

# Stringent law needed to stop poaching

*Under the existing one, Jamal Fakir can be jailed only up to 6 years*



QUAZI AMANULLAH, *Khulna*

Tigers in the Sundarbans are decreasing fast as poachers with the connivance of a section of corrupt officials of forest department and pirates have continued killing the splendid creatures in the world's largest mangrove forest.

Besides, destruction of forest resources due to a series of natural calamities threatens survival of the animal.

The Wildlife (Conservation) Act-2010 provides maximum 12 years of imprisonment in addition to fine for killing tigers but it is yet to be gazetted for implementation, said DFO (East) Mihir Kumar Dey of Sundarbans Forest Division.

Meanwhile, poacher Jamal Fakir in a statement to court on February 17 confessed to his involvement in killing Royal

Bengal Tigers by poisoning.

He was arrested under Section 26(1) of the Forest Act that keeps provision for maximum six years of imprisonment and a fine of Tk 50 thousand only, Mihir Kumar said yesterday.

Surveillance over the forest areas under East Wing has intensified following recovery of four skulls, three skins and 31 kilograms of bones of tigers from Jamal Fakir at Banglabazar under Sharankhola upazila of Bagerhat district on February 16, he said.

Stringent law and its implementation is needed to stop poaching, he observed.

According to a highly placed source of Sundarbans Forest Division, 15 tiger skins were recovered from November 20 of 2001 to February 16 this year from different places under the East Wing of Sundarbans

Forest Division.

Six of the tigers were killed by poachers, four by angry mob, four died of old age complications while another was killed by cyclonic storm Sidr.

Tigers are also facing problem due to shortage of sweet water and serious food crisis after cyclonic storms Sidr and Aila ravaged the world's largest mangrove forest in 2007 and 2009.

"There are 440 tigers including 221 adult ones in the Sundarbans. The Royal Bengal Tigers are decreasing gradually while authorities concerned have no project to protect it," said DFO Mihir Kumar.

According to another source of Sundarbans Forest Division, angry mob killed eight Royal Bengal Tigers in the West Wing during last five years.

## HARTAL PASSES OFF IN RANGAMATI

# Locals, settlers both keep indoors fearing reprisals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rangamati*

Yesterday's half-day hartal in Rangamati district, enforced by three indigenous organisations in protest against Thursday's arson attacks by Bangalee settlers in Longudu upazila under Rangamati district and injuring their activists allegedly by members of village defence party and law enforcers on Friday, passed off peacefully.

Tension is still running high in the villages of both indigenous and Bangalee settlers following Thursday's arson in four indigenous villages in Gulsakhali and Bogachattar unions under Longudu upazila of the district.

Most of the shops, schools, and business establishments remained closed while no motorised vehicle, except a few auto-rickshaws, plied the streets during the hartal called by United People's Democratic Front, Hill Women's Federation and Pahari Chhatra Parishad.

Ten people were injured in an attack on Friday when the three organisations were holding a rally at

### Follow-up

Kutukchhari Bazar in Sadar upazila protesting Thursday's incident.

Kotwali police on Friday night arrested seven indigenous people from Kutukchhari Bazar when they brought out a procession without permission, Sabbir, assistant sub-inspector of Kotwali police station said.

Earlier on Tuesday morning, Bangalee settler Saber Ali went to the jungle near Gulsakhali to collect firewood but he did not return on that day. Saber's dead body was found in the jungle on Wednesday.

Blaming the indigenous people for the killing, the settlers brought out a procession at Longudu upazila headquarters on Thursday evening and they subsequently conducted arson attacks on the four indigenous villages.

Indigenous people alleged that the Bangalee settlers set ablaze at least 32 of their houses in Shantinagar, Ranjit Karbaripara, Rangipara and Purbo Rangipara villages and looted cash and valu-

ables from there on Thursday evening.

Ethnic people who lost their houses in the arson attacks are now passing their days under the open sky. Fearing possible further attack by settlers they cannot go to the market at Longudu upazila headquarters.

The settlers also cannot go anywhere in the forests for their own purposes for the same reason.

The settlers claimed that ethnic people set fire to some of their houses on the same day while an indigenous karbari (village headman) of Shantinagar village said the settlers themselves burnt down some of their houses to put the blame on the indigenous people.

Longudu upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) Fazle Rabbi along with local leaders and public representatives visited the spot and requested all to maintain peace in the area.

Aid will be given to all the affected people after preparing a list, he said.

Authorities formed a seven-member probe body headed by the UNO and asked them to submit report by February 22.

