

Pirates kidnap 40 more fishermen on Barguna coast

217 abducted in Bay since May, 177 buy freedom

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Pirates kidnapped more 40 fishermen Friday night from Kachikhali coast in Pathorghata of Barguna district as they did not buy 'token', issued by the gangs after payment of toll.

They took the fishermen to an unknown place in the Sundarbans and demanded Tk 10 lakh ransom, according to a message received Pathorghata Saturday night.

Fish trader Tipu in Pathorghata said that a gang named Majha Bahini kidnapped the fishermen when they took shelter in a safe place due to inclement weather and rough sea.

The gang in their message demanded payment of the ransom within 36 hours, he said.

When contacted Jahangir, Contingent Commander of Navy in Pathorghata, said being informed, they launched a drive to the Sundarbans to rescue the fishermen and capture the pirates.

But none could be rescued when the report was filed at 5 pm yesterday.

Nazrul Islam, president of Pathorghata Trawler Workers Union, said pirates kidnapped 217 fishermen from the Bay since May. Of them, 177 were freed on payment of ransom.

Bid to name Magura road after Razakar finally foiled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Attempt to name a road in Magura municipality after Razakar Sharif Amjad Hossain, has been foiled by freedom fighters and conscious citizens.

In early August, unknown people set up on the road a signboard containing the name of Sharif Amjad Hossain, treasurer of Magura Peace Committee (a body formed to collaborate with Pakistan occupation army) during the Liberation War, while an initiative was allegedly taken to officially name the road after the Razakar.

Local freedom fighters and political parties including JSD raised a strong voice against the move and the signboard containing the name of the razakar was removed on Wednesday night.

No road in Magura municipal area was named after razakar Sharif Amjad Hossain, said a press release signed by Magura municipality Mayor Abdul Gafur on Wednesday.

"Removal of the signboard containing Amjad's name is a victory of the freedom fighters in Magura. He was an infamous razakar and during post-liberation period he was imprisoned as an anti-liberation criminal," said Khan Ali Reza, former commander of Magura district unit of Muktiyoddha Sangsad.

He alleged that Mayor Abdul Gafur in connivance with Mihir Lal Kuri, a teacher of Magura Adorsho Degree College, tried to name the road after razakar Sharif Amjad Hossain alias Amjad Sharif.

Magura municipality mayor Abdul Gafur, however, denied Ali Reza's allegation and said, "Mihir Lal Kuri, who donated land for construction of the road, verbally proposed naming the road after Sharif Amjad Hossain but we did not approve the proposal officially."

One drowns, 10 missing in Netrakona boat capsizes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

One persons drowned and over 10 were missing as an engine boat capsized in Dhanu river at Nowtana in Khaliajuri upazila yesterday.

Police said the boat was going to Barantar village in Khaliajuri upazila from Khaliajuri upazila headquarter with over 50 people.

The dead was identified as Nurunnahar, 40, of Barantar village in Khaliajuri. The body was recovered by local people.

Local people and police were searching for the missing people when the report was filed yesterday evening as relatives of the missing people gathered on both banks of river.

Polls preparation hampered in 6 N dists for lack of staff

No regular DEO in 3 dists, 23 upazilas lack UEO, steno typists work as UEO in 10 upazilas

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Activities of election officials in six northern districts are being greatly hampered due to shortage of manpower.

The problem has slowed down the on going process of framing voter lists and preparation of national identity cards, official sources said.

Preparations for the planned November 18 parliamentary election are also being affected due to lack of election officials and other staff both at upazila and district levels.

In some upazilas, even steno typists are working as upazila election officers but the authorities are yet to take steps to solve the problem, they said while talking to this correspondent.

Sources said there is no district election officer (DEO) in Nilphamari, Kurigram, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh. Only Gaibandha and Lalmonirhat have regular DEOs.

Of the total 37 upazilas in the six districts, 23 upazilas have no upazila election officer (UEO).

Steno typists are working as UEOs in 10 of the 23 upazilas.

These are Saidpur upazil in Nilphamari; Fulbari and Ulipur in Kurigram; Saghata, Fulcehbari and Sadullahpur in Gaibandha; Kaliganj in Lalmonirhat; Horipur in Thakurgaon and Boda and Deviganj in Panchagarh. They are given current charge of UEO in those upazilas, official sources said.

