



PHOTO: STAR

Scores of birds sitting on a tree at Panipara village, a natural sanctuary locally known as 'Pakheer Gram', in Narail. The photo was taken a few days ago.

# Where thousands of birds chirp, flutter wings without fear

PONUEL S BOSE, Narail

Thousands of migratory birds are chirping and fluttering wings at Panipara, locally known as 'Pakheer Gram' (birds' village), attracting a large number of visitors and tourists. Different native and exotic birds hover around their roost, a vast water body covering an area of 60 acres of land, some 40 km away from the district headquarters. Nature lovers and bird watchers are visiting the charming place to enjoy the heavenly beauty as the whole area is full of birds with twit-

ter and melody. Hunting birds here is 'completely banned' for which the number of migratory birds are increasing every year. Locals firmly protect the birds in this safe area. They compel newcomers and visitors not to hunt birds in the area. Samima Begum, a visitor, said, "I never had the idea that there are so many birds here. But I am now overwhelmed." "Nature is so lively here that it makes me feel like a stranger in the kingdom of birds," she added. Tahsina Anzum, another visitor,

said, "The birds are going out and coming in without any fear. It's great to see this here." Tourists may stay here at the Arunima Resort Golf Club in Kalia upazila while visiting Pakheer Gram. Hundreds of different trees have been planted, flower gardens, cottages and restaurants set up in the resort areas to attract the visitors. Khabir Uddin Ahmed, chairman of the golf club, told this correspondent that the area once known for agriculture has now turned into a bird sanctuary.

# Verdicts in cases against 170 more mutineers Mar 24, Apr 2

STAR NATIONAL DESK

The special court-15 will deliver judgement in the mutiny case against 42 jawans of Khagrachhari sector headquarters on March 24. The court, headed by Khagrachhari Sector Commander Lt Col Abu Wahab Mohammad Hafizul Haque, chairman of the court fixed the date on Wednesday. Our staff correspondent from Khulna reported that the special court-12 on Wednesday fixed April 2 for delivering judgement in the mutiny case against 59 jawans of 23 Battalion. The Special Court-12, headed by BGB Rajshahi Sector Commander Col Ehia Azam Khan, has fixed the date. Earlier, the court had recorded depositions of 36 prosecution witnesses.

rest claimed innocence. The court will also deliver verdict against 69 accused in the case for mutiny at 11 Batalian under the sector on the same day. Lt Col Abu Wahab Mohammad Hafizul Haque, chairman of the court fixed the date on Wednesday. Our staff correspondent from Khulna reported that the special court-12 on Wednesday fixed April 2 for delivering judgement in the mutiny case against 59 jawans of 23 Battalion. The Special Court-12, headed by BGB Rajshahi Sector Commander Col Ehia Azam Khan, has fixed the date. Earlier, the court had recorded depositions of 36 prosecution witnesses.

At least eight suspected members of Islamist outfit Hizb-ut Tawhid were arrested with jihadi books, leaflets, posters and compact disks (CDs) in Joypurhat district yesterday. The arrestees are team leader Asaduzzaman Shohel Khan, 28, son of Abul Hossain Khan of village Rajpara of Rajshahi, Md Mahmudul Karim, 37, son of Md. Abdul Mannan, village Binodpur of Motihar upazila, Foysal Kabir, 25, son of late Nazrul Islam of village Talaimari of Boaliya upazila and Rabiul Ahmed Rubel, 18, son of Mohir Uddin of Kazla village under the same upazila in Rajshahi and Meraj Uddin, 18, son of Md Abul Kashem of village Balighata in Gangni upazila, Tanzizur Rahman Tapan, 18, son of Shahabuddin of

