

WORLD WILDLIFE DAY

Speed limit
20km, only
on paper

Wildlife dying unabated in
Lawachara rail track



It's been a month since the Ministry of Railways instructed Bangladesh Railways to bring down the speed limit of trains passing through Lawachara forest to 20 kilometres. However, the orders have not yet been implemented. As a result, rare animals and wildlife in general continue to be killed by speeding trains inside the forest.

MINTU DESHWARA

All trains running through the Lawachara National Park in Moulvibazar have been instructed to run at a maximum speed of 20 kilometres per hour to ensure the safety of the wildlife in the area.

It has been almost a month since the issuing of the order. However, the local railway authorities claimed they have not received any letter from the Ministry of Railways yet. The lack of implementation of the order has resulted in the continuous killings of rare and endangered animals on the rail tracks passing through the forest.

A week ago, the railway police recovered a deer on the rail track, with its throat slit by the Kalni Intercity Express. The forest department has claimed that the killing was purposeful

to avail of the deer's meat.

Divisional Forest Officer of Sylhet Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Department Rezaul Karim Chowdhury sent a letter to the forest conservator of Wildlife and Nature Conservation Area in this regard on November 14, 2021. The letter proposed that the maximum speed on the train line be reduced to 20km per hour to protect the wildlife of the area.

Following the same proposal, Rezaul issued another letter to the Conservator of Forests, Wildlife and Nature Reserve on February 27 last year. The letter provided a rationale for reducing the speed of trains inside the Lawachara National Park, highlighting some of his experiences of travelling via trains through India's Rajaji National Park.

According to the letter, the speed limit of trains on the railway line

inside Rajaji National Park on the way from Dehradun to Haridwar-Rishikesh, a place of pilgrimage for the Hindu community, has been kept at a maximum speed of 20km to protect elephants, tigers, langur, monkey and deer in the national park.

Meanwhile, another letter was sent from the Ministry of Forest and Environment to the Ministry of Railways on January 25. On January 29, a letter signed by Taufiq Imam, deputy secretary (additional duties) of the Ministry of Railways was sent to the Director General of Bangladesh Railways, instructing him to take necessary measures to keep the speed limit of all the trains running on the existing railway within 20km.

Rezaul Karim told this correspondent, "Every year, seven to eight large animals are killed by the

trains. The track through the forest is only seven-and-a-half kilometres long. But the train goes so fast, the forest shakes."

"After we wrote a letter to the railway ministry over the matter, the ministry sent a letter to Bangladesh Railway on January 29 regarding the decision. It has been a month since the instructions were given but the local railway authorities are still not implementing them. A rare species of barking deer died two weeks ago after being hit by a train, only due to the negligence of the railway authorities," he added.

Mentioning the death of the deer a week ago, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Wildlife Management, and Nature Conservation Department Shyamal Kumar Mitra said, "There were scars on the body of the deer indicating

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Science should
be guided by
humanity
Speakers tell conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Scientific achievements cannot sustain without the guidance of humanity, said speakers at a conference yesterday.

They made the remark at the seventh International Conference on Natural Science and Technology, organised by Asian University for Women (AUW) at a hotel in the port city.

In her speech, Dr Rubana Huq, vice chancellor of AUW, said science should be guided by humanity for its achievements to sustain.

"It's time to celebrate humanity's march towards scientific excellence; it's time to reflect on the major scientific advances happening in the world," she said.

In her keynote speech on "Research and capacity development – A case study for scientist in Bangladesh", Dr Firdausi Qadri, professor of public health at University of Bristol, UK, said oral vaccination programme is a must for controlling cholera, and pre-emptive vaccination

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Road crashes
claim six lives

STAR REPORT

At least -- people were killed and -- injured in road crashes in three districts yesterday, report our correspondents.

In Rangamati, one tourist was killed and seven were injured after a car fell into a deep ditch in Sajek valley of Baghaichhari upazila.

The accident occurred near Khasrang Resort of Sajek Tourist Centre around 5:00pm, said Nurul Alam, officer-in-charge of Sajek Police Station.

The deceased was identified as Fardin Hasan Vishal, 35, of Dhaka's Shyampur area, said the OC.

The injured, two of whom were in critical state, were undergoing treatment at Dighinala Upazila Health Complex in Khagrachhari, he added.

The accident occurred when the driver returning from Kanglak hill lost control of the vehicle and plunged into the ditch.

Later, with the help of army and police, the injured were rescued and sent to the health complex, the officer said. Identity of the injured tourists could not be confirmed till the filling of this report.

In Mymensingh, two people were killed in a collision at Bhoraduba area of Bhaluka upazila in the morning.

The deceased are Maulana Abdus Sattar, 28, hailing from Mymensingh Sadar upazila, and his friend Maulana Sajjad Hossain, 29, from

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Dry fish brings hope for
Kishoreganj locals



Dry fish, traditionally known as "shutki", has become a profitable business for Kishoreganj residents as the business expanded within the region in recent years. Farmers are finally being able to recover from their pandemic losses, as consumers of dry fish have also increased.

PHOTO: STAR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Kishoreganj farmers in the dry fish business are finally being able to turn back good profit to recover their losses.

"The number of consumers of dry fish has increased. So in recent years, we're enjoying a fair business," said Kajal Das, a dry fish businessman from Daspara in Kishoreganj's Kuliarchar upazila.

Kajal said he produced dry fish worth Tk 50 lakh this season. As the production season has almost ended, now the dry fish is ready for sale to the businessmen coming from different areas of the country including Mymensingh, Sylhet, Netrakona and Dhaka.

Kajal's sold dry fish worth Tk 39 lakh last year.

To dry fishes in traditional way, fishermen set up bamboo platform in the open field or spread the fishes on the mats made of bamboo slips on the ground.

During the coronavirus pandemic, those involved in this trade faced a terrible financial blow, said Sree Nibash Das, secretary of Satata Shutki Byabsaye Samity.

"But now, things are a little better. Many locals are considering producing dry fish as the business has picked up lately"

"A huge number of women are involved in cutting and cleaning fishes. Workers earn between Tk 8,000 and 10,000 every month, said Sree Nibash.

Parul Das, a worker of Daspara area said working in the dry fish trade helps her support her five-member family.

As the business has expanded in recent years, it has created job opportunities for hundreds of village people, mainly the women, said Gourango Das, president of the samity.

Hundreds of families in Kishoreganj haor areas are now dependent on this business, added

Gourango.

Masud Rana, senior fisheries officer in Kuliarchar, said 756 metric tonnes (MT) of dry fish have been produced in the upazila this year. Around 980 families are involved with dry fish production in the upazila, he added.

Contacted, Ripon Chandra Pal, district fisheries officer (DFO) in Kishoreganj, said 85,000 MT of fish was produced in the district through culture and capture this season, whereas the district's annual demand is around 72,000 MT. The surplus is supplied in other areas of the country.

He also said around 1,550 MT of dry fishes have been produced this season in the district.

Over 32,000 people, mostly women, are involved in this trade directly or indirectly.

The DFO also said Kuliarchar, Nikli, Bajitpur, Itna, Mithamoin, Astagram, Tarail, Karimganj and Bajitpur upazila are famous for dry fish, with Kuliarchar in the

lead.

The dry fish business has also bright export prospects and this item is hugely popular in neighbouring India and many other European countries.

Dry fishes are exported to Mizoram, Assam, Tripura, Darjeeling, Meghalaya and Kolkata in India through Akhaura border in Brahmanbaria. The list also includes different Middle East countries, United States of America, Japan, Singapore, Italy, United Kingdom, Canada and Malaysia.

This business has a bright prospect of producing huge amount of dry fishes in the district. For producing quality dry fishes, around 200 farmers are trained every year in Kishoreganj, said the DFO.

The demand of dry fishes of country varieties like boal, ayr and gajar captured from the open water bodies is ever increasing, the DFO added.

Government of the People's
Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
Madaripur Public Works Division, Madaripur
Phone: 02478810125

Memo No: 25.36.5400.111.07.066.18-590

Date: 27.02.2023

e-Tenders are being invited through Open Tendering Method (OTM) in e-GP system by Executive Engineer, Madaripur Public Works Division, Madaripur for the procurement of:

SL. No	Tender ID No	Closing date
01	795718	20-Mar-2023 at 13:00:00

These are online tenders, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, Please register on e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

(Md. Kamrul Islam Khan)
Executive Engineer
PW Division, Madaripur.
ee_mdrpr@pwd.gov.bd

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