



The birds seized from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on Friday were released in Bangabandhu Safari Park in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

BIRDS SEIZURE

330 birds die, others released in Safari park

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The rare species of birds seized from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport while being smuggled to Pakistan on Friday have been released in Bangabandhu Safari Park in Cox's Bazar.

A good number of Hilly mynahs, which are still small, would be released in the deep forest of the Chittagong Hill Tracts after completion of legal procedures, said Dr Tapan Kumar Dey, conservator of forests at the Wildlife and Nature Conservation Region, Dhaka.

Customs officials on Friday seized around 1,000 birds--400 hilly mynahs and 600 blossom-headed parakeets, spotted munia and bazrigars. Of them, 330 birds, however, died.

"Many birds were found dead due to lack of food and care," said a press release.

Pakistani citizen Ahmmed Shaikh Wahid was trying to smuggle the birds. A case was filed against him.

After recovering the birds, the customs officials handed over the birds in five cages to the forest officials who then took them to the forest office in the capital's Agargaon.

After providing some treatment there, the birds were taken to the Bangabandhu Safari Park in Cox's Bazar on Friday night.

According to the press release of the Wildlife and Nature Conservation Region, Dhaka, the hilly mynahs were collected from the woods of Chittagong Hill Tracts.

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Free media vital for peace in South Asia

Media should rely on independent sources to cover events, speakers say at roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is no alternative to a free media with independent sources for ensuring peace in the South Asian region, speakers at a roundtable said yesterday.

"Media has to be allowed to perform its role independently for establishing peace in South Asia," said Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, editor of the recently closed Bangladesh Observer.

Emphasising building independent sources, Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan said newspaper or electronic media houses should develop own independent sources for covering international events.

South Asian Free Media Association (SAFMA), an associate organisation of the South Asian Association For Regional Cooperation (Saarc), arranged the roundtable

titled "Media and South Asian Cooperation" marking its 10th founding anniversary at the National Press Club.

Rehman Sobhan said different news agencies or governments have their own interest over the events that take place in their countries, and they offer structured information to serve their purpose.

On covering such events, he stressed that a media house sends its own correspondents to obtain independent information on what actually happened in the field.

New Age Editor Nurul Kabir said media should serve people's interest.

SAFMA President Reazuddin Ahmed, Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh's (CDRB) Founder Chairman Mizanur Rahman Shelly, Bangladesh Mahila Shangbadik Forum President Rasheda Amin, and The Independent Editor Mahbul Alam spoke at the program, among others.

Degree pass, certificate course exams under NU begin today

BSS, DHAKA

The degree pass and certificate course examinations under the National University (NU) will begin today.

The university sources said all arrangements have been made to hold the examinations in a peaceful manner.

A total of 2,64,901 examinees -- BA 94,396, BSS 1,01,873, BSC 9,732, BBS 58,185, certificate course 599 and other 116 of 1,435 colleges across the country -- will appear in the examinations through 585 centres, a NU press release said here yesterday.

Vice Chancellor Prof Shaheedullah sought cooperation from principals, teachers, officials and employees, students and guardians and district administration and law enforcement agency to hold the examination in a peaceful atmosphere.

A control room has been set up on the Gazipur campus of the university in this regard.

'Free Lal Math'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Paribesh Bachao Andolan and Barnak Samaj yesterday jointly launched a programme to free "Lal Math" of Mirpur in the city from encroachers.

Poba chairman Abu Naser Khan and local lawmaker Ilias Uddin Mollah inaugurated the programme. Eviction of the shops at the field and building boundary walls for the field started yesterday, said a press release.

After the inauguration, the shop owners started vacating their shops and BDR officials also shut down its shop that was built in the field during the last caretaker government.

Development workers, word councillors and local people were present during the programme.

Basila-Waspur boatmen demand compensation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The boatmen of Basila-Waspur Ghat yesterday demanded unconditional compensation and rehabilitation as the opening of the third Buriganga Bridge has rendered them jobless.

The affected boatmen made the demands at a press conference organised at the Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) office in the capital. "We received no compensation or have been rehabilitated since the opening of the bridge seven months ago. Currently we are facing a crisis along with our families," said boatman Md Sabdar Ali.

During the opening of the bridge Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina promised us rehabilitation and compensation, added Sabdar.

Following the PM's announcement, local lawmaker advocate Quamrul Islam, also the state minister for law, justice and parliamentary affairs, told them the government would give each of them Tk50,000 as loan to help them earn a living. But the boatmen demanded Tk1 lakh each as compensation, saying they would not be able to pay back the loan.

They alleged that they met the state minister but he did not pay heed to them.

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