



PHOTO: STAR  
Water lily, growing in abundance during the ongoing rainy season, serves as a popular vegetable, besides adding to the natural beauty of rural areas across the country. A large number of people, especially the poor, engage in collection and sale of the plants as a means of seasonal earning. The photo was taken from Sirajdikhan upazila of Munshiganj a few days ago.

# Indian saris and dresses flood Narail markets

Craze for items named on Indian TV serials, movies and actresses

PONUEL S BOSE, Narail

Indian saris and dresses have flooded the markets in three upazilas of the bordering district ahead of the Eid-ul-Fitr as the items named after Indian television serials and movies and actresses, are immensely popular, especially among local women and children.

While visiting different shops and markets in the district on Sunday, this correspondent saw most shopkeepers selling Indian saris, girls' three-pieces and children's dresses.

Saris called Prianka, Kareena, Masakkali, Rashi, three-pieces called Jhilik and Fulki, long kamij Lehenga and children's dresses 'Doremon', 'Batman', and 'Superman' are among the most popular items.

Many people, especially women, girls and children of the middle and upper middle classes spend a lot of time seeing Indian television serials and movies and from there they develop a fondness for the dresses, said several salesmen and shop owners.

Women and young girls are seen thronging popular business centres like Altaf Plaza, Pouro Super Market-1, Suvechchha, Achol and Pourosva Super Market-2 for saris and three-pieces for women.

"My daughter wants to buy three-piece 'Jhilik' after seeing the Indian TV channel 'Star Jalsa'," said Suriaya Begum, who came from Mohishkhola village under Narail municipality.

"On the occasion of the Eid, I will take an Indian

Kareena sari, named after Kareena, a popular actress of Bollywood," said housewife Ishrat Jesmin.

A small boy named Raju said he has come to get a dress called Doremon.

Named after a popular Indian television cartoon programme, the dress is now very popular among the local children.

Popular Indian clothes are selling for prices ranging from Tk 2000 to Tk 20,000. Besides, Indian ornaments and cosmetics have already flooded the shops and shopping malls in Narail.

The sellers at different markets seem happy as huge sale of Indian dresses and clothes is adding to their profit which is likely to rise further during the next several days before the Eid.



PHOTO: STAR  
Saris and children's clothes branded with names of Indian TV serials and actresses dominate the markets in bordering Narail district. The photo was taken from Pouro Super Market-3 at Rugganj Bazar in the district town.

# Tailoring shop workers on strike in Satkhira

Owners returning orders days before Eid

UNB, Satkhira

Workers at the tailoring shops in the district are on strike for the last 10 days to press for wage hike.

The stalemate has kept the townspeople in a grave worry ahead of the Eid-ul-Fitr, the greatest religious festival of the Muslims.

On the other hand, the tailors are determined to continue strike until their demand was met.

Meanwhile, owners of the tailoring shops through loudspeaker have requested the people who placed Eid orders to take back their cloths as their delivery could not be possible in time due to the strike.

Due to the situation, many of the town dwellers have started buying readymade garments from the shopping malls to meet the Eid requirements.

But the poor and low-income group people are finding it too difficult to resolve trouble.

One customer, Abdur Rouf, who came to take back his panjabi cloth said on every Eid his sons buy him cloths for making panjabi for saying Eid prayers.

But I am afraid it might not be possible this time, he said.

Many other customers expressed similar fears like Rouf.

Female customer Monwara Momtaz however said that the owners should meet the workers' demand.

She lamented that the tailoring shop owners were returning her cloths for *salwar* and *kamiz* only days ahead of Eid.

Darji Sramik Union president Mozaffar Hossain and general secretary

Sheikh Shaheed Akbar Hossain said they had given ultimatum to the owners twice to meet their 14-point demand.

But the owners did not heed to our demands, he alleged, adding they had no alternative to going for tough action programme.

Satkhira District Tailoring Shop Owners Association general secretary Sirajul Islam said that the demands of the workers were unjustified.

He said last year they had a two-year agreement with Darji Sramik Union at Satkhira Chamber of Commerce.

But after just eleven months, the workers have raised new demands in violation of the agreement, he noted.

## Seven kids drown in 4 dists

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Seven kids drowned in ponds in Chandpur, Moulvibazar, Pabna and Barisal districts in the last three days.

Three children including two siblings drowned in a pond under Hajiganj upazila of Chandpur on Tuesday afternoon, reports a correspondent.

The deceased were identified as Sharmin, 8, and Eshita, 7, daughters of Abdul Quader and Lima, 7, daughter of Emran Hossain of Toraghar area.

Dewan Md Abul Hossain, officer-in-charge of Hajiganj police station, suspected that the trio went to take a bath in the pond near their houses and drowned.

In Moulvibazar, two siblings drowned in a pond at Futguli village in Kulaura upazila yesterday, reports our correspondent.

