

Remaining lions, tigers in good health Say Gazipur safari park officials

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Nine tigers and nine lions are in good health at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Safari Park in Gazipur, while one lion is being treated for illness caused by old age complications, park officials said.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Mostafizur Rahman, veterinary surgeon in the park, said the sick lion was being given medication as he is suffering from old age complications and cold-related illnesses.

Meanwhile, Rafiqul Islam Chowdhury, assistant forest conservator and also the park's in-charge, told The Daily Star they had 10 tigers, one of which died from anthrax. They also had the same number of lions but one lioness died.

Between January 2 and February 3, along with the tiger and lioness, 11 zebras died. Park authorities remained silent about the incidents.

The deaths came to light on January 30, prompting the ministry concerned to withdraw three park officers and formed a committee to investigate the animals' deaths.

The Criminal Investigation Department of Police in the meantime collected samples of all the dead animals.



Four lions inside the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Safari Park in Gazipur's Sreepur on Saturday. Thirteen animals -- 11 zebras, a tiger and a lioness -- have died at the safari park since January 2.

PHOTO: ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE AKAND

Elephant tramples man to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was trampled to death by an elephant after he went too close to it in Bethua Bazar area of Cox's Bazar's Chakaria yesterday.

The incident happened around 11:00am when Mohammad Ali, a member of a community patrol team, along with others, was trying to scare the animal back into a nearby forest from where it had come.

"Ali went near the elephant, ignoring warning from his colleagues. He was holding a torch, which probably made the huge animal furious," said Rafiqul Islam Chowdhury, divisional forest officer of Wildlife and Nature Conservation Division, Chattogram.

Mazharul Islam, forest range officer (Chunati area), said the same elephant enters Bethua Bazar at least once every year. This is the first time anyone has been killed.

He said after the elephant appeared in the area yesterday, members from local police, community patrol and elephant response teams went there to move it to safety. There were also many curious locals who gathered there.

The elephant went back to the forest later.

25 CLOSED JUTE MILLS Don't reopen under govt management

JS body recommends

RASHIDUL HASAN

The government while closing 25 state-owned jute mills a year and a half ago had pledged to reopen those, but a parliamentary committee yesterday recommended those be not reopened under government management.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Estimate made the recommendation at a meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The JS watchdog said there is no reason for the government to "waste money by reopening those jute mills".

The meeting discussed various projects of the Ministry of Textiles and Jute.

The government in June 2000 had decided to shut production in 25 jute mills operated under the state-run Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) through paying cent percent dues to some 25,000 workers.

The government then argued that the BJMC can't be financially viable amid competition from the private sector mills. As the 25 mills can't be run properly, their 25,000 workers are not getting salaries and dues in time.

It also said the decision for closing the mills was taken in the greater interest of the workers.

After a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on June 2, 2020, her Principal Secretary Ahmad Kaikaus had said the 25 mills would be reopened after equipping those with modern technologies under different types of ventures -- PPP, G2G, joint venture or lease model.

According to sources at the textiles and jute ministry, BJMC had incurred losses in 44 out of 48 years after 1972-73 fiscal year. The cumulative loss of the stage-run corporation stood at Tk 10,674 crore in 2018-19 fiscal year [since 1972].

The parliamentary committee on the labour and employment ministry had earlier recommended modernisation and proper management of the public jute mills.

Abdus Shahid, chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Estimate, yesterday said, "We have said that it is up to the government to decide whether the jute mills will be reopened or not."

Committee members Noor-e-Alam Chowdhury, Yusuf Abdullah Harun, AB Tajul Islam, Ahsan Adelur Rahman, Wasika Ayesha Khan, and Khadijatul Anwar, among others, were present at the meeting.

Different platforms of workers have been urging the government to modernise the state-owned jute mills and reopen those soon, saying that resumption of production in those would ensure employment of about 75,000 workers.

Another gag on media, free speech?

FROM PAGE 1

This regulation comes less than three weeks after Information Minister Hasan Mahmud remarked during the DCs Conference that newspapers cannot stream news or talk shows online or via YouTube.

The minister said the government approved newspapers' online portals and that there was a stipulation that only content published in print could be made available online.

"There's no way to go beyond that. Adding a YouTube channel, and streaming news or talk shows are not to be done," the minister said, adding, "Since they are not approved, we will take action against them."

Dewan Hanif Mahmud, acting secretary general of Editors' Council (Sampadak Parishad) and editor of Bonik Barta, told The Daily Star, "The Editor's Council and media workers are concerned about certain sections of the DSA, and the law minister

himself had said that this law is being misused and certain sections need to be amended. Instead of amending those sections, we are seeing that they are being included in the draft social media regulation.

