



**Kidnapped businessman rescued**

*Two arrested*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) rescued a kidnapped businessman and captured two of the alleged kidnapers from the city's Bandar area on Tuesday.

Rab sources said Md Yakub, 45, hailing from Borogao of Bhaderashwar union of Bahubal under Habiganj left his village home for Dhaka on July 20 on business purpose. He was kidnapped from Gopibagh of Motijheel area in the capital on the same day.

Later the criminals through cell-phone demanded a ransom of Tk 10 lakh from Yakub's family members who lodged a complaint with Rab-9 in Sylhet.

Being informed by Rab-9 that Yakub was taken to Saltgola area in Chittagong, a team from Rab-7 posing as negotiators contacted with the kidnapers through cell-phone and made a deal to pay the ransom money.

After the deal, the elite force members took the victim's younger brother with them and raided a place in Saltgola Crossing area under Bandar police station on Tuesday afternoon and arrested one Md Rubel, 24 at around 5.30pm.

Acting on information given by Rubel, Rab members raided Dhuppl Korban Ali Shah Mazar area under Bandar PS and rescued Yakub from a rented house.

The Rab members also arrested Sumi Akhter, 30, wife of Jasim Uddin, the alleged ring leader of the kidnapers, from the house.

Contacted, Senior ASP Anirban Chakma of Rab-7 said they were trying to nab the other culprits while the arrestees were handed over to police.

**Farmers worried as urea dealers on strike**

*Aman planting in Nilphamari may face setback*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Fertiliser dealers in Nilphamari district refrained from receiving delivery of urea from Parbotipur buffer stock for the second day yesterday, much to the worry of farmers.

Following a call by the Nilphamari unit of Bangladesh Fertiliser Association (BFA) to realise their three-point demand, all the 75 dealers of the district stopped withdrawing fertiliser from the buffer stock in adjacent Dinajpur district for an indefinite period from Tuesday afternoon.

Their demand includes stopping supply of China made 'low quality' fertiliser to the local dealers from Parbotipur buffer stock, setting up a buffer stock in Nilphamari, which is a major paddy producing area of the country, and allowing the fertiliser dealers to take delivery of locally produced good quality Jamuna variety of urea fertiliser under 'district quota' from factory gate.

Corporation (BCIC) has recently imported low quality urea from China and the buffer stock officials at Parbotipur are compelling us to receive it. As a result we have to incur monetary losses," said district unit of BFA President Abdul Wahed Sarker.

"To realise our three-point demand, we handed over a memorandum to the BCIC chairman through the deputy commissioner of Nilphamari one month ago but to no effect," he said.

Nitrogenated urea, most important fertiliser for cultivating paddy, is supplied to Dinajpur and Nilphamari districts from the buffer stock at Parbotipur in Dinajpur district, fertiliser dealers said.

When the farmers are busy in planting 'amon' seedlings, the fertiliser dealers' programme may cause setback in cultivation, as specific doses of urea is to be sprayed in paddy fields three times at certain intervals till harvest, said several farmers.

Many farmers, anxious about availability of fertiliser in days ahead, yesterday

crowded the shops of fertiliser dealers and retailers in different markets of the district to purchase urea.

The district unit president of BFA said they have a good stock of urea that can meet the farmers' demand for about week.

"But if the authorities concerned fail to meet our demand within a short time, continued agitation programme may create problem in future," he said.

In July, the government has allocated 2600 tonnes of urea for the district but only a small portion of it was withdrawn before the agitation programme started.

"The fertiliser dealers of Nilphamari stopped withdrawing urea from Tuesday alleging that the urea imported from China is of low quality. I have informed the higher authority of BCIC of the matter," said Md Shahjahan, the in-charge of Parbotipur buffer stock.

Nilphamari Deputy Commissioner's Office sources said they are in close contact with the fertiliser dealers and trying to resolve the problem.

PHOTO: STAR  
Grief-stricken mothers and grandmothers of five boys, picked up by Indian Border Security Force on Friday, wait at a house of Manipur village in Haripur upazila under Thakurgaon district as the children, hailing from the bordering village, did not return as of yesterday.

**When will the five kids return to mothers' lap?**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

The families of five children, abducted by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) from Haripur border of Thakurgaon district five days ago, observed the holy Sab-e-Barat amid tears.

Unlike other years, the families of the ill-fated children at bordering Minapur village under Haripur upazila in Thakurgaon, did not prepare any delicacies on the occasion as the boys including three minor ones are still detained in India.