The deceased were identified as Kuddus Miah, 7, and his younger sister Rushna Begum, daughter of Ishak Miah of the village.

The duo went to take a dip in the pond adjacent to their house and drowned, said Md Hassanuzam, officer-in-charge of Kulaura police station.

Away in Pabna, an eight-year-old girl drowned in a pond at Shahapur village in Ishwardi upazila on Monday afternoon.

Identified as Suborna Khatun, she was daughter of Hazrat Ali of Charshahpur Jigatola village, reports our correspondent.

Family sources said Suborna fell into the pond while playing on its bank. Locals then found her body floating in the water.

In Barisal, a kid drowned in a pond at Daspathi village in Agailjhra upazila on Tuesday, reports UNB.

The deceased was identified as Muhammad Ali, 2, son of Tyeb Ali of the village.

Witnesses said Ali fell into the pond adjacent to their house while playing on its bank.

# Abducted UP chairman freed, three arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A union parishad (UP) chairman of Nilphamari, abducted along with his friend in Bogra on July 24, was rescued from Raiganj upazila of Sirajganj yesterday.

Three abductors were also arrested on the spot.

Police said Mohammad Shafiqul Islam Tuhin, chairman of Ramnagar Union Parishad (UP) under Nilphamari Sadar upazila, and his friend Patiram Roy, a trader in the area, were abducted by a gang from bypass area in Bogra for ransom.

The abductors took the two to Mouhara village in Raiganj upazila and confined them to an abandoned house.

When locals sensed that two people were kept in confinement to the abandoned house, they informed the police yesterday morning, said Officer-in-Charge Md Anisur Rahman, of Raiganj police station.

On receiving the information, police raided the house at the village at around 11:00am and rescued the two victims, the OC said, adding that they (police) also arrested three abductors from there.

The arrestees are Md Farid Uddin, 35 of Simla Muga village in Ullapara

upazila, Abu Bakkar, 45, of Sobadpur village, and Abdul Khaleque, 46, of Dighalpur village in Tarash upazila of Sirajganj district.

During preliminary quizzing, the three confessed to kidnapping the UP chairman and his friend for ransom, OC Anisur Rahman said.

Being informed, a police team from Bogra Sadar Police Station came to Raiganj police station and took the rescued UP chairman and his friend to Bogra.

COMILLA SCHOOLBOY

In Comilla, a schoolboy was abducted from Madabpur village in Burichang upazila on Monday evening, according to a correspondent.

The victim, Habibur Rahman, 10, son of Harun Mia of the village, is a class three student of Nimser Government Primary School.

Family source said an unknown person, introducing himself as a village masque committee secretary, took Habib to an iftar party and since then he remained missing.

Yesterday, an anonymous caller demanded a ransom of Tk 2 lakh from Habib's father for his release. Contacted, officer-in-charge Md Moniruzzaman of Burichang Police Station said they are raiding different areas to rescue the boy.

## 3 'thieves' killed in mob beating

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Two 'drug-addict' youths were beaten to death by villagers suspecting them as thieves in Rajshahi and Comilla districts yesterday and the day before.

In Rajshahi, the incident took place at Boliha village in Bagha upazila early yesterday.

Victim Sharif Uddin, 28, was unemployed son of Kader Ali of Chawk Amodpur, said Abul Khair, OC of Bagha police station, reports our staff correspondent.

Police recovered his body at around 3:00am and sent it to morgue for autopsy.

According to locals, night watchmen caught Sharif red handed at midnight while he was stealing the bicycle of Shahbaz Ali from his house in the area.

Angry locals started beating him during interrogation leaving him unconscious at around 2:00am.

Abu Khair said, Sharif, father of three daughters, was a drug-addict and was jailed by a mobile court for taking heroin five months ago.

Sharif's wife Chumki Begum filed a murder case in this regard, accusing unnamed villagers with Bagha police station.

In Comilla, a drug addict youth was beaten to death by locals suspecting him to be a thief at Khanebari village in Titas upazila on Tuesday night.

Mir-Buri identified as Anisur Rahman, 22, he was son of Abdul Salam of Kalakandi village of the

upazila, reports our correspondent.

Quoting villagers, police said, on Sunday night, Anisur went to Khanebari village to meet a friend where locals beat him up severely suspecting him to be a thief.

Unconscious, Anisur was rushed to a local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries on Tuesday night.

Police recovered the body and sent it to morgue for autopsy.

Md Nabir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Titas police station, said the body bore injury marks due to merciless beating.

He vowed to take legal steps against the offenders.

MANIKGANJ

Mob in Manikganj beat another man to death, suspecting him a thief at Garadia village under Singair upazila early hours of yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Abdul Khalek, 35, son of Maha Ali of Arangabad village in the upazila, reports our correspondent.

