



Catching of fry with mosquito nets by a section of unscrupulous fishermen in Meghna River in Chandpur causing depletion of different indigenous species of fish that abound there. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Verdict in case against 11 mutineers Feb 20

OUR CORRESPONDENT, C'nawabganj

The special court-12, set up at 43 Battalion headquarters of Border guard Bangladesh (BGB) in Naogaon town, yesterday fixed February 20 for judgement in the mutiny case against 11 personnel of 46 Battalion under Rajshahi sector.

The court headed by Rajshahi Sector Commander Col Ehia Azam Khan fixed the date on completion of arguments between the prosecution witnesses and the mutineers.

Two others members of the court are Lt Col Gazi Mohammad Khalid Hossain and Lt Commander (BN) Muhammad Towhidul Islam. Deputy Attorney General Shashanka Shekhar Sarkar represented the

attorney general.

Earlier, prosecutor Lt Col Anwar Shafique, also commanding officer of 46 BGB Battalion read out the allegations against the accused at the court.

On Tuesday, the court framed mutiny charges against 11 jawans of 46 Battalion. Of the accused, lance nayek Fakir Ishaque, sepoy Shakin Shah, Kamal Hossain, Mohammad Zakaria, Hridoy Hossain and Harun-or-Rashid confessed to their involvement in the mutiny at the battalion on February 26 in 2009 and prayed for mercy.

The rest five--nayek subedar Harun-ur-Rashid, sepoy Alamgir Hossain, kamrul Islam and Nazrul Islam, and subedar Mohammad Jalal--claimed

innocence.

The court yesterday completed taking statements of all the 16 prosecution witnesses (PWs) in the mutiny case. In their statements, the witnesses said the accused against their officers at the battalion headquarters on February 26, 2009.

They took control of the battalion in the district's Patnola area, looted firearms and ammunition from the armoury and fired blank shots, the PWS said.

The then officer-in-charge of Naogaon Model Police Station Aminul Islam filed a mutiny case against the rebels with the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court on May 17, 2009.

They (mutineers) were later arrested and produced in the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court that sent them to jail *hajet*.

# 3 municipalities go to polls today

STAR NATIONAL DESK

All is set to hold elections to Magura, Parbatipur and Char Fashion municipalities today.

In Magura municipality, five candidates are contesting for the mayoral post, 63 candidates for nine councillor posts and 21 women for three reserved seats, reports our correspondent.

Awami League backed candidates Altaf Hossain, Jatiya Party candidate advocate Hasan Seraj Suja, BNP backed candidate Ayub Hossain, BNP rebel Farukuzzaman and independent candidate BM Moon are contesting for the mayoral post.

The main contest is, however, expected to be limited between Altaf Hossain and Hasan Seraj Suja, said local observers.

"Supporters of AL backed candidate are putting pressure on general voters to cast votes in favour of their candidate and also hatching conspiracy to snatch my victory," alleged Jatiya Party backed mayor candidate Hasan Seraj Suja.

Some AL activists are also supporting Suja because they think Altaf Hossain and several other local Awami League leaders have



deprived them of all sorts of facilities after the present government assumed power.

"As our party has been dogged by internal feud, two candidates of rival factions Ayub Hossain and Farukuzzaman are fighting for the mayoral posts but none of them are popular in the area. Even they have failed to gain the support of party activists. Grassroots level leaders have already decided to support the Jatiya Party-backed candidate," said a top leader of BNP municipality unit.

District unit president of Magura BNP Kabir Murad also echoing the same sentiment said that activists of AL backed candidate Altaf Hossain are threatening our candidate Ayub Hossain and his supporters not to go to polling centres pressuring to extend support to their candidate.

"The voters are now panicked and fair election has become uncertain as the poll is going to be held without deployment of army", Kabir continued.

Meanwhile, local administration has taken all security measures to avert untoward incidents on the polling day. A total of 450 policemen have been deployed at 31 polling centres. Besides two platoons of BGB (Border Guard of Bangladesh), two platoons of Rab (Rapid Action Battalion) personnel and APBN personnel will remain as striking force.

