

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Work to be conducted in **3** phases in **5**yrs

Plan to be implemented on existing **75** hectares land

Zoo to remain open during construction

MASTERPLAN

Work for masterplan started **2018-19** fiscal

Got stalled due to pandemic

Consulting firm to submit it next month

Will be sent to fisheries, livestock ministry

FEATURES

Night safari from **7pm to 11pm**

Dolphin shows at floating restaurant

3.52 hectares for wetlands

1.1 hectares for nurseries

4.8 hectares for parking

Two main entrances

ZONE	SIZE IN HECTARES	NO OF SPECIES
Bangladesh Habitat	18	102
African Habitat	22.40	40
Tropical	14.10	66
Nocturnal	4.5	15
Activity for children	5.38	10

Hatirjheel, Begunbari ‘Public Trust Property’: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Declaring Hatirjheel-Begunbari project in Dhaka as a “Public Trust Property”, the High Court in a full text verdict has issued four directives and nine recommendations in order to protect its original character, beauty and water.

“Water of Hatirjheel and its aesthetic structures are an invaluable asset which cannot be damaged in any manner,” the HC bench of Justice Md Ashrafur Kamal and Justice Razik-Al-Jalil observed.

In the 55-page full text verdict, the court directed the government to evict all business structures within the project in 60 days.

On June 30 last year, the bench had delivered a short verdict to this issue following a petition filed by lawyer Ripan Barai on behalf of Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh on September 9, 2018. The petition challenged the legality of the construction work there.

In the full text verdict, the HC declared allocation and construction of all the business structures illegal as those were constructed beyond the layout plan.

The HC judges have advised for formation of a “Hatirjheel Lake Protection, Development and Management Authority” directly under the PMO.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

A zoo where animals will roam free

After stalling for 2yrs due to pandemic, masterplan to give national zoo a huge facelift near completion

DIPAN NANDY

Caged wildlife being displayed for human entertainment -- this old-age arrangement of the zoo will be scrapped for good. And when that happens, the animals will begin to roam around in an open environment; people will enjoy their sight from a safe distance.

With such an idea, a master-plan is being prepared to transform Bangladesh National Zoo at the capital’s Mirpur.

Mujibur Rahman, acting director and curator of the zoo, told The Daily Star that steps are being worked out to modernise the establishment.

A total of 233 species of animals will be housed on about six hectares of the zoo’s land. Of the species, 102 will be native to the region, 66 will be tropical, 40 African and 15 nocturnal. In addition, 10 species of animals will be at the children’s active zone.

Under the plan, the zoo will be divided into five zones.

A total of 18 hectares of land has been allotted for “Bangladesh Habitat Zone”, which will have the theme of “Mangrove Waterland Forest”; 102 species of native animals will be arranged in an environment like the Sundarbans.

In the “Tropical Habitat Zone”, 14.10 hectares of land will be arranged to act as a tropical forest for 66 species of animals.

For the “African Habitat Zone”, an area of 22.40 hectares will be arranged like Namibia’s Kavango region, where animals roam freely. In this habitat, a night safari will operate from 7:00pm to 11:00pm.

A habitat for nocturnal animals will be made in the form of a dense forest covering an area of 4.5 hectares.

In the zoo’s active zone, four species of birds and six of mammals will be kept in

We have waited long to make an international-standard zoo. That is why we are preparing this plan, work for which is being done by Bernard Harrison and Friends, the same organisation that did the master-plan for Singapore Zoo. We still don’t have the finished masterplan. So, the detailed project proposal (DPP) is not ready. However, Bernard Harrison and Friends told us that it could cost around Tk 1,500 crore.

ABDUL LATIF KHAN
Former Zoo Director, who oversaw the planning

10 natural cages or enclosures, covering an area of 5.70 hectares, for children’s entertainment, adventure and education.

According to the plan, there will be five walkways across 7.5 km of the zoo, two tram routes running for a total of 2.4 km, and two boating routes stretching for a total of 2.4 km.

Authorities are considering holding bird and dolphin shows at the floating restaurant. There will be alternative routes to facilitate movement of those with disabilities.

Asked when works will begin, Mujibur told this newspaper, “We hope our consulting firm will submit the final master-plan to us next month.”

“After that, we will send project details to the fisheries and livestock ministry, and work will start according to all government rules,” he said.

Earlier, former zoo director Abdul Latif Khan was overseeing works of the master-plan.

“We have waited long to make an international-standard zoo. That is why we are preparing this plan, work for which is being done by Bernard Harrison and Friends, the same organisation that did the master-plan for Singapore Zoo,” said Abdul.

In 2018-19 fiscal, work for the masterplan started. However, due to the pandemic, all work was halted for two years. At present, all work has been completed except the plan’s submission.