Locals said Khalek and another man entered the house of Afsar Ali of the Garadai village at around 1:00am.

Hearing screams, locals rushed to the house and chased the thieves.

They caught Abdul Khalek from near a canal but the other one managed to flee.

Locals recovered gold ornaments from Abdul Khalek and gave him a good beating leaving him dead on the spot.



PHOTO: STAR  
A NOVEL PROTEST: Locals plant paddy saplings on a muddy pothole created on the run-down Ishwardi-Kushtia road at Joynagar Shimultala in Ishwardi upazila under Pabna district, apparently to draw attention of the authorities concerned after locals' repeated urge to repair the important road fell into deaf ears.

## SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

### Man held with arms, ammo

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in a drive arrested an alleged arms peddler along one pistol, three shooter guns, five bullets and two magazines from Kagojpukur village in Benapole town on Tuesday. The arrestee was identified as Ziaur Rahman, 35, son of Safiur Rahman of Shyamolgachhi village of Sharsha upazila. Deputy director of Rab-6, Jessore camp Major Zahidul Karim said, acting on a tip-off, a team raided the area in the evening and arrested Ziaur posing themselves as buyers. Later, the Rab team recovered the arms and 1,060 bottles of phensidyl from his possession.

### Stalker jailed in Kurigram

UNB, Kurigram

A mobile court in Chilmari upazila on Tuesday sentenced a young man to two months' imprisonment for sexually harassing a girl. The convict was identified as Mahbub Hossain, 19, son of Nur Mohammad of Narosingvanj area in the upazila. Police said, Mahbub recorded indecent conversation between him and a local madrasa girl in his mobile phone and circulated it to others. Knowing the matter, father of the girl lodged a complaint with the local PS and police arrested Mahbub on Monday night. On Tuesday morning, he was produced before the mobile court led by upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) Mohammad Mamul-ul-Hasan who handed down the punishment.



PHOTO: STAR

A Liberation War memorial, vandalised by Jamaat-Shibir men in Moheshpur upazila town in Jhenidah on February 28, is being repaired.

### Expat found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Police recovered the body of a young man from Shondabari village under Gabtoli upazila yesterday morning. The deceased was identified as Shafi Mia, 29, son of Taslim Fakir of the village and a Malaysia expatriate. He came to the country a few days ago for wedding. Family sources said Shafi went to his in-law's house on Tuesday evening and engaged in an altercation with his wife Rashida Begum, 18, following a family feud. Later, he committed suicide by hanging himself from the branches of a tree near the house, said Rashida. It would be clear whether it is suicide or killing after getting the autopsy report, said Ali Ahmed Hashmi, officer-in-charge of Gabtoli police station.

### Robber held, fishermen rescued

A CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

Police arrested a robber along with two local firearms near Jaglar Char area in Monpura upazila yesterday. Two abducted fishermen were also rescued from the area. The arrestee is Obayed, 30, son of Abdul Khalek of Hatiya upazila in Noakhali district and a gang member of Fazlu Dakat. On secret information, a team from Kalatalar Char police camp raided the area and arrested Obayed along with the arms. The law enforcers then rescued the abducted fishermen, said assistant superintendent of police Md Mahfuzur Rahman. The fishermen were abducted from a trawler in the River Meghna five days ago, said the ASP.

### Youth's body recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A youth was found dead on rail tracks in Biral upazila on Tuesday afternoon. The deceased was identified as Md Roni, 25, son of Riazul Islam of Mostafabad village. Locals found his body on the rail tracks in Dhukurjhari area and informed police. Police recovered the and sent it to Dinajpur Medical College and Hospital morgue for autopsy. The body bore several injury marks, said police.

### Robbers loot house

A CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

Robbers looted cash, gold ornaments and other valuables worth Tk 3 lakh from the house of a Malaysia expatriate at Gopalpur Biswas Para village in Damurhuda upazila early yesterday. Police and locals said, a gang of 10/12 entered the house of Rinku by breaking open the door and looted Tk 20,000, three tolas of gold ornaments and several mobile sets at gunpoint. The robbers also blasted a bomb before fleeing the scene. However, none was injured.

### Newsmen attacked, 2 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Police arrested two young men on charge of attacking two journalists at Lebkhali ferry ghat in the district on Monday. The arrestees are Rafiqul Islam, 30, and Swapan, 25, of Lebukhali village in Dumki upazila. Police and locals said, one Mitu, 6, daughter of Saiful Islam, was injured as a motorbike hit her in Bottala area near the ferry ghat at about 11:00am. Protesting the accident, locals blocked Patuakhali-Barisal road for about an hour. When Mojibur Rahman, Dumki upazila correspondent of The Daily Jugantor, and Billal Hossain alias Dulal, Dumki upazila correspondent of The Daily Patuakhali, rushed to the spot they came under the attack by some local youths.