

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 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 yesterday 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 yesterday morning.

Armed pirates belonging to Sumon-Kamal gang using speed boats first swooped on eight trawlers in Dimer Char at about noon on

Friday, he said.

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 coasts.

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 sawn-off guns, arrows and large daggers, they said.



PHOTO: STAR

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.

## Protests on at RU, resignation of VC demanded

### 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 grave concern over recent appointments of more than 350 employees, allegedly on political consideration. Two 'controversial' persons who were ICS cadres were

appointed teachers in the Law and Justice department, they said.

They criticised the university authorities for this, saying the political appointments will only vitiate the campus atmosphere.

They said the recent recruiting process has turned the university into an 'appointment bureau of Jamaat and BNP cadres'. This will 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 Ayen Uddin, central committee members Zahid Ali and Rashidul Islam and BCL leader Prince, Reazul, Masud and Uzzal addressed the rally. Earlier, they brought out a procession on the campus.



PHOTO: STAR

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.

## Retrial of Jessore Udichi blast case demanded

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi district and Rajshahi University units of Udichi yesterday demanded retrial of the bomb attack on a Udichi function in Jessore seven years ago in which 10 people were killed and over 100 injured.

Hundreds of cultural activists staged a demonstration at Shabeb Bazaar zero point chanting slogans demanding re-investigation of case. All the 23 accused in the case were acquitted by a court in Jessore, mentioning "inadequacy" in the investigation report.

Speakers at the rally alleged that the case was not properly investigated as some influential men in the government were behind to save the killers.

They also demanded security of cultural activists in the country.

They threatened to launch a tougher agitation if the gruesome incident is not re-investigated and the killers are punished.

The rally was addressed by, among other, Rajshahi Udichi President Alamgir Hossain, central Udichi member Prof Bidhan Chandra Das, and other leaders.

## 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 could neither arrest any body nor find any clue to the incident.

4X3

2.5X2

14X3

3X2

7X3

4X2