

**BSRM**  
Building a better world

**BUILD YOUR HOME FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS WITH THE TOUGHEST STEEL**

**treme B500 DWR**  
the tough steel

**Aktaruzzaman Flyover Chittagong**

Principal Cement Brand

**SHAH CEMENT**

# Greens worried as new safari park planned

Forest villagers also concerned over site selection in Moulvibazar

MINTU DESHWARA and DWOHA CHOWDHURY

A proposal to build the country's third safari park in Lathitila forest of Moulvibazar has raised concerns among environmentalists as the construction of roads and structures will threaten the biodiversity of the forest area. Besides, villagers who have been living and farming there for generations also question the move, fearing eviction.

However, the authorities claim environmental issues will be addressed and no one will be evicted -- while some might have to be relocated within the forest area, the safari park will open up new opportunities for them all.

Safari parks are commercial tourist attractions where animals roam freely and visitors can drive through to observe the wildlife.

The country's first safari park was established in Dulahazara of Cox's Bazar in 1999 and the second in Gazipur in 2013 -- both named after Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman -- as will be this newly proposed one.

Lathitila, a 5,141-acre forest beat of Juri Forest Range under Patharia Hill Reserve, is mostly hilly with only some plain land.

The proposal to convert this forest to a safari park comes at a time when the country's hill forest areas are shrinking fast.

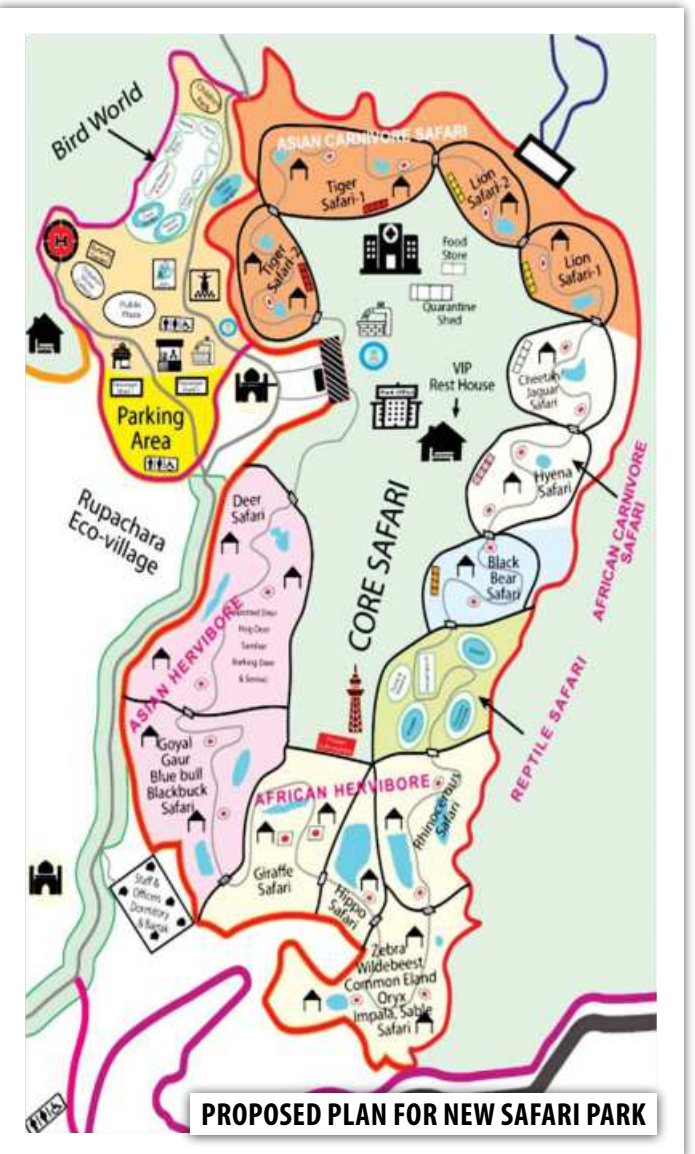
According to the Forest Sector Master Plan prepared by the Forest Department, natural hill forests occupied 128,630 hectares in 1990, which declined to 79,160 hectares in 2015.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



A man operating a surveying instrument as part of the feasibility study and master plan preparation for the country's third safari park at Lathitila forest in Moulvibazar's Juri upazila. The proposed safari park has concerned environmentalists, who think that it will threaten biodiversity in the area. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA



## HUMAN TRAFFICKING Bangladesh still in tier 2 in US report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh retained its position on "Tier 2" in the US State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report for the second year, showing signs of progress after being on the "Tier 2 Watch List" for the three previous years.

"The [Bangladesh] government demonstrated overall increasing efforts compared to the previous reporting period, considering the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on its anti-trafficking capacity; therefore Bangladesh remained on Tier 2," said the 2021 Trafficking in Persons Report released yesterday.

