

84 TRAWLERS LOOTED IN BORGUNA, BAGERHAT

Pirates kill fisherman, abduct 125 for ransom

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Pirates killed a fisherman and abducted at least 125 fishermen while looting 84 trawlers in Borguna and Bagerhat on Sunday.

Pirates killed a fisherman and shot four others near Chalna Boya point of the Bay of Bengal in Borguna district on Sunday night.

They also looted four fishing trawlers and abducted 25 fishermen at around 11:00pm, reports a correspondent from Barisal.

The deceased was identified as Ripon Khan, 30, son of Rezwan Khan of Kalmegha village under Patharghata upazila of Borguna.

At least 26 other fishermen jumped into the river to save themselves from the pirates.

The nearby fishing trawlers rescued them from the

sea. All of them hailing from Banskhali of Chittagong returned to Patharghata at around 10:00am yesterday.

The injured were identified as Jagdish, Suvash, Abul and Kasem.

UNB from Bagerhat says, pirates looted valuables worth Tk 25 lakh from 80 trawlers and abducted over 100 fishermen demanding ransom of Tk 30 lakh in separate raids in the coastal areas of the district on Sunday night.

Fisherman Alauddin of Kochikhali said pirate number 30-40 belonging to infamous Zulfiqar Bahini in separate groups launched attack on the 80 trawlers while they were catching fish at Narkelbaria, Dublar Char and Meher Ali Char in coastal areas of the Bay of Bengal.

As the fishermen tried to resist the bandits they beat

them up indiscriminately, leaving around 30 of them seriously injured, he added.

Later, the pirates looted nets and the fishes of the fishermen worth about Tk 25 lakh from the trawlers.

The gang also threatened to kill the abducted fishermen if their family members fail to pay the ransom money within next seven days. The victims hailed from Sharankhola, Kachua, Charduan area of the district and Patharghata upazila of Barguna district.

Lt Commander Lokman Hakim of Mongla West Zone Coast Guard said drive was on to nab the pirates.

Sources said, pirates abducted more than 200 fishermen for ransom and looted valuables worth Tk 50 lakh from at least 150 trawlers in the last 10 days.

Another report says, Coast Guard members

arrested three pirates from Karamjol area of Passur river in Mongla upazila Sunday night.

The arrestees were identified as Nurul Islam, 35, Sawpan Hawlader, 37, and Jahangir Farazi, 36, of signal tower area in the upazila.

In Satkhira, police arrested four pirates yesterday while they were collecting illegal tolls from the fishermen in the river Kabodak near Jelekhali point adjacent to the Sundarbans in Shyamnagar upazila, reports our correspondent.

The pirates are Abul Kalam, 35 son of Abdus Sabur and Mizan, 40, son of Abdul Khaleque Sheikh of village Koira and Rokon Sheikh, 25 son of Sheikh Abdul Jalil and Masum Billal, 23 son of Shahidullah of village Katakhal in Koira upazila under Khulna district.



Farmers drying up Maskolai, a popular pulse, at Baneswar in Puthia Upazila in Rajshahi. The region saw a good harvest of the crop this season.

PHOTO: STAR

MOGHOLHAT BORDER INCIDENT

4 BDR men among five sued in Lalmonirhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Five people including four BDR men and an alleged smuggler have been sued on charge of beating dead a young man on Mogholhat border on Wednesday.

Father of the victim Rashidul Islam, Abdul Haque filed the murder case with Lalmonirhat Sadar police station on Sunday night.

The accused are habibdar Mahub Alam, lance nayek Mohammad Ali, jawans Abdul Jalil and Al-Amin -- all of Mogholhat BOP camp, and alleged smuggler Saidul Islam, 45, of Chawratari village near Mogholhat border area in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

"Four BDR men from Mogholhat BDR camp

accompanied by an identified smuggler picked up Rashidul Islam of Chawratari village under Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila at around 8:00pm on Wednesday and took him to the riverbank. They beat him up mercilessly, leaving him dead on the spot. Then the BDR men threw the body into the river," Lalmonirhat Sadar police station Officer in Charge Moynul Islam quoted the case statement.

Rashidul's body was recovered from Dharal River at Kolakhawa Ghat in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila at around 1:30pm on Friday, he added.

A three-member probe team headed by Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Md Zakir Hossain and comprising second-in-command of

Lalmonirhat 31 Rifles Battalion Major Shafique and Additional Superintendent of Police Hasan took statement of eight witnesses at Chawratari village yesterday noon.