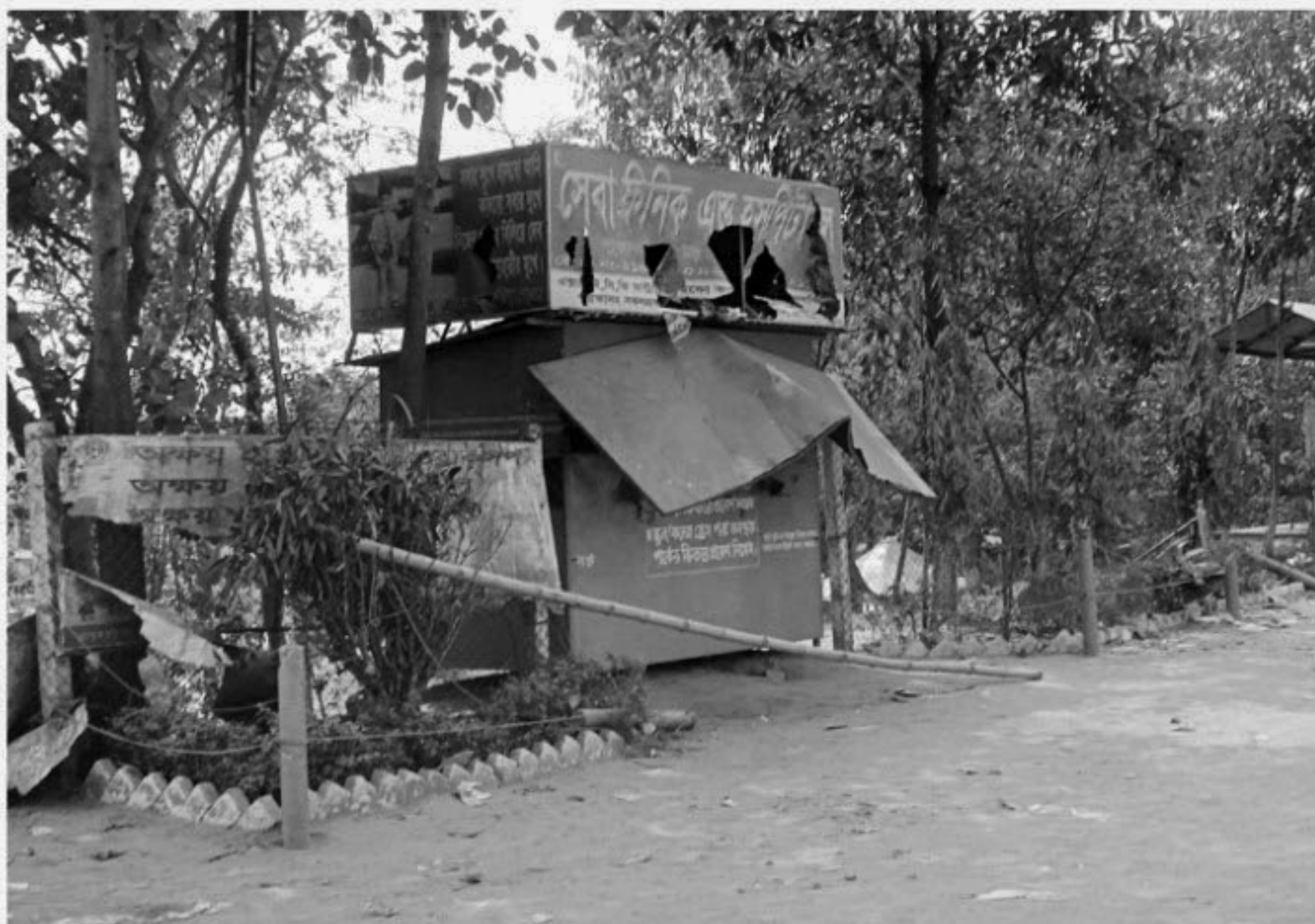


PHOTO: STAR

**Infuriated over not allowing entrance without tickets, a group of unruly people from adjacent villages vandalised the main gate, ticket counter, fence and several sculptures of Soul Park at Gharinda near Tangail town yesterday.**

# Raffle draw ticket seller murdered in Dinajpur

*Park vandalised in Tangail*

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A ticket seller of an illegal raffle draw was murdered at Cheradangi Mela (fair) under Dinajpur Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The dead is Minnat Ali, 35, son of Foyez Uddin of South Sadipur village in the upazila.

Away in Tangail, a group of people vandalised an entertainment park in Gharinda area near the town yesterday as they were not allowed to enter the park without ticket on Friday evening.

