

Pirates abduct 41 more fishermen in Bay

Around 150 within a span of two weeks

UNB, Barguna

Pirates abducted 41 fishermen at Vedakhali canal in the Bay near Fairway Buoy in Patharghata upazila Tuesday night.

Quoting fishermen who managed to free themselves from the clutches of the gang and returned to Patharghata, Mostafa Chowdhury, president of Patharghata Trawler Owners' Association, said that 40 to 50 pirates coming in two trawlers attacked the fishermen at 7:00pm on Tuesday.

They kidnapped 41 fishermen at gun point, he said.

Eleven of the fishermen were identified as Jalil, Mozammel, Rahman Abedin, Sagir, Mostafa, Shahid, Hanif, Yusuf, Mamun, Aiyub and Sagir.

The fishermen were attacked by the pirates while catching fish in the Bay, about 100kmsouth of Patharghata upazila.

The abducted fishermen could not be rescued till 5:00pm yesterday.

Earlier, pirates kidnapped around 100 other fishermen along with 11 fishing trawlers, plundered cash, fishes, fishing nets and other valuable items following attack on 95 fishing trawlers in the waters off Bagerhat coasts in the last two weeks.

They mercilessly beat up and injured 35 fishermen during raids on the trawlers. Victims and other fishermen estimated that goods worth Tk 1 crore were looted from the 95 fishing trawlers.

Fishermen who managed to escape from captivity said, three gangs of

pirates coming by motorised boats attacked 95 trawlers from Sept 10-23 when the fishermen were fishing in different areas of the Bay off Sundarbans coast near Passur estuary, Vedakhali canal and Fairway Buoy areas.

After looting the trawlers, the pirates demanded heavy amount as ransom from the families of abductees and threatened to kill the captives if their demands were not met soon.

The incidents have frightened the fishermen and their families across the villages in the two coastal upazilas. Panicked fishermen have almost stopped going to deep sea in fear of fresh raids.

The kidnapped fishermen hail from Bagerhat, Pirojpur, Barguna, Bhola and Patuakhali districts.



PHOTO: STAR

Several hundred people from waterlogged areas in Bagerhat and Khulna districts form a human chain at Chulka Bazar on Khulna-Mongla highway in Bagerhat yesterday demanding immediate steps to remove the problem persisting in the areas for the last several months.

Boy's death for 'power official's neglect' sparks violent protest

UNB, Chuadanga

At least 50 people, including seven policemen and a local Awami League (AL) leader, were injured in clashes that took place during a violent protest over electrocution of a boy near Alamdanga upazila power station on Tuesday.

Deceased Bayezid Hossain Rajib, 12, was a student of Alamdanga Pilot High School and son of Abdul Bari, a resident of the upazila town.

Rajib was electrocuted as he came in contact with a snapped electric wire near the power station on the way to his private tutor's house at 8 am.

Locals alleged that the

torn wire that caused the fatal accident was not removed by Shafiqur Rahman, resident engineer of Alamdanga power station, despite several requests they had made to him.

Angered at Rajib's death, several thousand townspeople along with students of schools and colleges took to the street to protest alleged neglect by engineer Shafique.

The protesters laid a siege to the power station and burnt tyres on roads around it.

As Shafique 'misbehaved' with some of them, they stormed into his office and confined him to his room for several hours till police

rescued and took him to the police station.

The protesters also damaged the power office and torched a vehicle. They also at one stage attacked the police station.

Later, the protesters split into several groups and spread in the whole town. Some of them blocked roads to the town by putting up barricades and setting fire to tyres.

The Khulna-bound 'Sagardari Express' inter-city train also came under attack while it was crossing Alamdanga rail station. They detained the train for two hours and ransacked several compartments and the engine.

Additional police rushed in and charged baton to disperse the protesters in police and rail station areas triggering sporadic clashes.

The clashes continued for 6 hours leaving 50 people including upazila unit AL leader Delwar Hossain and seven policemen injured.

As the violence escalated further, riot police and Rab were called in. Police fired at least 100 rubber bullets and 20 teargas canisters to drive the rampaging protesters out of streets after about 2 pm.