In the rest 13 upazilas, UNO, AC land and upazila agriculture officers are holding charge of UEO as their additional responsibilities.

These upazilas are Jaldhaka, Domar and Kishorganj of Nilphamari district; omari and Bhurungamari in Kurigram; Polashbari, Gobindaganj and Sundarganj in Gaibandha; Patgram, Hatibandha and Aditmari in Lalmonirhat and Ranisankail in Thakurgaon district.

There is virtually no progress in election-related works in the upazilas as those officials as they have little time for that after doing their routine work, the sources said.

Besides, there is no office assistant in election offices in Dimla, Fulbari, Ulipur, Roumari, Kurigram sadar, Saghata, Sadullapur, Aditmari, Balladangi, Boda and Deviganj upazilas. Usually, office assistants do all the official works.

As per law, an upazila election office should be manned with UEO, office assistant and office peon.

But in Roumari Aditmari, there is no office assistant to assist the DEO. AC land in Roumari and UEO in Lalmonirhat Sadar work as acting DEO in the two upazilas.

The acting district election officer on Nilphamari who is also the regular UEO of sadar upazila Sakander Ali told that they face difficulty to carry out additional responsibility. But

they have to do their works properly as election related matters are sensitive.

Talking to this correspondent yesterday, Zelhasuddin Ahamed, acting district election officer in Kurigram, said he several times informed higher authorities about the problem, but to no effect.

The caretaker government sacked a number of UEOs months back as they were recruited on political consideration during the last BNP-Jamaat government. The vacant posts are yet to be filled, the sources said.

When contacted, Deputy Election Commissioner Suvash Chandra Sarkar in Rangpur said that the authorities started the recruitment process last month to fill up the vacant posts. But the High Court stayed the process as the sacked election officials filed a writ.

He however said the government would immediately take steps to solve the problem.



With its immense beauty, national flower water lily adorning a wetland in Gazipur presents a captivating scene.

Kulaura BNP divided over ex-MP Shahin's expulsion

Shahin loyalists hold iftar party, rivals call Eid reunion on October 5

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

BNP in Kulaura upazila has virtually been divided into two factions following adoption of a resolution for expulsion of former lawmaker MM Shahin by upazila BNP executive committee.

The resolution was adopted at a meeting of a faction of the party held on Thursday.

Now, a faction supports the upazila committee's resolution while the other is backing MM Shahin, creating a face-off situation between the rival groups. Two factions have taken programmes against each other. Shahin's opponents held an iftar party and discussion meeting yesterday while his followers have called a Eid reunion on October 5. Party insiders said his followers are preparing for a showdown on that day.

Meanwhile, Shahin loyalists held a meeting at his house at the upazila headquarter on Friday night. About 500 BNP activists were present in that



Ex-MP MM Shahin

meeting, claimed Shahin loyalist.

With Kulaura BNP leader Monsob Miah in the chair, the meeting was addressed by, among others, by former general secretary of upazila BNP Rafique Uddin, former vice-president of district BNP MS Zaman Motin, former general secretary of upazila BNP

Shipar Uddin, former UP chairman Komor Uddin Komur and Abdus Shahid Babul, Kulaura Traders Unity Council President Rafique Uddin, and upazila JCD leaders Kayser Rashid and Rezaur Rahman.

Later, Shahin told this correspondent that BNP leaders and activists at Friday meeting protested the so-called resolution taken by a few party leaders, ignoring the mainstream BNP, Chhatra Dal, and Jubo Dal in Kulaura.

He also claimed that the iftar party was held by 'conspirators', where signatures of party activists were collected, which was enclosed with the resolution.

Kamal Ahmed Juned, president of Kulaura upazila BNP and Kulaura municipal mayor, however claimed that there was no conflict in upazila BNP.

"If a leader joins another political party, then his membership in the party stands automatically cancelled", he said. Two party-leaders in Kulaura.



Cautious walk on a bamboo structure to cross Shurgram Bridge on Ramdia-Boltali road in Gopalganj as the approach road has remained unrepaired after the recent flood washed it away.

BIWTC resumes ferry service in 2 southern routes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) yesterday temporarily resumed ferry services on Bhola-Lakshampur route on River Meghna, linking road communications between Chittagong and 21 south-western districts, which had remained suspended since September 8.