The administration had earlier identified 18 polling centres out of 31 as vulnerable to violence. All necessary measures to ensure free, fair and peaceful polling at these centres, district administration sources said.

"We are determined to hold a free and fair election", said the superintendent of police (SP).

Our Dinajpur correspondent reported that four aspirants are vying for mayoral post of Parbatipur municipality in today's election.

They are BNP backed candidate AZM Minhazul Haque, AL blessed candidate MA Wahab Sarker, AL

rebels Faysal Alam and Mosharrar Hossain.

The election to the municipality was due on January 12, but it was deferred following a writ petition filed with High Court on December 6 last year over delimitation issue.

The local administration has deployed a large number law enforcers, including Rab and police to hold a peaceful election. Besides, BGB personnel will remain in the municipality as striking force during the election.

Our Patuakhali correspondent adds: Bhola district administration has taken all necessary measures to hold polls to Char Fashion municipality today.

As many as fifty-one candidates are contesting the election. Of them, four for mayoral post, 34 for nine councillor posts and 13 women candidates for three reserved seats.

Mayoral candidates are Awami League backed Abdus Salam Howlader, BNP backed ANM Amirul Islam, Jamaat backed Md Harun-or-Rashid and Nagorik committee's candidate DM Mohammad Faruq.

Returning officer said all security measures have been taken to conduct a free and fare election.

## Robbers held with arms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) early Monday arrested a robber along with arms from the hill area near MC College in the town.

Seriously injured in gunfight with the elite force, Abdur Rahim Titon, 25, son of Abdur Karim of Gotatikor area of Dakkhin Surma upazila, was admitted to MAG Osmani Medical College and Hospital.

Acting on a tip-off, the Rab team raided the area when a gang numbering 10/12 were preparing for committing a robbery at around 2:30 am.

A pipe gun, a billhook and a sharp knife were recovered from the spot.

In Gazipur, police arrested six robbers at Bagher Bazar in Sadar upazila early Monday, reports UNB.

The arrestees were identified as Alim, 28, Hasan, 20, Mokter Hossain, 20, Al Amin, 20, Mokther Hossain, 25 and Arif, 20, of Sadar upazila.

Police also seized a microbus, two knives and another lethal weapon from their possession.

In Natore, police arrested a robber and seized seven looted mobile phones and sharp weapons from him early yesterday, reports our correspondent.

Police said, a gang of robbers looted a Rajshahi bound bus from Dhaka near Dakmara Gorostan area under Natore sadar upazila at about 2:30 am. Being informed, police rushed to the spot and arrested Raihan Ali, 27, from the spot.

# Two housewives killed for dowry

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Two housewives were murdered allegedly for dowry on Tuesday in Narail and Sirajganj.

In Narail, housewife china Begum, 18, was murdered Tuesday midnight allegedly for dowry at Ramkantapur village under Lohagara upazila.

Villagers and police said Tariqul Islam married the girl from a poor family a few months ago.

Daughter of Phul Mia of Kalishankarpur village under Mohammadpur upazila in Magura district, he used to physically torture China to bring Tk. 50,000 dowry from her parents, locals said.

When she returned to husband's home with her younger sister Jotsna on Sunday with only Tk. 10,000 Tariqul sent back Jotsna to her parent's house at Kalisankarpur village on the same day.

At midnight on the next day Tariqul strangled China, family sources said.

Lohagara police recovered the body but none was arrested as the accused went into hiding.

In Sirajganj, a nine-month pregnant housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband for dowry in Dargahpara area of Shahjadpur pourashava Tuesday night.

The deceased was identified as Salma Khatun, 19, wife of Rashidul Islam, reports UNB.

Police said Rashidul, son of Motin, married Salma, daughter of Abdus Salam of the same area one and half years ago.