"We observe the holy Sab-e-Barat in each year amid joy but last night we were in tears as Montu is detained in India," Marufa Begum, mother of five-year-old boy, said yesterday.

"BDR officers told us that our boys would be freed within 2/3 days but five days have passed since we last saw them," said Rehana Khatun, mother of eight-year-old Raihan.

"Every year in the monsoon the villagers catch fish in the area. Nobody asks them to do so. But on Friday BSF members picked the children from no man's land on Haripur border without warning earlier," Rehana said.

"Setabul likes to eat bread of powdered rice with sweetmeat but he is detained in India. So we have not made any arrangement of such foods in the festival," said Setabul's mother

Setara Begum. "Not only the families of the detained boys, all the villagers are in a depressed mood after the incident," Khoda Boksh, member of the local union parishad told this correspondent.

The five Bangladeshi children, picked up by BSF from Haripur border district on Friday morning, are -- Pania, 18, son of Denial Islam, Mohammad Salauddin, 18, son of Abdul Kuddush, Montu Miah, 15, son of late Nazrul Islam, Raihan, 8, son of Atauddin and Shetabul Islam, 10, son of Joyanal Abedin.

The five children had gone to the low-lying area near border pillar No 354 on Haripur border for fishing, said BDR men and locals.

Commanding Officer of 2 Rifles Battalion Lt Col Ershad Hossain said they contacted with BSF officials and a flag meeting was held on Friday evening.

"At the flag meeting BSF officials alleged that the detained youths and children were cutting barbed wire on the border. BDR strongly protested the act of picking up five Bangladeshi boys and asked its Indian counterpart to release them without delay. The BSF officials assured that the Bangladeshi boys would be released within a day or two after completion of legal procedure. But they are yet to be returned," Ershad Hossain said.

**4 children drown in 3 districts**

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Three schoolboys and a schoolgirl drowned in Thakurgaon, Gopalganj and Bagerhat districts on Tuesday.

A school student drowned on Tuesday afternoon in the Tangon River in Thakurgaon town, reports our correspondent.

The boy was identified as Milon Faruk Faisal, 15, son of Oliul Islam of Tikapara in Thakurgaon municipality area and a class X student of Thakurgaon Model High School.

Locals and fire fighter sources said a few boys were playing football on the bank of the river. At one stage the ball fell in the river. Faisal got down in the river to bring back the ball but he drowned.

On information, fire fighters rushed to the spot and recovered the body after a frantic effort for about an hour.

In Bagerhat, a schoolgirl drowned in a pond at Patopara village in Chitalmari upazila on Tuesday noon.

The deceased was identified as Matlu Khandakar, 11, a student of class IV of Patopara Government Primary School and daughter of Ismail Khandakar of the village.

Family sources said Matlu while taking bath in a nearby pond, all of a sudden slipped deep into it and drowned as she did not know how to swim.

Later, locals recovered her floating body from the pond.

Earlier, two sisters - Laxmi Saha, 10, and Mita Saha, 4, - of Nagerbazar Lake road area of the district town drowned in another pond last week.

In Gopalganj, two children drowned on Tuesday in a pond at Bangram village under Sadar upazila, reports a correspondent.

The dead were identified as Nayem Mir, 11, a class four student and his cousin Salman, 7, a student of class two of Banagram Government Primary School.

Relatives said the children went to take a bath in a pond near their house on Tuesday but they drowned as they did not know how to swim.



PHOTO: STAR  
Workers process ice at a factory at Mohipur near Kuakata sea beach as the item, used for preserving fish, is of great demand during the ongoing hilsa catching season. Frequent power cuts, however, hamper ice production, causing serious problem to fishermen and traders.

**FREQUENT OUTAGES IN PATUAKHALI, BARGUNA  
Fishermen, traders count loss for want of ice**

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Fishermen and fish traders in the coastal areas of Patuakhali and Barguna districts are facing losses due to storage problem as ice production has greatly reduced following frequent power cuts and low voltages.

Fishermen have to sell fishes including hilsa for almost half the usual prices in local markets as they cannot store it due to lack of ice and cold storage in the area.

Failing to manage sufficient ice, many trawlers waiting at Mohipur fish landing station in Kalapara upazila under Patuakhali district could not move to the sea for fishing.

Of the 52 ice plants in seven upazilas of the district, 26 are in Mohipur area but at least 10 of them faced closure during the last couple of years as owners incurred losses due to poor electricity supply, said sources of ice plant owners association in Patuakhali.