"The probe team has started investigation and will submit report to the authority concerned in ten working days," said ADM Zakir Hossain.

"We closed the four accused BDR men to battalion headquarters from Mogholhat BOP camp yesterday noon. If investigation proves them guilty, they must lose their job and face imprisonment too," Major Shafique said.

"BDR men are sent to border areas to help people live peacefully. They are not allowed to torture or kill people," he said.

Bomb blast near Magura MP's house

AL man quizzed
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Leader of Magura district unit Awami League (AL) Abu Reza Nantu was picked up by police on Sunday night following a bomb explosion near the residence of Magura-1 constituency lawmaker Professor Dr. M. Serajul Akbar at Mahila College road in the town.

Police however, set Abu Reza Nantu free after about 3 hours.

Party insiders said the bomb exploded at around 11:00pm on Sunday when some senior leaders of district unit AL were holding a meeting to settle a dispute between Abu Reza and the lawmaker's nephew Mahubul Akbar Kallol. The lawmaker was however not present at the house during the meeting.

Contacted, officer-in-charge (OC) of Magura Sadar police station Abdur Rukib claimed that a cocktail was exploded near the residence of the local lawmaker and Nantu was picked up by police only for quizzing regarding the incident.



Workers of Second Urban Primary Health Care project in Rajshahi stage a sit-in in front of the head office at Nawdapara in the city yesterday demanding arrear salaries.

PHOTO: STAR

36-hr power outage in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Power supply to the district remained suspended for long 36 hours due to major fault in 33 KV transmission line between Palashbari grid station and Gaibandha distribution point.

The power supply however resumed at 3.30pm yesterday.

The long power outage disrupted normal life of Gaibandha people and added to their suffering in scorching heat.

According to local Power Development Board, during heavy shower power transmission line snapped at three points while a major fault developed in power distribution switchboard, resulting in the long outage.

Health workers lock offices for arrears

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Health workers of Second Urban Primary Health Care project in Rajshahi city yesterday locked their local head office and five other branch offices demanding arrear salaries.

Putting the offices under lock and key at around 9am, they staged a sit-in in front of the head office at Nawdapara.

The protesting health workers alleged that at least 144 officials and employees under the project are not getting salaries since May last.

They said a few officials of the project are regularly visiting abroad and making merry while leaving them unpaid for months.

Rajshahi City Corporation's (RCC) chief health officer Dr Abul Fazal rushed to the scene at around 12.30pm and asked the work-

ers to withdraw their programme promising to pay two months' salaries within August 30.

But the workers rejected the proposal saying they cannot rely on his promise, said the witnesses.

Later at around 4pm, the workers called off agitation on the assurance of settling the matter without further delay. They however threatened to paralyse activities of the project in case of failure to pay the outstanding salaries within the promised period.

Dr Fazal said, "We told them that the things will be settled after the project director (Milon Bikash Pal) returns from Switzerland in a couple of days".

The RCC is implementing the health care project setting up its head office at Nawdapara and its branches at Panchabati, Kajla, Dasmari, Meherchandi and Budhpara.

Girl killed, another escapes rape

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A 10-year-old girl was murdered in Habiganj while a 4-year-old girl was injured in a rape attempt in Nilphamari yesterday.

Beheaded body of a 10-year-old girl was recovered at village Noagaon in Bahubal upazila of Habiganj yesterday.

Police picked up the father of the victim for interrogation, reports our staff correspondent, Sylhet.

Locals said the body was found near the pond behind the house of the deceased at about 11:30 in the morning.

On information, a police team recovered the body of Rekha Akhtar and sent it to the Habiganj Sadar hospital for postmortem. The victim was a student of class two at the nearby Abdur Rashid Primary School.

Rekha's father Abdul Malek had a longstanding land dispute with his brother Abdul Wahab, police and locals said

adding Malek himself chopped the girl to death for gaining benefit against his brother.

In Nilphamari, a young man seriously injured a four-year-old girl in Jaldhaka during a rape attempt yesterday.

The victim was admitted to Jaldhaka upazila health complex in a critical condition.

Police and locals said, the daughter of Azizul Islam of Dakkhin Kazihat Panditpara village of the upazila went to the house of neighbouring Abu Bakar Siddiq at noon.

Finding the house lonely, one Abdul Kaium, 21, son of Dhroula Maud of the same area entered the house and tried to rape her. He also made several injury on her body as he bit and tortured her.

As the girl cried out, locals rushed to the spot and rescued her but the culprit fled away.

The uncle of the victim filed a case with Jaldhaka police station in this connection.



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