



Flocks of migratory birds flutter over Nilsagar, a vast water body covering 54 acres of land, at Dhabadanga village in Nilphamari Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Nilsagar abuzz with migratory birds again

The winter birds back to the sanctuary after two decades as congenial atmosphere returns due to special steps

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

After nearly two decades, flocks of migratory birds from Siberia started coming again to vast water body Nilsagar, a sanctuary for birds, at Dhabadanga village of Sadar upazila this winter.

Thanks to the authorities concerned for launching a useful project aiming to create a congenial atmosphere, by providing shelter and food through planting thousands of local variety trees, for the guest birds.

Caretaker of the sanctuary Nirmal Chakraborty said around 10,000 guest birds arrived in Nilsagar this winter after the district administration took a project titled 'Program for Creating Natural Forest' to ensure food and shelter to the guest birds a couple of years ago.

Migratory birds start coming to Nilsagar in early November and stay till March-April in a bid to protect

themselves from the terrible cold of the northern countries, he said.

As the fluttering and chirping of thousands of winter guest birds thrilled the visitors, authority concerned declared the 54 acres water body as birds' sanctuary in 1999, Nirmal informed.

Local resident Shamsul Islam, a journalist, said, "The area saw a decline on arrival of migratory birds when the government declared the water body as birds' sanctuary nearly 20 years ago. It happened just because several thousand century-old trees were felled for the up-gradation of the vast water body, which caused loss of shelter and food for the birds."

There were numerous trees like banyan, blackberry, mango, jackfruit and many birds lived on their fruits and used to take shelter on the trees, but due to unwise felling of trees many birds disappeared, he added.

"Ignoring experts' advice, the

authorities concerned planted tree saplings of foreign varieties like shishu, mahogany, eucalyptus and others, which neither grow with bushy branches nor produce any fruit for bird's feeding," Shamsul said.

Ornithologists warned that many guest birds do not even sit or rest on foreign variety trees, but their warning fell on deaf ears and the area saw a sharp decline in the number of guest birds.

According to historian Mohammad Nasiruddin the previous name of Nilsagar was Binnal Dighi. The then Hindu king Raja Virat dug the water body and named it after his beloved daughter Binnaboti.

Nilphamari Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Shahinur Alam said arrival of guest birds increased tremendously in recent time after the district administration took a project titled 'Program for Creating Natural Forest'.

Teachers of 210 nationalised schools without salary for 2yrs

840 teachers badly suffering due to deprivation amid official complications

SAIKAT DEWAN, Khagrachhari

While Sajek, a newly designated tourist spot in Rangamati's Baghaichhari upazila, is booming with tourism activities day by day, education of hundreds of school kids in the area is facing various problems and uncertainty.

Moreover, there are no pure drinking water facilities and proper health care service for the local inhabitants.

The government included 22 non-government primary schools in Baghaichhari upazila under nationalisation scheme about two years ago, but the area hardly saw any improvement in education system as teachers of those schools are yet to receive any government facilities, including regularisation of their jobs under the ministry concerned.

A total of 210 primary schools, earlier managed by the hill district councils, in three hill districts were included in the nationalisation scheme in February 20, 2017.

Of the 210 schools, 81 are in Rangamati, 80 in Bandarban and 59 in Khagrachhari.

During a visit to Hamachang Furongni Government Primary School at Tripurapara beside Baghaichhari-Machhalong-Sajek road, about 40 kilometres from Baghaichhari upazila headquarters, this correspondent found four teachers of the school living a sub-human life as they are not getting their salaries since the nationalisation of the school about two years ago.

There are 64 students in the school, which has four tin-shed classrooms.

Although the school has toilet facilities for its young learners, there is no arrangement for pure drinking water.

Kalpo Ranjan Tripura, president of the school managing committee, said all the 210 schools were established under supervision of United Nations Development Program and Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (UNDP-CHTDF) in 2010.

Prior to stopping their activities in the hill districts, UNDP-CHTDF paid the teachers salary for nearly five years.

After that Rangamati Hill District Council paid the teachers' allowances for another two years, till the nationalisation of the schools, Kalpo Ranjan said, adding that, the teachers are not getting their salaries since the declaration of nationalisation in 2017.

According to the government's notification, the primary education offices concerned will first create posts for required number of teachers and then hire them under the government scheme, which is still awaited.

Headmaster of Furongni Government Primary School Jagadish Tripura said in reality many teachers often have to work as day labourers to maintain their families.

