



CHAROIL BEEL, A HAVEN FOR BIRDS

Intermediate egrets in flight over Charoil Beel, a vast water body in Bangabari union of Gomostapur upazila under Chapainawabganj, and inset, another species of birds roams around in the area. The area has become a safe haven for different species of birds, thanks to the awareness campaign by nature lovers.

PHOTO: RABIUL HASAN

3 including AL man killed

Six people arrested

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Three people, including an Awami League (AL) activist, were killed in Bogura and Jashore yesterday and the day before.

A woman was killed allegedly by her maternal cousin following an altercation over a piece of disputed land in Bogura's Sherpur upazila yesterday, reports our correspondent.

The deceased was identified as Nasima Khatun, 32, wife of Malaysia expatriate Md Zahangir Alam of Taltaura village in the upazila.

Police arrested four people, including the victim's cousin Md Raju Mia, 22, in connection with the incident.

Quoting locals, Humayun Kabir, officer in charge (OC) of Sherpur Police Station, said an altercation took place between the family members of Nasima and Raju over taking ownership of one decimal of land around 1:30pm yesterday.

At one stage, Raju hit Nasima in the head with a stick, leaving her dead on the spot.

Four people were later arrested in this connection, said the OC.

The arrestees are Raju, his wife Sanjida, 20, sister Khaleda Khatun, 15, and mother Anjuara Begum, 46, said Inspector Md Bulbul of the police station.

Meanwhile, an AL activist was stabbed to death at Ramchandrapur Bazar in Sariakandi upazila of the district on Monday.

The deceased was Ratan Mia Akanda, 27, son of Idris Akanda of Katakhali village, and a member of Ramchandrapur union unit of AL.

Quoting locals, Enayetur Rahman, inspector (investigation) of Sariakandi Police Station, said Ratan was a rickshaw puller by profession. He used to live in Dhaka and often visited his village home.

Criminals stabbed him dead over previous enmity, said the inspector.

Uncle of the deceased Fazlul Karim Nipu, also the organising secretary of the union unit of AL, said during the last national election, Ratan had a feud with Fulbari union BNP leader Fazlul Pramanik on election campaigning.

"As a sequel to the conflict, BNP men stabbed Ratan on Monday afternoon," said Nipu.

Critically injured Ratan was rushed to Bogura Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead.

The law enforcers detained one Lokman Pramanik for primary interrogation, said the police official.

In Jashore, a man was stabbed to death over an alleged extramarital affair with a female worker of a jute mill in Sadar upazila on Monday, reports our Benapole correspondent.

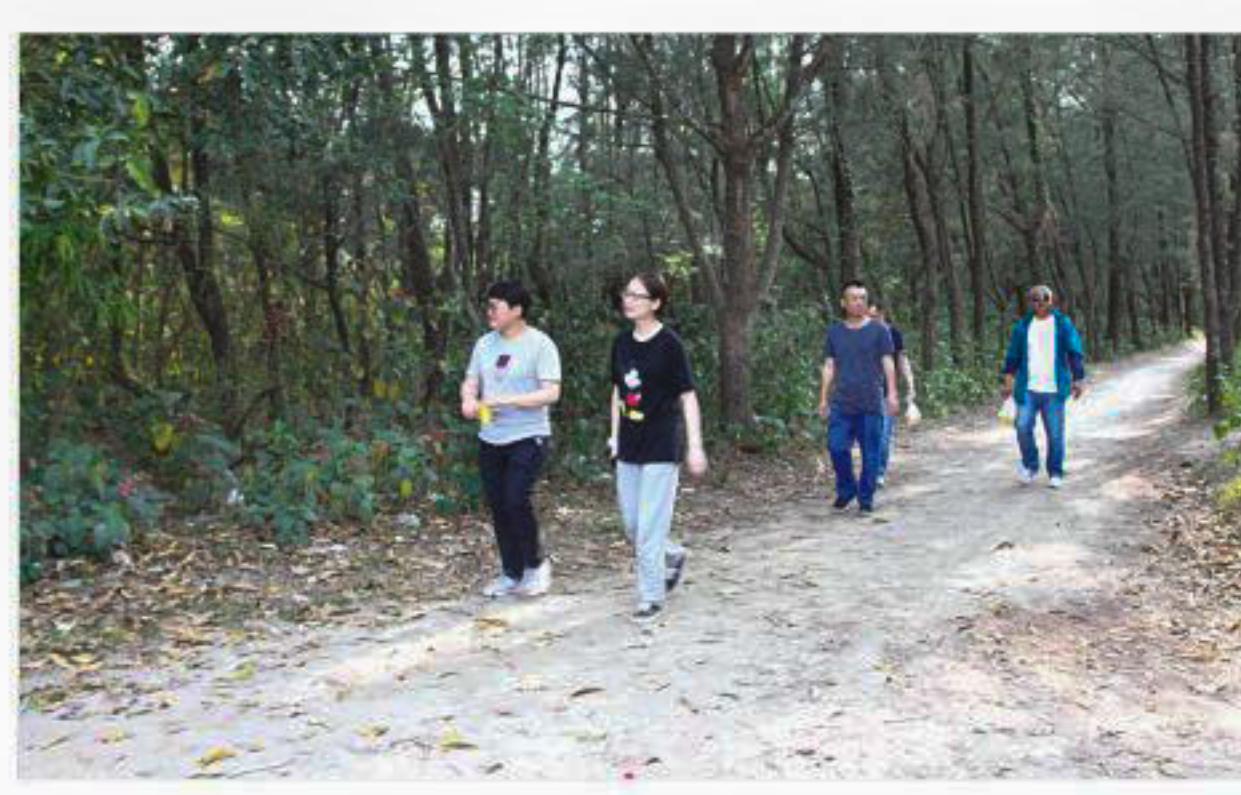
The deceased was Shahid Qazi, 35, son of Lokman Qazi of Magura, and labour leader of Asnan Jute Mill in Jashore Sadar upazila.