Engineer Shafiqur Rahman was among a dozen of people arrested by police.

Additional police and Rab were patrolling the town.



PHOTO: STAR

Sculptors giving final touches to the idol of Goddess Durga and other statues at a temple in Kishoreganj as Durga Puja, the greatest religious festival of Bangalee Hindus, starts on October 2.

Festive mood as puja nears

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Special security measures, like every year, have been taken across the country for peaceful celebration of 'Sharodiya Durga Puja,' the greatest religious festival of the Bangalee Hindu community.

Meanwhile, the districts are abuzz in a festive mood as Puja will be celebrated from October 2 to 6.

Binoy Krisna Bala, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of police of Rangpur range said they held a meeting at police headquarters recently to discuss security measures at the puja mandops, reports our Nilphamari correspondent.

Meetings were also held in districts and upazilas of the division with law enforcement agencies, administration, puja committees and others concerned for taking coordinated efforts to maintain a peaceful environment during puja, he said.

Sources at the office of the DIG informed that there are altogether 4,494 puja mandops in eight northern districts of Rangpur division.

Of them, 746 mandops are in Rangpur district, 1,038 mandops in Dinajpur, 567 in Gaibandha, 514 in Kurigram, 638 in Nilphamari, 350 in Lalmonirhat and 391 and 245 mandops

are in Thakurgaon and Panchagarh districts respectively.

Meanwhile, the government is also providing all other supports including allocation of rice to make puja a grand success, officials said.

In Rangpur division, about 2,500 small and big groups of idol makers have already made idols for all the manads and the Hindus observed Mahalaya marking the arrival of Goddess Durga.

In Narail, most of the mandops have been made ready for worship amid a prevailing festive mood, reports our correspondent.

In the district, at least 571 mandops have been set up in three upazilas this year. DC office and puja observance committee sources said, of the total, 260 mandops are in Sadar upazila, 145 in Kalia and 166 in Lohagara upazila.

Marking the occasion, puja celebration committees have chalked out programmes like arati competition, prasad distribution, clothes distribution among the poor and cultural events, said Subash Bose, president of district Awami League and advisor of the district puja committee.

In Pabna, Mahalaya was observed on Tuesday morning, reports our correspondent.

District administration and district puja committee sources said Durga Puja would be held at 352 mandops in nine upazilas of the district.

They said, this year puja would be held at 49 mandops of Pabna Sadar upazila, 60 in Sujanagar upazila, 61 in Bera, 26 in Ishwardi, 15 in Atgoria, 56 in Chatmohar, 20 in Vangura, 17 in Faridpur upazila and 48 in Santhia upazila.

"All preparations for holding the Durga Puja are complete. The organisers are now busy presenting the beautiful idols of the goddess at the altars. Everybody is working with full enthusiasm," Gonesh Chandra Ghosh, president of Pabna District Puja Celebration Committee said.

Kishoreganj district administration sources said, this year Durga Puja would be celebrated at around 363 puja mandops.

Of them, 51 mandops are in Kishoreganj Sadar, 10 in Karimganj, 18 in Pakundia, 13 in Hossainpur, 35 in Katiadi, 67 in Bazitpur, 29 in Kuliarchar, 25 in Bhairab, 25 in Itna, 14 in Mithamoin, 43 in Austagram, 17 in Nikli and 16 in Tarail.

Many cultural organisations in the district are preparing to hold colourful functions during the puja, reports our correspondent.

Arms, bombs recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Law enforcers in separate drives recovered two firearms, ammunition and 13 bombs from Meherpur and Kushtia districts on Tuesday night.

In Meherpur, members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recovered one shutter gun and five bombs, raiding Malshadah village under Gangni upazila at around 8:00pm.

Police in another drive recovered eight bombs from a field at Uzalpur village under Meherpur Sadar upazila at around 7:30pm.

In Kushtia, police recovered a light gun (LG) and eight bullets from Katchubaria village in Mirpur upazila of the district.

Police said one Hekmat Ali found the firearm in front of his house at around 8:00pm and informed them.