# Prisoner, convict die in jails

STAR NATIONAL DESK

An under-trial prisoner and a convict died in Chapainawabganj and Thakurgaon districts yesterday and the day before. A young under-trial prisoner of the district jail died at Chapainawabganj Sadar Hospital yesterday noon, reports our correspondent. The dead was identified as Nazmul, 30, son of Bakkar of Harishankarpur village under Shibgonj upazila of the district. Nazmul was accused in a murder case and held at the jail since December 12, 2010. He felt severe chest pain at around 11:45 am. Jail police rushed him to Sadar Hospital where he died of cardiac arrest at around 12:30pm, said Didarul Alam, Jailer of Chapainawabganj District Jail. After autopsy, the body was handed over to his relatives, he added. Another prisoner died of heart attack at Thakurgaon Adhunik Sadar Hospital on Wednesday. The deceased was identified as Abed Ali, 45, son of Khorshed Ali of Garakgaon village under Ranishankoil upazila, reports our correspondent. According to doctors, Abed suffered severe chest pain and taken to the Sadar Hospital on Tuesday. He died under treatment at about 4:30am. Abed was convicted in a murder case and sentenced to life-term imprisonment in 1999. OC of Sadar police station Gopal Chakrabarti said a UD case was filed and Abed's body was handed over to his family members after autopsy.

# Greater Khulna iterates 7-pt demand ahead of PM's visit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The Greater Khulna Development Action Coordination Committee (GKDACC) has demanded early implementation of seven development projects in the southwestern region of the country. Alhaj Liakat Ali, president of the committee, made the demand while addressing a press conference yesterday at Khulna Press Club on the eve of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's scheduled visit to Khulna tomorrow. The seven development projects are supply of gas and its distribution through pipelines, reopening of closed jute mills, modernisation of Mongla Port, development of tourism industry centring Sundarbans, con-

struction of a modern Shilpakala Academy, construction of an airport and a most modern rail station. There are 11 other projects which are also important for economic development of this region, Liakat Ali said. These projects include renovation of the Khulna stadium, installation of a full-fledged TV centre, construction of second landing station of submarine cable at Mongla, installation of a 300MW power plant, modernisation of Bhomra landport in Satkhira, upgrading of Daulatpur Agriculture College to a university, permanent measures to supply safe drinking water in the Aila-hit coastal belts and re-excavation of silted rivers. The GKDACC president

# Notorious pirate leader Rafiq beaten to death

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Fishermen killed a notorious gang leader of pirates while another gang freed two fishermen on receipt of ransom on Wednesday. In Bagerhat, fishermen beat dead Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, alias Rafique Master, 35, leader of 'Rafique Bahini', and son of Mohammad Lutfur Rahman of Gabgasia village of Morelganj upazila. They also captured five other pirates at Dublarchar in Swarankhola upazila early Wednesday. Coastguard Lieutenant M Badruddoja of Mongla West Zone told UNB that, the gang, led by Rafique, raided

Dublarchar and kidnapped six fishermen for ransom at gunpoint. Hearing cry for help, several hundred fishermen of the area chased the pirates and caught six of them. However, other members of the gang managed to escape along with the abducted persons. Rafique died on the spot in mob beating while five other pirates were handed over to Coastguard. The villagers also recovered two rifles and two bullets and handed those over to Coastguard. Coastguard recovered the body of Rafique and handed the five pirates to Swarankhola Police. Rafique

was wanted in several cases, including murders. The pirates were identified as Zulhas Uddin, 18, son of Mohammad Sattar Uddin of Boloibunia village, Babul Sarder, 25, son of Yasin Sarder of Kamla village, Mohammad Hanif Sheikh, 26, son of Zonab Ali Sheikh of Doibaghata village, Badal Mia, 28, son of Lutfur Rahman of Gabgasia village of Morelganj upazila and Saidul Islam, 30, son of Younus Sheikh of Pirojpur district. Meanwhile, two fishermen who were abducted by pirates from the Baikarer canal area in the river Madar in the Sundarbans on February 27, were freed on Wednesday on receipt of a

ransom of Tk. 5000. The released fishermen are Hossain Ali Gazi and Momin Gazi of village Kalinchi in Shyamnagar upazila, reports our Satkhira correspondent. Four fishermen of the village went to the Sundarbans on February 25. While they were catching fish in the river Madar, the pirates on February 27 attacked them, looted their cash and other valuables from the boat and abducted two of them for ransom. The relatives of the victims paid Tk. 5,000 to the pirates as ransom and the gang freed the two at Balirkhal in the river Malancha on Wednesday.

