



A flock of birds frolicking at Baikka Beel in Srimangal upazila of Moulvibazar that saw a larger number of birds this year. Inset, Dr Paul Thompson during a bird census at the 1,000-hectare sanctuary last month. PHOTO: COLLECTED



# Migratory birds doubled at Baikka Beel this year

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Compared to last year's count, the number of migratory birds has more than doubled this year at Baikka Beel -- a bird sanctuary spread over 1,000 hectares of area in Hail Haor of Moulvibazar's Srimangal upazila. The government declared Baikka Beel a bird and fish sanctuary in 2003 with an aim to protect and restore aquatic biodiversity in Hail Haor. According to a census conducted at the beel in last week of January, a total of 11,615 migratory and native birds were counted this year. The figure was only 5,418 last year. A team of bird conservationists led by Dr Paul Thompson conducted the census, organised by Bangladesh Birds Club and Asian Waterbirds Census. The birders observed that the birds arrived early this year at Baikka Beel and the number of different species of birds visiting the beel also increased this year.

Speaking with this correspondent, Dr Thompson, a member of Bangladesh Birds Club, said during this year's census, they found 39 species of migratory and native aquatic birds at Baikka Beel. Out of those, 16 are migratory bird species. In a pleasantly surprising discovery, they counted 288 glossy ibis, locally known as Khaira Kastechara, at the beel. In 2018, they found only two of the birds there. The first time they came across the bird in Bangladesh was in 2013 when they counted 25. In 2017, bird count at Baikka Beel was 10,712; 8,832 in 2016, and it was 6,991 in 2015, he added. According to previous census reports, 10,479 birds visited the beel in 2014; 7,499 in 2013; 3,964 in 2012; 5,989 in 2011; 12,250 in 2010; 9,405 in 2009; 6,429 in 2008; 7,204 in 2007; 6,949 in 2006; and 1,174 birds came to the beel in 2005. Moniruzzaman Chowdhury, site officer of

Center for Natural Resource Studies (CNRS), said, "We have planted seeds of Palmyra palm (locally known as Taal) there [at Baikka Beel] so birds can make their nests and increase their population naturally." "For the last several years, we have been working there. And during the time we also planted many other trees suitable for birds," he also said. Swapan Deb Sajal, director of Sreemangal-based Bangladesh Bonyo Prani Seba Foundation, however, said the number of birds visiting the beel would grow higher if rampant poaching of birds and fish could be stopped. He also expressed fear that many bird or fish species may go extinct due to the use of poison traps by poachers. Contacted, Sreemangal Upazila Nirbahi Officer Nazrul Islam said steps would be taken to guard against the poachers for ensuring proper environment at the sanctuary.

## UZ chairman aspirant's nomination paper, edu certificates snatched

Victim of Dinajpur's Ghoraghat files complaints with EC, police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Nomination paper and educational certificates of a chairman aspirant of Ghoraghat upazila parishad election were allegedly taken away by force on Sunday in the upazila. The incident took place at Sonamukhi intersection on Gobindaganj-Dinajpur road in the upazila around 12:30pm when the aspirant, Shuva Rahman Chowdhury, was on his way to election office in Dinajpur for filing his candidacy in the election to be held on March 18. Two separate written complaints were filed with the EC in Dinajpur and Ghoraghat Police Station the same day in this connection, said Shuva's uncle Abu Jafor Md Lutfar Rahman Chowdhury, holding a press conference at Dinajpur Press Club on Sunday evening. Unidentified criminals waylaid the vehicle Shuva and his companions were in and vandalised it. Before snatching the documents from Shuva, they also forced Shuva and all passengers of the vehicle to return to their home in Ghoraghat, alleged the uncle of the chairman aspirant. Contacted, Amirul Islam, officer-in-charge of the police station, said they received a written complaint over the incident that night.

## JMB suspect arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) claimed to have arrested a suspected member of banned militant outfit of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) in Dinajpur Sadar upazila on Sunday. Rab also said they seized a pistol, 3 bullets and jihadi books from possession of the suspect, identified as Nazrul Islam alias Nurulla, 40, son of late Dr Ahtab Uddin alias Ata of Khanpur village in the upazila. Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab in Dinajpur made the arrest and seized the items after raiding Khanpur Bazar area in Sadar upazila on Sunday evening. During primary interrogation, the arrestee admitted that he had been raising funds, recruiting members for the outfit and providing training to them, said Maj Masud Rana, commanding officer of Rab in Dinajpur.

## BGB FIRING AT THAKURGAON'S VILLAGE Villagers demand fair probe, withdrawal of 'false' case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A human chain was formed in front of Dinajpur Press Club on Sunday demanding a fair probe into the firing incident of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) at Bahrapur village in Thakurgaon's Haripur upazila. Three people were killed and at least 16 others suffered bullet wounds as members of a BGB patrol team opened fire following a scuffle with locals at the village on February 12. Students of different institutions in the district organised the programme under the banner of Haripur upazila Diploma Engineering Students' Forum. The speakers at the programme said BGB members killed the three villagers just like birds on the day and now BGB filed a case against the

villagers. They termed the case as false. The BGB members illogically picked up cows from Bahrapur village, which is around 10km from border, and the paramilitary force cannot do that without the presence of police, the speakers opined. BGB could have easily averted the incident, they said. They also demanded capital punishment of the BGB personnel who were involved in the firing and urged the government authorities to withdraw the case filed against the innocent villagers. BGB men filed the case to harass the villagers, said the speakers. They also sought intervention of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in this regard. Shahidul Islam Sohag, convener of Haripur Diploma Engineering Students' Forum, and its Joint Convener Md Kamal Hossain, among others, spoke.

