

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN MASTER MURDER IN RAJSHAHI

# Seven JMB men get life, another jailed for a year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A speedy trial tribunal here yesterday sentenced seven activists of banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) to life term imprisonment for killing Awami League leader Shahadat Hossain Master in 2009.

Tribunal judge Ekramul Haque Chowdhury also fined Tk 30,000 each, in default, to suffer one year more in jail, said public prosecutor (PP) Entajul Haque Babu.

The convicts are -- Shamsul Islam, his brother Ansar Ali, Ashraful Islam, Amzad Hossain, his son Mamunur Rashid, cousin Abdur Razzak and

Ansar's son Tuton.

The PP said Mahbubur Rahman, Shamsul's nephew and JMB cadre, was also convicted in the case and sentenced to one year imprisonment.

The tribunal, however, acquitted three JMB men - Shamsul's son Bidyut and Masud and Shahriar Ali, he said.

All the 11 accused in the case were present in the dock during the judgement. Of the accused, Bidyut, Tuton, Ashraful and Razzak were in jail custody while others on bail.

According to the prosecution story, Shahadat Hossain Master, a local Awami League leader was killed near his house on 15 May in 2009.



Shahadat Hossain Master

A group of JMB cadres led by Shamsul, a close aide to JMB's executed leader Siddikul Islam *alias* Bangla Bhai, abducted Shahadat at gun point at noon and hacked him to death around 250 yards away from his house.

Shahadat's son Emdadul

Haque filed a case with Bagmara police station against 15 people. Sub inspector Babul Akhtar of the PS pressed charges against the 11 on October 6 in 2009.

The case was transferred to the speedy tribunal in early 2010 and the tribunal recorded deposition of 16, out of 26 prosecution witnesses. The trial was withheld for months between November 2010 and February 2011 following a High Court order.

Plaintiff Emdadul Haque, however, was not happy with the judgement. He said he thought that the accused would get capital punishment as they murdered his father in broad daylight.

