



PHOTO: STAR

Thousands of migratory birds pass a happy time fluttering and chirping at their 'winter home' Baikabeel in Sylhet district as the water body is now a safe haven for the beautiful creatures. Inset, nature lovers find bank of the water body a nice place for pastime.



# Migratory birds fluttering, twittering at Baikabeel

RAJAT KANTI GOSWAMI, Moulvibazar

A large number of tourists are thronging Baikabeel, a birds' sanctuary in Hailhaor wetland covering areas in Srimongal and Sadar upazilas in Moulvibazar district, as the sanctuary with immense natural beauty now buzzes with chirping and fluttering of migratory birds.

Management of Aquatic Ecosystem through Community Husbandry, a non-governmental organisation, conducted a survey in 100 acres of land in Baikabeel in 1999 and declared the water body 'an area rich in biodiversity'.

Bird Life International, another NGO, had included Baikabil in its international list of birds' habitats.

Following initiatives of the two organisations, the Ministry of Land decided to keep Baikabil as a 'permanent sanctuary of birds and fish' in 2003 and imposed ban on irrigation and fishing with nets in this wetland.

Consequently, work to create a complete sanctuary started and strict measures were taken to check indiscriminate fishing and irrigation in this wetland.

Baikkabil, now a safe haven for birds and fishes, is also resourceful

with different aquatic flowers including shapla and lotus and aquatic fruits like makna.

Over a hundred species of birds inhabit Baikabil during different periods of the year, says report of a recent survey conducted by eminent bird researcher Dr Enam al Haque, according to sources at Resource Management Organisation (RMO).

In this winter season, about 12 thousand birds of 40 species gathered in the water body from November 2009 to January 2010, says the survey report.

RMO, an NGO, is now working at Baikabil to preserve its resources

and create awareness among people.

During a recent visit to Baikabil, this correspondent saw a large number of tourists from different places of the country. He also met a few foreigners there.

"Measures have been taken to preserve aquatic lives and birds here. A well-equipped observation tower has also been installed with the financial assistance of the USAID. Any tourist can use this tower for bird watching on payment of fees. One can also have a boat ride to see Baikabil from different points," said Minnat Ali, an RMO worker employed to look after Baikabil sanctuary.



PHOTO: STAR

Indigenous people form a human chain in front of Rangamati deputy commissioner's office yesterday demanding judicial inquiry into the recent armed attacks on Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council Chairman Santu Larma, Chakma Circle chief Raja Debasish Roy and Rangamati Hill district Council Chairman Nikhil Chakma.

## ATTACK ON LARMA, DEBASISH

# Judicial probe, arrest of culprits demanded

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Indigenous people yesterday formed a human chain in front of the deputy commissioner's office at Rangamati demanding judicial inquiry into the attacks on Santu Larma, Raja Debasish Roy and Rangamati HDC Chairman Nikhil Chakma in Khagrachhari and Rangamati on January 27.

They also demanded immediate arrest of the culprits involved in the attacks, implementation of the CHT peace accord without further delay, formation of a separate land commission to settle land disputes in plain land and constitutional recognition of jumbo people, according to our Rangamati correspondent.

Rangamati Sachetan Nagorik Samaj (RSNS) organised the human chain and then submitted a memorandum containing the demands to the home minister through the deputy commissioner.

Council Jyotindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Santu Larma, Chief of Chakma Circle Raja Debasish Roy and Rangamati Hill District Council Chairman Nikhil Kumar Chakma, came under attacks by unknown criminals at three separate places when they were going to Khagrachhari to attend a meeting of CHT Land Commission on January 27.

They also demanded arrest and exemplary punishment to those who attacked Sanjeeb Drong, secretary general of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum (BAF), in Netrokona district on January 22.

Our Khagrachhari correspondent reported that United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) yesterday demanded permanent solution to land disputes in CHT.

organisation refuted the allegation brought by PCJSS involving it in January 27 attack on Santu Larma in Khagrachhari.

Meanwhile, leaders of Parbatya Bangalee Chhatra Parishad has called for Dighinala-Bagaichhari road blockade for an indefinite period from February 9 protesting the attacks on settlers at Bagaihat and Bagaichhari on January 24.

They gave the call at a press conference at Khagrachhari Press Club yesterday. Parishad President Alamgir Kabir read out a written statement at the conference.

They also demanded withdrawal of 'false' cases filed against parishad leaders and immediate arrest of those who attacked the settlers on January 24.

To make the road blockade programme a success, the Chhatra parishad will bring out processions in Dighinala upazila of Khagrachhari district and Bagaichhari upazila of Rangamati on February 8.

# Student's death in road crash sparks violence

Police station, vehicles, market attacked

UNB, Laxmipur

Students of a local college yesterday attacked Kamolnagar police station following death of a fellow student in a road crash in Kamolnagar upazila.

Victim Mahbubur Rahman Bappy, 17, was an intermediate student of Hajirhat Coastal College and son of Morshedul Alam Babul of Char Jangalia village in the upazila.

Locals said Bappy, who was travelling in a Ramgati-bound bus from Laxmipur to go to his college yesterday, had an altercation with the bus helper as the driver declined to stop it in front of the college.

At one stage, the helper pushed him down from the running bus, killing him

instantly at Hajirhat at about 10:00am.

Outraged by the incident, his fellow students damaged a bus on Laxmipur-Ramgati road disrupting traffic on the road.

Vehicular movement on the road could not be restored till filing of the report at about 3:30pm yesterday.

