



A hunter aims his air gun at a bird sitting on a tree branch at Maralhat village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila a few days ago. The area sees rampant poaching of migratory birds in winter.

Bird poachers active in Lalmonirhat

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Bird hunters have become active, especially in different bordering areas of Lalmonirhat district, during the winter that sees a large number of migratory birds.

Most of the perpetrators engage in the unscrupulous act for seasonal earning while others do it just as pastime.

"A section of people are seen moving around Dalai Lama Beel, a large water body at Durgapur village, for hunting birds that come to the country during this season," said Abdus Sattar, a member of Durgapur union parishad in Aditmari upazila.

"We the local people protest bird hunting at Dalai Lama Beel but our urge often falls into deaf ears," he said.

Monsur Ali, a schoolteacher at Kulaghat village, said, "Bird hunters crowd this area on Dharla River basin for hunting birds every winter season. Their illegal act goes on openly. Sometimes the villagers protest it but to no effect."

"I hunt birds every winter as it is my hobby. I go to different villages for hunting birds. I can hunt six to ten birds a day," said Harun Shaikh, 42, a resident of Thanapara in Lalmonirhat town, who recently came to Vatibari village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila for hunting birds.

Hamidur Rahman, 45, a resident of Karnapur village in Lalmonirhat upazila, said, "Many people hunt wildlife to earn money. We go to different remote villages especially in the border areas for hunting wildlife, especially different birds."

"Each of us can hunt 10 to 12 birds a day. Many town dwellers purchase the hunted birds for eating," he said.

Seeking anonymity, another hunter said, "I know there is law against hunting of wildlife including birds. But many people hunt wildlife during the winter season."

"I hunted eight bats from Kurul village of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila yesterday and sold them in the town today for Tk 80 to 120 each," said Sobur Miah, 48, who was seen



A man holds a bat to attract customers on Hospital Road in Lalmonirhat town as the animal also falls prey to poachers.

selling a hunted bat at Hospital Road in the town a few days ago.

"I have been hunting birds for the last ten years. I don't know about any law against bird hunting," he said.

Tobibor Rahman, 40, a resident of Shaheed Shahjahan Colony village in Lalmonirhat town, said, "I have purchased two bats from a hunter in the town this morning for eating."

Mentionable, a section people in the area eat bats, especially in the belief that it will cure asthma.

"Hunters become active to poach wildlife during the winter season. Most of them are not aware about the relevant law," said Lalmonirhat District Livestock Officer Dr Abu Hossain Sarker.

Tendons of BNP man severed, AL leader hacked

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Criminals severed tendons of legs of a union BNP leader in Shaikupa upazila on Tuesday.

The victim, Shariful Islam, 55, is the vice-president of Kacherkol union BNP. He hails from Kachua village in the union.

Officer in-charge (OC) Ahsan Habib of Shaikupa Police Station said a gang of 20-30 criminals swooped on Shariful when he went to his cropland at the village around 9:00am.

The gang cut off tendons of his legs and left the scene. On information police reached the spot and sent Shariful to Kushtia Sadar Hospital, the OC added.

Shaikupa upazila BNP General Secretary Rakibul Hossain Khan Dipu alleged that local Awami League cadres attacked Shariful and cut off his tendons. He strongly condemned the incident and demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the culprits.

Refuting the allegation, Shaikupa upazila AL President Amjad Hossain said Shariful has become a victim of local BNP's internal feud. AL men were not involved in such heinous act, he added.

No case in connection with the incident was filed with the police station concerned as of 5:00pm yesterday.

Meanwhile, a local Awami League leader was injured in an attack by his rivals over a land dispute at Kamraband village in Tahirpur upazila of Sylhet yesterday, reports UNB.

Locals said there had been a longstanding dispute between Tota Miah, general secretary of Badaghat Union Awami League, and Monju Mollick Shemu of the village, over the ownership of a land.

A gang led by Monju Mollick's sons Iqbal, Amir and Babu attacked the house of Tota Miah at around 8:30am and hacked him with sharp weapons.

The injured AL leader was admitted to Tahirpur Upazila Health Complex.

8 'modern-day slaves' rescued

They were confined to a brick field in Khulna

UNB, Khulna

Eight workers were tortured in a barbaric manner confining them to a small room at a brick field at Dakkhin Gilatala under Khan Jahan Ali police station in the city.

The horrific incident took place at the brick field owned by local Awami League (AL) leader Akram Hossain, also former chairman of Phultala upazila.

The victims were identified as Nesar Gazi, 55, Tariqul Islam, 30, Nazrul Islam, 50, Hasan Ali, 25, Jasim Uddin, 18, Rafiqul Islam, 30, Iman Ali, 25, and Taleb Gazi, 32.

All of them are residents of Joypur village under Monirampur upazila in Jessore.

The incident of torture came to light when local journalists visited the spot on Tuesday noon.

