

Fair polls not possible by only empowering EC

Says Akbar Ali Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fair election will not be possible only by empowering the election commission, said former adviser to a caretaker government Akbar Ali Khan yesterday.

After the election, government officials involved in electoral duties no longer remain under the commission's jurisdiction. Hence, it become hard for the commission to take legal action against law violators, he said.

He told a roundtable, "How to solve the key problem of Bangladesh politics", arranged by Center for Strategic and Peace and Studies (CSPS) in Jatiya Press Club.

The election commission should announce the polling venues and return-

ing officers' panel six months before the election so that candidates can forward their objections beforehand, he said.

He proposed to bring polling centers under a central computerised system to avoid "election engineering".

On four proposals he made on December 29, 2012 on holding the next general election, Akbar said the proposals, including one to form an interim government comprising Awami League and BNP lawmakers, do not require big constitutional changes and have no legal barrier.

CSPS President Shah Abdul Hannan moderated the event where Dr Hasan Mohammad of Chittagong University presented a keynote. Columnist Farhad Mazhar and Prof Piyas Karim also spoke.

Dr Nurul Islam laid to rest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

National Professor Dr Nurul Islam was laid to rest with state honour on the University of Science and Technology Chittagong (USTC) campus yesterday.

He died of old age complications at a hospital in the capital on Thursday night. He was 85.

The acclaimed medical researcher and the personal physician of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was born at Mohammadpur village in Chandanaish upazila of Chittagong on April 1, 1928.

