

# Robbers kill fisherman, abduct 21 others

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Bhola*  
A gang of robbers yesterday shot dead a fisherman and abducted 21 others in the Bay of Bengal.  
The incident took place near Charbam, about 100 kilometres south of Charfession upazila.  
The deceased was identified as Md Ibrahim, 35, son of Mohijol Mridha of Char Shiba village under Abdullahpur union of the upazila.  
Mahbubur Rahman, a fish wholesaler of Abdullahpur said that two

trawlers of Tofazzal Majhi and Abdul Goni Majhi were in the area on Tuesday night.  
All on a sudden, a group of robbers attacked them with guns. They fired indiscriminately on the fishermen as they tried to resist he said.  
Ibrahim of Tofazzal Majhi's trawler was shot dead while 22 fishermen jumped into the Bay for survival Mahbub added.  
Among them, Siraj Majhi, 36, was admitted in the Charfession upazila health complex with bullet injuries.  
The gang also abducted 21 fishermen from Abdul

Goni Majhi's trawler and looted all the fishing materials from the two trawlers.  
All the abducted fishermen hailed from Abdullahpur, Nurabad and Char Shiba villages of Charfession upazila. Their identities were not immediately available.  
Md Enamul Hoque, officer in-charge of Dakkhin Aicha police station, said that the Kukri Investigation Camp in charge told him about the incident.  
Meanwhile, another gang of robbers attacked a trawler near Tinchar area in the Bay yesterday noon, sources said.



Callous traders unload sacrificial animals from trucks occupying a good portion of Dhaka-Tangail highway at Deohata in Mirzapur upazila under Tangail district, causing nuisance for vehicles on the busy road ahead of Durga Puja and Eid-ul-Azha. The photo was taken on Tuesday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Sand deposition in fields damages Aman paddy

S DILIP ROY, *Lalmonirhat*  
Aman paddy on about 80 bighas land has already been damaged and the crop on 50 bighas is facing the same fate due to sand deposition in the fields of Dharla River basin area at Char Kulaghat village of Kulaghat union under Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.  
Following erosion of about 800 metre area of Lalmonirhat-Phulbari road, sand with water from the Dharla recently entered these paddy fields and the sand remained there even after recession of water, farmers said.  
"Aman paddy of my 12 bighas of land has already been damaged due to deposition of sand that entered the field with water from the Dharla River," said Nazrul Islam, a farmer of Char Kulaghat village.

Farmer Nazar Ali of the same village said, "I have cultivated aman paddy on four bighas of land with hope of getting 70 maunds of yield. But sand from the Dharla badly affected the crop."  
"I am trying hard to remove sand from my three bighas of aman field but the work seems very hard. If I fail to remove all the sand from the field, I will not get any output this year. My four-member family depend on the crop from the land," said Mohoro Ali, another farmer.  
Mohammad Nuruzzaman, Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila agriculture officer, said farmers have to remove all the sand from their fields anyhow, otherwise the paddy pants will be damaged within a few days.



A farmer struggles to remove from his paddy field the sand that had been carried by water from the Dharla River at Char Kulaghat village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila. The photo was taken a few days ago.

PHOTO: STAR

# Girl gang raped in Madaripur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Madaripur*

A girl was gang raped in the district town on Tuesday.  
The law enforcers arrested three people in connection with the incident. They are Anu Bhuiyan, 40, AK Azad, 38, and Akter Hawla, 40, a member of district unit Jubo League and owner of a brick kiln in the area.  
Police said, one Rubel Munshi, 40, a local cable operator and resident of Charmurgia area, took the girl, 25, to a house in BSCIC industrial estate of the town in the evening with the promise of giving job in an insurance company. Rubel, Anu, Azad and Akter then raped the girl.  
On information, police rescued the victim and arrested the trio. However, Rubel managed to flee, sensing the presence of the law enforcers.  
The incident took place at the house of a local Jatiya Party leader who along with his family was staying in Dhaka at that time.  
Contacted, the JP leader said he had given the key of the house to 'Anu Bhai' before leaving for the capital city.

# Cattle market beside road hampers traffic movement

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

A weekly cattle market just beside the Dhaka-Tangail highway at Deohata in Mirzapur upazila is creating serious traffic jam on the narrow road before the Eid-ul-Azha and Durga Puja festivals.  
The market sits at the spot every Tuesday but this year the market committee decided to continue the market till the Eid day, sources said.  
This correspondent, while visiting the cattle market on Tuesday, saw sacrificial animals were being unloaded at different places keeping the trucks haphazardly on the busy highway.  
The 70-km two-lane highway from Joydevpur of Gazipur to Elega in Tangail is considered as the gate of

road communication to 26 districts including 16 in north, highway police officials said.  
The homebound people are now facing untold sufferings due to traffic jam on the highway, they said.  
The other reasons behind the traffic jam include plying numerous vehicles against its capacity, movement of unfit vehicles, interruption of vehicular movements for at least 22 times a day due to level crossing at Dherua in Mirzapur and also presence of several road crossings and markets at different places on the highway, they added.  
The animal market, situated only a few metres away from the busy Dherua level crossing will definitely create long tailback of vehicles on the narrow highway, drivers said.

"We have already expressed our concern to the authorities concerned saying that the cattle market at Deohata will worsen the traffic jam situation during the holydays of Eid and Durga Puja," said Jobaidul Alam, officer in-charge of Gorai highway police station.  
Contacted, Afroza Akter Chowdhury, upazila nirbahi officer in Mirzapur, told this correspondent that although the market committee announced to run the cattle market also on Sunday and Monday next, they are not legally allowed to do so. They can hold market only on Tuesday, she said.  
"I have already sent a letter to the market committee in this regard and directed them not to unload animals on the highway," she added.

# Puja uncertain as Jubo League men occupy mandap site

UNB, *Bogra*  
Durga Puja celebrations at Datta Bari in the district town may not be possible this year as an influential quarter has arranged gambling at the site where the Hindus had been celebrating the festival for the last two decades.  
A local Jubo League leader having clout of the influential quarter has set up a parking lot at the traditional Durga Puja mandap site for the motorcycles of those who come to join gambling.  
The incident has created a sharp resentment among the local Hindu community members.  
Sources said, local Ekata Sangha had been arranging Durga Puja celebrations in the open place of Zila Mahila Krira Sangstha close to Dattabari Loknath Mandir (temple) for the last 20 years.  
But this year they could not make any arrangements for the highest religious festival of the Hindus there because of space shortage created by the gambling spot.  
They said that local Jubo League leaders and workers obtaining 'legal' permission have been conducting gambling at the south side of Dattabari Loaknath Mandir for the last two months.  
Because of illegal occupation of the place for motorcycle parking, it has not become possible for the local Durga Puja Udjapan Committee to set up the puja idols at the site.  
The Hindu devotees recently requested an organiser of the gambling to shift the motorcycle parking spot elsewhere, but in vain.  
However, the organiser claimed that they set up the parking lot on the Mahila Krira Sangstha's place, not on the puja site.

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**Application Deadline: 27 October 2013**