Acting Upazila Primary Education Officer in Baghaichhari Sona Mitra Chakma said as the teachers are not getting their salaries they cannot put pressure on them to attend their institutions on humanitarian ground.

Fisherman's body recovered from the Bay

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Fishermen recovered the body of a fellow fisherman from the Bay near Char Bijoy, about 30 km south of Kuakata beach, on Wednesday night.

They handed it over to Mohipur Police Station the same night.

The deceased was identified as Reaz Gazi, 32, of Mohollapara village under Kalapara upazila, said Md Saidul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of the police station.

A group of fishermen catching fish on the Bay saw the body floating and recovered it. They handed the body over to the police, who sent it to Patuakhali General Hospital for autopsy, the OC said.

Reaz went to the Bay on Sunday with four other fishermen -- Kawsar, Musa, Jamal and Daidul -- of the same village. The four of them returned to the shore the same night and told Reaz's family that he fell into the Bay and went missing.

Reaz's family members and local people suspected that there was something wrong and handed the four over to police on Sunday night.

An unnatural death case was filed over this matter. "We will take steps in this regard after getting the autopsy report," the OC said.

Three to die for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Three people were awarded rigorous imprisonment for life for killing a night guard of a bazar in the town.

The court also fined them Tk 20,000 each, in default to serve one year more in jail.

Special Court Judge Md Shahid Ullah delivered the verdict yesterday, said Advocate Ariful Haque Tito, lawyer for the state.

Of the convicts, Biplob Baroi of Tetla village under Banaripara upazila of Barishal was present while Nurul Islam of Charadi village under Bakerganj upazila of Barishal, and Bareq Sikder of Boroitali village under Taltali upazila of Barguna are absconding.

According to the prosecution, the gang hacked to death Qader Sikder, 70, a night guard at Kalatala bazar on November 26 in 2018. His son Jahirul Islam recovered the body the next day.

21 maunds of polythene seized, two traders fined

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A mobile court seized 21 maunds of polythene from Park Market in the town yesterday and detained two polythene traders.

They detained Nazrul Islam of Chituliapara village in Bhupur upazila and Mohammad Razib of Hugra village in Tangail Sadar upazila in this connection and fined the duo Tk 50,000 each. In default, they are to suffer three months in jail.

Members of Rapid Action Battalion raided the kitchen market in the morning, said Sajib Kumar Ghosh, Inspector of Directorate of Environment in the district.

Executive Magistrate Sukhamay Sarkar, also assistant commissioner (Land) in Tangail, led the court, said Sajib.



Farmers of Shalidubi village in Faridpur's Sadarpur upazila fill sacks with beans for sale at the local market. PHOTO: STAR

Two workers killed in bridge collapse

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Two construction workers were killed and four others injured while demolishing an old bridge next to a newly-constructed one on Bujrukh-Kadoshuka road at Balihan village in Haripur upazila in Thakurgaon yesterday.

The deceased were Tarique Islam, 20, son of Shahabul Islam, and Azibul Islam, 45, son of Abdur Rauf of Moshandangi village under the same upazila.

Haripur Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Md Amiruzzaman told this correspondent over cellphone that some construction workers were demolishing an old bridge on the road when one of the slabs of the bridge collapsed on them, leaving the duo dead on the spot and seriously injuring four others.

Local people rescued the injured workers

and took them to Haripur Upazila Health Complex, where they are undergoing treatment.

Haripur Upazila Engineer Abdus Samad told this correspondent that contractor Muktar Ali got the work order of demolishing the old bridge a few months ago, after completion of a newly-constructed bridge.

Samad said the incident occurred due to the workers' lack of alertness and not taking safety measures.

The contractor did not inform him about starting the demolition work, he added.

Haripur Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Arif Beg said he visited the spot. "We will take necessary steps according to the higher authority's instruction," he added.

The OC said they will take action after getting a complaint.

House of Dinajpur Press Club GS torched

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Criminals set fire to the house of Golam Nabi Dhal, general secretary of Dinajpur Press Club, in the town early yesterday.

Dhal is Dinajpur correspondent of Somoy Television, a private TV channel.

High officials of Dinajpur police department visited the spot at Balubari area under Dinajpur Municipality.

Dhal filed a general diary (GD) with Sadar Police Station yesterday.