According to our Dinajpur correspondent, police went to Cheradangi Mela, about 5 km from Sadar police station yesterday morning, recovered the body of ticket seller Minnat and sent it Dinajpur Medical College and Hospital for autopsy.

They (police) said ticket seller Minnat might have been killed by the organisers of the raffle draw following an altercation over the proceeds.

They also picked up eight people from mela area for interrogation.

Police said Minnat had been staying in a makeshift room behind the stage of the raffle draw since the opening of the fair on February 5. His body with throat slit was found near the room, they added.

Raffle draw organisers Robiul Islam Robu and Rezaul Islam Ronju have gone into hiding soon after the incident. Mostafa Kamal and Ashikul Islam Babu, president and general secretary of Cheradangi Mela Committee, said they knew nothing about the raffle draw at the fair which ended yesterday.

Cheradangi Mela is held on a land owned by Cheradangi High School every year. The school authorities allow the organisers to

hold the fair in exchange for money. The academic activities of the school remain suspended until end of the fair.

District Education Office (DEO) Md Enayed Hossain told this correspondent that the school authorities had suspended academic activities without taking prior permission from him.

Locals alleged that power connection of the mela was illegal and the several clashes took place at the venue over arranging obscene dances.

Contacted, Deputy Commissioner Md Jamal Uddin Ahmed said no permission for raffle at Cheradangi Mela was given to its organisers.

Our Tangail correspondent reported that a group of people vandalised an entertainment park in Gharinda area near Tangail town yesterday.

Shamim-al-Mamun, manager of Soul Park, lodged a complaint with Tangail Model Police Station, saying that around 150 people of adjacent villages stormed into park at around 11:00am, damaged its main gate, ticket counter, several sculptures and uprooted fences around the park.

The villagers launched the attack as some of them were not allowed to enjoy a concert inside the park without ticket on Friday evening, the manager alleged.

Locals, however, claimed that some influential people of Tangail town had established the park on a railway land adjacent to Gharinda Railway Station a few years ago and made it a den of anti-social activities.

Sub-inspector (SI) Mohammad Nasir Uddin of Tangail Model Police Station said legal steps will be taken against the persons involved after proper investigation.

# Verdict in case against 11 mutineers today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *C'nawaganj*

The special court-12 will deliver judgement in the mutiny case against 11 jawans of 46 Patnitola Battalion of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) in Naogaon today.

The accused are Subedar Mohammad Jalal, Nayek Subedar Harunur Rashid, Lance Nayek Fakir Ishaque, sepoy Shakin Shah, Kamal Hossain, Mohammad Zakaria, Hridoy Hossain, Harun or Rashid, Alamgir Hossain, kamrul Islam and Nazrul Islam.

The court headed by Rajshahi Sector Commander Col Ehia Azam Khan will pronounce the verdict.

Six of the accused had earlier confessed to their involvement in the mutiny at Patnitola Battalion in Naogaon on February 26, 2009 and they begged for mercy while the rest claimed innocence.

The then officer-in charge (OC) of Naogaon Model Police Station Aminul Islam filed a case with the Chief Judicial Magistrate' Court against the mutineers of the battalion on May 17, 2009.

The mutineers were later arrested and produced

before the court that sent them to jail hayat, said BGB official.

In the case statement, the complainant alleged that the accused revolted against their officer and took control of the battalion headquarter February 26, 2009. They looted arms from the battalion armory and fired blank shots, he added.

On January 26, the court completed recording depositions of 16 prosecution witnesses in the mutiny case. Arguments between the prosecution witnesses and 11 mutineers were also held on the day.



PHOTO: STAR

**Around a hundred motorbikes, seized from criminals during their arrest by police at different times, are getting damaged in sun and rain on the premises of Bogra Sadar police station as no initiative has been taken to sell them in auction.**

## SNIPPETS

### 2 held with 70 bullets

UNB, Chuadanga

A joint team of Rab and police arrested a woman and her son along with 70 bullets at College Para in Alamdanga upazila yesterday morning. The arrestees were identified as Mukuli Begum, 45, wife of police constable Abdur Rahman and their son Imram, 18. Acting on a secret information, members of Rapid Action Battalion and police conducted a drive at Abdur Rahman's house in the upazila Sadar and held the duo at 11:30am. During a search, the law enforcers recovered 70 bullets from the drawer of their wardrobe.

