



PHOTO: STAR

Arms and ammunition seized by Rapid Action Battalion after a gunfight with forest robbers in the Sundarbans in Koyra upazila under Khulna district on Monday night. Inset, Shahin, an alleged robber arrested after the fight.



Gang member held after gunfight in Sundarbans

Rab seizes 23 firearms, 1523 bullets

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a member of a forest robber gang in possession of 23 firearms and 1,523 bullets from the Sundarbans in Khulna district while police arrested a leader of an outlawed party and seized five firearms and ammunition from Pachuria in Rajbari Sadar upazila on Monday.

UNB reports: A Rab team conducted a drive in Badurjholia Khal area of the Sundarbans in Koyra upazila under Khulna district on Monday evening, following information about the presence of forest robber gang 'Elias Bahini' members in the area, Khandaker Rafiqul Islam, commanding officer of Rab-6 in Khulna, said at a press briefing yesterday morning.

"Sensing the presence of law enforcers, the gang members opened fire, forcing the elite force to retaliate that triggered a gunfight around 7:00pm. Several gunshots were traded between the criminals and Rab during the 10-minute fight.

"Rab members arrested gang member Shahin while his associates managed to flee. They also recovered seven double barrel guns, nine single barrel guns, five .22 rifles, one shutter gun and one foreign 303 rifle and 1,523 bullets from the spot," the Rab officer said.

Acting on a tip, a team from Detective Branch (DB) of police in Rajbari raided a mahogany orchard at Pachuria village where cadres of the outlawed party were holding a clandestine meeting at about 3:30pm, Rajbari Superintendent of Police Zihadul Kabir told a press briefing at his office yesterday.

Police arrested Akram, while his accomplices managed to flee. Later, police recovered one 9mm pistol, one rifle, two shutter guns, one pipe gun, eight cartridges and five bullets after digging a spot of the orchard following his confession.

The arrestee is Akram Hossain, 44, a regional leader of outlawed Maoist Bolshevik Organisation Movement, police said.

Police arrested Akram, while his accomplices managed to flee.

"Akram is accused in 10 cases including those for arms smuggling filed with different police stations in Kushtia and Rajbari districts. A magistrate court in Rajbari sent him to jail today [Tuesday]," the SP said.

Robbers loot trawlers, abduct 50 fishermen in Bay

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Robbers abducted at least 50 fishermen from 25 trawlers in the Bay when they were fishing near Fearboya area, about 50 km to the southwest of Kuakata early yesterday.

Earlier on October 13, six fishermen suffered bullet injuries as robbers attacked three trawlers in the same area.

During yesterday's attack, the criminals fired around 25 rounds targeting the trawlers.

Three fishermen -- Bazlur Rahman, 35, Nayeem, 32, and Al-Amin 30 all of Kuakata area under

Kalapara upazila in Patuakhali district went missing as they jumped into the Bay in fear of being bullet-hit.

Of the abducted fishermen Harun Majhee, 45, Forkan mia, 40, Swapan, 35, Mosharef Hossain, 38, Rafique Majhee, 42, Mozammel Hossain, 35, of Pathorghata area under Barguna district, and Md Reaz, 35, Kamal Hossain, 40, Mizanur Rahman, 35, Al-Amin, 32, Amir Hossain, 36 -- of different villages under Kalapara upazila in Patuakhali district have been identified, said Golam Mostafa Chowdhury, president of Barguna district

trawler owners' association, and Ansar Uddin Mollah, president of Alipur fish traders' cooperative association.

"The masked members of the gang comprising around 30 robbers came by a nameless trawler from the Sundarbans area, Ansar Uddin said, quoting the fishermen who reached Alipur fish landing station from the Bay after the incident.

The gang, identifying themselves as Master Bahini, looted fishes, fuel, and cash worth about Tk 10 lakh, said Golam Mostafa.

"The gang gave two cell phone numbers

(01709747449 and 01709747445) to the fishermen to communicate with them for release of the kidnapped fishermen. We contacted the leaders of trawler owners' association to take necessary step immediately," said Tapu Akond, owner of FB Reaz Uddin, one of the looted trawlers.

