

Robbers become active in Bay with surge of hilsa

300 fishermen abducted in about 3 weeks

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

As popular hilsa fish is being netted in the coastal areas of Patuakhali, Barguna and Bhola districts, robbers have become active in the Bay, especially in Patuakhali and Barguna regions.

Fishermen and fish traders at Mohipur and Alipur fish landing stations in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali district and Pathorghata upazila of Barguna district said at least four robber gangs—Raju Bahini, Bellal Bahini, Barobhai Bahini and Mollah Bahini—of Sundarbans abducted at least 300 fishermen in the last 18 days from August 18 to September 4.

These gangs are active on the 100-km-long coast from east Sundarbans in Bagerhat to Charfasion in Bhola as hilsa is being netted in plenty in the areas, fishermen said, adding that the forest robbers often swoop on the fishing trawlers, kidnap fish-

ermen and loot money, fishing nets, fuel and trawlers.

Raju Bahini abducted at least 45 fishermen from Kuakata and Pathorghata areas on Friday last, said Farid, 35, a fisherman of Ramgoti area of Laxmipur district. He sustained bullet injured as he tried to resist the gang.

Seven more fishermen were abducted by robbers from Charfasion area of Bhola on the same day.

On August 30, a fisherman named Moyjul, 45 of Laxmipur district, was shot dead and eight killed were injured as robbers opened fire on the fishermen. They also abducted at least 50 fishermen from different trawlers on the day.

A gang kidnapped over 100 fishermen from Dhalchar, Majher Char areas under Barguna district on August 18. Of the four robber gangs, infamous Raju Bahini has introduced 'tokens' for the fishermen and sells each token for

Tk two lakh to three lakh, depending on size of fishing trawler, fishermen of Kuakata area said.

Anas Uddin Mollah, president of Alipur Trawler Owners Association, said, an armed robber gang attacked fishing trawlers on the Bay, about 15 km from Kuakata on August 22.

A fisherman, who returned from the Bay on the day, said a gang of forest robbers abducted over 100 fishermen. The gang also asked fishermen to collect token by paying Tk 50,000 to 1,00,000 per trawler. Otherwise, they will face attack, he said.

Contacted, Md Mosfiqur Rahman, superintendent of police in Patuakhali, said, they will launch a drive on the Bay soon.

Md Shahidul Islam, a coastguard officer of Pathorghata region, said they have already launched an operation in the Sundarbans to rescue the kidnapped fishermen.

Chest disease clinic without X-ray facility for last 15 yrs!

ABM AMINUL ISLAM,
Mymensingh

Believe it or not, the lone government Chest Disease Clinic in the town, meant for free treatment of tuberculosis (TB) patients, is running without any functional X-ray machine for the last 15 years.

Arrangement of different other essential tests is absent too.

Worse still, the building that houses the clinic from 1962 has turned risky.

Rain water drips through the roof of nine of its 11 rooms, including the pharmacy, and it makes storage and distribution of medicines difficult, said

Babul Chandra Das, pharmacist of the clinic.

The bathroom meant for the patients is unusable too.

The clinic has arrangement for testing cough only.

X-ray and all other examinations related to the diagnosis and treatment of TB have to be done at private



PHOTO: STAR

This X-ray machine has remained inoperative for 15 years at Chest Disease Clinic, meant for free treatment of tuberculosis (TB) patients, in Mymensingh town.

clinics, and it costs a patient over Tk 1000, said patients.

Several patients alleged that doctors refer the patients to New Ultrasonography Centre and Pathology on Kalibari Road in the town to get 'commission'.

Patients, mostly belong-

ing to poor families from Mymensingh, Netrakona, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Tangail, Manikganj and Sunamganj, come to the clinic for treatment of TB, clinic sources said.

On an average, 300 patients take out-door treatment at the clinic every

month, said Dr Shaheen Sultana, medical officer of the clinic.

The clinic is also suffering from staff shortage. The posts of two male home visitors are lying vacant for long and no post for security guard has been created there yet, clinic sources said.

Dr Parikshit Kumar Parh, junior consultant (in-charge) of the clinic, said it is also a referral centre for 'External Quality Assessment' to ensure quality test of 41 peripheral laboratories for TB treatment in Mymensingh, Sherpur, Gazipur and Manikganj but the clinic itself is beset with various problems.