### Youth murdered in Gazipur

UNB, Gazipur

A young man was murdered by unidentified criminals in Earshadnagar area in Sadar upazila Friday night. The deceased was identified as Ashiqur Rahman, 30, of the area. Police and locals said an unidentified gang equipped with sharp weapons chopped Ashiq indiscriminately at one Arju's rickshaw garage in the area at about 7:00pm, leaving him critically injured. Hearing hue and cry, locals rescued him and took him to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital where the attending doctor declared him dead. Police arrested one Parvez in this connection.

### 3 held on criminal charges

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

Police arrested an acting Union Parishad (UP) chairman, a local ruling party leader and a JSD leader on charge of crimes from Jhodia village yesterday. A Kushtia court sent them to jail after police produced them before court in the afternoon in three separate cases. The arrestees are acting chairman of Jhodia UP Mizanur Rahman, general secretary of Jhodia union unit Awami League Keramat Ali and Jatya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) leader, also a village head, Moniar Rahman. According to police, they raided their houses in the morning and arrested them. "The arrestees are accused in different cases including that of murder and other crimes," Chokdar Abdul Halim, Assistant Police Super (Asp-circle) told this correspondent.

### Girl drowns in Monu

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Moulvibazar*

A 10-year-old girl drowned in River Monu at Sharifpur under Kulaura upazila on Friday noon. Her body could not be found till filing of this report yesterday afternoon. Locals said two daughters and a son of Abdul Bari of village Lalarchak under Sharifpur union parishad-- Sultana Begum, 14, Resmin Begum, 10, and Belal Miah, 5,-- went to collect fuel wood from the riverbed. After collecting wood, Sultana Begum and Belal Miah came up but their sister Resmin Begum went missing in the river. Relatives and villagers launched a search operation but the girl remained untraced till filing of this report.

### Farmer found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

Criminals have strangled a marginal farmer at Radhanagar village in Sadar upazila of the district. Police recovered the body of the farmer on Friday afternoon. The victim was identified as Shomsher Ali, 45 of the village. According to police, Shomsher, also a part-time fisherman, went for fishing in Kali River with one Masud of the village on Thursday night. But he did not return home in the morning. Family members on Friday morning asked Masud about Shomsher but he could not give any satisfactory reply. In the afternoon, locals found Shomsher's body on a char of Kali River. Police arrested Masud for interrogation.



PHOTO: STAR

**Students of Mathurapur Government Primary School in Sujanagar upazila of Pabna district attend classes amid risk as the corrugated iron made roof, blown off by a storm in May last year, is yet to be repaired.**

### Brickfield worker killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Narsingdi*

A brickfield worker died and five others were injured as a chunk of mud fell on them yesterday morning in Khata Hara area near the town. The deceased was identified as Shadat Hossain alias Lal Mia, 30, while the injured are Alek Chan, Nur Mia, Ismail Mia, Khalil Mia and Rahim Uddin. Witnesses said the six workers were seriously injured as a chunk of mud fell on them while at work at RKS Brickfield at about 10:00am. The injured were admitted to Narsingdi General Hospital where Shadat died later.

### Expatriate's house looted

UNB, Sylhet

Robbers looted gold jewellery and cash worth Tk 20 lakh from an expatriate's house at Tilagarh in the city early Thursday. Sources said a gang of armed robbers swooped on the house of UK expatriate Masud Ahmed Chowdhury at dead of night and looted Tk 1.25 lakh, 30 tolas of gold jewellery, two mobile phone sets and a DVD taking the members of the house hostage at gunpoint. The gang managed to escape with the booty.

# Jamaat leader's son held on charge of arms peddling

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Police arrested a son of a Jamaat central leader and former lawmaker with a pistol on Friday night from near Mannujan High School under Sonadanga police station of Khulna city.

Arrestee Shah Mohammad Shoaib Abdullah, 25, is a student of BBA final year at Northern University.

Police recovered a brand new 7.65 mm pistol, four

sets of cell phones and 22 SIM cards of different companies from his possession.

According to Inspector Mamun Khan of Detective Branch (DB) of KMP, Shah Mohammad Shoaib Abdullah is youngest son of Jamaat central leader and former lawmaker of Khulna-6 (Koirapalgachha) constituency principal Shah Mohammad Ruhul Quddus.

S.I. Shijut Mandol of Sonadanga police station later filed a case under Arms Act against Shoaib.

S.I. Alamgir Hossain, who has been made Investigation Officer (IO) of the case, told this correspondent that Shoaib Abdullah is involved in arms peddling. There are four or five other people who are also involved in the illegal trade along with him, Alamgir added.

The arms recovered from him was brought from Jhikargachha upazila of Jessore district for sale.

Shoaib has been taken on a two-day remand, the SI said.