Later, 50-70 college students brought out a procession and attacked Kamolnagar police station alleging indifference of the law enforcers.

Police had to fire teargas shells to disperse the attackers.

Being chased by the law enforcers, the angry students then swooped on nearby Hajirhat Bazaar and damaged several shops.

## ABDUCTION CASE BY SHIBIR MEN 21 YRS AGO

# 7 former CU student leaders acquitted

UNB, Chittagong

A court here yesterday acquitted seven former student leaders of Chittagong University (CU) of the charges of abducting two Islami Chhatra Shibir activists 21 years ago.

Sixth Additional Sessions Judge Aminul Haq pronounced the verdict acquitting the then top leaders of the charges of abducting Shibir activists Habibur Rahman and Ainul.

The seven student leaders are Ekram Hossain,

Chittagong University unit BCL president Avijit Dhar Bappi and general secretary Mohammad Shamim, Chittagong University Central Students Union vice president and then Bangladesh Chhatra League leader Nazim Uddin, Jatiya Chhatra Samaj president Abdul Hamid and leaders of the party Anwar Hossain and Sarwar Hossain.

Habibur Rahman, a student of Dhaka Alia Madrasah, filed a case with Hathazari police station on March 16, 1988 accusing the student

leaders of abducting him and one of his associates Ainul.

The plaintiff, in the case, said that the accused abducted Habibul and his friend from Shahjalal Hall on January 14, 1988 and took them to Alaol Hall.

"They tortured us and later set me free with wounds," alleged Rahman.

Hathazari police submitted the charge sheet against the seven leaders in August, 1988. The court framed charges against them in 2003, 15 years after filing of the case.

# Two under-trial prisoners die

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Two under-trial prisoners died in Munshiganj and Pirojpur districts on Saturday and the day before.

A correspondent from Munshiganj reports: Under-trial prisoner Zafar Bepari, 38, died of cardiac arrest at the district general hospital early Saturday.

Zafar, son of Ramzan Bepari hailed from Char Laxmipura village under Madaripur district.

District jail sources said, Zafar was rushed to the hospital when he felt chest-pain late at night.

He was detained in July, 2006 and had been facing at least four robbery cases.

UNB from Pirojpur adds: Under-trial prisoner Monwara Begum, 45, died of asthma at a hospital Friday.

District jail sources said Monwara, an accused in advocate Giasuddin Masud murder case, fell sick in the afternoon with difficulties in breathing.

She was rushed to the hospital where she died in the evening.

District magistrate and deputy commissioner M Ruhul Amin said Monwara had been suffering from asthma since long.

After the death of Monwara, a protest procession was brought out in the town at night.

Led by Ziaul Ahsan, a local

Jubo League leader and brother of Monwara, the participants demanded punishment of the jailor alleging his neglect in treatment of Monwara in the jail 'even after showing medical reports about her sickness'.

Md Bazlur Rashid, jailor of Pirojpur district jail, denying the allegation said Monwara fell sick after her husband's visit to the jail on Friday noon and she was immediately sent to the hospital.

Ruhul Amin said the body of Monwara was handed over to her family members after postmortem on Saturday afternoon and the law enforcing agencies have been asked to maintain law and order.



PHOTO: STAR

A large number of locals including school children join a human chain in front of Ishwardi Railway Station yesterday demanding arrest and punishment of the criminals responsible for the death of two schoolgirls who committed suicide after being abused.

## Two shot by muggers at Feni

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

A three-year-old child and a trader were shot as muggers opened fire on two traders in Feni town yesterday noon.

Police and locals said fruit traders Nurul Islam, 45, and Nazrul Islam, 32, of Mohipal in the town were going to National Bank at SSK Road in a rickshaw to deposit Tk 15.30 lakh with the bank.

A gang of muggers waylaid the rickshaw in front of a clinic at SSK Road and tried to snatch a bag containing the money from the two traders.

As they (traders) started running toward a shop, the gang opened fire, injuring Nurul Islam and a three-year-old child on the lap of a woman.

The muggers left the scene as shopkeepers and local people rushed to the spot, hearing gunshots.

## ASSAULT ON COLLEAGUE

# Nurses in B'baria keep off work

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Nurses at 250-bed Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital yesterday observed a three-hour-long work abstention from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon protesting assault on an on-duty nurse on Saturday.

The nurses and doctors have alleged that a group of unruly youths headed by Ashiqul Alam Bablu, vice president of district Jubo League, manhandled senior staff nurse Piyara Begum at the gynaecology ward of the hospital. Bablu was demanding 'urgent and smooth' service for his patient at the ward.

After the incident, the

nurses instantly held a meeting at nursing institute at the hospital and urged the civil surgeon to look into the matter.

Yesterday the nurses staged work abstention to press their demand for immediate action.

They also lodged a complaint against Bablu with Brahmanbaria police station.

The hospital authorities later formed a three-member probe committee on the matter.

Contacted, Brahmanbaria Sadar police station OC Md Hamidul Islam said, he received a complaint against Bablu.



The roaring inferno that wreaked havoc at Pashchim Bazar in Madhabpur upazila sadar during early hours yesterday, right, shopkeepers and locals moving amid remnants after the fire was put out. Fifty shops including property worth about Tk 50 crore were gutted and 10 people including four Fire Service men sustained injuries as it took about seven hours for fire fighters from Madhabpur, Ashuganj, Habiganj and Brahmanbaria to contain the blaze.



PHOTO: STAR