The workers said they were confined to a dark room and kept almost unfed in the last five days. They broke into

tears after seeing the sunlight and getting chance to meet the journalists.

One of the victims, Nazrul Islam, 50, said he along with others have been working in the brick field, M/s Hossain Bricks, at Dakkhin Gilatala, for last one month.

He said the management confined them to a dark room from Friday.

"We had to remain half-fed and sometimes unfed with just one kg of rice, one kg of chira (flattened rice) and half a kg dal (pulse) supplied to us during the confinement. We had to respond to the call of nature by calling the management staff," narrated Nazrul.

The workers were inhumanly oppressed during the cold season, he said.

Brick field manager Akhter Hossain said labour leaders Rafiqul, Majid and Moti took Tk 4 lakh in advance in the name of supplying workers to the brick field.

The workers were confined as they did not work as per agreement. We told them that they would be released if the

advance money is returned to the management, he said.

Brick field owner Akram Hossain said that the labour leaders took over Tk 4.34 lakh in the name of supplying workers to the brick field.

They, in phases, brought 33 workers and of them, only eight workers worked while the rest left the field. They were held basically in a bid to realise the money. The matter was brought to the notice of police, said Akram.

The owner, however, denied the allegation of confining them to a small room.

The workers were freed after the visit of the journalists.

Officer in-charge (OC) of Khan Jahan Ali PS Mohammad Humayun Kabir said he did not get any allegation of torture on the workers.

However, he agreed that such incident of torture might take place at brick fields.

"We shall look into the matter if such allegation comes to us," he added.

FIVE-POINT DEMAND

Kuet teachers on indefinite work stoppage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (Kuet) Teachers' Association began an indefinite work stoppage yesterday to press home their five-point demand.

The teachers took the decision at a general meeting of the association on Tuesday afternoon.

The demands include withdrawal of the case filed against four teachers and 36 general students on the night of January 2 with Khanjahan Ali police station, expulsion of students who were involved in beating up president of Kuet Teachers' Association Prof Dr Arif Hossain during violence on the campus and ban on all sorts of political activities on campus.

Earlier on January 3, leaders of the association gave an ultimatum through a memorandum to Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Md Alamgir to fulfill their

demands by January 9.

"We decided unanimously to go on indefinite work stoppage from today as the vice chancellor did not meet our demands within the deadline", said general secretary of the association Prof Dr Md Shahjahan Ali.

All the teachers belonging to the association will not do any academic and administrative work during the programme. But work like admission tests will not come under purview of work stoppage programme, he said.

We also decided at the general meeting to brief media men about the fact that led to the violence on campus on January 2, said vice president of the association Prof Muhammad Masud.

This is because, the press statement issued by the Kuet public relations officer on behalf of the vice chancellor on January 8 does not speak the truth regarding the reason behind the violence, he said.

SNIPPETS

Two siblings drown

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Two brothers drowned in pond at Mohisohor village in Aditmari upazila yesterday afternoon. The deceased are Hossain Islam, 5, and Hasan Islam, 3, sons of rickshaw puller Ashrafur Islam of the village. Quoting family members, Mahfuzur Rahman, officer in-charge of Aditmari police station, said the two were playing on the bank of the pond near their house at about 1:30pm. Suddenly, the children slipped into the pond and drowned. Later, locals found the bodies floating on the pond, the OC added.

Kidnapped trader rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) rescued a kidnapped trader and arrested five alleged abductors from Madhupur upazila yesterday. The arrestees are Habibur Rahman, 40, Abdul Jalil, 55, Mansur Rahman, 40, and Abdus Sattar, 42 of Majhira village while Hafizur Rahman, 30, of Takanda Tokipur in the upazila. Rab said one Monir Hossain, 40, of Habibpur area in Kaliakair of Gazipur, along with the victim Shawkat Ali Bhuyan, 30, a dealer of Walton Company, went to visit his (Monir) father-in-law's house at Majhira village in the upazila on Tuesday. Later, the gang abducted Shawkat from the spot and demanded Tk 2, 50,000 from his family as ransom.

Two girls commit 'suicide'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Two teenage girls here allegedly committed suicide by taking poison yesterday and the day before. The victims are Rahima Akhtar, 14, daughter of Abdul Kader Kha of Kholpetua village in Shyamnagar upazila, and Marufa Khatun, 15, daughter of Kena Karikar of Khalishkhali village in Kaliganj upazila. Police said Rahima took poison and died at about 2:00pm yesterday over family feud. Meanwhile, Marufa, a class ten student of Tarali Girls' High school took poison at about 10:00am on Tuesday, said Sayed Farid Uddin, officer in-charge of Kaliganj police station.

Youth beaten to death

UNB, Brahmanbaria

A youth was beaten to death by unidentified criminals at a drug rehabilitation centre at Border Bazar in the district town on Tuesday night. The deceased, Liton Miah, 25 of Chanpur village in Akhaura upazila, was being treated at the drug rehabilitation centre 'Mon'. On information, police recovered Liton's body from the centre and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed against the director of the rehabilitation centre in this regard, said police.