# 30 injured as AL rivals clash in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

At least 30 people including two policemen were injured as two rival groups of ruling Awami League (AL) clashed in Galachipa town on Wednesday. The clash took place as one group led by upazila AL president, also upazila chairman Harun-ur-Rashid, brought out a procession protesting the views of AL backed lawmaker for Patuakhali-3 (Galachipa-Dashmina) Golam Maula Roni at a talk show and another group attacked the procession. The injured are Nazrul Islam and Eusuf, both SI (sub inspector) Galachipa police station, Selina, 35, Babul, 18, Hasan, 30, Milon, 38, Humayun Kabir, 32, Delwar, 32, Masum, 25, Azom, 30, Kamrul, 30, Rubel, 25, Mahub, 30, Nafis, 20, Rased, 25, Prince, 30, Sohel, 28, Mohabbat, 27, Pias, 26, Zahid, 29, Rakib, 28, Elias, 25, Kabir, 27 and Dulal, 25. Of them, Mahub and Dulal were admitted to Galachipa upazila health complex. Sources said, upazila unit AL brought out the procession after the local lawmaker at a talk show of a satellite TV channel gave his views on the activities of the prime minister and other ministers. When the procession was crossing post office area, MP's cadres led by Saddam, Azam, Litu, Dadon, Sabu and Elias attacked it triggering a violent clash.

# Teachers give fresh deadline to Dinajpur Education Board

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Teachers of secondary and higher secondary educational institutions of the district yesterday gave a fresh ultimatum to Dinajpur Education Board authorities to meet their four-point demand by March 9. Otherwise, they threatened to launch a tougher agitation programme from March 10. They announced the new deadline at a press conference at Dinajpur Press Club in the morning. Earlier on February 22, Saifuddin Akhter, convener of Dinajpur Teachers Association, submitted a memorandum to the chair-

man of the education board. In the memorandum, the teachers placed a four point demand, including removal of the muster roll staffs who attacked Parimal Chandra Roy, headmaster of Paschim Mallikpur High School, in Kaharol upazila on February 22. They also gave a 48-hour deadline that ended on March 1. Parimol came under attack soon after his arrival at the education board for getting an approval of his school's managing committee. The attack was launched allegedly by Humayun Kabir

Polash, Alamgir Ahmed, Montu Ram Roy and Razu Ahmed as the teacher declined to pay bribes. "I was dragged down to ground floor through the staircase and forced out of the complex," Parimal said, adding: "the attackers also threatened to kill me if I come to the board office again". The incident angered the teacher community of the entire district. At the press conference yesterday, the teachers said they will hold an emergency meeting at Dinajpur Zila School on March 9 if their demands are not met by the deadline and announce the next course of action.

## Follow-up

# Deposition date in JMB case deferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Deposition in the case for explosives substances, filed after the capture of outlawed JMB chief Shaikh Abdur Rahman (hanged in another case later) and his accomplices and recovery of explosives from a house here in 2006, could not be recorded as the last prosecution witness did not turn up yesterday. However, the two accused -- Shaikh Rahman's close aides Moyezul Islam Chowdhury alias Hridoy Chowdhury and Abdul Aziz Hanif were produced before the court which refixed the date for deposition on 25 April. Joint District & Sessions Judge Sheikh Ashrafur Rahman also ordered to summon the prosecution witness to appear on April 25. The court so far recorded the deposition of the 23 out of 24 prosecution witnesses in the case, informed assistant public prosecutor Mainul Islam. The trial is at final stage, he added.

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