

**Programme to celebrate International Vulture Awareness Day,
September 05, 2009 at Dhaka Zoo
Gawsia Wahidunnessa Chowdhury***

Vultures are at the verge of extinction in south Asia including Bangladesh. Therefore, the world has celebrated the International Vulture Awareness Day 2009 for the first time. Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh (WTB), Bangladesh Bird Club (BBC) and Dhaka Zoo have joined this initiative to celebrate the Day at Dhaka Zoo on Saturday, September 5, 2009.

The programme was designed especially for the students who are the future builders of the country. A total of 24 students (10-14 age group) of Birshrestha Noor Mohammad Rifles Public School and College attended the programme. The education programme was themed on vulture - a globally threatened species, nature and natural resources of Bangladesh in all aspects from the urgent conservation need of this threatened species. Status and distribution of vultures of Bangladesh and their threats were explained. *Vulture is not our Enemy* a film show by Mr. Enam Ul Haque was screened to explain the theme of the programme to the participants.

A Vulture quiz was organized where students participated and proved their knowledge on vulture, nature and natural resources of Bangladesh. A session (feed back from the participants) was arranged where students presented their views on the events and on the vultures of Bangladesh. Ecological FootPrinting was an event to help the participants assess the human impacts on planet earth. Students were excited to assess their own impact on planet earth. At the end of the programme students took part in a rally from the auditorium of Dhaka Zoo to the vulture cage. Participants were requested to have a closer look at the vultures in the cage and discuss their observations in details. Gift and snacks were distributed among the participants. The programme also aimed to spark the enthusiasm of the participants to inspire others especially the zoo visitors to get involved in threatened species conservation.

Resource persons demonstrated the role of this species in the ecosystem and urgent conservation measures for vulture of Bangladesh. Dr. Md. Anwarul Islam, Chief Executive, Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh, Mr. Enam Ul Haque, President, Bangladesh Bird Club and a Trustee of WTB, Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque Mia, former DG, Department of Livestock and a Trustee of WTB, Dr. Md. Aminur Rahman, Curator, Dhaka Zoo and Gawsia Wahidunnessa Chowdhury, a trustee of WTB, spoke to the participants.

The education programme was designed and coordinated by the WTB crew Gawsia Wahidunnessa Chowdhury, Suprio Chakma, Israt Jahan, Rezvin Akter, Mayeen Uddin, Samiul Mohsanin and Md. Hasan.



Campaign at Dhaka Zoo in front of Vulture cages



Ecological Footprinting assessing human impact on planet earth



Describing the theme of the day showing vulture photo

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