"The implementation of the draft regulation will cause the same problems being caused by the DSA. The concern expressed by the Editor's Council regarding the DSA stands in the case of this draft regulation."

Shyamal Dutta, editor of Bhorer Kagoi, said in this digital era it was not possible to practice democracy by stifling the free media.

About the sections of the draft regulation that restricts the broadcast of content allegedly harmful to the image of the nation, Dutta said, "Who will decide what is beneficial and what is harmful?"

"It is not possible to regulate anything in this digital era with laws. Instead, free-thinking must be encouraged to

change the mindset of society," he said, adding that no law should contradict the spirit of the Liberation War.

Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, editor of The Daily Observer, said the country needs discipline in the media industry.

"We do not want any control over media. The law cannot infringe upon individual rights nor can social media content that hurts sentiments be disseminated," he said.

He said the regulation was still in a draft stage and there was room for amendments and the government was welcoming public feedback.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES WITH CAVEATS

The draft also contains certain measures intended to make social media a safer space. It outlaws content containing rape or sexual crimes.

"A social media intermediary shall endeavour to deploy

technology-based measures, including automated tools or other mechanisms to proactively identify information that depicts any act or simulation in any form depicting rape, sexually explicit material or child sexual abuse," it states.

The regulation also states that social media intermediaries shall enable the identification of the "originator" of the information.

All social media intermediaries will be required to have a resident complaint officer, a compliance officer to ensure due diligence, and an agent to liaison with law enforcement agencies and the BTRC.

All are to be residents of Bangladesh.

The resident complaint officer will be in charge of dealing with complaints of victims of cyber sexual abuse. The compliance officer will be in charge of taking measures to remove or disable access to such content within 72 hours.

19 killed in avalanche on Afghan-Pak border

AFP, Jalalabad

At least 19 people were killed by an avalanche yesterday while crossing a remote mountain pass from Afghanistan to Pakistan, a Taliban official said.

Scores of Afghans cross illegally to Pakistan every day through the porous mountain border in search of jobs or to buy essential goods for trade.

Najibullah Hassan Abdal, head of information for eastern Kunar province, told AFP rescue workers were still searching at the scene of the avalanche.

"Nineteen bodies have been recovered already," he said.

Illegal traffic across the Pakistan-Afghan border has soared since the Taliban returned to power in August, plunging the country into a severe crisis with tens of thousands of people made jobless.

Amount hiked for projects this FY

FROM PAGE 1

Take the case of the project to upgrade the link of Ashuganj river port-Sarail-Dharkhar-Akhaura land port, which will be placed for revision today along with the Dhaka Water Supply Network Improvement project and the Gopalganj District Important Rural Infrastructure Improvement project.

The 50.56-kilometre highway project has included new work components such as land acquisition, construction of flexible pavements, rapid pavements, drains, bridges, railway overpass, foot overbridges, culverts and others.

As a result, the cost of the project, implemented with the Indian line of credit, would increase by a staggering 62.3 percent to Tk 5,791.6 crore and its implementation period by three years to June 2025.

There should not be so many revisions because when the time is overrun it increases the costs, Shamsul Alam, state minister for planning, told The Daily Star.

"Our prime minister is very much concerned about the issue and so are we. We are trying to improve our project management and decision-making processes considering all these possibilities so that we can

cut down on revisions." However, there are some plausible reasons for project delays.

The implementation period of a project usually ranges from three to six years.

"But once the project kicks off, many things change inside and outside the country. One such example is the pandemic. We never imagined that something like this would ever happen. Besides, many new realities come to the fore after the start of the project."

The government also did not have experience in implementing mega projects, whose

management is very complex as it involves multifaceted procurements.

"Economic projection is not always 100 percent correct. We are trying to make it 70 percent accurate. There will be revisions of projects in future, but we are trying to gradually reduce the numbers," Alam added.

Rahman recommended project management by professionals and execution by skilled manpower to overcome the problem.

"e-procurement is a good initiative and it has to be strengthened. At the same time, the capacity of

the ministries concerned will have to be enhanced."

Highest Covid

FROM PAGE 1

Minister Zahid Maleque yesterday said the government will complete vaccinating all the targeted 70 percent of population by December.

As of Sunday, around 9.91 crore people (around 83 percent of target) have received the first dose and around 6.5 crore people (around 55 percent) received the second, according to the DGHS data.

The government has spent around Tk20,000 crore for Covid-19 vaccination, he said without mentioning the exact figure.

More rain to come

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some places of the country may see rain, triggered by westerly loo, on Thursday, says Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD).

The weather will stay mainly dry across the country today and tomorrow, according to the department's regular bulletin released yesterday.

Abdul Hamid, meteorologist at the BMD, said some parts of the country might experience moderate rain after tomorrow.