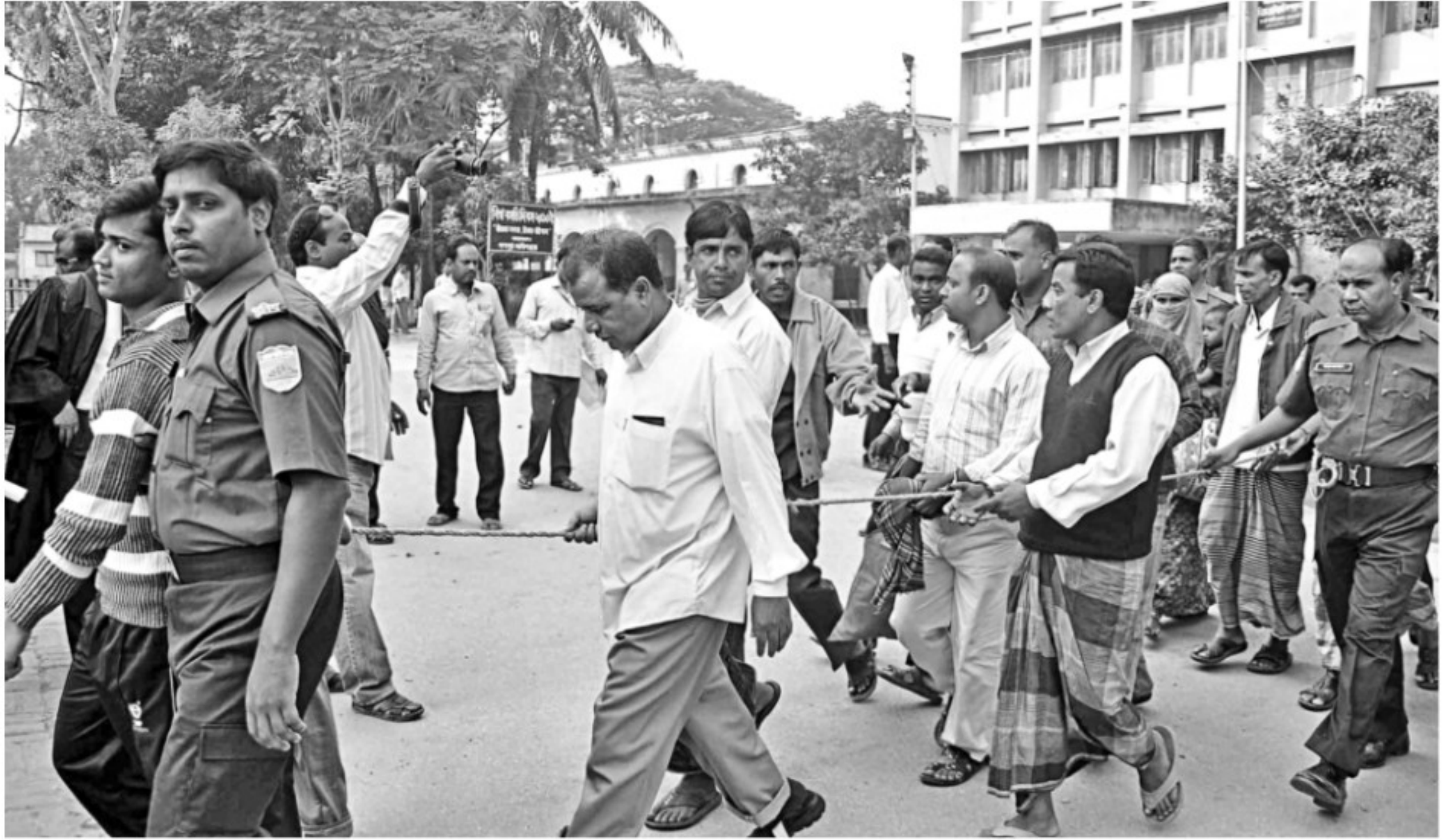


PHOTO: STAR

The activists of banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), convicted of murder of local Awami League leader Shahadat Hossain Master at Baliadanga village in Bagmara upazila in 2009, being taken to Rajshahi Jail yesterday.

## Families of UPDF men killed since '97 agitate

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Hundreds of family members of the deceased leaders and activists of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF), who were killed allegedly by Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) cadres in the last 14 years, yesterday formed a human chain demanding trial of the killers.

Sources said, at least 228 UPDF men were killed in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) after signing of the peace treaty in 1997.

The protesters also urged PCJSS chief Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma *alias* Santu Larma to stop, what they said, fratricide in CHT and join hands with UPDF to ensure rights of the hill people.

Holding placards with the slogans like 'try my husband's killers', 'I want justice for my son's killing', 'stop fratricide in CHT', 'we want peace' they gathered at Shanirbar under Sadar upazila of the district to participate in the human chain organised by UPDF, Khagrachhari district unit.

Minti Chakma, widow of Animesh Chakma, a central committee member of UPDF killed in Jurachhari of Rangamati on May 21, 2011, read out a written statement at

the programme.

The PCJSS cadres killed 228 men in the last 14 years for joining UPDF but as a citizen of a democratic country, any person can be a member of any political party, she said.

Besides, no one of the victims is getting justice due to the mysterious role of police and local administration, Minti alleged.

The families of the victims are passing days amid worries as they are still threatened by PCJSS when they try to seek police support, she said.

The participants placed a four-point demand. They are immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the killers of 228 UPDF men, stopping fratricide in CHT, rehabilitation of the 228 victims' families and full autonomy of CHT as proposed by the UPDF.

Contacted, assistant information secretary of PCJSS Sajib Chakma refuted the charges of killing the UPDF men.

PCJSS believes in democracy. It works for establishing peace in the CHT and ensuring the rights of the hill people while the UPDF only creates barriers to achieving those, he said.

