no one is allowed to set up any factory in the ECA.

Of the industrial units, 181 had obtained the environment clearance certificate and the other nine the site clearance certificate from the Department of Environment (DoE) over the last several years, according to a DoE report submitted to the High Court yesterday.

CEMENT FACTORY	6
LPG	7
GAS CYLINDER	1
OIL REFINERY	3
SHIP BUILDING	2
SAW MILL	15
BETEL NUT PROCESSING	8
RICE MILL	73
FISH FARM AND HATCHERY	19
SALINE WATER REFINERY	7
BRICK KILNS	3
OTHERS	46

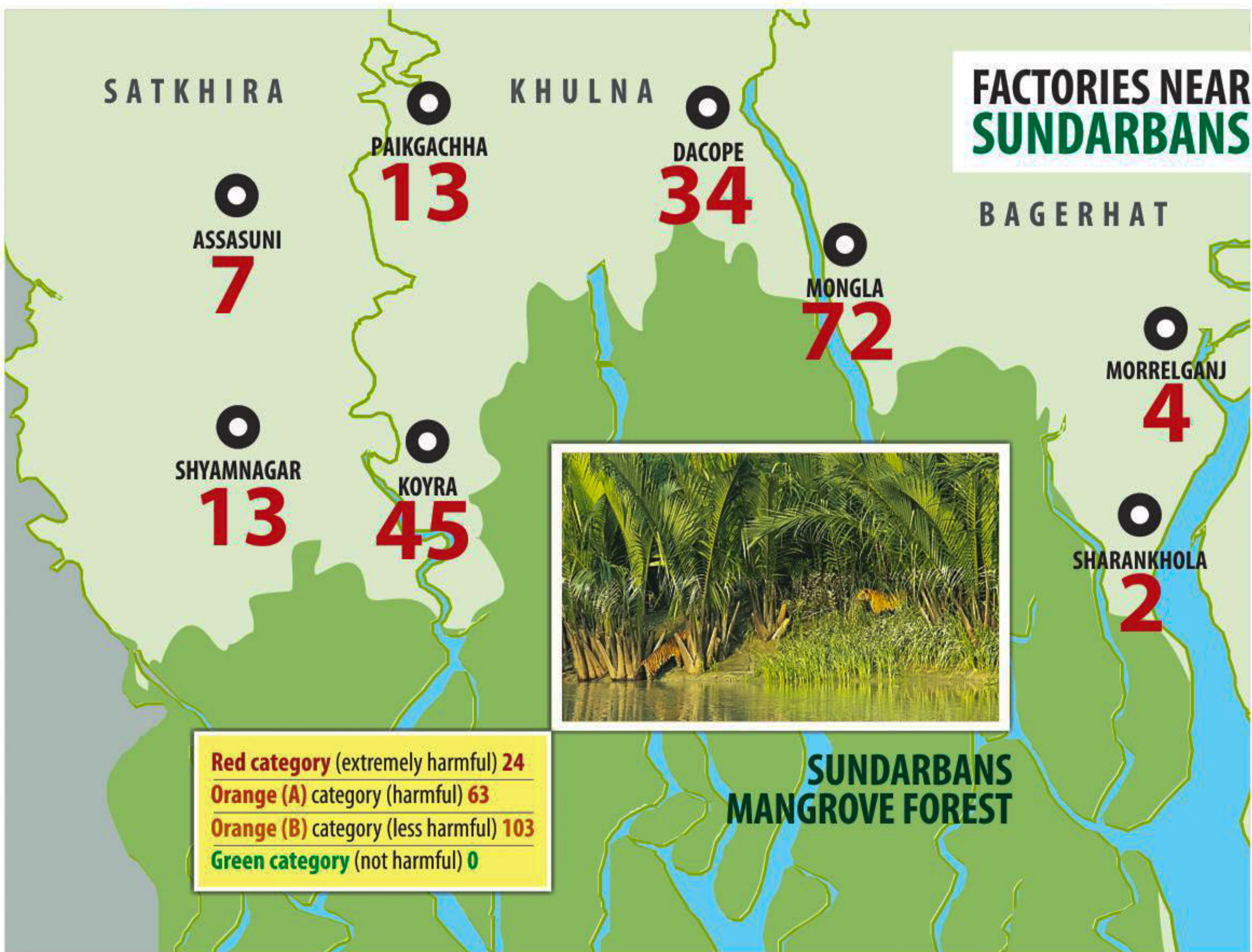
At least 24 of the units fall under the "red category", meaning those are extremely harmful to the fragile biodiversity of the Sundarbans, Deputy Attorney General Motaher Hossain Sazu told this newspaper, quoting from the report.

