

# Fishermen besiege navy patrol team

## Hilsa fishing on defying ban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A navy patrol team fired 10 blank shots yesterday noon as over 500 fishermen in 20 trawlers besieged their trawler on the Tentulia River.

SA Hasan, leader of the 6-member navy team said, they were patrolling the Tentulia River in Baufal upazila yesterday noon.

When they reached near Char Wadel, over 500 fishermen in 20 trawlers besieged their trawler on the river. The fishermen started to throw brickbats on the navy trawler. At this, the navy team fired 10 rounds of blank shots to disperse the fishermen.

We were compelled to open fire, Hasan told this correspondent over cell phone.

Earlier on Monday, the navy team seized nets worth Tk35 lakh from different fishing trawlers on the river when they were fishing hilsa defying the 11-day ban, the navy officer said.

Our operation angered the fishermen, he added. On hearing the incident, a police team from Baufal police station rushed to the spot.

Lutfur Rahman, a sub inspector of the police station said that the situation is now quite under control. All the fishermen who allegedly besieged the

trawler fled the scene immediately after the incident.

Meanwhile, illegal fishing of hilsa in different rivers continued yesterday, the sixth day of the 11-day ban.

Law enforcers yesterday raided a wholesale market at Kerry Bazar in Bagerhat and seized 15 maunds hilsa from the hidden place of a shed. A mobile team later fined its owner Md Al-Amin Tk4,000, reports our correspondent.

On Monday night, police arrested three people with over 60 maunds of hilsa in a covered van from near the Daratana Bridge in Bagerhat town. A mobile court later fined the three Tk9000.

In Chandpur, coastguard members seized 80,000 metres of current net and over 80 kg hilsa early yesterday from the Meghna River, reports our correspondent.

Also in Munshiganj, they seized around 4,000 pieces of mother hilsa weighing 4 MT and worth Tk21 lakh yesterday.

A trawler from Kaliganj in Barisal were taking the fish to the capital city. However, none could be arrested as the boatman jumped into the Dhaleswari River sensing the presence of the law enforcers, coastguard sources told our correspondent.



PHOTO: STAR  
Fishermen continue to catch hilsa in Tetulia River in Patuakhali defying a ban; above, coastguards seize a trawler with four tonnes of mother hilsa on the Dhaleswari River while the boat was transporting the fish to the capital from Kaliganj area of Barisal yesterday.



# ANOTHER FERRY RUNS AGROUND

## Traffic gets longer as ferries can't take full load

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Ro-Ro ferry Birshreshtha Hamidur Rahman that ran aground in Padma shoal with 10 vehicles on the Paturia-Daulatdia route yesterday was salvaged after eight hours.

Assistant manager of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) at Daulatdia office Abdul Mannan said the ferry that started for Paturia Ghat (terminal) from Daulatdia Ghat at around 3:00 am with eight buses and two trucks ran aground near Daulatdia Ghat No 3 after 10 minutes of its journey.

The authorities rescued the stranded ferry at around 11:30 am, he said.

Earlier, Ro Ro ferry Khanjahan Ali ran aground in shoal with 24 vehicles and remained stranded there for six hours on Saturday.

On Friday, two ferries-Shah Ali and Shah Poran ran aground one after another in shoals with over 40 vehicles near Daulatdia Ghat No 3 on the Paturia-Daulatdia channel and rescued after six hours, the BIWTC official said.

Huge traffic jam was created at the Paturia and

Daulatdia terminals as the ferries plying on the Paturia-Daulatdia route were forced to reduce their capacity by more than half due to the low navigability of the Padma River.

Manager (Commerce) of BIWTC at Paturia office Ashraf Ullah Khan said the ferries have been moving without full load for the last five days due to the low navigability.

Around 400 trucks and 100 buses got stranded at Paturia Ghat and over 300 trucks remained stuck at Daulatdia terminal, he said.

Communications between Dhaka and 21 south and south-western districts will come to a halt anytime if the navigation work was not expedited, said a BIWTC official.