## BSF kills Bangladeshi on Benapole border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) beat a Bangladeshi cattle trader dead along Benapole border yesterday.

The deceased is Tarikul Islam, 23, son of Hamzer Ali of Panchvolute village in Sharsha upazila.

Afzal Hossain, commander of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) Putkhali camp, said the BSF troops at Indian Bornobaria camp caught Tarikul, when he, along with other cattle traders, was returning from India around 5:00am.

The Indian border guards beat up Tarikul mercilessly, leaving him dead on the spot.

The other cattle traders, however, managed to cross the border.



PHOTO: STAR

Demolition of illegal structures on Kuakata sea beach, which came to a halt on October 10 following owners' appeal to a court, resumed yesterday as the court rejected their appeal.

## Pirates held in Cox's Bazar, arms seized

CU CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on Tuesday arrested five alleged pirates and seized firearms from them in Rampur union under Chakoria police station in Cox's Bazar.

The arrestees are Md Rubel, 18, Md Abu Hashem, 20, Ruhul Kader, 40, Mahadul Karim, 20, of Chakoria police station and Didar Hossain, 20, of Sadar police station in the district.

Following a tip-off, a team of Rab-7 raided Nagu Mia's Gher (enclosure) in Rampur union under Chakoria PS around 6:00am and caught the alleged pirates from the

spot.

Rab-7 men seized two home-made light guns (LG), two rifles, a single barrel gun, four bullets and five cartridges from their possession, Rab sources said.

In another development, Bangladesh Coastguard (East Zone) members nabbed another alleged pirate, named Ismail, 38, along with a engine-run wooden boat from Silo jetty of Karnaphuli channel on Monday night around 7:30pm, said a press release.

Ismail is an inhabitant of Samipur village under Karnaphuli police station in the port city.

### C'NAWABGANJ BUS OWNERS THREATEN

## All transports to go off streets if demands not met by Dec 5

OUR CORRESPONDENT, C'newabganj

Bus strike called by the bus owners' association and motor and truck labourers' unions in the district continued for the third consecutive day yesterday.

The strike was enforced to press their five-point demand including ban on shallow-engine driven human haulers.

Angry transport workers yesterday morning damaged a mishuk at fire service intersection while obstructing the shallow engine driven human hauler and battery run vehicles on city streets.

Chapainawabganj Zila Sarak Paribahan Malik-Sramik Oikya Parishad, a joint body of district transport owners and district truck and motor workers union, yesterday submitted a memoran-

dum to deputy commissioner at noon to meet their five-point demand.

Their demands include ban on plying of nasimon, karimon, bhutbhuti, trolley and other illegal vehicles on highways, resolving the issue centring arrest of a driver and running regular mobile court against the illegal motor vehicles.

In case of failure to fulfil their demands within the next four days, they threatened to stop all transport services including truck, tank lorry in the district from December 5.

K M Ali Azam, deputy commissioner of Chapainawabganj said, all legal demands would be fulfilled, if possible.

Drivers and owners of buses in the district went on strike after a passenger bus was fined by a mobile court and a driver was arrested on Monday noon.

## SNIPPETS

### PCJSS activist shot dead

UNB, Rangamati

An activist of a reformist group of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS, MN Larma group) was gunned down by rival group men near his house at Rupbari village in Baghaichhari upazila early Tuesday. The deceased is Jyoti Bikash Chakma alias Sumon, 30, of the village. Police said a gang of 7/8 called Jyoti out his house and fired gunshots at him, leaving him dead on the spot at about 1:00am.

### Schoolboy's body recovered

UNB, Sylhet

Police recovered the body of a schoolboy from a pond of Pirpur Community Clinic at Pirpur village in Chhatak upazila on Monday. The deceased was Jubel Ahmad, 10, son of freedom fighter Ramjan Ali of the village. He was a Class III student of Pirpur Government Primary School. Locals said Jubel went missing three days ago. Being informed, police recovered the body from the pond in the morning.

### Youth murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police recovered the body of a young man from a roadside crop field at Chalk Jaynagar village in Durgapur upazila on Tuesday. The deceased, Mohammad Royal, 22, of Tarash in Sirajganj district, was an auto-rickshaw driver. The body was sent to Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital (RMCH) morgue for autopsy. "He might have been strangled as a rope was tied around his neck", said Wahidul Islam, officer in-charge of Durgapur police station. Victim's cousin Rezaur Rahman said that Royal went out of house with his auto-rickshaw on Sunday morning and since then he went missing. On information, the family members rushed to RMCH on Tuesday morning and identified the body, he added.

### Jute godown gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narail

Fire gutted a jute godown in Badhagat area of the district town yesterday afternoon. Locals said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at about 1:00pm and soon engulfed the warehouse. On information, fire fighters rushed to the spot and doused the blaze after an hour-long frantic effort. The affected godown owner Babor Ali Panna claimed that about 200 maunds of jute were gutted by the fire. The extent of loss was estimated by the fire fighters at about Tk 2 lakh.

### Two held with firearms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Police arrested two young men along with two foreign made revolvers in Aloha village under Amtail union in sadar upazila early yesterday. The arrestees are Ziaur Rahman, 22, son of Rajibul Islam, and Nazmul Haque, 28, son of Rafique Miah of the village, said police. On secret information, a police team from Moulvibazar Sadar Model police station raided a house, locally known as 'Sadhoker Bari', of the village and arrested them with the revolvers. A case was filed, said Amullya Kumar Chowdhury, officer in-charge of the police station.

### 2 get life for keeping drugs

UNB, Benapole, Jessore

A Jessore court on Tuesday sentenced two men to life imprisonment for possessing contraband heroin. The court also fined them Tk 10,000 each, in default, to suffer more two years in jail. The convicts are Abdur Rahman, son of late Asir Uddin Morol of Rajbaria village in Jhikargachha upazila, and Siddiqui Rahman, son of late Quadrat Ali of Boro Achra village in Benapole. According to the prosecution, on secret information, a team of BGB raided a cosmetics shop of the duo in ICB area of Benapole on May 24, 2009 and seized 500 grams of heroin from a carton of biscuit. A case was filed against them under Narcotics Control Act.

### Brick kiln fined

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narail

A mobile court in a drive in Lohagara upazila on Tuesday afternoon fined a brick kiln Tk 30,000 for manufacturing bricks without license and using firewood. It also ordered the owners of the brick field to remove the chimney and shut down the kiln. The court was led by Executive Magistrate Mashadul Kabir.

## Saline water crocodile poacher's den raided

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Forest guards recovered skull and bones of a saline water crocodile from a poacher's house at Chalrayenda village under Sharankhola upazila of Bagerhat on Tuesday.

Being tipped off, a team of forest guards led by Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Kashyapi Bikash Chandra raided the house of Afzal Howlader at around 1:30 pm and recovered the skull and bones of the crocodile from a casket.

The poacher, Afzal

Howlader, managed to flee, sensing the presence of the forest staff, said ACF Bikash Chandra.

A case was filed with a Bagerhat court yesterday against poacher Afzal Howlader under Section 26 (1) of the Forest Act 1927.

The recovered skull and bones of the crocodile were deposited to *malkhana* (depository) of the court concerned as evidence of the case, he said.

On September 23 this year, forest guards recovered four skins of saline water crocodiles from the

house of poacher Latif Molla at Purbokhada village under Sharankhola upazila.

Following a case filed by the forest department, police arrested Nabi

Hossain, a member of an organised gang of poachers of the Sundarbans, at Sharankhola Bazar on September 24. But the poacher was later released on bail, the ACF said.

According to Deputy Forest Officer (DFO East) Mihir Kumar, several gangs of poachers are involved in killing tigers, deer and crocodiles in the Sundarbans.

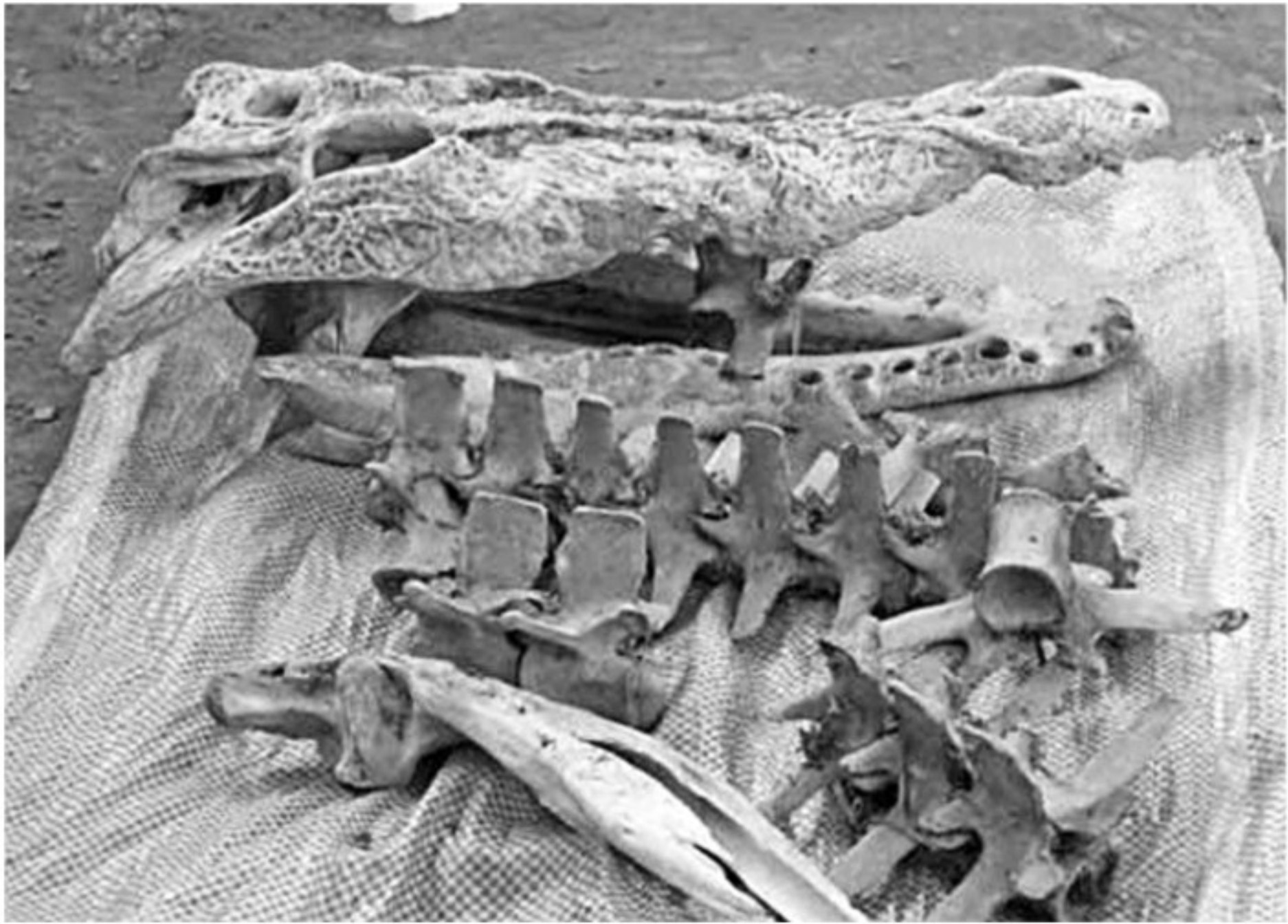


PHOTO: STAR

Seized skull and bones of a saline water crocodile lying at Sharankhola forest office on Tuesday. The forest department deposited the items to the *malkhana* (depository) of a Bagerhat court yesterday.