



Some local influential people cultivate fish by grabbing portions of the canal flowing through the forest in Bhola's Monpura upazila, depriving the deer from drinking water. Inset, many spotted deer used to rove the road across the forest only a decade ago.



PHOTOS: STAR/COLLECTED

UNABATED POACHING

Number of deer in Monpura forest on decline

M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, back from Bhola

Unabated poaching of spotted deer is threatening the species to become endangered in Bhola's Monpura forest.

At least five different groups of poachers are currently active in Monpura forest, said a one of the poachers, seeking anonymity.

Officials at Monpura forest department said currently around 3,500 spotted deer are sheltered in Monpura forest, which consists of 5,000 hectares of land.

While talking to this correspondent the poacher also described how they trap the deer.

"After sensing the presence of a deer, we first climb a tall tree to spot its location in the forest," he said.

"We then set a current net trap around it and drove the deer from another side till it got trapped in the net," he said, adding that they later slaughtered the captured deer and sold its venison and skin to the customers.

"We usually hunt adult deer," he said, adding that if any cub or pregnant deer is trapped they instantly released it.

Many of the poachers earned a handsome amount by selling deer skins and venison secretly, said the hunter, also an accused in deer hunting cases.

"We usually collect 60kg to 120kg venison from an adult deer and sell the venison for Tk 200 to Tk 400 per kg," he said.

"There were a number of poacher's gang engaged in deer hunting. I had to

give extra attention in controlling them as well as increased the surveillance in the deep forest," said former forest official Sukumar Shil.

"Only a decade ago, we used to see herd of deer on the rural roads and some of those often got killed under bike wheels," local resident Ismail Hossain said, adding that due to mindless poaching the number of deer is sharply declining.

The island could have been a safe heaven for spotted deer but some active poacher's gang are not letting it happening, Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association (Bela) Barishal Coordinator Linkon Byne said.

Due to rise of salinity, spotted deer living in the island are also facing acute drinking

water crisis nowadays, Monpura Forest Ranger Sumon Das said.

Mamun, one of the residents near the forest, said deer's are facing serious drinking water crisis as some local influential people are doing fish farming, grabbing the canal, flowing across the forest.

According to Bangladesh Wildlife (Conservation and Security) Act, 2012, there are provisions of three years imprisonment or Tk 3 lakh fine or both if anyone is found poaching deer, carrying or possessing its venison for a fist offence.

UP chairman beats female member

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Chairman of Omarpur Union Parishad (UP) in Chowdhali upazila of Sirajganj district allegedly beat up a female member of the UP centering a feud over distribution of Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) cards on Wednesday.

The incident took place at the Chowdhali upazila parishad premise in the afternoon.

Injured UP member Aleya Khatun, 45, is now undergoing treatment at Nagarpur Upazila Health Complex in Tangail.

Aleya engaged in an altercation with Omarpur UP Chairman Md Abdul Matin Mandol over distribution of VGD cards at the upazila parishad premises, said the victim's son Milon Pasha.

"At one stage of altercation, the chairman started beating my mother," alleged Milon.

His mother sustained injuries in left hand and ear, said Milon, adding that she was later taken to the health complex in Tangail.

The chairman often harassed her and creates obstacles in performing her duty, said Aleya.

"The chairman deprived me from VGD cards allotment. As I protested it, he beat me," she said.

Refuting the allegation of beating the female UP member, Chairman Matin said she attacked him first.

"Aleya Khatun suddenly attacked me in front of local people and I tried to stop her. At one stage, she fell to the ground and sustained injuries," said Matin.

The chairman said total 478 VGD cards were allotted in his union and UP member Aleya got 17 cards according to the ratio of manpower but she demanded 40 cards.

No case was filed in this connection as of filing of this report around 9:00pm yesterday, said Inspector Hasibur of Chowdhali Police Station.

Action will be taken after getting complaint, he said.

UP member held for killing girl after rape

Two other accused in the case were arrested in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Police on Wednesday arrested three people, including a union parishad (UP) member, on charge of killing a girl after rape in Sirajganj's Shahazadpur upazila.

The arrestees are Md Abdul Jalil, member of ward no 7 of Narina UP, his cohorts -- Firozul Islam and Nur Mohammad Munshi -- of Jugidaha village in the upazila.

Police said the trio raped the 13-year-old girl of the same village when she went to a field near her house. They later poured poison into her mouth.

The victim was rushed to Sirajganj Medical College Hospital in critical condition and then shifted to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital in Bogura.

She later died on way to the hospital, said Khaza Golam Kibria, officer in charge of Shahazadpur Police Station.

The victim's father filed a case, accusing eight people including the arrestees, said the OC, adding that police are trying to arrest the other accused.

Police conducted drive at the village on Wednesday night and arrested the UP member and his two cohorts, said OC Kibria.