He also blamed the BIWTA for its slow dredging work.

Several BIWTC officials said the dredging unit is not doing the dredging work properly.

It is dumping the removed sand only around 60 feet away from the channel. The sand will return to the channel within short time, they said.

# Rly recovers land grabbed by bus owners' association

OUR CORRESPONDENT, C'nawabganj

Railway department yesterday demolished illegal structures erected on its 13.8 kathas of land near Chapainawabganj Railway Station and recovered the land grabbed by the district bus owners association.

Divisional Land Officer of Railway West Zone Kiron Chandra Roy and Executive Magistrate Subrato Pal jointly launched the drive in the morning.

Railway sources said the bus owners association leased 750 square feet land

in 1990 to use it as a bus stand and renewed the lease until 1997. Then, the association did not renew the lease and grabbed more 250 square feet railway land, sources added.

Kiron Chandra Roy said the bus owners association grabbed 10,000 square feet land near the railway station and erected illegal structures on it.

The railway authorities lodged a general diary (GD) with Chapainawabganj Sadar Police Station and informed the deputy commissioner of the matter on September 20, he added.

Later, the authorities issued a notice to the district bus owners association, asking it to vacate the land as soon as possible, but the leaders of the association did not comply with the order, the land officer further said.

Contacted, Chapainawabganj District Bus Owners Association President AKM Lutfur Rahman Firoj said, "We prayed for extension of time to vacate the land, but the authorities concerned did not give us time to pack our stuff."