These are releasing industrial smog and discharging liquid waste and saline water, the report mentioned.

The 190 industrial and commercial units include manufacturing plants for cement, LPG gas and gas cylinder, oil refinery, betel nut processing plants, ship building yards, rice husking and saw mills, brick kilns, cigarette and ice factories, fish and crab farms, hatcheries, saline water refinery, and welding factory.

Some restaurants, and brush and car seat manufacturing factories are also on the list of the establishments in nine upazilas of Bagerhat, Khulna and Satkhira.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



Rajib not out of danger

Govt to bear his treatment expenses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

College student Rajib Hossain, who lost his right hand in a road mishap in the city three days ago, was not out of danger yet, doctors said yesterday.

"Apart from the hand, he sustained injuries in his head. He had brain haemorrhages.... We will say he is in danger until it is resolved," Dr Khan Abul Kalam Azad, principal of Dhaka Medical College, told reporters.

Meanwhile, the government has announced that it will bear all the treatment expenses of Rajib, a third-year honours student at Government Titumir College, and pledged to get him a job after his recovery.

The 22-year-old student lost his hand as it was sandwiched between two speeding

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

ROHINGYA REPATRIATION

PM sees virtually no progress

- Rohingya crisis unfolds August 25, 2017
- Repatriation deal signed November 23, 2017
- Deal signed on physical arrangements January 16, 2018
- Bangladesh hands over list of 8,032 Rohingyas February 16, 2018
- Myanmar say only some 600 are eligible for return March 14, 2018
- No repatriation has taken place since then



"We've been making various efforts, we have signed a deal, their [Myanmar's ministers visited Bangladesh and saw the sufferings of displaced Rohingyas, but there has been virtually no progress," she said.

The prime minister made the comment as

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

MORE STORIES ON ROHINGYAS -- PAGE 17

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said there has been virtually no progress on repatriation of the Rohingyas although Bangladesh has been making various efforts, including signing of a deal with Myanmar on their return.

Corruption a big concern

UN body cites 'inefficiency' of ACC in combating pervasive graft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (UNCESCR) has expressed concern over the pervasiveness of corruption and its devastating impact on the disadvantaged and marginalised people in Bangladesh.

It also expressed concern over "widespread clientelism", which manipulates allocation of public fund and services, and the Anti-Corruption Commission's "inefficiency" in combating graft.

At a press conference, Human Rights Forum Bangladesh (HRFB), a platform of 20 rights and development organisations, yesterday highlighted a set of concerns and recommendations adopted by the UN body during its 63rd session in Geneva on March 12-29.

The forum members include Ain o Salih Kendra (ASK), Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), Manusher Jonno

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

CHARITABLE CASE

Khaleda's bail extended until April 22

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday extended the bail of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia until April 22 in the Zia Charitable Trust graft case.

The court also ordered the authorities concerned to produce Khaleda before it on that day.

Judge Akhtaruzzaman of the Special Judge Court-5, set up in Bakshibazar area, passed the order after Khaleda's lawyer Sanaullah Mia submitted a petition seeking extension of the bail

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Get Ready For The Next Super Star!

Watch exclusively on Channel i starting from 6th of April every Friday and Sunday at 9:35 PM

CHANNEL 1 Presents