Law enforcers from Mirpur police station rushed to the spot and recovered the firearm and eight bullets.

No one was arrested in connection with the recovery of arms and bombs as of 6:00pm yesterday.

Class boycott demanding more teachers in Lalmonirhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Students of Lalmonirhat Government Training School and College yesterday started indefinite class boycott programme demanding appointment of teachers to the vacant posts of the institution.

The students locked the classrooms in the morning and staged a demonstration on the campus. A meeting between the teachers and the students of the institution was held at noon, but it yielded no positive results.

The agitating students said they will continue boycott of classes until the demand for appointment of teachers to the vacant posts is met.

On Sunday, over 300 students of the training school and college formed a human chain at Mission Crossing in the town and blocked Lalmonirhat-Fulbari road in front

of the institution to press for their demand.

They withdrew the road blockade at noon after the principal assured them of putting his utmost efforts on appointment of teachers.

The students told this correspondent that they started boycotting classes as the principal, what they said, did not take any steps in the last two days to appoint teachers to the vacant posts.

They said posts of 15 teachers out of 30 have been lying vacant for the last three years. "We urged the principal several times to ensure better education for us, but he did not take any initiative to fill up the vacant posts," the students alleged.

Contacted, Principal Nazrul Islam said he repeatedly requested the authorities concerned to appoint teachers to the vacant posts, but no steps have yet been taken.



PHOTO: STAR

Newlywed Khadiza, tortured allegedly by husband and in-laws for dowry on Monday at Voterpara village in Nawabganj upazila of Dinajpur, is undergoing treatment at the upazila health complex.

Newlywed tortured for dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Brutally tortured allegedly by husband and in-laws for dowry, a newlywed girl is undergoing treatment at Nawabganj upazila health complex.

The victim is Khadiza Begum, 20, daughter of Shawkat Ali of Voterpara village of Nawabganj upazila in Dinajpur district.

"The in-laws made Khadiza's life hell as we failed to manage the demanded dowry money," said her father at Nawabganj Health Complex on Tuesday noon.

According to the family members and locals, about three months ago, Rana Ahmed, son of Md Azahar Ali of Voterpara village, picked up Khadiza and locals rescued her the same night. A village arbitration led by UP Chairman Nazrul Islam decided Khadiza's marriage with Rana.

"We agreed to the decision considering my daughter's future, but everything went wrong," said her father.

Soon after the decision of marriage in July, Rana's parents demanded Tk 70,000 as dowry and Tk 10,000 was paid during the marriage ceremony.

"Demanding rest of the money, Khadiza's husband and in-laws including parents used

to torture her mentally and physically. About a month ago, they sent her back as we could not arrange the dowry money," said Khadiza's mother Nargisa Khatun.

Hearing that Khadiza was divorced, she went to her husband's residence on Monday. "But I returned home the same day as they refused to accept me without the dowry money," said Khadiza.

The same night Khadiza's parents went to Rana's house, told the in-laws that they would give the demanded dowry within a few days, and left the house leaving Khadiza there, said her parents.

But the in-laws severely tortured Khadiza and sent her back to her parents the same night. She was rushed to Nawabganj upazila health complex in a critical condition.

Khadiza received several head injuries and remained unconscious for an hour due to excessive bleeding, said doctors of the health complex.

This correspondent tried several time to contact with Khadiza's father-in-law over cellphone but there was no response.

The victim's uncle Md Faruk Hossain said they are preparing to file a case with Nawabganj police station.

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Managing Director, Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd., (UFFL) Ghorasal, Narsingdi, Bangladesh invites sealed tender for import of materials under the following tenders on C & F(C) Chittagong Sea Port/Hazrat Shah Jalal International Air Port, Dhaka, Bangladesh basis.

SI No.	Tender No.	Description of the Materials	Cost of tender Documents (Non-refundable)	Amount of Tender Security.	Last date & time for submission of Tender
1.	UFFL/FP-LAB./1/2010-011/187 Date : 24/09/2011.	Laboratory Chemicals (21 items.)	TK. 500/-	TK. 35,000/-	31-10-2011 At 11-00 a.m.

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