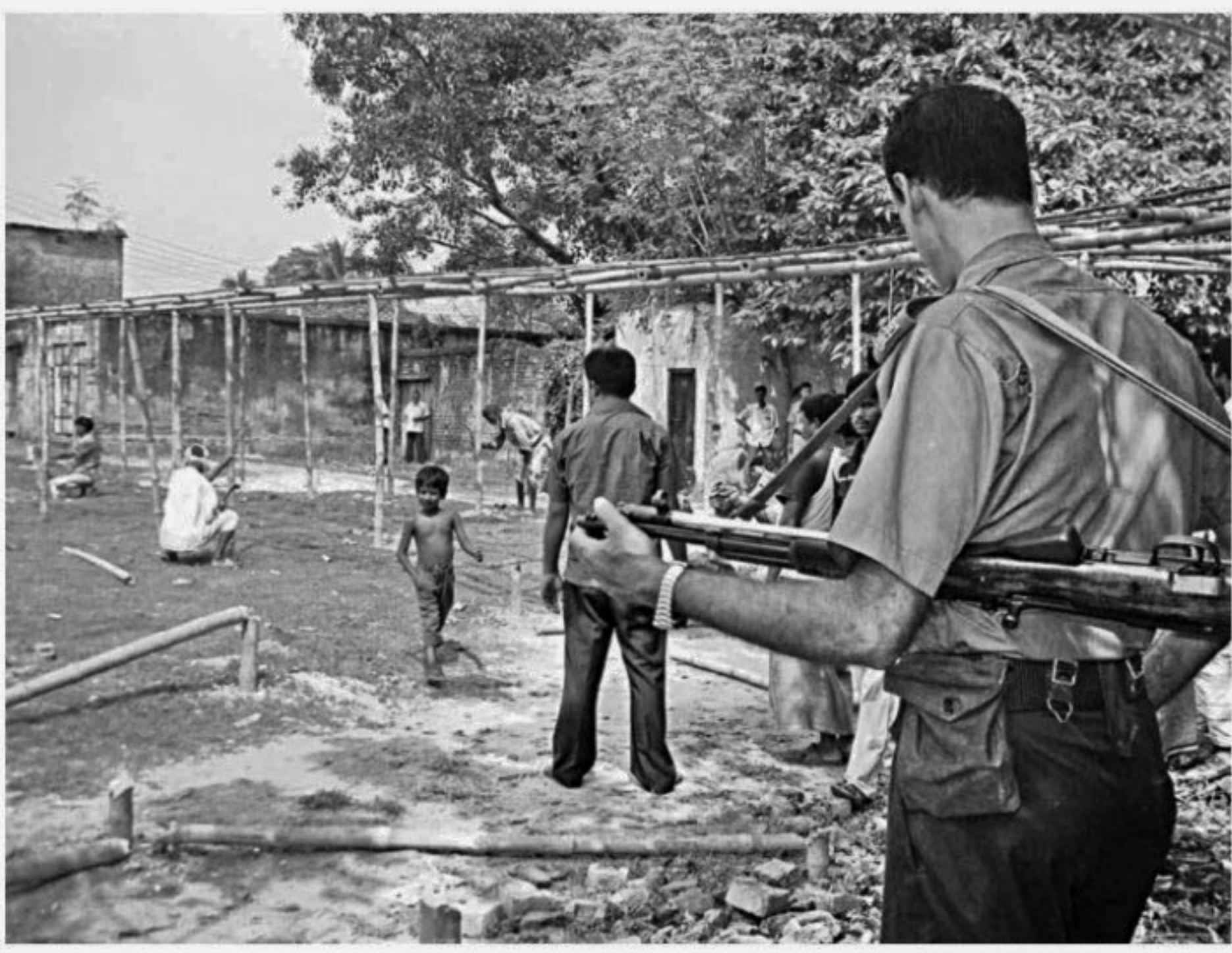


PHOTO: STAR  
The railway authorities with the help of district administration demolish illegal structures erected by the district bus owners association on railway land near Chapainawabganj station yesterday.

# Top Dinajpur criminal killed in clash with rivals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Waliur Rahman alias Alu, 42, a top terror of Dinajpur, was stabbed to death and his four close aides were wounded critically in a clash between two groups of criminals on Monday night.

Son of Ahmedul Haque of Mission Road area in the town, Alu was wanted in 34 criminal cases including seven for murder, according to the police record.

Other wounded persons were identified as Shahin alias 'Kana' Shahin, 35, son of Ahmedul Haque of Mission road, also brother of slain Alu, Md Hasu Khan, 40, son of Mohammad Hasan Patan of Paharpur village, Kemo, 45, son of late Kabir Uddin of Ghasipara and Arman Badsa 35, son of late Rafiqul Islam of Paharpur village of Dinajpur town.

Police quoting witnesses said, the bloody clash took place in Mission Road area at around 10:20pm Monday night.

About 20 to 25 rivals equipped with sharp weapons took position near Mission Road Sporting Club at around 9:30pm. They swooped on the five while returning home on two motorbikes, killing one and injuring four, they said.

The attackers belonged to Raju-Shaju group, locals said.

# ALLEGATION OF VANDALISM

## 15 Khalishpur jute workers acquitted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Fifteen people sued by a jute mill on charge of vandalism in 2007 were acquitted on Monday.

All the acquitted were casual workers of state-owned Platinum Jubilee Jute Mill (PJJM) at Khalishpur in Khulna city.

They were sued on February 13 of 2007 on charge of agitation against the management of the mill and vandalism demanding gate pass and other financial benefits.

Md Jahangir Hossain, who was general secretary of PJJM workers' union at that time, filed a case with Khalishpur police station as complainant.

In the case, he accused the 15 casual workers of resorting to vandalism at the administrative building and at residences of some mill officials.

The accused were arrested by police on the same day and later sent to jail through CMM Court without proper investigation into the allegations, said present CBA leader Zakir Hossain.

Later, on February 19 they were released on bail, he said.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate M A Zahid acquitted all the 15 accused on Monday noon as neither the investigation officer S I Shah Alam nor the prosecution side could prove beyond doubt their involvement in vandalism.

SI Md Shah Alam of Khalishpur PS who investigated the case, said he had submitted the chargesheet on the basis of contents of the FIR.

The acquitted casual workers are Giasuddin, Noor Islam, Junu Mian, Nizamuddin, Miraj Sheikh, Babu Sheikh, Mizan, Nayan, Saddam, Manu, Zakir, Bhulu, Jobadia Begum, Mujibar Rahman and Jasim.