After trial trips by ferry Ketoki on Friday and Saturday, authorities decided to resume the temporary service from today through Bongcherchar and Ramdaspur channels.

BIWTC sources said ferries Kishori and Kamini were removed from the route to Mawa within four days after the first experimental trip to resume navigation by opening a new channel had failed on September 13.

However, the regular ferry service may not resume before dredging the old channel, officials of the BIWTC and Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority told reporters.

A survey team on September 12 recommended newly found Razapur NB channel for navigation but an experimental trip through

the channel on September 13 failed due to strong whirling current of the downstream, BIWTA sources said.

There is no alternative to increasing the depth of old Bongcherchar channel before navigation, Md Faruk, a BIWTC ferry master, said.

Nurul Islam Bhuiyan, commercial manager of the BIWTC, said navigation through the Bhola-Lakshampur route involved risks because of strong whirling current in Razapur NB channel and less navigability in Bongcherchar and Ramdaspur channels.

Mesbahul Islam, deputy commissioner of Bhola, said temporary resumption of the ferry service was done to tackle Eid rush of passengers.

Operation of ML type water transports which are less than 65 feet in length resumed in 55 routes in Barisal region yesterday as weather condition improved, BIWTA officials said.

The routes included 28 inner routes of Barisal, 13 in Barguna and 14 in Bhola. Five coastal routes of Barisal, Bhola, Lakshampur and Chittagong were suspended due to bad weather condition since Friday last.

13 MT urea seized in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Police seized a truck loaded with 13 tonnes of urea fertiliser (218 sacks) from Jamuna Bridge east side toll plaza in the early hours of yesterday.

Acting on a tip off, a team from Jamuna Bridge East Police Station led by sub-inspector (SI) Pankaj Kumar Dey seized the urea-laden truck and arrested its driver Shawkat Hossain.

Mohammad Mozahar Ali, officer-in-charge (OC) of the police station, said that as per documents, the fertiliser was supposed to go Netrakona but it was proceeding towards Jhainaidaha.

A case was filed with the police station.

Some sources however claimed that the consignment of fertiliser was being taken to border area to smuggle the urea out the country. Police said they were interrogating the arrested driver.

Energy secy's 'official tour' during Eid vacation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Energy secretary's three-day 'official tour' to three gas fields in greater Sylhet region during the Eid vacation has raised questions among the employees and officers in the state-run companies.

After getting the faxed message of the tour programme on Thursday, the employees and officials termed it a 'family Eid tour' on the holidays.

Sources said 21 members of the secretary's family will accompany him during the 'official tour' from October 2 to 4.

A number of officials and employees in the three gas fields in Habiganj, Beanbazar and at Haripur in Sylhet will have to cancel their Eid holiday as they have been given the task of arranging the food and other logistic arrangement for the entourage.

The team is also scheduled to visit Jafflong nad Stripur in Sylhet and Madhabkunda Eco Park in Barlekha upazila in Moulvibazar district, sources said.

The secretary and entourage will reach Habiganj Gas Field on October 2, stay at night at Haripur Gas Field and go to Beanbazar Gas Filed on October 4, said a faxed message sent by Mostafa Kamal, private secretary to the secretary.

An official in Sylhet Gas Field yesterday said there will be practically no job in the three gas fields during the Eid holidays when the secretary visits there.

'Protect their lands to save ethnic people'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Speakers at a seminar here yesterday said lands of indigenous people should be protected to save the communities in different areas of the country.

If they lose lands, their existence will be at stake, they said.

The seminar on 'Protection and Establishing Rights on Land of Adivasi People in Mymensingh Region' was held at CARITAS Regional office here.

Protection of lands of indigenous people has turned into a demand as their lands are being grabbed by local influentials, the speakers said.

Problems with land of indigenous people started at Madhupur in Mymensingh region in 1964 that is on still now adding more salt to the injury, they said.

Our land is our life and we have to maintain all sorts of relations including spiritual one with the land. So we must protect our lands, they said.

On eviction of indigenous people from forest lands on various pretexts, they said, forests must be protected for our next generations.

Presided over by Atul Francis Sarker, Director (Development) of CARITAS, the seminar was addressed by former lawmaker advocate Promode Mankin, also president of Tribal Welfare Association (TWA).