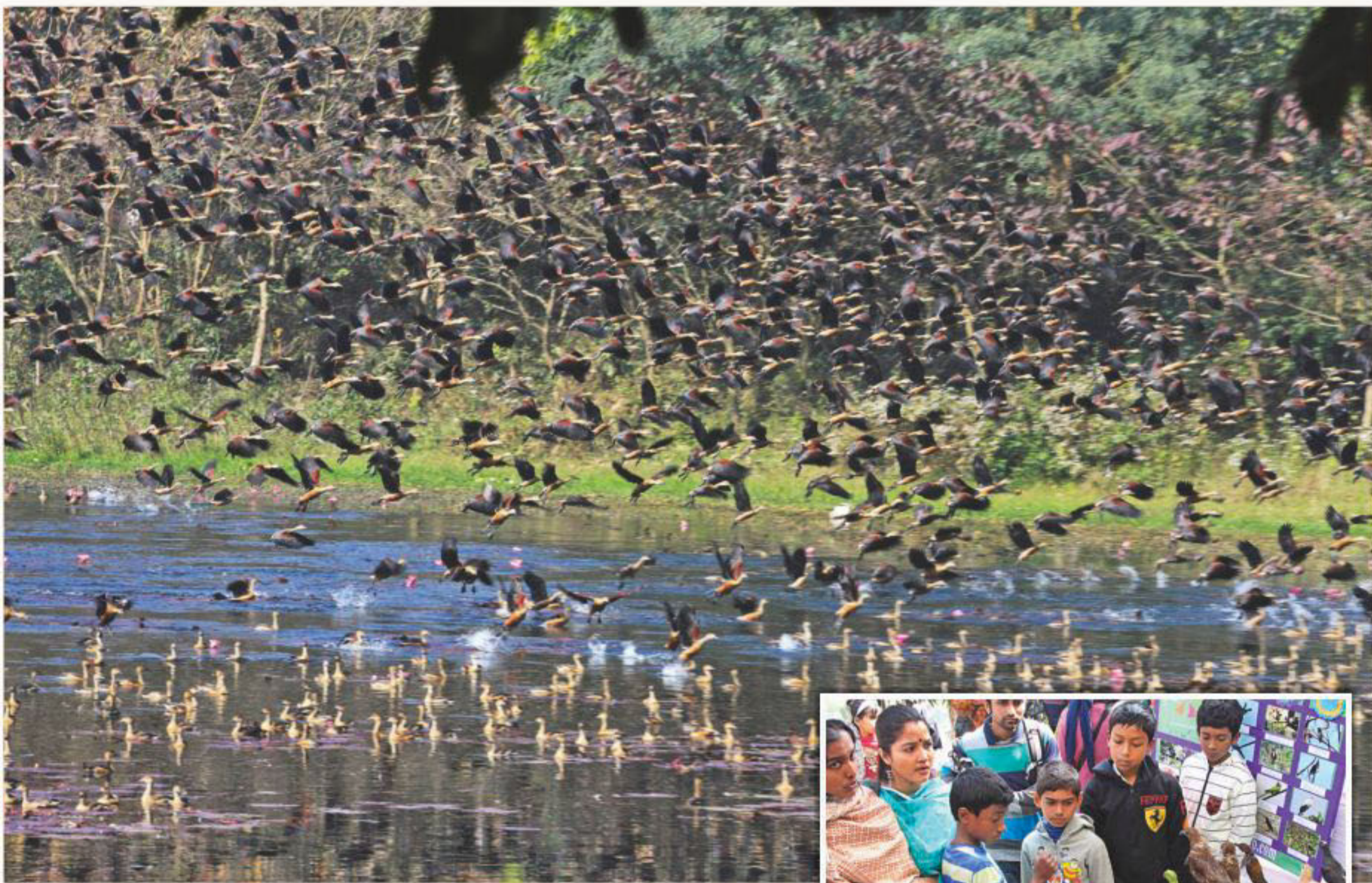


PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

A flight of migratory birds at Jahangirnagar University on Friday. Inset, bird lovers visiting a stall at a daylong bird fair on the university campus, organised by the Department of Zoology and its Wildlife Rescue Centre.



JU bird fair abuzz with enthusiasts

JU CORRESPONDENT

Birdwatchers and avian enthusiasts thronged the 12th annual daylong "Bird Fair" in Jahangirnagar University on Friday amid the presence of 189 species of migratory birds.

The fair, organised by the Department of Zoology and its Wildlife Rescue Centre, was abuzz with fanfare and festivity as families with children, college- and university-going students and professionals engaged in daylong activities.

Inaugurating the fair, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu said schools and colleges should bring their students on the campus as part of their study tours on birds.

Among the daylong activities was a bird identification competition, where participants went around the campus in groups and tried to correctly identify birds on seeing them or from their calls. The department's teachers adjudged the winners.

Two more competitions, a children's painting competition and short lectures on birds, were held. A bird photography exhibition, tour of JU's 22 lakes and a final prize-giving ceremony were also held.

NEWS IN brief

Samson H Chy remembered

METRO DESK

The Samson H Chowdhury Memorial Conference was held at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in the capital yesterday.

Discussions on the Bangladesh pharmaceutical industry and current issues were also held at the day-long event, organised by Square Pharmaceuticals, said a press release.

Anita Samson, the chairperson of Anita Samson Foundation, inaugurated the event. Representatives from pharmaceutical companies attended the conference.

Samson H Chowdhury, a pioneer in pharmaceutical industry in Bangladesh and founder chairman of Square Group, died on January 5,

Brazil lauds Bangladesh for poverty reduction

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Brazilian President Dilma Vana Rousseff highly praised Bangladesh for its ongoing recent efforts on poverty reduction and economic development.

The president hailed the efforts while receiving M Shameem Ahsan as the first resident ambassador of Bangladesh to Brazil on January 23.

While presenting the Letter of Credence at the Palacio Itamaraty, the seat of the Brazilian Ministry of External Relations, the ambassador conveyed greetings of the president and prime minister of Bangladesh to the Brazilian president.

The Brazilian president expressed happiness at the good relations with Bangladesh, said a foreign

Two held for lynching 'mentally challenged woman' in Gazipur

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Police on Thursday night arrested two youths in connection with the killing of Morjina, a "mentally challenged" woman, from Sinabauh in Kaliakoir upazila of Gazipur.

Police identified them through cellphone video footages collected from locals.

The accused are Miraj Ali, 35, son of Rajab Ali; and Hitler Miah, 30, son of Wajed Ali of Sinabauh.

On January 19 afternoon, some locals beat Morjina Akter, 35, to death in Kaliakoir suspecting that she was a child thief.

A case was filed against around 500 unidenti-



Cold wave may continue

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Moderate to thick fog may occur over the river basins and north and north-western parts of Bangladesh and light to moderate fog elsewhere over the country during midnight till morning, Met Office said.

Severe cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Kushtia, Rajshahi, Pabna and Srimangal and mild to moderate cold wave is sweeping over Dhaka, Rangpur, Barisal divisions and rest part of Rajshahi and Khulna divisions and the regions Sitakunda, Chandpur and Feni and it may continue.


Night and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:42pm and rises tomorrow at 6:41am.

Country's highest temperature 25.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangamati and Sylhet and lowest 04.4 degrees at Chuadanga.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:


| | Temperature in Celsius | | Humidity in percentage | |
|------------|------------------------|------|------------------------|---------|
| | Max: | Min: | Morning | Evening |
| Dhaka | 22.8 | 10.8 | 73 | 62 |
| Chittagong | 24.0 | 11.5 | 75 | 65 |
| Rajshahi | 20.6 | 05.4 | 97 | 75 |
| Rangpur | 18.8 | 06.2 | 96 | 74 |
| Khulna | 23.5 | 10.5 | 90 | 68 |
| Barisal | 23.2 | 08.3 | 85 | 67 |



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