NATIONAL

BARGUNA, PATHARGHATA, SWARANKHOLA COASTS

Pirates loot 75 trawlers, abduct 65 fishermen

STAR NATIONAL DESK

At least 75 fishing trawlers were looted and five vessels with 65 fishermen were abducted by pirates in the Bay off Barguna and Patharghata coasts and in Swarankhola near the Sunbarbans since Friday, according to reports from Barisal and Khulna.

In Swarankhola, at least 25 fishermen were injured as they tried to resist pirates who looted 25 trawlers there. The pirates used speed boats and firearms during piracy

Our Barisal Correspondent reports: At least 52 fishing trawlers were looted and 65 fishermen and crew on board five trawlers were abducted by pirates from Friday morning to yesterday afternoon. This was the second onslaught by pirates in Barguna- Patharghata

coasts in a week, trawler owners Friday, he said and fishermen's associations in the area said

They also claimed that 17 crew

who were abducted earlier bought

their freedom after payment of 2.4

lakh ransom. The payment was

made by their men at a hotel in

Nirala Bazar in Khulna city yester-

day morning. They had gone for

fishing in the Sundarbans coast

onboard four trawlers named FB

Muktamala, Allahar Dan, Shahjahan

and Arafat, claimed Mustafa

Chowdhury, president of Barguna

Trawler Owners Associations. They

said they received a message from

the victims over cell phone yester-

Sumon-Kamal gang using speed

boats first swooped on eight trawl-

ers in Dimer Char at about noon on

Armed pirates belonging to

day morning.

The eight trawlers were FB Shah Amanat and Tarikul Islam belonged

to Sagir Company, FB Shamsunnahar and FB Mayer Doa of Abu Bakar Molla and Jalil Mridha of Patharghata, FB Shamim Ara and FB Zonaki of Babul Jomaddar and Adaru Khalifa of Tafalbaria, FB Shahalam of Chan Mia of Pirojpur and DB Janoni belonged to Abdul

Malek of Barguna The pirates looted fishes and fishing equipment worth about Tk 50 lakh from the 52 trawlers, he said.

Twenty of the trawlers were from Patharghata, 13 from Barguna, 11 from Pirojpur and eight from Sharonkhola, he claimed. The piracy was committed on 65 square kilometers area in Dula, Dimerchar, Kochikhali, Mohipur costs. The pirates abducted 65 crew

and fishermen along with their five 5 trawlers including FB Charmoisha, FB Shanu.

Our Staff Correspondent reports from Khulna: At least 25 fishermen were

injured when fishermen tried to resist attacks on their trawlers by pirates in the Bay on Friday.

Hundreds of fishing trawlers left the Bay Friday afternoon out of panic as piracy took an alarming turn in recent days.

According to Delwar Farazi and Sobhan Shikder of Swarankhola Fish Traders Association, 40 pirates divided in four groups looted fishes and money from 25 fishing trawlers. The piracy continued from about 11 am to 2 pm Friday, they said.

The pirates were carrying sawnoff guns, arrows and large daggers they said.

Striking non-government school teachers brought out a procession in Barisal city yesterday as part of their countrywide programme to press demands including payment of 100 per cent of their basic salary from the public exchequer.

6 hurt as four bombs explode in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj At least six people pedestrians were injured when four bombs

exploded at SS Road in Sirajganj town Friday night. Police later recovered three

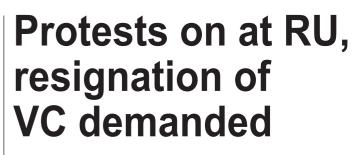
more bombs from the spot and took those to Sadar police station

Police and local people said the four bombs, kept by some unidentified miscreants on the road, went off when a rickshaw wheel pressed those

The injured, were treated at local clinics.

The incident created panic among the townspeople. Police have been deployed in prime spots in the town.

Police recorded a case but Udichi member Prof Bidhan could neither arrest any body not find any clue to the incident.



Call to stop allowing Salehi from taking exam, cancel appointment of Jamaat men as teachers

RU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday staged a demonstration on Rajshahi University campus demanding resignation of the Vice Chancellor for allowed Shibir leader Salehi to appear at masters examination

Mahbub Alam Salehi, president of Islamic Chhatra Shibir (ISC) unit at RU is a key suspect in RU teacher S Taher Ahmed murder case.

The BCL activists also protested appointments of "controversial" persons in vacant posts in many departments.

At a rally held in front of central library, BCL leaders expressed PHOTO: STAF grave concern over recent appointments of more than 350 employees, allegedly on political consideration. Two 'controversial' persons who were ICS cadres were destroy the academic atmosphere. They threatened of launching a tougher agitation if the university authorities do not stop such 'illegal appointments of teachers and employees and allow Shibir cadre Salehi to appear at examination. BCL RU unit general secretary

appointed teachers in the Law and

authorities for this, saying the

political appointments will only

process has turned the university

into an 'appointment bureau of

Jamaat and BNP cadres'. This will

vitiate the campus atmosphere.

They criticised the university

They said the recent recruiting

Justice department, they said.

Islam and BCL leader Prince,

Ayen Uddin, central committee members Zahid Ali and Rashidul

Reazul, Masud and Uzzal addressed the rally. Earlier, they brought out a procession on the campus.



The Cox's Bazar sea beach turned lively yesterday as Rakhine youths from Chittagong, Chittagong Hill Tracts and Teknaf flocked there on the last day of their traditional month-long 'monsoon festival'. Thousands of Rakhine community people celebrate the day gaily in the beach every year.

4X3

Retrial of Jessore Udichi blast case demanded **RU CORRESPONDENT**

Hundreds of cultural activists

Speakers at the rally alleged that

gated as some influential men in the

government were behind to save

cultural activists in the country.

the killers are punished.

They also demanded security of

They threatened to launch a

The rally was addressed by,

tougher agitation if the gruesome

incident is not re-investigated and

among other, Rajsahahi Udichi

President Alamgir Hossian, central

Chandra Das, and other leaders.

killed and over 100 injured.

nvestigation report.

the killers

