



PHOTO: STAR

Rapid Action Battalion on Tuesday rescued 19 people including women and children, who had been forced to work without pay for months under captivity at a brickfield at Nishanbaria village in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali district.

# Rab rescues 19 victims of 'slavery' at brickfield

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-8) on Tuesday rescued 10 labourers and their 9 children from a brickfield in Kalapara upazila the district.

They were confined to the brickfield and engaged in work against their will.

Rab also arrested Jahangir, 40, manager and Promoth, 35, caretaker of the brickfield for alleged involvement in keeping the labourers at the kiln forcibly.

The rescued labourers are Hasina, 25, Asma, 24, Selina, 24, Saleha, 22,

Shabana, 20, Aklima, 20, Delwar Hossain, 45, Rezaul Gazi, 40, Khall, 35, Zakir Hossain, 30, Sumaiya, 6, Rikta, 7, Nahid, 8, Zakir, 8, Nishan, 9, Raju, 9, Nasima, 10, Sonia, 10 and Borhan, 11.

They all hailed from Vandarpara village under Dumuria upazila in Khulna.

Md. Nuruzzaman, Company Commander for Rab-8, said, "On a tip off, we raided the brickfield at Nishanbaria village owned by one Nurul Haque Munshi and rescued the hapless labourers and their children

from forced labour."

Shabana, a victim, said, "We joined work at the brickfield six to seven months ago. After a few days our sarder (labour leader) and some labourers fled as the owner did not pay them regularly. The owner's men then confined us, harassed us and continued to force us to work without payment."

Contacted, Nurul Haque Munshi, owner of the brickfield however said, "My men didn't torture the labourers. My enemies gave wrong information to Rab."

# Dakope dyke collapses again due to high tide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Ten days into reconstruction, Jaliakhali embankment in Dakope upazila of Khulna district collapsed due to pressure of water during high tide in Dhaki River on Tuesday.

Saline water flooded four villages in Aila-hit

Kamarkhola Union, leaving over 500 families homeless. The affected villages are Channirchawk, Kamarkhola, Jaliakhali and Fakirdanga.

The embankment, damaged by Cyclone Aila on May 25 in 2009, was reconstructed on February 13 and collapsed Tuesday morning due to pressure of water because of high tide, said

said Assistant Engineer Anwar Hossain of the Water Development Board (WDB).

Army took the responsibility to supervise construction works of seven damaged embankments in Kamarkhola and Sutarkhali unions on October 21 last year and contractors finished construction works under army supervision by

February 13 this year.

People of the affected villages are giving voluntary services to reconstruct the collapsed Jaliakhali embankment, said Dakope Upazila Parishad Chairman Alhaj Sheikh Abul Hossain.

He said they are now staying at cyclone shelters without adequate food and safe drinking water.



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# Kidnapped girl rescued, 3 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Locals caught three alleged kidnappers and rescued Puspita Rani, 22, and her friend Baloram, 33, from Kamta-Balurchar under Satoria upazila on Tuesday.

They later handed the three to Satoria police. The arrestees are Mostofa, 25, of Satoria, Saifullah, 22, and Onu Talukder, 24, of Bhatpara of Savar.

Police and locals said Puspita Rani, 22, and her friend Baloram, 33, were returning to Bhatpara by a taxicab after visiting Savar Jatiya Smriti Saudha at around 9:00 pm on Monday.

Four youths waylaid them when they reached

near Radio Colony area and took them into their private car forcibly.

Later, the gang brought them to lonely Kamta-Balurchar area and confined them there for whole night demanding ransom from their family.

The criminals also beat up Baloram at around 10:00 am in the morning when they refused to manage ransom. Hearing their screams, locals rushed to the spot, rescued them and caught the three abductors red-handed.

Inspector (investigation) of Satoria police station Abdul Kuddus said Puspita Rani's father Narayan Chandra Das has filed an abduction case with Satoria police station.

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