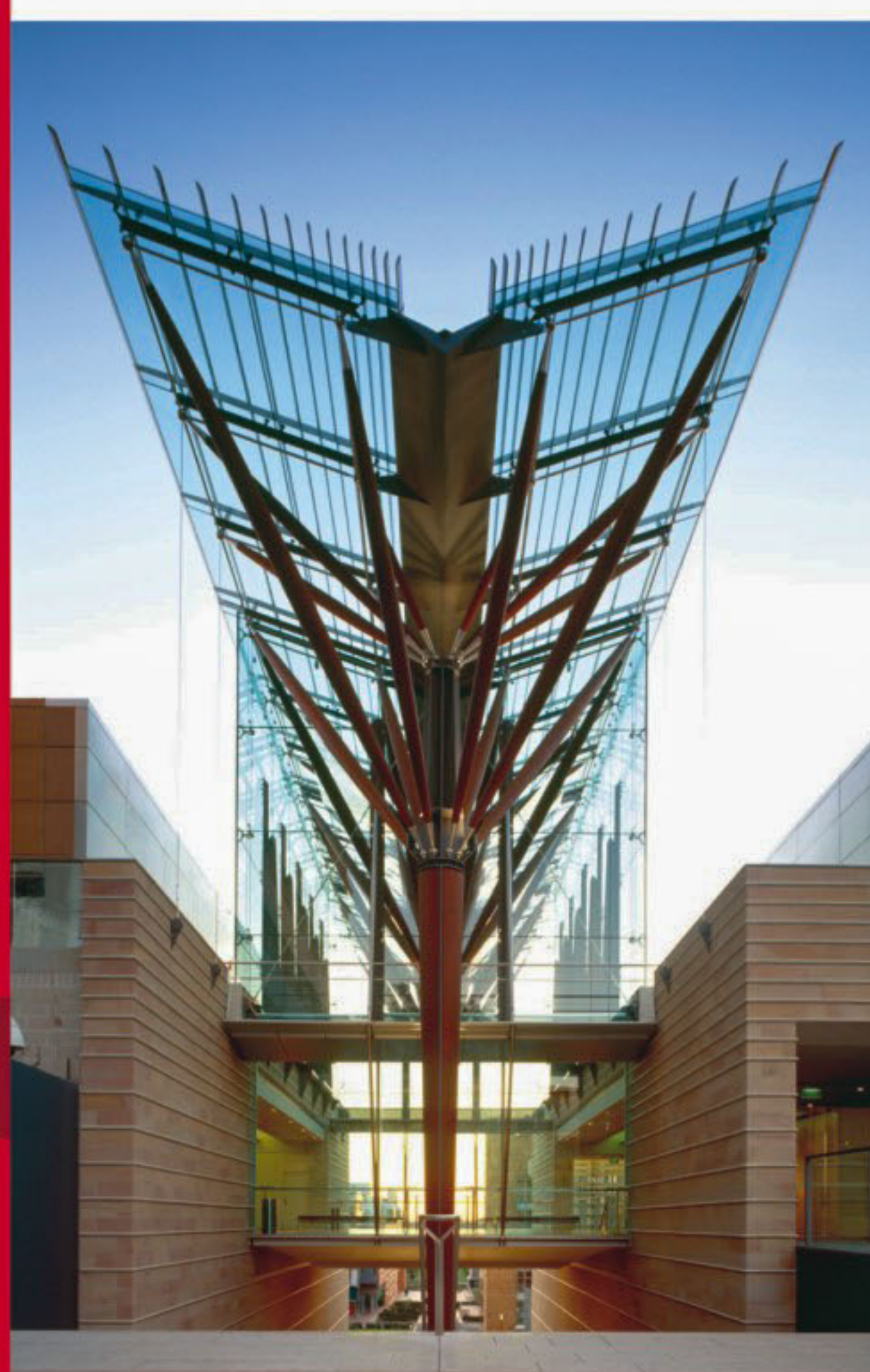
Neighbors said, soon after the marriage Rashidul started torturing his wife for dowry.

On the fateful night, he picked up a quarrel with her over the issue and at one stage beat Salma to death. Later, he left the body on the bank of their pond.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police also arrested Rashidul. A case was filed in this connection.

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২৭, ২৮ ও ২৯ জানুয়ারি '১১

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