The arrestees were produced before a court that sent them to jail yesterday, said the police official.

Child rape accused arrested while crossing border

Another suspected child rapist held in Sherpur

STAR COUNTRY DESK

An accused child rapist, injured in police fire, was arrested in border village of Kumarpara in Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila on Wednesday night.

Sakimuddin, 40, son of Baki Mahmud in Kholahat Seturbazar village of Bhadaï union in Aditmari upazila, was admitted to Aditmari Upazila Hospital, reports our Lalmonirhat correspondent, quoting Masud Rana, officer-in-charge (OC) of Aditmari Police Station.

Police received a tip off and raided Kumarpara village to arrest Sakimuddin, a barber. He sustained injuries as police fired rubber bullets at him while he was trying to cross the border to evade arrest.

A 5-year-old child's father in a case filed on March 17 accused Sakimuddin of raping his child. The seriously injured child was admitted to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital after being rescued from Sakimuddin's barber shop, the OC added.

MAN ARRESTED FOR 'RAPING' SIX-YR-OLD GIRL

Meanwhile, a man was arrested for allegedly raping a six-year-old girl in Sherpur Sadar upazila's piling Ghat area yesterday, reports our Jamalpur correspondent.

The arrestee, Hashem, 35, son of Siraj Miah of Satpakia village in the same upazila, is caretaker of a construction site in the area, said Nurul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Sherpur Sadar Police Station.

Hashem raped the girl after luring her to his room for playing ludo around 1:30pm, the OC said, adding that they arrested the suspect around 5:15pm.

Hearing her scream, neighbours rushed to the spot and sent the girl to Jamalpur General Hospital in a critical condition, he also said.

10 hurt in BCL infighting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

At least 10 activists were injured in a clash between two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) over establishing supremacy at Moulvibazar Government College yesterday.

The incident took place at the college campus around 12:00 noon.

The injured were admitted to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital and different clinics in the town.

Of them, Tanvir Ahmed, Mehedi Hasan Jony, Mithun Deb and Mithu Mia sustained serious head injuries.

Saud Al Sufian Sagar, former organising secretary of district unit BCL, said a group of activists, led by Zakir Hosain Sujel, joint secretary of BCL college unit, at the campus at noon.

At the time, the men of Mahbub Alam, general secretary of the unit, swooped on them, triggering a clash that left at least 10 people from both sides injured.

A chase and counter chase took place between the rival groups during the incident, said Sagar.



The district administration in cooperation with Water Development Board yesterday demolished this water pump house in Malatinagar area of Bogura town during an eviction drive along the Karatoa river.

PHOTO: STAR



Injured college student Kawsar Ahmed at Kulaura Upazila Health Complex in Moulvibazar.

PHOTO: STAR

College boy beaten for hour with rods

Yaba peddler, his gang carry out the inhuman act

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A college boy was beaten inhumanly for over an hour allegedly by a local Yaba peddler and his men for over an hour in Juri upazila of the district on Tuesday.

The injured is Kawsar Ahmed, 16, son of late Ibrahim Ali of Belagaon village in the upazila, and a second year student at Juri TN Khanam Academy College. He is now undergoing treatment at Kulaura Upazila Health Complex.

The victim's elder brother Zahir Uddin blamed Mamun Mia, brother-in-law of their neighbour Sumon Mia, and his gang for the inhuman act.

On Monday, Mamun was released on bail after serving one month in jail in a drug peddling case.

Following a phone call from Sumon, Kawsar went to Mamun's house on Tuesday

night where Mamun and his cohorts Ibrahim Mia and Bilal Ahmed tied Kawsar with rope and beat him with iron rods for about one and a half hours.

Informed by locals, the family members rushed to the spot and rescued Kawsar, bleeding profusely, and admitted him to the hospital, said Dr Zakir Hossain.

Mamun, Sumon and their cohorts, however, managed to flee the scene, said the victim's brother Zahir, adding that they are taking preparation to file a case in this connection.

Mamun thinks Kawsar told police about his Yaba peddling and on suspicion, he beat up his brother inhumanly, said Zahir.

Contacted, Mamun refuted the allegation of beating Kawsar.

Md Jahangir Hossain Sardar, officer-in-charge of Juri Police Station, said action will be taken after getting complaint in this regard.

Trader killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A trader was killed and five others were injured in an attack allegedly by their rivals in Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased, Sanu Mia, 40, a resident of Krishnapur village, was owner of a readymade garment shop in Tangail town.

Deceased's elder brother Azahar Mia said, Faruk, a local vagabond, beat up Sanu's son Bachchu when the latter refused to lend his motorcycle.

In a bid to resolve the dispute, two villagers took Sanu and his family members to Faruk's house.

Later, Faruk and his men attacked Sanu and his family members with sharp weapons when they were about to enter Faruk's house.

Injured Sanu died on his way to Tangail General Hospital.