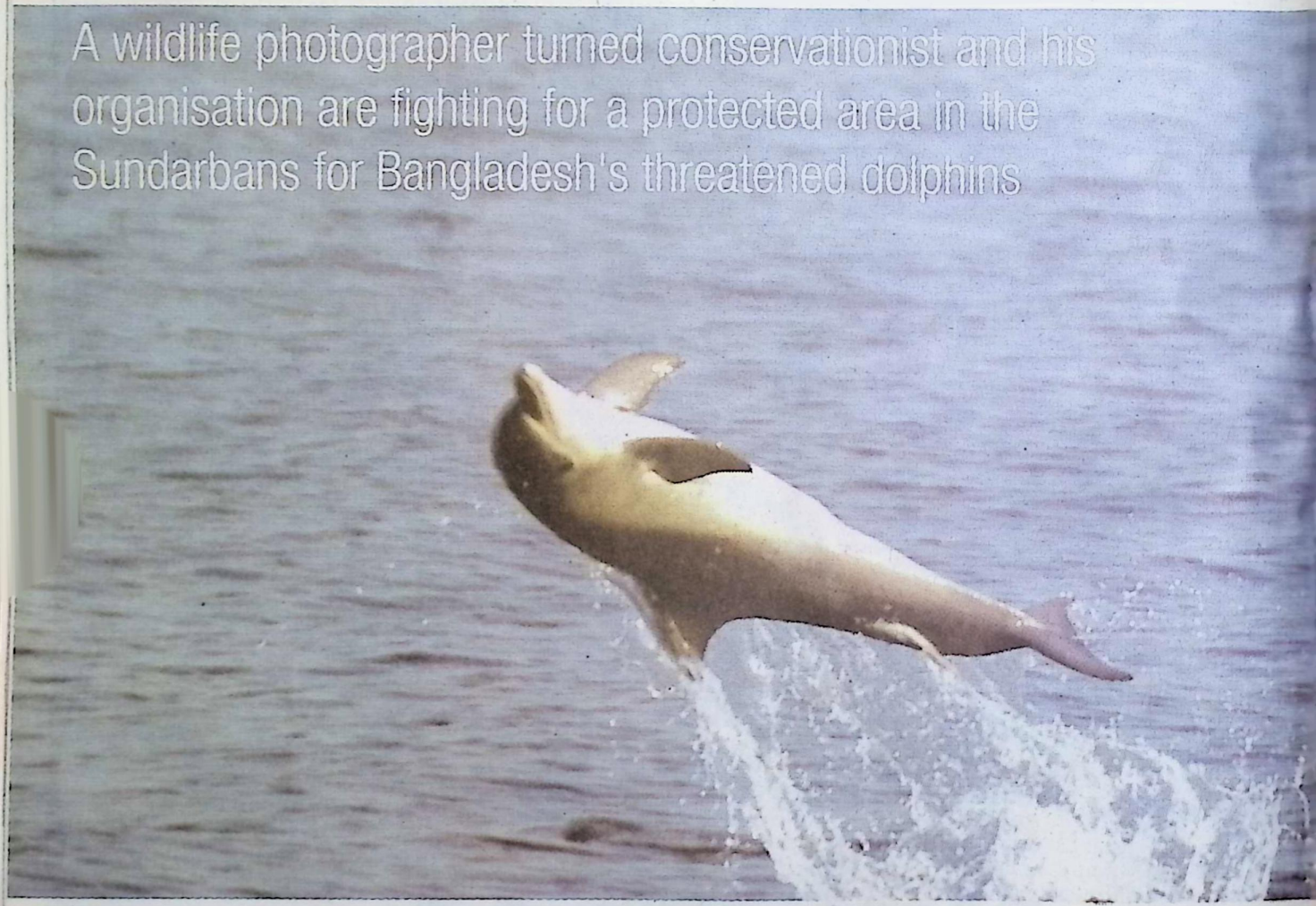
The Bay

A wildlife photographer turned conservationist and his organisation are fighting for a protected area in the Sundarbans for Bangladesh's threatened dolphins



AHMEDE HUSSAIN

Bottlenose dolphin at the Swatch-of-No-Ground.

Rubaiyat Mansur, fondly called Mowgli by his friends and family, was charmed by the magic of the Sundarbans. In fact, in the early and late nineties he was on board different tourist vessels of Guide Tours, which his father owns, as a tour guide and a wildlife photographer. It was on a visit like this that he met Brian Smith, zoologist and Asia coordinator of IUCN Species Survival Commission, who frequents the shores of Bangladesh and was on a trip to find more about the Irrawaddy dolphins. "The dolphin survey, which was coducted in 2002 and went on for 20 days, was for the first time in our history that we have come to know that along with Ganges River dolphin, commonly known as *shushuk*, Irrawaddy dolphins also exist in the Sundarbans in a large number," Mowgli says.

After that, he along with the captains of the Guide