"Such rain is triggered by westerly loo which occurs when aqueous vapor comes from west in the winter season. In summer, it comes from the Bay of Bengal," he told The Daily Star.

Trains to run at full capacity from Feb 13

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Trains will start taking passengers at full capacity from February 13, Bangladesh Railway said in a notification on Sunday.

BR will start selling tickets for those trains from February 9 because BR usually sells tickets up to five days ahead of a trip, Shafiqur Rahman, director (traffic) at BR, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Fifty percent of the tickets will be sold online and the rest will be sold at train stations.

BR has been selling only half the tickets for its trains since January 15.

2 on remand in rape case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A Narsingdi court yesterday placed two men on a one-day remand each in a case filed over the gang-rape of a woman in Palash upazila.

The accused, Rajib Mia, 30, and Rifat Hossain alias Zafar, 20, both residents of Ghorashal municipality, were arrested in raids on Saturday night, said Mohammad Elias, officer-in-charge of Palash Police Station.

The OC added that the accused raped a woman near Ghorashal train station on Saturday evening while holding her husband hostage.

Police rescued the woman and arrested the suspects after her husband called 999, the national emergency helpline.

Cops sue 450 over Sunday night's clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed 10 BNP men on a three-day remand each and sent others to jail in a case filed over Sunday night's clash between police and Chhatra Dal activists in the capital's Naya Paltan.

Police accused over 450 BNP men in a case filed over the clash.

The men placed on remand are: Rafiqul Islam Majnu, Mohammad Ali Mannan, Mofiqul Islam, Sohul Sikder, Zahirul Islam, Kazi Imtiaz Ahmed, Mintu, Farhan Ali, Monirul Islam and Sadekur Rahman.

A sub-inspector of Paltan Police Station filed the case early yesterday.

ER		ইস্টার্ন রিফাইনারী লিমিটেড		সবাই নিলে পড়বে দেশ, দুর্নীতিমুক্ত বাংলাদেশ।	
EASTERN REFINERY LIMITED		(বাংলাদেশ পেট্রোলিয়াম কর্পোরেশনের একটি অঙ্গ প্রতিষ্ঠান)		Date: 08/02/2022	
Ref: 28.25.0000.028.07.007.22/ERL					
Invitation of Tender (International) for Replacement of MCC Panel of TB6204 at ERL Tank Farm					
1	Ministry/Division	Energy and Mineral Resources Division.			
2	Agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).			
3	Purchaser name	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC)			
4	execution agency	Eastern Refinery Limited (ERL).			
5	Invitation for	Goods and related services.			
6	Invitation Ref No.	28.25.0000.028.07.007.22/ERL			
KEY INFORMATION					
6	Procurement method	One stage two envelope (Technical and Financial) – ICT			
FUNDING INFORMATION					
7	Budget and source of funds	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation.			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
8	Tender Package No.	ER/E&G/MCC PANEL/TB6204/21-22			
09	Tender package name	Replacement of MCC Panel of TB6208 at ERL Tank Farm			
10	Tender publication date	08/02/2022			
11	Tender last selling date	27/03/2022			
	Date	Time			
12	Tender closing date and time	28/03/2022		BST 1500 hrs	
13	Tender opening date and time	28/03/2022		BST 1515 hrs	
14	Name & address of the office(s)	Address			
	- Selling tender document (principal)	Manager (Accounts), Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong 4204, Bangladesh.			
	- Selling tender document (others)	ERL Dhaka Liaison Office, 2nd Floor, YMCA Bhaban, 1/1, Pioneer Road, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.			
	- Receiving tender document	Board Room, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chattogram-4100, Bangladesh.			
	- Opening tender document	Board Room, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chattogram-4100, Bangladesh.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
15	Eligibility of tenderer	As per Tender Data Sheet (Section-2).			
16	Brief description of goods or works	Replacement of MCC Panel of TB6204 at ERL Tank Farm.			
17	Brief description of related services	Supply, Replacement, Testing and Commissioning of MCC Panel of TB6204 at ERL Tank Farm.			
18	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk 3000.00 (three thousand) or US dollar 35 (thirty-five).			
	Lot	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security (amount in Taka)	Completion time
	Single	ER/E&G/MCC PANEL/TB6204/21-22	Eastern Refinery Ltd.	Tk 5,00,000 (five lac)	34 weeks
PURCHASER DETAILS					
19	Name of official inviting tender	Engr. Md. Tazul Islam.			
20	Designation of official inviting tender	Deputy General Manager (E & I).			
21	Address of official inviting tender	Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong 4204, Bangladesh.			
22	Contact details of official inviting tender	02333301261-7, Ext.-340	+8801554631326	tazul3069@gmail.com	
23	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders at any time or stage without assigning any reason whatever and no claim will be entertained in this regard.				
GD-234					