"We can produce only 350 to 400 cans of ice daily but average demand is 1200 to 1400 cans here. The situation has worsened during the last two weeks as Rural Electrification Board imposes six to eight hours of load shedding daily, hampering production of ice," said Mojibur Rahman, manager of Gazi Ice Plant.

Low voltage also causes problem to ice production.

"We could not send our trawlers to the sea due to shortage of ice. We can collect ice from

Bhola and Khulna districts but it adds to the cost," said Abdus Salam Howlader, former president of fish traders association in Mohipur.

"We have to buy a can of ice for Tk 200 to 250 although its normal price is Tk 70 to 90 in local markets," Fazlu Gazi, president of fish traders association in Mohipur said.

Same is the situation in Pathorghata of Barguna district.

"Fish processing is hampered as we are facing ice crisis for a month," said Golam Mostafa Chowdhury, president of fishing boat owners' association in Barguna.

When contacted, Rabindra Nath Poul, general manager (GM) of Patuakhali Rural Electrification Board (REB), said, "We are getting supply of only 6/7 megawatt (MW) power from WZPDCO (West Zone Power Distribution Company Ltd) against a daily demand of 16 MW for over 80,000 consumers in Patuakhali and Barguna districts."

"We sent a letter to the convenor of regional load management committee also managing director of WZPDCO in Khulna region demanding allotment of additional 3 MW electricity for Mohipur feeder as we are now getting only 1.5 MW on an average daily against the demand of 6/7 MW. We are trying our best to ensure power supply in Mohipur area for the sake of hilsa business," he said.

When contacted, an engineer of WZPDCO said, "We need 24 to 26 MW power in Patuakhali daily but only 11 to 12 MW is being supplied from the national grid."



PHOTO: STAR  
Bundles of jute fibre are being taken to local market for sale in Baleshwar area of Rajshahi district yesterday. High yield and high price of the cash crop this season make the farmers of this district happy.

**DINAJPUR, ADJACENT DISTRICTS**

**Thousands watch as sun wears red-and-blue ring**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Thousands of people of Dinajpur and adjacent districts witnessed the rare sight of a red-and-blue ring around the sun yesterday morning.

After the phenomenon became visible, many people went outside and gazed at the sky to view the rare sight that continued from 10:30am to 1:30pm, witnesses said.

"It was more beautiful than anything I could have imagined. I told my colleagues and relatives to have a look at the sky," said Shusmita Roy, a viewer in Dinajpur.

Many people got scared as the scene, quite unusual to them, appeared on the sky.

"The ring, caused by the refraction of the sun's rays through ice crystals in the atmosphere, is a natural phenomenon. It is more common around the moon," FR Sarker, general secretary of Bangladesh Astronomical Society, said.