## Vandals force 15 families flee homes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Members of 15 families in Bhitshwar village of Jhenidah Sadar upazila in a press conference on Sunday sought security so they can return to their homes from where they had been driven out on February 10. Mohona Khatun, daughter of Atiar Rahman of the village, read out a written statement at Jhenidah Press Club where a few representatives of the victim families were present. The families fled their homes and left behind crops on around 50 bighas of land after goons led by Rishikesh Mondol of the same village vandalised their properties. Mohona claimed that Rishikesh launched the attack to occupy a piece of land for which he had received payment from her father. The families filed two cases with the Jhenidah court in this connection.

## LALMONI EXPRESS Passengers suffer as train delays for 4hrs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Several hundred passengers suffered immensely while many had to cancel their trip to the capital from Lalmonirhat yesterday as intercity train Lalmoni Express was delayed for nearly four hours without any prior notice. "I had to cancel my trip to Dhaka as the lone intercity train was delayed for four hours," said Delwar Hossain of BDR Road in the town. "I noticed the authorities concerned at Lalmonirhat Station are not that cordial to solve the longstanding issue," Delwar added. Train passenger Maniruzzaman of Haribhanga area, said the train was too late yesterday, but he was compelled to travel on it as it is safe and comfortable than other modes of transport. Stationmaster at Lalmonirhat Station Nizam Uddin said although the train was scheduled to leave the station for Dhaka at 10:30am, it left the station around 2:30pm. Both departure and arrival of the train are often delayed, Nizam said, adding that the train was delayed for four hours yesterday due to shortage of locomotive. Railway's (west zone) Divisional Mechanical Engineer (DME) Rabiul Islam said they already sent demand letters for fresh locomotives, but are yet to get any response from the higher authorities.

## Man killed over land dispute, 3 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A man was killed allegedly by his cousins over a land related feud in Nawabganj upazila of the district yesterday. Informed, police recovered the body of the 40-year-old victim from Kachdah village and sent it to M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital for autopsy, said Subrata Sarkar, OC of Nawabganj Police Station. Police also arrested three people, including a teenage cousin of the deceased, for their alleged involvement in the murder. As a sequel to a land dispute, the victim's cousins stabbed him with a sharp weapon around 7:30am, leaving him dead on the spot, police quoted the villagers as saying.



Students of Tebunia Hazera Khatun Girls High School form a human chain at Tebunia in Pabna Sadar upazila yesterday demanding arrest and punishment of the killers of Brishti Khatun, a Class X student of the school. Brishti, 18, daughter of Jalal Bishwas of Khidra-Matia village in the upazila, was hacked to death allegedly by her recently divorced husband Momin Hossain and his fellows on Saturday after she refused to go back to Jalal. PHOTO: STAR



Thick dust blurs vision and poses health hazard for commuters and locals as the menace turns serious on an 18-kilometre stretch of road from Baraibari to Kanudaskathi in Jhalakathi amid the ongoing road reconstruction work, being done with little remedial measures like spraying of water. The photo was taken from Brac More area of Jhalakathi a few days ago. PHOTO: STAR



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## Local e-Tender Notice

Electronic tenders (e-Tender) are hereby invited from the contractor having experience of construction work in the departments of PWD/MES/other Government, Semi Government/Autonomous organizations/Bank/Insurance Organizations for the construction of abovementioned structure for this Corporation as per under noted schedule. Tender documents showing terms and conditions with specification will be available at the website e-tender.spcbd.org.bd/114.130.43.56. It is to mention here that this is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted and no hard copy will be accepted except price of tender schedule and earnest money. To submit e-Tender the bidders need to register on e-tender.spcbd.org.bd. For more details please contact cell: 88-01534002183 & 88-01534002184. Necessary information is given below:

Sl No.	Tender No.	Name of works	Price of schedule	Date of publish	Last date and time for submission	Opening date and time
01.	50/2019	Supplying, fitting and fixing homogeneous floor tiles on selected bathroom and kitchen at different types of officers and staff quarters.	500.00 (five hundred) not refundable	19.02.2019	19.03.2019 11:00am	19.03.2019 11.15am
02.	51/2019					

Bidders may collect the e-Tender schedule from the abovementioned website. Bidders need to submit earnest money @ 3% (three percent) of the total quoted price in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of the "Managing Director, The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd." along with the price of e-Tender schedule in the form of separate Pay-Order/DD in the tender box kept at Corporation's Office in Gazipur on or before the scheduled deadline for submission of e-Tender. e-Tender(s) without earnest money and price for procurement of e-Tender schedule shall not be acceptable. The e-Tender shall have to submit as per e-Tender guidelines mentioned at above website. Offer(s) shall be opened as per schedule mentioned above in presence of the tenderer(s) if any. 01 (one) e-Tender schedule is applicable only for one Construction firm submitting one offer along with earnest money and price of e-Tender schedule. The authority reserves the right to reject or accept any e-Tender without assigning any reason whatsoever. Submission of e-Tender after the specified time shall not be acceptable under any circumstances.

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