The government should take steps to protect rights of indigenous people on their traditional lands, the speakers suggested and demanded constitutional reorganisation of the rights.

Among others Associate Professor of Agriculture Economics Faculty of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Dr. Harun-or-Rashid also spoke.



Locals form a human chain at Burichang in Comilla district yesterday demanding arrest and punishment of the killers of auto-rickshaw driver Dulal and withdrawal of 'false' cases against a few people.

Unrest in B'Baria BSCIC area

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Conflict between proprietors of Monni Chemical Industry and Mazed Metal Industry over possession of two plots in Nondanpur BSCIC Industrial Estate in the district for years is disturbing normalcy there, causing hindrance to development of the estate.

On Saturday, at least 40 workers of Monni Shop and Chemical Industries were injured when the musclemen of Badiul Group, proprietor of Mazed Metal Industry attacked them, Md Abul Hossain, proprietor of Monni Shop and Chemical Industries, said at a press conference at Brahmanbaria Press

Club yesterday.

Abul Hossain filed three cases against Mazed Metal Industry proprietor Md Badiul Alam Khanaker, who is now in jail on charge of damaging and looting the goods and properties of Abul Hossain's industry.

In the press conference, Abul Hossain said the authorities of Nondanpur BSCIC Industrial Estate are not taking proper steps to improve the situation and so, production in the factories are being hampered.

As proprietors of Monni Chemical Industry and Mazed Metal Industry are vying to get plots No 31 and 32, four clashes

occurred between the two groups over possession of the plots during last two years.

When contacted, Monirul Haque Bhuiyan, the estate office of Nondanpur BSCIC Industrial Estate, said they are trying to solve the problem with the help of district administration as the two groups are trying to possess plots No 31 and 32 without permission of the authorities.

According to office record of this estate, there are 137 plots covering 22 acres of land in Nondanpur BSCIC Industrial Estate where 45 industrial units are functioning and a few others preparing.

Dhaka City Corporation
www.dhakacity.org

Invitation for Tender

1. Ministry/Division	: Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives/Local Govt. Division.		
2. Agency	: Dhaka City Corporation.		
3. Procuring entity name	: Project Director, Installation of Sodium Light at Different Roads of Dhaka City & Procurement of Various Vehicles and Equipment for maintenance work.		
4. Procuring entity district	: Dhaka.		
5. Invitation Ref No. & date	: ISLP/2008-09/TN/11, Date: 24.9.2008.		
6. Procurement method	: Open tendering method (OTM).		
7. Budget & source of funds	: GOB.		
8. Tender publication date	: 24/9/2008.		
9. Tender last selling date	: 20/10/2008.		
10. Tender closing date and time	: 21/10/2008, 14.00hrs.		
11. Tender opening date & time	: 21/10/2008, 15.00hrs.		
12. Name & address of the office(s)	: Accounts Department of Dhaka City Corporation, Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka. All Zonal Executive Engineer's Office, Dhaka City Corporation, Office of the Project Director, Room # 233, Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka-1000.		
13. Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	: Pre-tender meeting will not be held.		
14. Eligibility of tenderer	: As per Public Procurement Rules-2008.		
15. Brief description of supply	: Identification of Group		
Group No.	Price of tender document	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time
i.	Tk. 1,000/-	Tk. 70,000/-	60 days
ii.	Tk. 1,000/-	Tk. 65,000/-	60 days
iii.	Tk. 1,000/-	Tk. 1,75,000/-	75 days
iv.	Tk. 1,000/-	Tk. 1,30,000/-	75 days
v.	Tk. 1,000/-	Tk. 55,000/-	60 days
vi.	Tk. 1,000/-	Tk. 1,35,000/-	75 days
16. Name, designation & address of official inviting tender	: Md Mainuddin, Project Director, Installation of Sodium Light at Different Roads of Dhaka City & Procurement of Various Vehicles and Equipment for maintenance work, Room No. 233, Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka. Tel.No. 9557901.		
17. Right of the procuring entity	: The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.		

DCC/PRD/124/08-09
GD-4403

Installation of Sodium Light at Different Roads of Dhaka City & Procurement of Various Vehicles and Equipments

Md Mainuddin
Project Director