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# Foresters fight uneven battle with loggers

EMRAN HOSSAIN, back from southwestern districts

The gang of illegal loggers could not but laugh when three forest officials equipped with sticks challenged them on a canal under Patkostha forest camp deep in the Sundarbans.

"Hush! Don't even utter a word," commanded the leader of the 13-member heavily armed gang. Tying up the foresters at gunpoint, they felled trees until their three boats were full of logs.

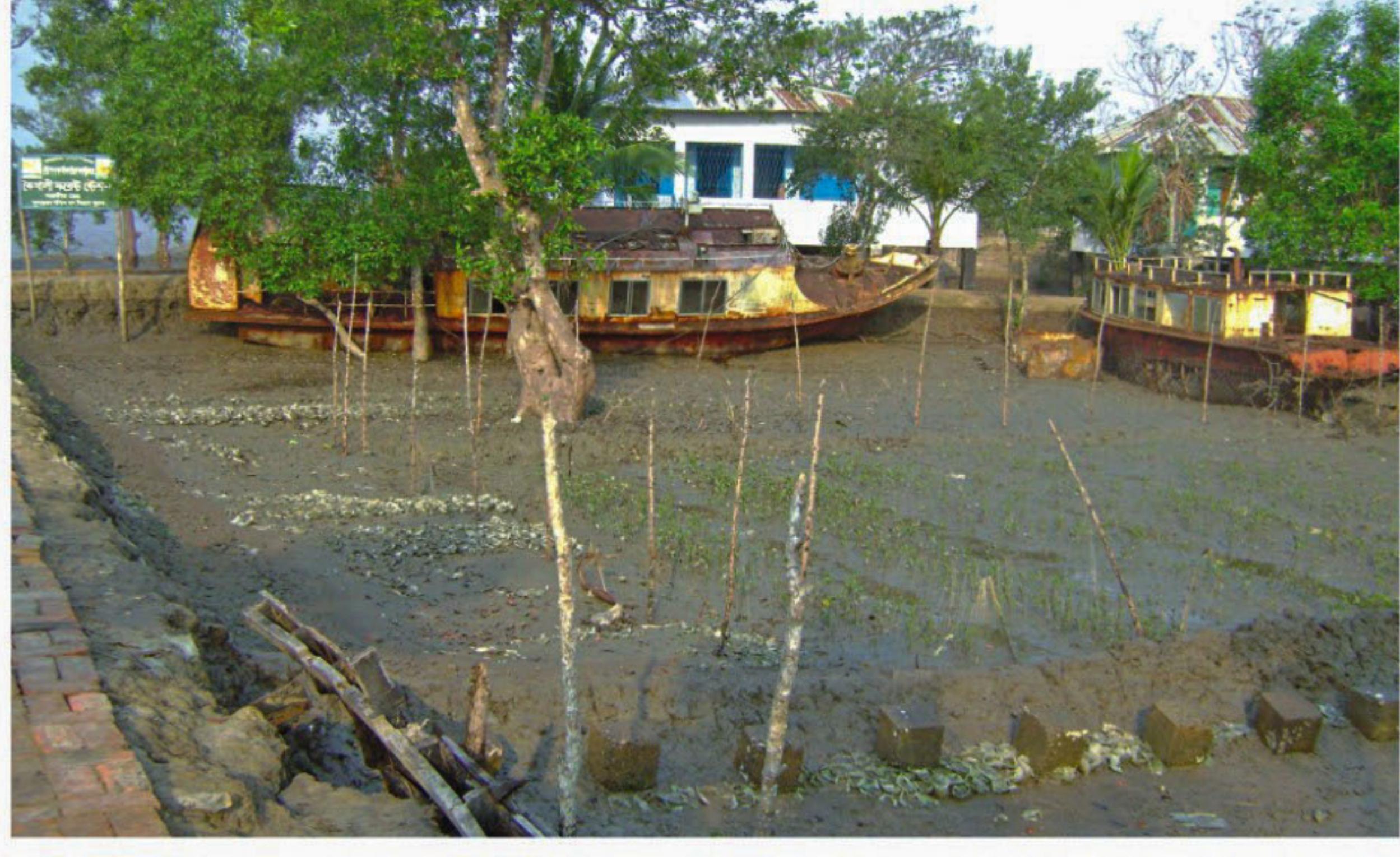
Before leaving, the gang locked the

forest officials in the hull of the latter's boat and released the boat on the canal. They floated for five hours until they were rescued by fishermen.

One of the three foresters, currently stationed at a forest camp in Satkhira, sounded pathetic as he shared his experience. "The Department of Forest (DoF) lacks the minimum policy to ensure security of the forest and its protectors," he observed.

He said arms were withdrawn from the

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Two forest department boats damaged by cyclone Sidr has been left outside the Kaikhali Forest Station in Satkhira since 2009. They are now irreparable. Officials of the station now rent boats with money from their own pockets to perform their duties.

PHOTO: EMRAN HOSSAIN

# Hope against hope for Rumana's eyes

*Doctors in India to give report today; assaulter Sumon confesses 'bid to kill her'*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



that at home," said Rumana's cousin preferring not to be named.

He said The University of British Columbia, where Rumana was studying on commonwealth scholarship, has expressed will to contribute to her better treatment, said Rumana's cousin, adding that they took Rumana to Arvind Eye Centre in Pondicherry for a second opinion of Indian doctors on her eyes.

Rumana was taken to Sankara Netralaya in Chennai for better treatment on June 14.

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The doctors are expected to give the official report today and until then the family cannot confirm whether Rumana has permanently lost her vision.

"We are preparing to take her home as the doctors have already said that we can try further if we want. We will decide about

Police recovered two decapitated bodies from a paddy field near Dhapa River in Kaharol upazila of Dinajpur district yesterday morning.

Of the dead, one was identified as Md Kajal 32, son of AKM Fazlul Haque of Gobindaganj upazila in Gaibandha district.

Md Arman Ali, officer-in-charge of

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1 dies in Rangpur poll clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A man was killed and five were injured in a clash over union parishad elections in Pirogachha upazila of Rangpur yesterday evening.

Abdul Kuddus, 35, succumbed to his injuries at Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) at 9:15pm.

Aslam Iqbal,

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OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Do you think BNP chief's condition for talks with the government on caretaker government issue is justified?

Yes (68.6%)

No (29.0%)

No Comments (2.4%)

TOTAL VOTES: 331

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP chief Khaleda Zia that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made wrong and confusing interpretations of the Supreme Court verdict on the caretaker government issue?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

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