

This has happened in broad daylight and on the premises of Dhaka University, the birthplace of all our glorious student movements. We must all work together -- law enforcers, women bodies and the media -- to bring these culprits to book. We call upon all -- victims, eyewitnesses and those who directly know what happened -- to speak out and let the public know the truth. According to the highest standards of journalism we will protect our sources and victims' privacy. We must put an end to sexual violence and make all our public places safe for women. Please contact us at [reporting@thedailystar.net](mailto:reporting@thedailystar.net) and join the war on sexual violence.

## WOMEN'S WAR

Patriarchal attitudes have to be challenged with more determination

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## IRAN NUKE WEAPONS

It's a myth created by the US, Khamenei says

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## SUHASINI SHAHEEN SAMAD

Programme celebrates her glorious five decades in music

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# THUMBS UP

Terrific Tamim smashes back-to-back ton as Tigers thump down another defeat on Pakistan to win series

BISHWAJIT ROY

Dominant Bangladesh cantered to a historic series victory against Pakistan, painting a glorious picture on a greenish background under lights at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur last night.

With charming drives, eye-catching flicks, perfect pulls and trademark down-the-wicket aggression, sublime Tamim Iqbal hit back-to-back hundreds and constructed a second successive partnership with run-machine Mushfiqur Rahim to ensure an emphatic seven-wicket win.

The Tigers won the series with a game to spare, thus showing the cricket fraternity the 'beauty of Bangladesh cricket'.

There had not been much celebration from the home side after their 79-run victory in the first match of the series last Friday at the same venue as the eyes were actually on the series triumph, so wild celebrations were expected to start soon after Shakib Al Hasan nudged the first ball of the 39th over behind square-leg for the winning single, but it seemed that the Mashrafe Bin Mortaza-led team reserved it for April 22, when they play their third and final game, again at this venue.

After Zimbabwe, New Zealand and West Indies, Pakistan was the fourth Test playing nation against whom Bangladesh won a series. Bangladesh had claimed themselves favourites before the series and they stuck to their word on the field by winning the series quite comfortably.

Recovering from 77 for five, Pakistan could set up a 240-run target for the home side but it was not good enough to spoil the home side's party last night as Bangladesh's batting continued its amazing run since the World Cup which helped them to overtake the total with seven wickets and 71 balls in hand.

Tamim along with Mushfiqur as like the first game established Bangladesh's batting power against a strong Pakistan bowling attack during their 118-run partnership after a 78-run second wicket stand between Tamim and Mahmudullah Riyad provided the platform.

Tamim's scintillating batting and a breezy half-century from Mushfiqur after impressive bowling performance made sure that Pakistan had no chance to take away the initiatives from them to bounce back in the series. If consistency had been an issue for

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EVERY DAMN DAY: Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal is fully outstretched on way to his second consecutive century against Pakistan at the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Bangladesh defeated Pakistan by seven wickets with 71 balls to spare, heralding the start of a new era for the Tigers.

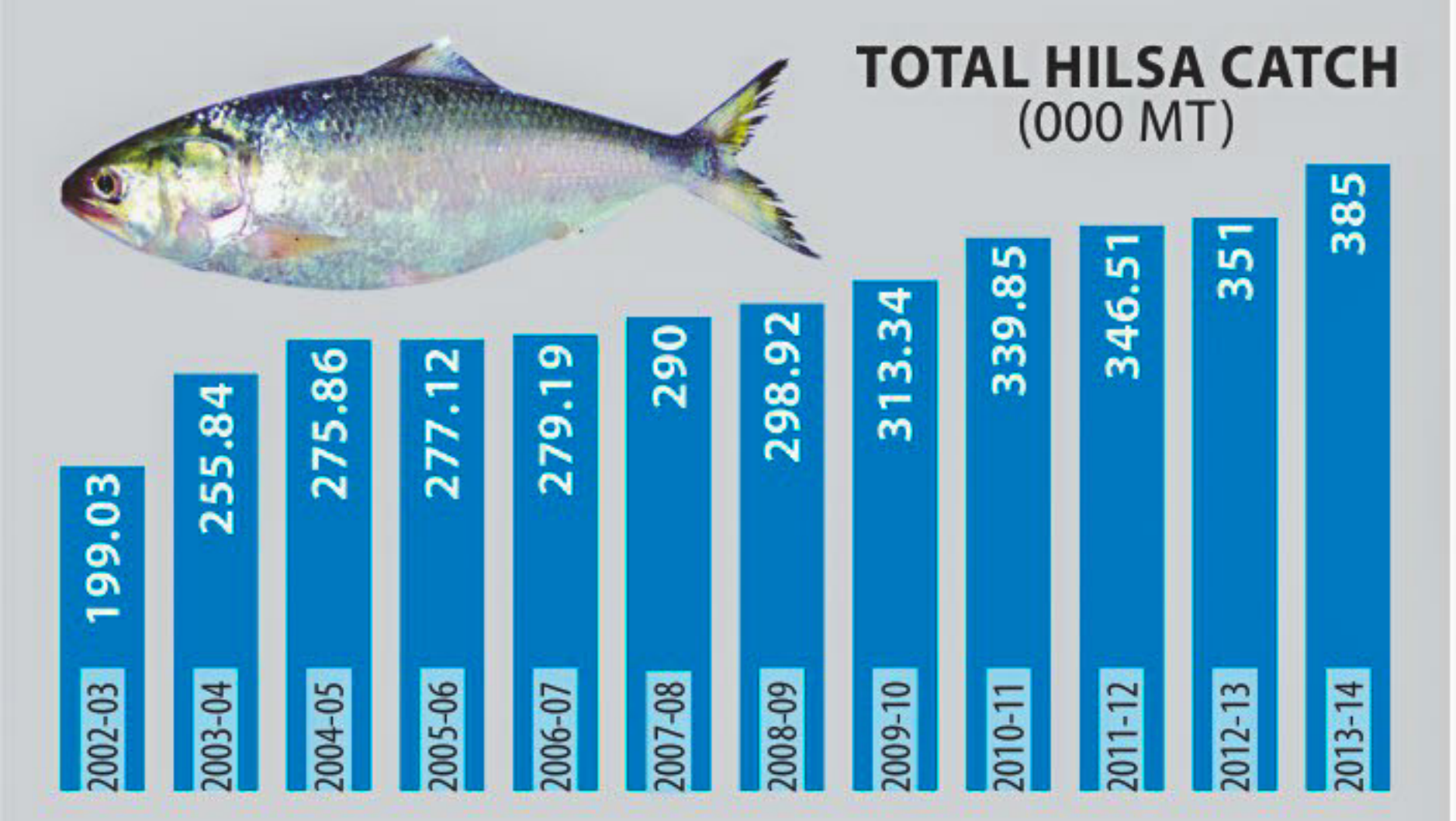
PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## HILSA & GOVT'S CONSERVATION

To us Bangalees, hilsa isn't just a fish. It's an integral part of our culture and heritage. Be it fried or cooked with mustard, hilsa is a must in Pahela Baishakh celebrations. But they aren't anymore safe in our rivers, home to world's 60pc hilsa. This four-part series focuses on the existential crisis, changing habitat and ways to conserve this much coveted fish.

# HILSA COMING BACK TO RIVERS

Jatka protection initiatives good yet not good enough



PINAKI ROY

Samyathree Bhowmik of Rajshahi in September last year wanted to buy some hilsas to treat his guests with during the Durga Puja celebrations due next month.

Worried over the dearth of hilsa that had been prevailing in the Padma river for the previous few years, he hesitantly went to a fish market, close to the jetty where fishermen unload their catch.

"I couldn't believe my eyes. I saw a large supply of hilsa fresh from the Padma that morning. And without a second thought, I bought more than a dozen of them," said the assistant professor of English at Rajshahi Govt College.