Dr ASM Abdus Samad, civil surgeon of Mymensingh, said, 'We wrote to the authorities concerned several times for arranging a new X-ray machine but to no effect. Besides, the clinic should be shifted to a new house as the old building has turned risky.'

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He, however, said the intelligence agencies were asked to assess possible militant threats and take all-out preparations from their end.

Whenever there were such releases or media reports, the government verified those and took cautious steps, he added.

On the four Hyderabad youths barred from entering Bangladesh reportedly to meet an ISIS agent, he said the intelligence agencies found no such elements, but India would inform Bangladesh if there were any ISIS link.

Replies to a query whether Dhaka asked New Delhi for such information, he said Bangladesh and India had a good understanding and there was a security treaty between the countries, allowing India to help its neighbour combat such transnational problems.

State Minister for Home Affairs Asaduzzaman Khan left for parliament cutting short the meeting in the afternoon. While leaving he told reporters that the four Indian youths did not try to enter Bangladesh. Their destination was Iraq, he claimed.

He, however, did not explain his statement.

Kamal presided over the meeting attended by the heads of law-enforcement and intelligence agencies and Director General of Border Guard Bangladesh Maj Gen Aziz Ahmed.

The Times of India on Thursday reported that four Hyderabad youths had been prevented from entering Bangladesh to meet an ISIS contact.

Earlier on Wednesday, al-Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri in a videotaped message announced creation of 'al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent' to 'raise the flag of jihad' across South Asia. The videotape was posted online.

Jubo League leader killed in Noakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Noakhali

Criminals shot dead a local leader of Jubo League, youth front of ruling Awami League, in Amishapara union under Sonaimuri upazila on Saturday.

The deceased is Arif Hossain, 30, joint general secretary of Amishapara union unit of Jubo League and son of Serajul Islam, a US expatriate of Bhadragaon village.

Police and locals said a gang waylaid Arif's motorbike around 11:00pm when he was returning home from Kalikapur Bazar in Sonapur union. They spread bullets on him when he

fell to the ground.

Protesting the killing, BCL and Jubo League leaders and activists blocked Baza-Sonaimuri road for about one hour. They also attacked the house of a local BNP leader and vandalised several shops at Dhynapur Bazar in the area.

Police arrested one Nur Mohammad who was going with Arif on the bike before the gun attack, said superintendent of police Md Ilyas Sharif.

Meanwhile, a local BCL man was injured in an attack allegedly by an Awami League leader in Fulgazi upazila of Feni district on

Saturday night, reports a correspondent.

When Mamunul Haque Patawari, president of Mohamaya union unit BCL under Chhagalnaiya upazila, went to Amjadhat in Fulgazi for business purpose, Humayun, a member of Fulgazi upazila unit of AL and his men swooped on him.

Protesting the attack, Chhagalnaiya BCL leaders and activists vandalised several shops of the rival group in Manurhat area. They also blocked Chhagalnaiya-Parshuram link road for about two hours yesterday.

Patients left in anarchy

FROM PAGE 16

'I've been at the hospital with my brother for the last five days. He suffered a brain stroke and he needs injections and medication twice a day. But he was not given anything yesterday,' said Momtaj Begum while she was sitting beside his brother Mosharraf, 27, yesterday.

Despite repeated appeals, she goes no assistance from anyone at the hospital. 'Rather, I was advised to take my brother elsewhere if his condition deteriorated,' Momtaj said.

The emergency and outdoor sections saw fewer patients and a number of surgeries had to be deferred due to the stalemate, said Momtaj.

The probe committee had been formed and asked to submit its report on Thursday.

platform of agitating nurses, said they had withdrawn their strike following the assurance of authorities that punitive actions would be taken against the intern.

'We demand that Rokibul be suspended from internship for five years. We will wear black badges till Thursday as a symbol of protest,' she said.

The interns, on the other hand, said they too would withdraw their strike from this morning provided that the nurses did not stage any protest programme of any sort.

Meanwhile, Brig Gen Md Zakir Hassan, director of the hospital, said the interns had decided to resume work following a meeting with the administration yesterday night.

A probe committee had been formed and asked to submit its report on Thursday.

Jarina Khatun, convenor of Nurse Sangram Parishad, the

further decision on the matter would be taken based on the committee's findings, Hassan said.

Bakul Rani Das, who allegedly was beaten up by the intern doctor, was admitted to the hospital. Our correspondents saw a cut mark beside her left eye. She said she got the wound when Sujon hit her on the face and her spectacles broke. The intern also hit her on the abdomen and back, she alleged.

The intern is of my son's age. But he beat me up severely in front of other doctors and staff. I want justice,' Bakul Rani Das told The Daily Star yesterday while lying on her bed in the hospital. Sujon, however, denied the allegation. 'Her abusive language led to an altercation and scuffle. But I did not beat her,' he claimed.



STAR FILE PHOTO
The body of hapless Felani hanging from the barbed wire fence after she was killed in BSF firing on Phulbari border in Kurigram on January 7, 2011.

FELANI KILLING CASE

Revision trial

likely to be held this month

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Kurigram

of the case. Their names have been sent to the Indian authorities.

Commander Mofazzal Hossain Akanda said the revision trial of the case will be held in the previous court at 181 BSF Battalion headquarters in Cooch Behar district of Paschimbanga.

Fifteen-year-old Felani was shot dead by the BSF while she with her father was returning home from India through Anantapur border in Phulbari upazila of Kurigram on January 7, 2011.

Later, a BSF court acquitted the lone accused, BSF constable Amiya Ghosh, of the murder charge. Felani's father Nurul Islam rejected the verdict.

SNIPPETS

Jamaat ameer arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police arrested Zarjis Hossain, acting ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Meherpur district unit, in Mujibnagar upazila of Meherpur early yesterday. Moniruzzaman, officer in-charge of Sadar Police Station, said a team of police raided his residence at Dariapur village in the upazila around 2:30am and arrested him. Zarjis was accused in eight cases filed with the police station, the OC said.

'Drunk' UP chairman held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Police early yesterday arrested a 'drunk' union parishad (UP) chairman and one of his close aides for allegedly vandalising the house of a former UP member in Mohanganj upazila of the district. The arrestees are Mahbub Alam Rana, chairman of Banihari union parishad, and Biplob. Ramizul Haque, officer in-charge of Mohanganj Police Station, said Rana along with his 7 to 8 accomplices attacked the house of Modhu Sarker around 12:30am. They beat up Modhu, vandalised his house and damaged other valuables of the house. On information, police went to the spot and arrested Rana, who was drunk, and Biplob.

Woman, son electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

A woman and her son were electrocuted at Koilati village in Barhatta upazila of the district yesterday. The deceased are Angura Begum, 40, wife of Anisul Bari and her son Amir Hasan, 14 of the village. Police said Angura came in contact with a snapped electric wire in the morning while she was cleaning her household. Amir was also electrocuted when he came to rescue his mother.

Man killed by cousin

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A man was killed allegedly by his cousin over a trivial matter at Shetheli village in Shaikupura upazila yesterday. The deceased is Alauddin Ali, 50, son of Sabdar Hossain of the village. Sagir Mia, officer in-charge of Shaikupura Police Station, said Alauddin's wife had an altercation with his cousin Moktar's wife around 7:30am over the ownership of a mango tree in their yard. Later, Moktar and Alauddin joined the altercation. At one stage, Moktar hit Alauddin with a stick on his head, leaving him critically injured and fled the scene. Alauddin succumbed to his injuries.

Shops, warehouses gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

At least 10 shops and two warehouses were gutted in a devastating fire that broke out at Chowrasta Bazar in Begumganj upazila on Saturday night. Mostafizur Rahman, officer in-charge of Begumganj Model Police Station, said the fire originated from a shop at the bazar around 11:30pm and soon engulfed the adjacent nine other shops and two warehouses. On information, two fire-fighting units from Chaumohani rushed to the spot and doused the flames after two hours of frantic efforts.

বাংলাদেশ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মণ্ডুরী কমিশন

আগারাঁও, শের-ই-বাংলানগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭

জনস্বার্থে এবং অভিভাবক ও শিক্ষার্থীদের জ্ঞাতার্থে যে সকল বেসরকারি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে তাঁরা প্রকাশ করছে হলো। এ সকল বেসরকারি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে তাঁর মেরে অভিভাবক ও শিক্ষার্থীদের সঠিক তথ্যাদি যাচাই বাছাইপুরীক সিদ্ধান্ত

যে সব বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় আবেদনে ক্ষমতাপূর্ণ করছিল তাঁর পিছে করিছে যাচাইপুরী হাতে হোলা হোলা।

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