Police arrested one Topi in connection with the incident, said OC Apurba Hasan of Kotwali Model Police Station.

A gang of four, including Topi, stabbed Shahid when he was going to the mill. Critically injured Shahid then died on way to Jashore General Hospital.

Bangabandhu Bridge Eco Park in sorry state

The park with immense natural beauty requires adequate facilities to attract tourists



A partial view of Bangabandhu Bridge Eco Park along the Jamuna river on the western side of the bridge in Sodabab area of Sirajganj Sadar upazila. Right: Above, a sitting place lies in a dilapidated condition for lack of renovation, and below, some visitors take a walk inside the park.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

MIRZA SHAKIL, back from Sirajganj

Bangabandhu Bridge Eco Park, situated along the Jamuna river on the western side of the Bangabandhu Bridge, is in a sorry state now, though few development works can make the spot much attractive to the visitors.

The construction work of the park, which is about 125 kilometres from Dhaka and 12 kilometres from Sirajganj town, was started in 2006 on 600 acres of land of Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA).

After completion of its construction in 2008 and the park was opened to public the same year.

The reasons of setting up the park there were protecting the guide embankment of the Bangabandhu Bridge, making orchard of rare trees and creating habitat for wild animals as well as ensuring entertainment and research facilities.

Sources said the park, having a total of 136 varieties of plants including fruit and medicinal ones, started losing its attraction to the visitors due to poor maintenance and sheer negligence in improving the necessary facilities.

During a visit to the park on May 1, this correspondent saw its worn-out condition and found almost no visitors there, except some young boys and girls.

Besides, two porcupines, few monkeys and hares, all hungry and sick, were spotted in the small zoo that has only four cages.

During the inauguration of the park, eight spotted deer were released and gradually their numbers were increased in the last 10 years.

But as there is no pond inside the park area the beautiful animals have been facing acute drinking water crisis since its inauguration.

However, this correspondent could not see any of the deer inside the 154 acres area of the park during his stay for several hours.

Shah Alam, a resident of Sirajganj's Belkuchi upazila, who came to visit the park with his wife and children, said only one out of the three toilets of the park is usable.

"Almost all the animal cages in the park are empty and there is no arrangement for children's entertainment," Alam said.

Touhidul Islam, another visitor from Tangail's Bhauapur upazila, said the park has nothing except some trees.

"The sitting arrangements along the river were damaged long ago and the security system inside the park is very poor here," Touhidul alleged.

The park would be an attractive place for the visitors if entertainment facilities for the children are installed and some

small cottages are constructed inside it, he said.

Forester Mohammad Ripon Miah, also the park ranger, said except the Eid days and Pahela Baishakh the number of visitors at the park is very poor.

He said the authorities concerned should take a plan and make a picnic spot with car parking facilities, set up children's park with modern rides, increase the number of wild animals, ensure electricity supply, construct watch tower and toilets, install close circuit cameras and increase security personnel inside the park to attract the visitors.

Mohammad Shahin, assistant engineer at the site office of Bangabandhu Bridge in Tangail, said before finalising the alignment of the new rail bridge along the Bangabandhu Bridge massive development of the park can not be possible.



This deer, caught by locals at Darbhanga village in Charmontaj union under Rangabali upazila of Patuakhali yesterday morning, died hours later. The deer, coming to the locality from a forest on the other side of the Tentulia river, died possibly due to sickness as it had got too tired and scared, being chased by villagers for quite a long time, said Amit Basu, beat officer of Sonar Char forest in the area.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

2,891 destitute women yet to get VGD rice

Deprived of the govt's safety programme benefit for 5 months, they pass miserable life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Four months have already passed but 2,891 destitute women of Fulchhari upazila are yet to get rice under the government's Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) programme due to delay and complexities in preparation of beneficiaries' list of the programme.

The government allocated VGD rice for 2,891 destitute women in seven unions for 2019 and 2020 and asked upazila women affairs department, ward and union level committee to finalise the list of the beneficiaries by December last year, said Papiya Sultana, upazila women affairs officer.

Ensuring transparency in preparing list of destitute women, upazila women affairs department in 2018 wanted online application from the destitute women.

Accordingly, many of them filed

application for the VGD rice, but the list is yet to be finalised due to disagreement developed between ruling party leaders and union parishad members over sharing of the beneficiaries' list, said sources at upazila women affairs office.

Seeking anonymity, a union parishad (UP) chairman said local party leaders and women affairs office also claimed share in the list of beneficiaries, so it became difficult to maintain transparency in preparing list of genuine destitute women.

They have received final list of destitute women from three unions, said the officer, adding that the VGD rice will be distributed soon after getting the list from the remaining unions.

Upazila Parishad Chairman GM Salim Parvez, also the general secretary of upazila Awami League, said their party men are not involved in preparing the list of beneficiaries of the VGD programme.