"This atmospheric phenomenon is caused when the

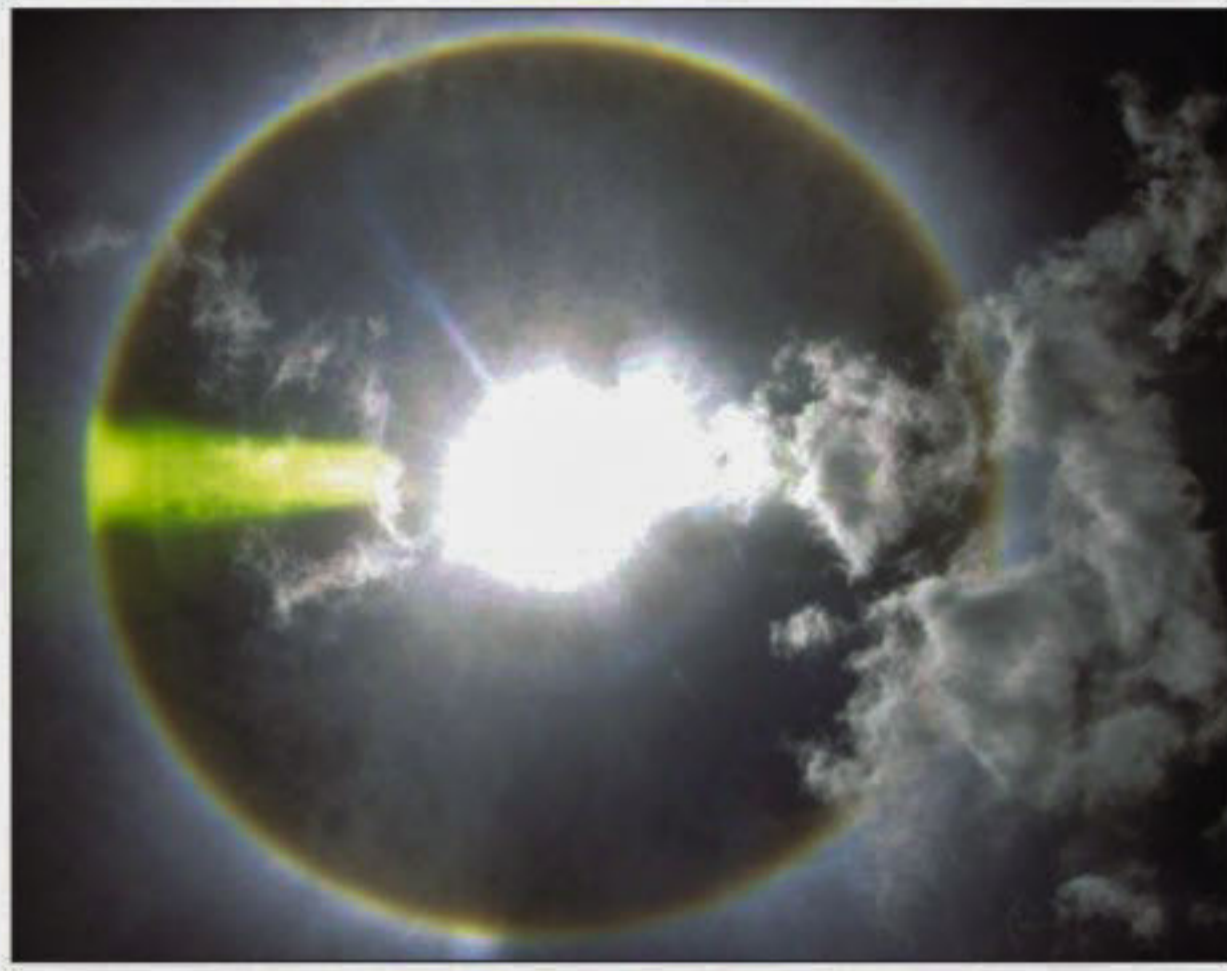


PHOTO: STAR  
CAPRICE OF NATURE: A colourful ring, appearing around the sun for hours yesterday morning, offers a captivating sight for thousands of people in Dinajpur and adjoining districts.

sun's rays get deflected through hexagonal ice crystals present in cirrus clouds, Cirrus clouds, visible as stray wisps in the sky, are formed when water vapour freezes into ice crystals at altitudes of five to 10 km from the earth's surface," he said.

It is called 22-degree circular halo of the sun, because the

**BDR 'MUTINY'  
Lalmonirhat hearing on Nov 7**

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

The hearing on charge-framing against 24 mutineers of 31 Rifles Battalion under Rangpur sector will be held at the battalion headquarters in Lalmonirhat on November 7.

BDR Director General Major General Md Rafiqul Islam, head of the special court-2 of Bangladesh Rifles, on Tuesday fixed the date after prosecutor Lieutenant Colonel Aslam Hossain, also the commanding officer, of 31 Rifles Battalion, read out the charges against 24 mutineers.

Two other members of the court are Lt Col Mahfuzur Rahman and Major Didar Al Latif.

The BDR men of 31 Rifles Battalion have been accused of looting arms from armoury, ransacking rooms at the battalion headquarters and creating panic by firing blank shots.

Of the accused, 15 were arrested earlier while the rest nine at the battalion headquarters on Monday noon as per court order.

During the trial, Deputy Attorney General Goutam Kumar Roy was present in the court as representative of the Attorney General's office.

Advocates Gazi Zillur Rahman and Belayet Hossain were present as special prosecutors.



**INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING**  
ICB No. UNFPA/BGD/10/002

**SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF IT EQUIPMENT, SOFTWARE AND ACCESSORIES FOR POPULATION CENSUS, BANGLADESH 2011**

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) invites sealed bids for supply and installation of IT equipment, Software and Accessories for Population Census, Bangladesh 2011.

Bonafide bidders are encouraged to obtain detail bid documents in English language by clicking the <http://www.unfpa.org/Notices/Notices.aspx> or by contacting the below mentioned address. Sealed bid must be submitted to the office as per bid document on or before **17 August 2010 within 16:30 hrs local time.**

**Contact Information:**  
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)  
IDB Bhaban (15th Floor), E/8-A Rokeya Sarani  
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka 1207, Bangladesh  
Attention: Jawher Lal Das, E-mail: [jawher@unfpa.org](mailto:jawher@unfpa.org)