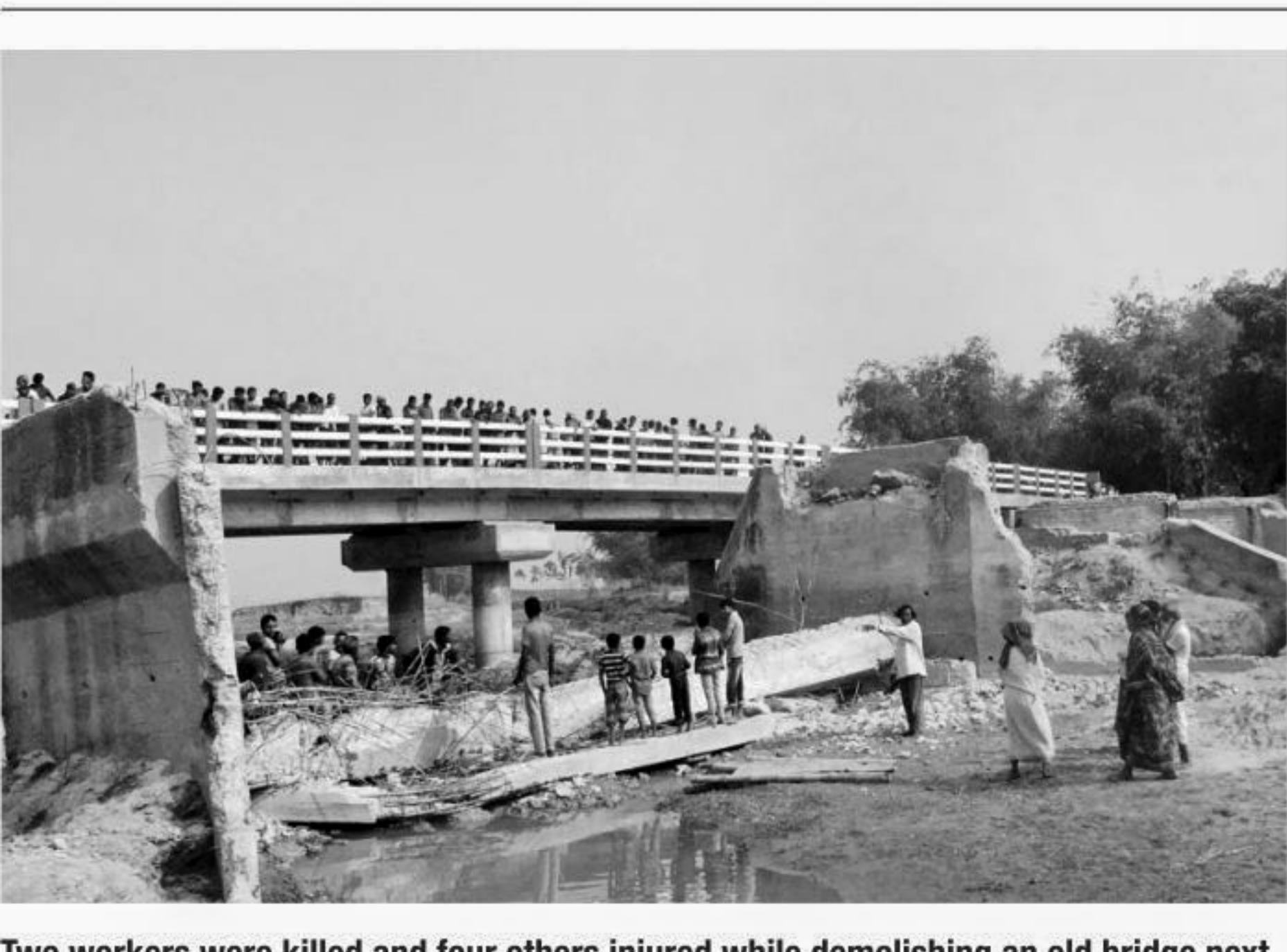
According to the GD, a four-member criminal gang, wearing masks, went to Dhal's house at around 4:30am and set it on fire. Being informed, firefighters of Dinajpur doused the fire.

Valuables worth around Tk 80,000 were burnt in the fire, Dhal said.

Redwanur Rahim, officer-in-charge (OC) of the police station, said police are trying to arrest the criminals.

Journalists of Dinajpur Press Club, at a meeting, expressed their deep concern over the incident and urged police to find out the criminals as soon as possible.

Dhal said he does not know the motive of the criminals behind the incident.



Two workers were killed and four others injured while demolishing an old bridge next to a newly-built one on Bujrukh-Kadoshuka road at Balihan village in Haripur upazila of Thakurgaon yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR