

Robbery prevents fishermen from catching hilsa in Bay

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali
Random attack by robbers in the Bay discourages fishermen of coastal districts Patuakhali and Barguna to go to the Bay during the ongoing peak hilsa catching season.
Forest robbers killed at least 26 fishermen in Barguna district in last one and a half years, said Golam Mostafa Chowdhury, president of fishing trawler owners association of Barguna district.
Around 3,000 abducted fishermen bought freedom by paying ransom to the gangs and over 200 trawlers returned after meeting the criminals' demand during the period, he said.
On July 2, robbers kidnapped two fishermen from

a trawler at Demerchar about 35 km to the south of Pathorghata for ransom.
Later on July 3 the coastguard arrested three robbers after a gunfight at Tekdia about 20 km to the south of Pathorghata upazila headquarters. Six more were bullet-hit during the fight, sources of Pathorghata coastguard said.
"Usually hilsa becomes available in the Bay from Baishakh and now is the peak season for hilsa catching. Despite favourable weather, most of fishermen don't feel interested to go to the Bay for fishing due to rampant robbery," said Md Zakir Hossain, a fisherman of Pathorghata upazila under Barguna district.
After an eight-month-long yearly ban period, hilsa

catching season started on July 1 but rampant piracy discourages the fishermen to go to the Bay, said Md Tipu Khan, a fish wholesaler in Pathorghata.
Scanty catches this season also adds to the situation.
Different fish markets including Pathorghata, Majherchar and Taltali in Barguna district, and Mohipur, Alipur, Kuakata, Moudubi and Rangabali in Patuakhali district sees crisis of hilsa although the popular fish becomes available during this time in other years.
"Robbers often loot nets, fuel, fishes, even boats, and kidnap fishermen for ransom. Such cases have to be dealt with privately as the problem worsens if we

inform law enforcers," said a fish trader in Pathorghata.
Ahmed Mia, a fisherman of Char Doani village under Pathorghata upazila, said he bought freedom by paying ransom three days after being caught by a gang last year.
GM Shah Newaz, OC of Pathorghata police station, said, "We often arrest such robbers but nobody files any case with specific allegations. On several occasions we sent arrested accused to the court under Section 154 but they got released on bail."
Lt M Arif Hossain, Navy official of Pathorghata station, said, "We are conducting patrol on the Bay and in the Sundarbans. We conduct operation if we get message of attack by gangs."

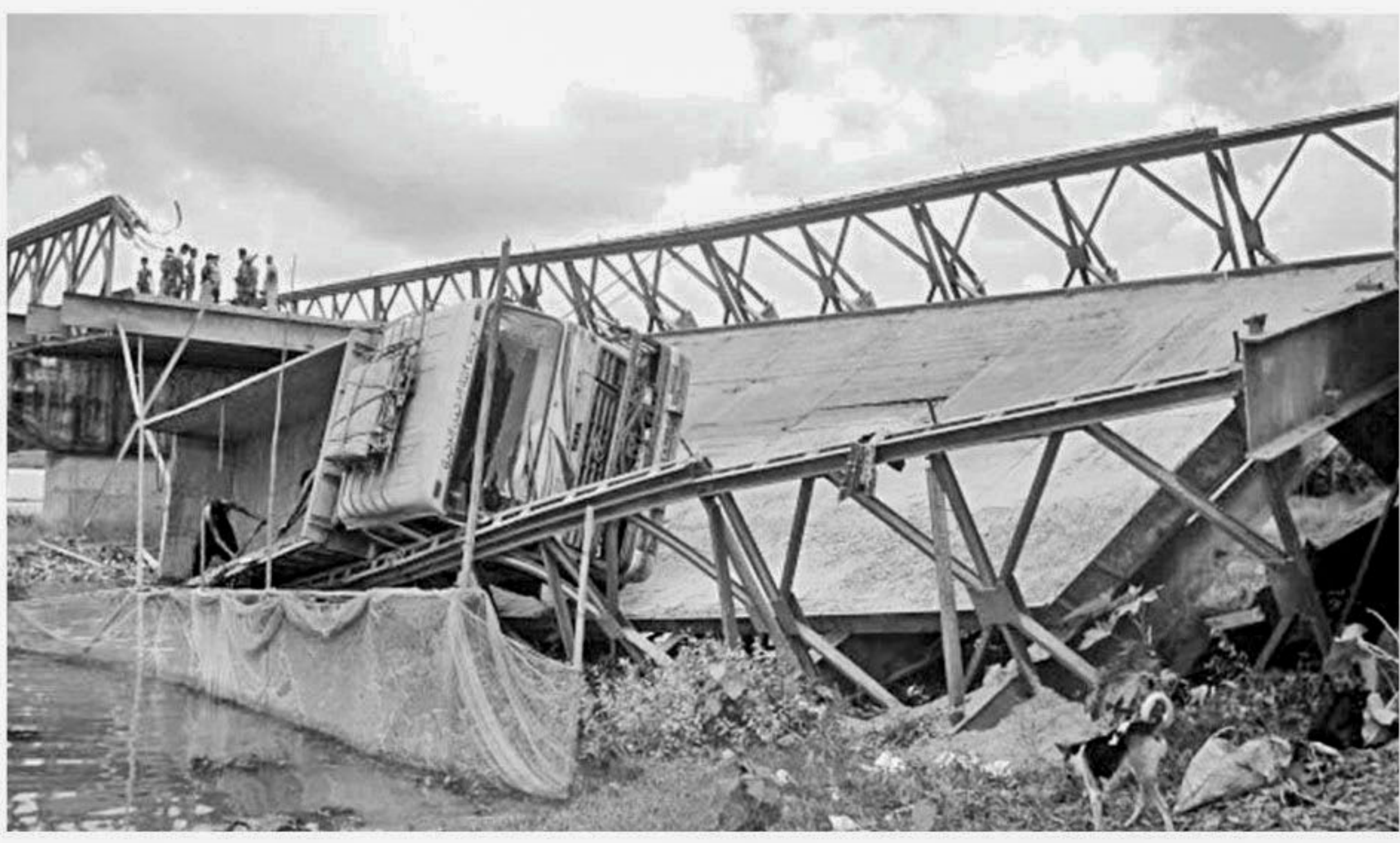


PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH
This Bailey bridge on Hasandi Canal on Dhaka-Khulna highway in Shibchar upazila of Madaripur district collapses under the pressure of an overloaded truck on Saturday noon.

GANGACHARA UPAZILA IN RANGPUR Erosion renders 50 families homeless in three days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur
At least 50 families at three villages of Gangachara upazila in the district have been rendered homeless in three days since Friday by erosion by the River Teesta.
The erosion-hit villages are-- Chilakhal Char, Kholai Char and Dhaker Char village under Kolkond union of the upazila.
The victim families are passing their days amid untold sufferings during this month of Ramadan.
Azizul Islam, a resident of Chilakhal Char village, said that the erosion by the river took a serious turn and

devoured his house on Friday.
He along with his four family members took shelter in a relative's house in the neighbouring village, he said yesterday.
Some 20 families out of 50 in the village were rendered homeless by the river erosion in the last three days, he added.
"A vast tract of land with standing crops and homesteads went into the river forcing many to live under the open sky," said Abu Taleb of Kholai Char village.
Mominur Islam, Union Parishad chairman of Kolkond, said more than 50

homesteads along with 10 acres of arable land of the union had been devoured by Teesta in three days.
Some of the affected people took shelter in the houses of their relatives but a large number of them remained under the open sky on roads and high lands, he added.
"I have already informed the authorities concerned about the situation seeking their assistance," Mominur said.
Abdul Khalek, subdivisional engineer of Rangpur WDB, said they visited the erosion-hit area.
We have informed the higher authorities and asked for taking necessary steps.



PHOTO: STAR
Erosion by the River Teesta rendered at least 50 families in three villages in Gangachara upazila of Rangpur homeless in 72 hours. The photo was taken from Char Chilakhal area yesterday.

Muggers loot Tk 27 lakh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail
Armed muggers stabbed a furniture trader and took away Tk 27 lakh from him at Delduar upazila of Tangail yesterday.
Nasir Uddin, 30, was returning home in Elenka under Kalihati upazila in his car after withdrawing the money from a bank in Dhaka when the muggers intercepted him in Dubail area on Dhaka-Tangail highway around 10:30pm.
Locals captured one of the muggers, Shahidul Islam, who hails from Doulatpur of Manikganj.

Jessore university

FROM PAGE 16
When Jewel came to his rescue, the attackers hit him with the pistol butt in his forehead.
Riyad was whisked off to Jessore Medical College Hospital where the duty doctor declared him dead.
Following the incident, students blocked Jessore-Chougachha road. A faction of BCL also brought out procession in the town protesting the killing.
Ratul Das, a BCL leader, said BCL arranged an iftar party on the campus on Sunday where the rebel group, who were deprived of posts, were absent.
Infuriated with this, the cousin of the general secretary of BCL unit Shamim Hasan and a first-year student of the same department Tanvir beat up Badal, a fourth-year student of the same department, Ratul said.
As Riyad protested the beating, Shamim threatened him over phone.
However, Shamim denied the allegation and said they left the campus at 2:00pm by the university bus.
Meanwhile, the authorities declared the university closed sine die and asked the male students to vacate the residential halls by 7:00pm Monday and female students by 9:00am Tuesday.
The authorities also temporarily suspended the studentship of JUST unit BCL president Subrata Biswas, Shamim Hasan, Tanvir Faisal and Abdul Aziz for running politics in the campus defying a ban on such politics.
A probe committee was also formed to investigate into the incident, confirmed Hahattuzaman Mukul, public relations officer of the university.
JUST Vice Chancellor, Prof Dr Abus Sattar, said politics was banned in the campus. But BCL was trying to do politics flouting the ban.
Steps would be taken after the report of the investigating committee was submitted, the VC added.
Anisur Rahman, the superintendent of police of Jessore, said additional forces of police were deployed at the university and medial college area.
This is the first ever incident of killing since the JUST started functioning in 2009. Student politics is banned in the campus since its inauguration.