Body recovered from hotel

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police recovered the body of a youth from a residential hotel in Parbatipur upazila yesterday morning. The victim, Anwar Hossain 25, son of Azim Hossain of Muslimpara village in Rangpur, came to 'Bobi' hotel for business purpose on Tuesday night, said Rabiul Islam, manager of the hotel. Shakwat Ali, officer in-charge of Parbatipur police station, said on information, they rushed to the spot, broke into the room of the hotel and recovered Anwar's body. They also recovered Tk 4,323 and mobile phone from his possession. The reason behind the murder could not be known immediately, the OC added.

Robbers loot boat on Meghna

UNB, Brahmanbaria

Criminals injured a boatman and looted goods and cash worth about Tk 5 lakh on Meghna River in Sarail upazila on Tuesday morning. Joydhor Majhi said a gang of 12/13 came by an engine-driven boat and swooped on a boat when it reached Panishar area at about 7:00am. Later, they injured the boatman Kaptan Mia and looted Tk 6,000, seven mobile sets and other valuables from the boat. The boat was going to Nasirnagar upazila from Bhairab Bazar.

Sued for fake FF certificates

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A case was filed against a man and his son on Monday night on charge of submitting false freedom fighter certificate. Anisur Rahman, sub-inspector of Thakurgaon police station, filed the case. Police said Md Manik, son of Abdul Aziz of Daulatpur village in Sadar upazila, got the job of police constable last year by submitting fake freedom fighter certificate of his father. Manik also participated in police training but later resigned from the job sensing investigation into the matter.



Freedom fighters accompanied by a large number of people from all walks of life join a human chain in Rampal upazila under Bagerhat district, right, local unit of ruling Awami League-led grand alliance brings out a procession in Panchagarh Sadar upazila yesterday demanding early trial of the 1971 war criminals. Similar programmes were also held in several other districts.



PHOTO: STAR

Man gets life for killing wife

Housewife murdered for dowry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi Speedy Trial Tribunal yesterday sentenced a man to life term imprisonment for murdering his wife in the city two and a half years ago.

Convict Delwar Hossain Milon was also fined Tk 30,000, in default, to suffer one year more in prison for killing Urmi Akhtar, said public prosecutor M Entajul Haque Babu.

Urmi, proprietor of cosmetics company UM Chemicals Limited and also mother of two children, was murdered at her husband's house in Basua area in the

city on July 30 in 2009.

Victim's sister Ayesha Akhtar filed a case with Rajpara PS accusing seven people. Police pressed charges in the case on January 12 in 2010.

Tribunal judge Ekramul Haque Chowdhury acquitted six other accused in the case.

In Pabna, police recovered the body of a housewife from the Dipchar village of Pabna Sadar upazila Tuesday night.

The victim, Hafiza Khatun, 20, wife of Shimul Hossain of the village was killed allegedly by in-laws for dowry and hanged from a

tree branch, police said.

Officer in-charge of Pabna Sadar police station Md Enayet Uddin told our correspondent that police recovered the body and sent it to Pabna Medical College and Hospital morgue for autopsy yesterday morning.

Victim's family filed a case with Pabna police station accusing the husband and mother in-law of killing Hafiza for dowry, the OC said.

Police arrested Sheu Begum, mother-in-law of the victim but her husband went into hiding after the incident, he added.

HABIGANJ, RAJBARI

50 hurt as villagers clash

UNB, Habiganj

At least 40 people were injured in a clash over a trifling matter at Muriak village in Lakhai upazila yesterday.

Locals said, an altercation took place between Kamal Mia, UP member and Suruk Mia, former UP member over the quarrel among children at about 11:00am.

Following the incident, both the groups equipped with lethal weapons attacked each other leaving 40 people, including children, injured from both sides.

Of the injured, Shapla

Begum, 14, Foyjun Nahar, 15, Kawsar Mia, 25, Alamgir Mia, 30, Tarek Mia, 20, Ali Emran, 30, Harun Mia, 22, Ali Akbar, 55 and Babul Mia, 32 were admitted to Sadar Hospital while others received treatment at Lakhai upazila health complex.

In Rajbari, at least 10 people were injured in a clash between two groups of villagers over a piece of disputed land at Bajitpur village in Sadar upazila on Tuesday evening.

Of the injured, Malek, 57, Faruk, 35, Farhad, 32, Sahara Begum, 55, Pinki Khatun, 18, Saleha Khatun, 50, Hatem, 35, Hashem

Molla, 30 and Shajahan Molla, 55 were admitted to Rajbari Sadar Hospital in critical condition.

Locals said Rashid and Malek had been at loggerheads since long over the ownership of a piece of land.

The clash ensued as Farhad, son of Rashid, locked in an altercation with Hashem, son of Malek, at Bajitpur village in the evening.

At one stage, both the groups equipped with lethal weapons attacked each other, leaving 10 people from both sides injured.