The master-plan will be implemented on the existing 75 hectares of the zoo’s land. Proper use of the whole place will be ensured, he said.

Work for modernisation will be conducted in three phases in five years. The zoo will not be closed for a single day during work.

Regarding the budget, he said, “We still don’t have the finished masterplan. So, the detailed project proposal (DPP) is not ready. However, Bernard Harrison and Friends told us that it could cost around Tk 1,500 crore.”

ABM Shahidullah, retired curator of the zoo, told this newspaper, “I know about the master plan. If all work is done according to the plan, we will be able to see an international-standard zoo. But if the plan is not fully followed, it will not bring all the benefits.”

No monkeypox case detected in country yet

Says BSMMU dispelling rumour

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dispelling the rumour of detecting a monkeypox patient, authorities of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) yesterday said no monkeypox case has been detected in the country yet.

Monkeypox, which spreads through close contact with infected people, typically causes fever, rash and swollen lymph nodes, and may lead to a range of medical complications, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Though BSMMU has no formal surveillance network countrywide, Prof Sharfuddin Ahmed, vice chancellor of the university, said they have collected the updates from the health directorate and other healthcare facilities.

“The DG office [health directorate] and other medical colleges share information with us. There is no reported case of monkeypox [in the country] as of today,” he told The Daily Star yesterday afternoon.

Meanwhile, the health directorate sources also said yesterday that no case of monkeypox were reported in the country.

On Monday, a social-media post claiming that monkeypox infection was detected in a patient at BSMMU went viral. However, it was a rumour, the doctor said.

“The matter was first brought to our attention by some responsible journalists,” he added.

“We sought cooperation from journalists and the cyber crime investigation unit of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime to find the source of the rumour,” he added.

With their help, it was found out that the rumour was posted by quoting Dr Asif Wahid Arko, assistant surgeon of Noakhali Senbagh Health Complex, he said.

Dr Asif, who is also a newly admitted resident

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

MOSQUITO MENACE

DSCC to start drives from June 15: Taposh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) will conduct mobile court drives to control Aedes mosquito from June 15 in its all ten zones simultaneously.

Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh disclosed the information at the 14th board meeting at Nagar Bhaban yesterday.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), at least 12 dengue patients were hospitalised in the last 24 hours. With the new cases, the number of dengue patients rose to 239.

Taposh said they have already applied to the government for 10 executive magistrates for 10 zones.

He said they are expecting to continue the operation for two months. The drive lasted a month last year.

Taposh said they will also set up a control room in this regard.

He also urged all to come forward to control Aedes mosquitoes. “Don’t wait for three days, rather clean stagnant water every day,” he said.

The mayor thanked the councillors for their success to control Aedes mosquitoes compared to 2019 and urged them to remain more alert.

PRAYER TIMING
MAY 25

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	4-05	12-45	5-00	6-40	8-00
Jamaat	4-40	1-15	5-15	6-45	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

‘Just like that 12 years went by’

PBI finally locates man who fled home in 2010

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After losing his phone while gambling in 2010, 17-year-old Md Suman did not return home, because he was afraid of facing his father.

Not for a day, a week, a month, or even a year -- he did not go back for 12 years.

At one point, his family filed a missing report and later an abduction case with Pallabi Police Station against five persons. Some of the accused had been arrested and interrogated on remand.

All the while, Suman was working at shops in Dhaka. He even got married and started living in Rayerbagh area.

Pallabi police, detectives, Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and



Md Suman, then and now.

Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) were struggling to locate him.

Finding no trace of Suman, they submitted final reports one after another. But his family filed no-confidence petitions against the reports, urging the law enforcers to find him.

Finally, a PBI team, led by Inspector Muhammad Torikul Islam, located Suman -- now aged around 29 -- from Kadamtali on Monday night, Jahangir Alam, special superintendent of (Dhaka metro-north) PBI, told a press briefing yesterday.

The SP said Suman studied up to seventh-grade at a local school and started working as a helper at a packaging factory.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



A girl tries to squeeze through the space between a pile of garbage and a rickshaw, as a major part of the road has been turned into a dumping ground. This road beside the Institution of Diploma Engineers in Kakrail has been like this for the last couple of days, because authorities concerned failed to collect the waste on time.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Haji Salim challenges 10-year jail sentence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League lawmaker Haji Mohammad Salim yesterday filed an appeal with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, challenging the High Court verdict that upheld his conviction and 10 years’ jail sentence in a corruption case.

Salim submitted around 1,200-page appeal through his lawyer Sayeed Ahmed Raza, in which he also sought bail. The appeal will be placed before the chamber judge on May 29 for its hearing, the lawyer told The Daily Star.

Citing the appeal, he said there is no documents or evidence in support of the charge brought against Haji Salim of accumulating

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5