They were sued with false allegations with a view to foiling the agitation launched by casual workers to realise their demands for gate pass and other financial benefits, said Kauser Mridha, president of PJJM Workers Union.

All these casual workers have been financially crippled as trial of the case continued for long four years, Kauser Mridha said.

They are now badly in need of job and financial help, he added.

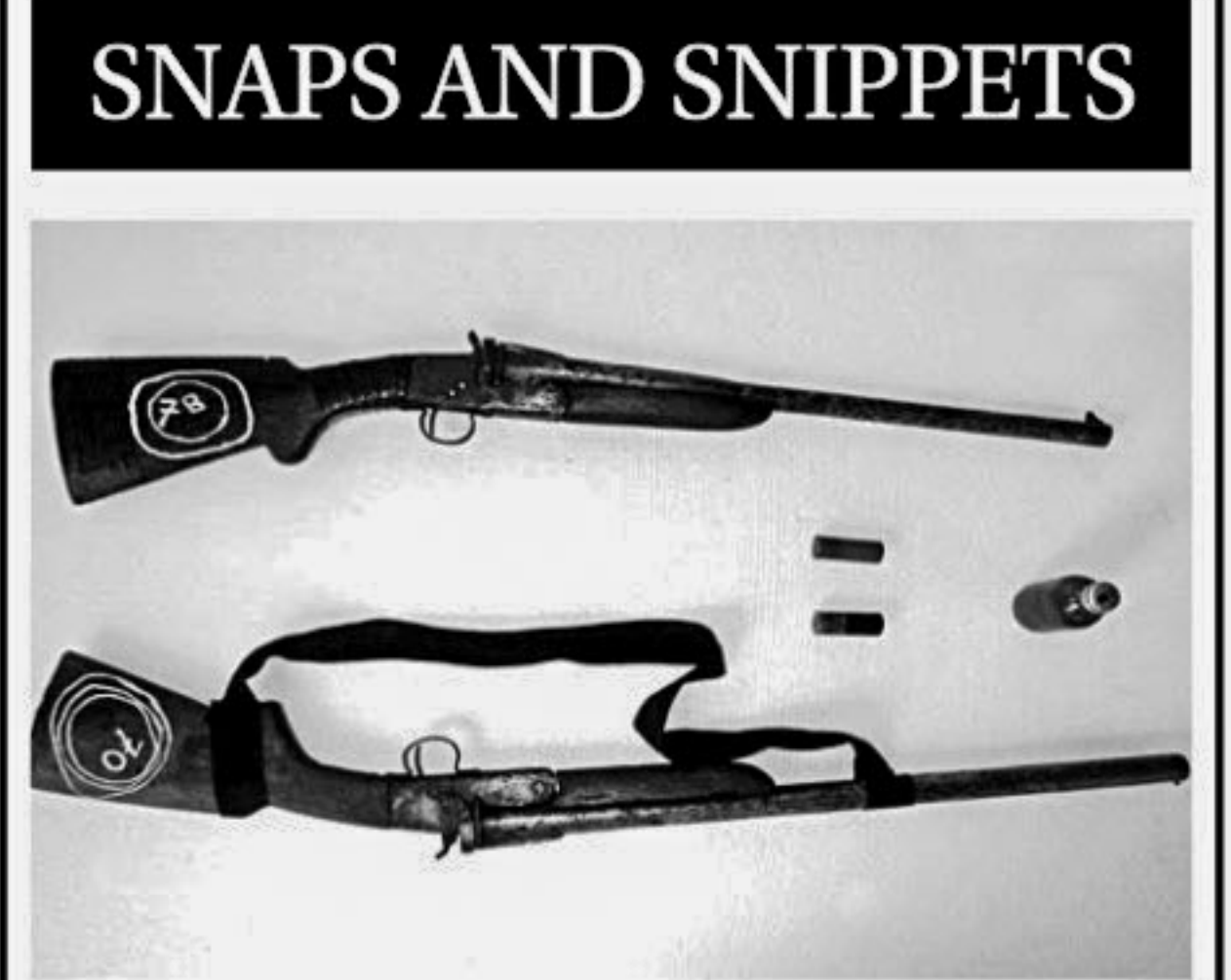


PHOTO: STAR  
Army personnel busted a criminal den in deep forest at Jogendral Lal Karbari Para in Kawkhali of Rangamati early yesterday and recovered two guns and two bullets.