A country remaining on the watch list for three consecutive years automatically downgrades to Tier 3 unless the government makes significant efforts to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## Painting 'forgotten' by owners sells for \$9M



CNN ONLINE

A "forgotten" painting kept in the same family for generations has sold for 7.68 million euros (\$9.1 million) at auction after experts discovered it was the work of French painter Jean-Honoré Fragonard. "A philosopher reading" by Fragonard was spotted by Antoine Petit, an auctioneer at the Enchères Champagne auction house in Épernay, north-east France, when he was called to assess an inheritance at an apartment near the town, he told CNN Tuesday. Petit saw the painting -- measuring 45.8 by 57 centimeters (18 by 22.4 inches) -- high on a wall covered in dust.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## BID TO REACH EUROPE 17 Bangladeshis brought back from Tunisia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seventeen Bangladeshi migrants who were rescued from the Mediterranean during their illegal journey to Europe have returned home from Tunisia on Thursday.

A flight carrying them left Tunisia on Wednesday and landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) in Dhaka yesterday, Bangladesh mission of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said yesterday.

In a WhatsApp message, IOM said in coordination with the Bangladesh government, it facilitated the migrants' return.

However, it could not be known immediately when the migrants were rescued.

The incidents of Bangladeshi migrants heading for Europe ending up in the Mediterranean have become frequent in recent months.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

### Freedom fighters will lead our future army: Kamaruzzaman

JULY 3, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

#### KAMARUZZAMAN'S SPEECH AT TEKERHAT

Home Minister of the exiled Government of Bangladesh AHM Kamaruzzaman today visited the youth training camp at Tekerhat, Sunamganj. He addressed the young trainees and said, "If any of you have any doubt about the victorious outcome of this war with the modern well-equipped Pakistan army, I am telling you to always keep in mind that seven and a half crore of Bangladesh are with you in this fight."

"We must remember nobody ever makes a gift to you of your freedom; you have to earn it. If we think somebody else will win our freedom for us, we shall commit utter folly. We must continue the fight for freedom. Maybe many will come forward to help. But the fight will have to be yours and mine," he added.

Referring to the struggle of Vietnam, the home minister said, "Written in blood before our eyes today is small Vietnam. She is not insignificant anymore, commanding infinite power she has inflicted the worst crisis on American imperialism with all its modern arms and equipment. The victory of Vietnam is certain; there will be no exception for us."

He inspired the young freedom fighters with the tale of heroic struggle of the Algerians who, said Kamaruzzaman, "under extreme ... difficulty built up their strong liberation force through

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



## Some districts likely to be hit by flashflood

Forecasts Met office, says torrential rain to continue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some parts of the country may face flash floods while the situation in the already-flooded districts may worsen in the next three days as the ongoing torrential rain may continue.

According to Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), the highest 50-millimeter rainfall was recorded in Bogura and Tentulia each while Dhaka faced 30-metre rainfall in six hours till 3:00pm yesterday.

According to BMD, the northern, north-eastern, and south-eastern regions of the country may have rainfall in the next 72 hours.

As a result, the water of the Teesta, the Dharla, the Dudhkumar, and the Brahmaputra may rise rapidly. Other major rivers of the upper Meghna basin and south-eastern hill basin may also rise, BMD said.

Contacted, Bazlur Rashid, a petrologist of BMD, said the country faces the highest rainfall in July every year.

The monsoon here is now active, he added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## 130 nations back global tax deal

AFP, Paris

A total of 130 countries have agreed a global tax reform ensuring that multinationals pay their fair share wherever they operate, the OECD has said, but some EU states refused to sign up.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development said in a statement that global companies, including US behemoths Google, Amazon, Facebook, and Apple would be taxed at a rate of at least 15 percent once the deal is implemented.

The new tax regime will add some \$150 billion to government coffers globally

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



### PRAYER TIMING JULY 3

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-10 12-30 5-00 6-55 8-17  
JAMAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 7-00 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A man pulls his rickshaw through knee-deep rainwater on the waterlogged Haji Osmani Goni Road in the capital's Alubazar. A combination of heavy rain and poor drainage has caused similar hardships to Dhaka residents over the past several days. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## India's Covid death toll tops 400,000

Vaccination drive falters in Asia; J&J's says its vaccine effectively combats Delta variant

AGENCIES

India became the third country to pass 400,000 Covid-19 deaths, official data showed yesterday, as the highly contagious Delta variant of the coronavirus surged through Asia this week, prompting some countries to tighten curbs and others to hasten vaccination.

India said its total deaths are now 400,312 -- behind only the United States and Brazil -- with total cases almost 30.5 million.

Many experts suspect India's true death toll is more than a million, after a devastating spike in cases in April and May that overwhelmed hospitals.

The surge was blamed on the Delta variant and government complacency after Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared victory over the virus in January.

Daily case numbers have since decreased significantly and many restrictions on activity have been lifted, raising fears of a new spike in coming months.

The government aims to vaccinate all of the country's 1.1 billion adults this year. But because of shortages, administrative confusion and hesitancy, only around five percent have had two doses so far.

On June 21 the government tried to jumpstart the drive by making vaccines free for all adults, leading to a surge in demand with more than nine million shots being given in a day.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4