Rival AL men clash over dropping tender, 10 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia
At least 10 people, including two policemen, were injured during a clash between two rival groups of the ruling Awami League over dropping tender in Daulatpur upazila headquarters yesterday.
Obaidur Rahman, sub-inspector of Daulatpur Police Station, said Sarder Atiar Rahman, an influential member of Daulatpur upazila unit AL convening committee, yesterday noon went to drop bid documents for construction of 50-bed Daulatpur Upazila Health Complex involving Tk 2.5 crore.
As Atiar and his men reached the Upazila Nirbahi

Officer (UNO) officer premises, supporters of Token Choudhury, younger brother of Rezaul Haq Choudhury, lawmaker of Kushtia-1 (Daulatpur) constituency, allegedly intercepted them and snatched their bid documents.
On hearing the news, Atiar's men rushed to the spot that triggered a clash among the two rival groups.
During the hour-long clash, both the groups attacked each other with bamboo sticks, iron rods and blasted several crude bombs that left at least 10 people including two policemen injured.
Injured constables Anisur Rahman and Bozlor Rahman are undergoing treatment at Daulatpur

Upazila Health Complex.
Token's men also harassed Zahurul Islam, Kushtia correspondent of Ekushey Television and vandalised his motorbike while he was taking video footages of the incident.
When asked, Sarder Atiar blamed Token and his men for unleashing a reign of terror in the upazila.
Enamul Haq, officer in-charge of Daulatpur Police Station, said additional police have been deployed in the area to avert any further incident.
Contacted, Rezaul Haq, local lawmaker refuted the allegation adding that it was not his brother but a few of his supporters were involved with the incident.

Main accused in case for attack on Hindu family held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat
The prime accused in a case filed for attacking a Hindu family was arrested in Patgram upazila early yesterday.
The arrestee is Abul Hossain, 50, son of late Kader Uddin of Shafirhat village in the upazila.
With him, three people were arrested in the case, said Amiruzzaman, officer in-charge of Patgram police station.
On Sunday morning, a gang of 25, allegedly led by Abul Hossain, swooped on the house of Pushpa Rani Sen and set it on fire allegedly in a bid to grab her two bighas of land.
As the family members tried to resist the attackers, they also stabbed four people, leaving them injured.
The injured are Pushpa Rani Sen, 68, wife of late Debendra Nath Sen and her two sons Shyamol Chandra Sen, 45, and Kamol Chandra Sen, 38, and Shyamol's wife Dipali Rani Sen, 30.
Police arrested one Abdul Malek, 47, son of late Nazrul Islam, and Mahosena Begum alias Manira, 39, wife of Aminur Rahman, of the village after the incident.
A case was filed on Sunday night, accusing 18 identified and 10 unidentified people in connection with the attack, said police.
Police were raiding different areas to arrest the other accused, said the OC.

FEAR OF PUBLIC HUMILIATION

Raped teenage girl stops going to school

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur
Fearing public humiliation, a teenage girl, who was raped about five months ago, has finally stopped going to school.
The victim is a student of Class IX at a local high school in Nazirpur upazila, said family sources.
"On February 16, I went to a house following a call from the sister-in-law of local affluent person Swapan Kumer Majumder, 38, and was raped by him," said the girl, adding that after a month of the inci-

dent, her mother came to know the matter as she became pregnant.
She recently stopped going to school in fear of public humiliation, said the mother of the rape victim.
Finding no other alternative, we brought the matter to the notice of local union parishad member Manoranjan, said the father of the girl.
In an arbitration, Swapan confessed to violating the girl and promised to marry her but he went into hiding a few days later on advice of UP member Manoranjan,

he alleged.
Refuting the allegation, Sheikhatia UP member Manoranjan said that Swapan fled the area and because of that they could not arrange marriage of the girl.
On June 8, the victim's father filed a case with Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-1, accusing Swapan and his sister-in-law in this connection.
Earlier, several other girls of the area fell victim to rape by the accused, alleged locals.



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