"After being informed by trawler owners' association leaders, we have already sent patrol boats to the spot and started operation to rescue the fishermen," said Lt Bazlul Karim, staff officer (Operation) of West Zone of the coastguard in Pathorghata.

Youth held for giving death threat to Imran H Sarker

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Detective Branch (DB) of Police on Monday night arrested a youth from Ishwarganj upazila headquarters in connection with a case filed for issuing a death threat to Imran H Sarker, spokesperson of a faction of Gonojagoron Mancha, earlier this month.

The arrestee is Sohel Mia, 24, son of Abdus Sattar and a resident of Chargithor village in the upazila.

Officer-in-Charge Imarat Hossain Gazi of Mymensingh DB Police said a police team, acting on a tip-off, raided the village around 11:00pm and detained Sohel from his house.

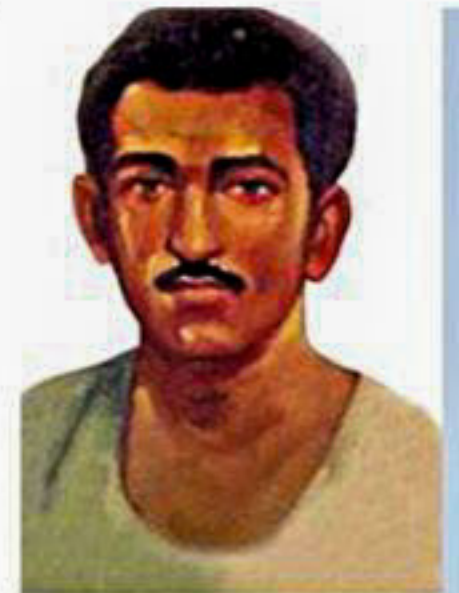
After quizzing, DB police handed Sohel, who passed his HSC exams from a college at Tongi in Dhaka, over to a special team from Dhaka Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday morning.

Mirza Abdullah Baqui, a special superintendent (organised crime) of CID, said on primary interrogation Sohel claimed that he sent the mail only to be famous in a short time.

The law enforcers' also detained Abul Kashem, 50, proprietor of the cybercafé, from where Sohel posted the threat the same night, DB said.

On October 17, Imran H Sarker received a death threat through social networking site Facebook.

Imran lodged a general diary (GD) with Shabbagh Police Station in this connection the same day.



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PHOTO: STAR

The memorial built in honour of Birshreshtha Hamidur Rahman at Dholoi in Madhabpur union of Kamalganj upazila under Moulvibazar district. The martyr posthumously received the highest gallantry award for his supreme sacrifice in the 1971 Liberation War.

Birshreshtha Hamidur's death anniversary today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The 44th death anniversary of Birshreshtha Hamidur Rahman will be observed today at the memorial complex built in honour of the great hero at Dholoi in Kamalganj upazila of the district.

Local administration, students and teachers of Hamidur Rahman Degree College, and

different socio-cultural and political organisations have taken up programmes to observe the day.

The programmes beginning with placing of wreaths at his portrait at 9:00am will include qurankhwani, doa mehfil and discussion meeting.

Hamidur Rahman, while serving in the then East Bengal Regiment in 1971,

joined the Liberation War. He embraced martyrdom while fighting the Pakistani occupation forces at Dholoi frontier on October 28, 1971.

He was born in 1954 at Khordakhalishpur village (now Hamidnagar). Hamidur Rahman Smriti Jadugarh and Pathagarh were established at the village in 2007.

Home-style cuisine is Sylhet's flavour du jour

ANDREW EAGLE AND MOHI UDDIN

Traditionally famous for tea, stone mining, rain and cooking with the sour-tasting wild orange known in Bangla as shatkora, Sylhet has, in more recent years, also gained a reputation for its cosmopolitan dining. Thanks to the Londoni phenomenon of Sylhetis living abroad, mostly in the United Kingdom, past decades saw expat money return, with many choosing to invest in the restaurant trade. As a result, more than other divisional centres of comparable size, in Sylhet City dining options include many exotic cuisines. But more recently still, a new cuisine has taken centre stage: local.