"Just a few years ago, there was hardly any hilsa, caught in the Padma, available in the market. We had to depend on the supply from Barisal or other regions. But these days, things have improved quite a lot," said Samyathree.

Hilsa availability in the Rajshahi region drastically fell in the early 1990s as the most favourite, and arguably the tastiest, fish of the Bangalees across the world stopped migrating to the Padma, largely due to overfishing of brood hilsas and reduction in water flow in the once-mighty river.

And not just in the Padma, the same happened in other rivers of the country as well. Whereas this particular species of fish was found in as many as 50 rivers of the country even three decades ago, it's

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## Khaleida faces obstruction in campaign

Shown black flags

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Obstructed by the ruling Awami League men, BNP chief Khaleida Zia's campaign for Tabith Awal was abandoned midway in the capital's Uttara last night.

Her car had to turn into Airport Road around 7:00pm from House Building area of Uttara-7 instead of going towards Uttara-8 as 10-12 youths threw sticks with black flags at the her security personnel's vehicle at the front of the motorcade, eyewitnesses told The Daily Star.

Apart from police and her personal security force, BNP leaders and activists encircled her car and helped it pass the area.

After leaving her Gulshan residence around 4:30pm, Khaleida first faced demonstration by the ruling party activists near the Khilkhet crossing on her way to Uttara.

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## EC may seek army deployment

Directs law enforcers to open fire on troublemakers

PANKAJ KARMAKAR

The Election Commission yesterday decided in principle to seek army deployment in Dhaka and Chittagong cities during the elections slated for April 28, according to EC sources.

Seeking anonymity, an election commissioner told this correspondent that the EC would finalise in a couple of days the date of army deployment.

The EC also directed law enforcers to open fire if anyone tries to snatch ballot boxes or create anarchy at polling centres during the city polls.

The decisions came at separate meetings but the EC was yet to make those public. Yesterday morning, the EC high-ups sat



with senior officials of the home ministry, and law enforcement and intelligence agencies to discuss law and order in the two cities.

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad gave law enforcers the directive to open fire on anyone trying to snatch ballot boxes or create anarchy at polling centres, three EC officials, who attended the meeting, told The Daily Star.

Later in the afternoon, the CEC and four other commissioners held an internal meeting at the EC secretariat and decided to ask the government to deploy troops in the polls, said EC sources.

Coming out of the first meeting in the capital's National Economic Council

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## NEWS ANALYSIS

# Eyes wide shut

SHARIER KHAN

It took the police four days to admit that at least 20 women were sexually assaulted by a large group of men during the Pahela Baishakh celebrations at the Dhaka University.

It was since April 17 -- two days after the April 14 incident that triggered waves of public protests -- that police have begun to release the surveillance camera footage of the TSC area. While these videos show that a particular group of young men led by a bearded man isolate approaching girls from others and then launch heinous sexual assault on them, the cops kept on saying that they found nothing in them.

It was not just the police, but also the Dhaka University authorities who kept repeating to the press that no woman was stripped naked -- as if one has to be stripped naked for the case to be taken seriously -- implying that there was nothing to worry about.

With such an attitude, one could easily see that the incident was being covered up without any action against the culprits, and thereby ensuring that molesters enthusiastically

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## SEXUAL HARASSMENT

# Police yet to release footage from vital CCTV camera

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five days have passed, but police have yet to release the CCTV footage of the Suhrawardy Udyan entrance near TSC, the spot where the worst incidents of sexual assault on women reportedly took place during the Pahela Baishakh celebrations.

Police have so far released footage from nine cameras. However, that footage does not include the clips from the number 16 camera.

According to police sources, the number 16 camera was installed to the south of the Udyan gate near TSC. Liton Nandi, president of Chhatra Union's Dhaka University chapter, who along with some of his fellow activists tried to resist the molesters there, said this camera was supposed to cover the spot where the worst incidents took place.

Contacted, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner

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## TOP QUOTE

"People dread army for its name and Rab for its activities."

COL ZIAUL AHASAN  
ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR  
GENERAL OF RAB,  
AT NEC BUILDING

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