# Two children drown

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Two children drowned in a pond at Gohailbari village of Chartarapur union in Pabna Sadar upazila on Monday evening. The victims were identified as Tuhin Sardar, 4, son of Moni Sardar and Pinkey, 5, daughter of Ashraf Mridha of the village. Family sources said the two were playing near a pond near their house in the afternoon. Family members and the locals started searching for them when they went 'missing' and found the bodies in the pond. Later, locals recovered the bodies at night and buried them.

# Schoolgirl murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A teenage schoolgirl was murdered at Ghatail upazila yesterday. The victim was identified as Kanchan Akter, 16, a class X student of Bhaban Datta Gono Uchcha Bidyaloy and daughter of Year Ali of Shiber Para village in the upazila. Helalul Islam, officer in-charge of Ghatail police station, said body of the schoolgirl, strangled by criminals, was found at a bamboo cluster nearby the house in the morning. Being informed, police later recovered the body and sent it to Tangail General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

# Youth jailed for stalking

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A mobile court on Sunday jailed a youth in Akkelpur upazila for one year for stalking a college girl. Convict Zahurul Islam, 26, is son of Abdur Rahman of Matapur village. Family members and Akkelpur police said that the girl of the same upazila was a first year HSC student of Jamalganj Degree College. When the girl was returning home with her fellow students in the afternoon, Zahurul suddenly appeared in front of her and started to sexually harass her publicly. Hearing her screams, locals rescued her and caught the stalker.

# 1 killed in Narsingdi clash

UNB, Narsingdi

A man was killed and two others of his family were injured in an attack by rivals at Hariapur village at Raipura upazila yesterday noon. The deceased was identified as Tota Mia, 58, while the injured were Bashir Mia, 30, son of Tota Mia and Dhola Mia, 50, brother of Tota Mia. Locals said, Tota Mia had a long-running dispute with neighbour Shah Alam. Shah Alam and his allies allegedly attacked the house of Tota Mia at about 12:30pm. The attackers used local weapons. Tota Mia died on the spot when he was hit in his chest and stomach by 'Teta' spear. His bother and son were also injured in the attack.

# Fish poisoned to death by criminals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Unknown criminals killed fish by pouring poison in a water body in Kishoreganj Sadar upazila on Sunday night.

Seven youths--Babul Mia, Harun-or-Rashid, Md Idu Mia, Md Abul Kalam, Abu Hanif, Md Farid Mia and Md Mosharraf Hossain--of Mathia village in the upazila leased a water body covering 65 acres beside

Kishoreganj-Nikli road six months ago.

The farm owners said they had cultivated different species of fish in the water body by investing about Tk 40 lakh and were thinking of selling those after a few weeks.

Md Abul Kalam, one of the farm owners, said criminals might have killed the fish by pouring pesticide in the water body as empty pesticide packets were found there.

"We farmed fish in the water body, borrowing money from others. We don't know how to recoup our investment and pay back the money with interest," he said.

Locals found the fish floating dead in the water body on Monday morning and informed the owners who rushed to the spot and collected a huge quantity of dead fish.

Babul Mia, another farm owner, said they have sent

the dead fish to Bhairab and different areas of the district for selling.

Mir Musharrif Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Sadar Police Station, visited the spot yesterday morning. He said they are trying to nab the culprits involved in such heinous crime.

No case in connection with the incident was filed with Sadar Police Station as of filing of this report at 6:00pm yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR  
Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) yesterday launched a drive against smuggling, especially of drugs, in Chapainawabganj for the first time with a dog squad.