PHOTO: STAR

Like several others of the kind, Bhojon Bari restaurant in Sylhet city offers delicious and fresh home-style local cuisines for reasonable prices.

Panch Bhai restaurant in the city's Zindabazar, which opened in 2008, was among the first to offer local diners not only the types of dishes another used to make but also a homely ambience. At a time when home-style food served at a restaurant was unimaginable, Panch Bhai opened its doors with a handful of tables and a philosophy to serve delicious and fresh food at reasonable prices.

lentils and rice as standard and free of cost along with main meals that feature shutki dry fish and hand-made tomato sauce. With seating for 300 diners at a time, the food is prepared by 18 cooks and the restaurant caters to almost 6,000 diners per day, says manager Ali Hossain.

Madhopur on the Dhaka to Sylhet highway have opened. "We're planning another branch for Sreemongal," says Hossain. Another secret to Panshi's business success has been to look after staff. "Our salary is good compared to other restaurants," confides waiter Mujahidul Islam, who enjoys serving customers from all walks of life, from students and teachers to city office professionals. "A few days ago the actress Mousumi ate here," he says.

for tourists, with the number of patrons doubling during holiday periods.

Along with Panch Bhai and Panshi, names that have become well-known across Sylhet, others including Bhujon Bari, Palki and Jholsiri restaurants have followed the home-style trend. Sharing the main ingredients of fresh, traditional food at reasonable rates, these establishments which serve customers twenty-four hours a day are redefining the Sylheti restaurant landscape, giving the city's more pricey foreign cuisine restaurants a run for their money.

"It used to be expensive to dine out," says Ali Ahmad, a student of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology and regular Panch Bhai customer. "Prices were high and the menu seemed designed for wealthy customers. But now home-style meals are available."

Compared with many of the older restaurants featuring foreign cuisines, another exception lies here: even filling a hearty stomach is unlikely to set a diner back more than Tk 200.

With the adjacent museum of eminent mystic poet Hasan Raja, Panshi has also become a destination

Two kids die as chunk of plaster falls on them

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenaidah

Two students died when plaster from the gate of a house fell on them at Sanbandha village under Kaliganj upazila of the district yesterday.

The deceased are Chadni Khatun, 8, daughter of Milon Hossain, and Nishi Khatun, 7, daughter of Akal Biswas of the village. They were Class I students of Sanbandha Government Primary School.

Milon said Chadni and Nishi were playing under the gate of his house at around 4:30 pm when a big chunk of plaster from the gate fell on them. They died instantly.

Cow fattening tablets seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

At least 50,000 cattle fattening tablets were seized yesterday in Hakimpur upazila of the district by members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

Acting on a tip-off, a BGB team of Hili check post under Joypurhat BGB 3 Battalion raided Fakirpara area and seized the tablets.

Temple vandalised, torched in Dinajpur: Seven sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Seven people were sued on Monday for allegedly vandalising and torching a temple at Paschim Shukdevpur village in Parbatipur upazila of the district on Sunday night.

The accused are Sujab Uddin, 60, his sons Md Shawkat Ali, 35, Lutfar Rahman, 30, Wazed Ali, 27, and Rabbani, 24; Abdul Kuddus, 35, son of Abdul Mannan, and Liton Mia, 25, son of late Somberul Islam of Paschim Sukdevpur village.

Bhairab Chandra, president of Paschim Shukdevpur Sarbojanin Puja Udjapan Committee, filed the case with Parbatipur Police Station on Monday night, accusing the seven.

In the case statement, the complainant said the accused vandalised idols and set the temple afire at around 9:30pm.

In the case statement, he also mentioned the names of several people who saw the incident.

Contacted, accused Sujab Uddin said the case against

him and his sons was filed to harass them.

Shakhawat Hossain, additional superintendent of police (ASP) Dinajpur and Tarafdar Mahmudur Rahman, upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Parbatipur, along with several senior ruling party men, visited the temple yesterday.

Mahmudul Alam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Parbatipur Police Station, said they started investigation into the incident. Police have already launched a drive to arrest the accused, the OC added.



PHOTO: STAR

Criminals vandalise and torch this temple at Paschim Shukdevpur village in Parbatipur upazila under Dinajpur district on Sunday night.