

# Conserve Sonadia Island for shorebirds

Demand bird specialists, conservationists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bird specialists and conservationists at a seminar yesterday underscored the need for protective measures for Sonadia Island, a key winter home to many shorebirds threatened or near-threatened worldwide.

They voiced concern over the possible construction of a deep-sea port there, terming the island a unique shelter for the critically endangered shorebirds.

The government should strongly consider environmental aspects

and conduct a competent environmental assessment before undertaking any project there.

Sonadia Island is on the south-east coast of the country in Cox's Bazar and was declared Ecologically Critical Area (ECA) in 1999.

Bangladesh Bird Club and Wetland Trust of the UK jointly organised the seminar on "Threatened and near-threatened birds of Sonadia Island" at IDB Bhaban in the city.

Ornithologist and Bangladesh Bird Club President Enam Ul Haque

said six globally threatened and near-threatened bird species including Spoon-billed sandpiper, Spotted Greenshank, Great Knot, Black-tailed Godwit, and Eurasian Curlew flock to the island every year.

He said the government has taken a measure to conserve vultures which are on the brink of extinction, but measures are still untaken to save more critically endangered shorebird species.

"We want the government to take an immediate step to save the birds living in the coasts," he said. "We must conserve Sonadia Island."

He suggested human disturbance in the area be reduced for at least six months, and trapping of shorebirds in the mudflats and roosting areas be checked.

Construction of any seaport or bridge there will greatly impact the island and its biodiversity, added Haque.

Presenting the findings of a bird ringing camp at Sonadia, he said many countries in the world have been celebrating hundred years of bird ringing whereas Bangladesh has started the first-ever bird ringing this year.

Bird ringing is of many uses including carrying out long term researches and locating the migration routes of the migratory birds, he said. They ringed 35 migratory birds at the bird ringing camp in Sonadia, he added.

Stefan Priesner, resident representative of UNDP; Dr Niaz Ahmed Khan, country representative of IUCN Bangladesh; and bird specialists Nick Dymond, Andrew Pierce, Philip Round, and Paul Thompson; also spoke.

**BERGER**  
Trusted Worldwide

**For All Painting Solutions**

**HomeDecor**  
Your on-line Consultant

**Just Dial**

Dhanmondi: 02-8126669	Banani: 02-9872428	Uttara: 02-8918250
031-618807 (Chittagong)	041-722262 (Khulna)	
081-63403 (Comilla)	0821-2831237 (Sylhet)	

one step ahead/PA082/2010



PHOTO: STAR  
Artists perform commemorating the War of Liberation on the arrival of December, the month Bangladesh gained independence, in the wee hours of yesterday on Dhaka University Central Library premises. Padakkhep Bangladesh organised the event.

# Badda police evict journo's family defying court order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Defying a court's status quo, Badda police in presence of an advocate evicted the occupants of a land in the city's Natun Bazar (Bhatara) area yesterday.

Ahmed Ali, a senior journalist, whose parents bought the land back in 1972, said he obtained the status quo on the disputed land until next April and had a civil case pending at the joint district judges court of Dhaka in this connection.

"I repeatedly pleaded to the police and advocate commissioner to have a look at the status quo order but they paid no heed," said Ali.

Police picked up Ali's brother Ashraf Ali from the scene for taking photographs of the police action and took him to the police station, alleged his family members.

Sub-Inspector Shajahan Bhuiyan of Badda Police Station (operations officer), who facilitated the eviction with the force, said he had no scope to look at the status quo order.

"Shah Alam, advocate commissioner, who conducted the eviction, had the authority to consider any such order but

he did not take any cognisance of it," said Bhuiyan.

Bhuiyan said they picked up Ashraf Ali as he was 'illegally' taking photographs of the police and 'obstructing police duty'.

The process of lodging a criminal case against Ashraf is underway, said Bhuiyan.

Despite several attempts, advocate Shah Alam could not be contacted for his version till filing of this report last night.

Ahmed said his father bought 31 decimals of land (CS Dag number 1,272) in 1972 and built a one-storied residential house with a building plan approved by Rajuk in the 1990s. They also built a number of shops and rented them out, he said.

They have been occupying 25 decimals of land in the plot, he added.

He said other claimants of the land got a decree claiming part of the land but the eviction was carried defying court's status quo.

Seven shops and part of the residential house were demolished in the eviction, he said.

Bhuiyan claimed there was an eviction order to reclaim 12 decimals of lands from the land.

# Alleged rapist arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mob beat up a rickshawpuller who allegedly raped a three-year-old girl and handed him over to Kamrangirchar police yesterday.

The victim is now undergoing treatment at the One Stop Crisis Centre (OCC) of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Mother of the girl said the victim was playing in front of their residence at Alinagar of Kamrangirchar at around 1:00pm yesterday. At one stage the girl went missing. Later, the girl was found groaning at an isolated spot behind a rickshaw garage and bleeding profusely.

When the mother was returning with her daughter, the girl pointed finger at a youth named Mosharraf, 23, inside the garage.

Then the mother started hue and cry and the local people came to her help. The locals caught the rickshawpuller as he was trying to flee. They handed over Mosharraf to police after a good beating.

Coordinator of the OCC Dr Bilkis Begum told The Daily Star that bleeding of the girl stopped yesterday afternoon. She was given treatment at the labour ward and sent to the OCC in the evening.

Mosharraf told Kamrangirchar police that he was not involved with the incident. He ran as the girl pointed her finger at him.

The HD smartphone packed with entertainment

What will you do with it?  
nokia.com.bd/n8

**Nokia N8 | OVI**

Available in stores

**NOKIA**  
Connecting People

Nokia N8 | OVI

MRP BDT 37,500

ASIANIC (W/T/Nokia/12/2010)

# From Dhaka to

Zurich  
for 1039 \$

Milan  
for 899 \$

Chicago  
for 1079 \$

Istanbul  
for 856 \$

Washington  
for 973 \$

London  
for 782 \$

Birmingham  
for 782 \$

Rome  
for 809 \$

Manchester  
for 782 \$

Toronto  
for 1399 \$



Geneva  
for 1039 \$

New York  
for 1079 \$

Copenhagen  
for 899 \$

Los Angeles  
for 973 \$

Stockholm  
for 1079 \$

Athens  
for 782 \$

Paris  
for 899 \$

Moscow  
for 944 \$

Tripoli  
for 1079 \$

Oslo  
for 1399 \$

Culinary delights, comfortable seats, great entertainment and much more... We take you to more than 160 cities all around the world. We are Turkish Airlines, we are globally yours.

turkishairlines.com | +880 (2) 989 23 93

Ticketing available from 30 November 2010. For flights between 26 December 2010- 31 March 2011 except below; Istanbul: Until 28 February 2011 Washington: Until 31 January 2011 Los Angeles: Between 3 - 31 March 2011. Prices exclude applicable surcharges & taxes.



Globally Yours



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER