

# Potters pass hard days as blockade hinders sale

HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

The non-stop countrywide blockade and frequent hartals enforced by BNP-led 20-party alliance brings added sufferings to the potter community, already hard-pressed due to decline in the demand of earthenware.

"Usually this time of the year sees good sale of earthen materials but now the sale of our products has drastically fallen as wholesalers can hardly come to us due to countrywide transport problem for over a month," said Gobindo Paal, 70, of Paalpara at Mulgram village under Pirojpur Sadar upazila.

"In late 2013 and early 2014, we faced similar problems due to political unrest," said Gourango Paal, 64, another potter of the area.

Sale of earthenware sees gradual decline due to popular use of plastic, silver, and iron made household articles as well as electronic devices, said potters, adding that the ongoing blockade and hartal has added to their sufferings.

**Tk 1.8cr Indian medicines seized**

UNB, Magura

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized Indian contraband medicines worth Tk 1.80 crore at Katakali Bazar in Sadar upazila early yesterday.

Tipped off, a team of BGB-6 Battalion halted a Dhaka-bound truck coming from

Benapole at Katakali Bazar around 5:00am and seized the medicines from the vehicle, said SM Moniruzzaman, director of the battalion.

The trucker and his helper managed to flee the scene, sensing the presence of the border guards.

The seized medicines were later handed over to BGB Chuadanga sector headquarters.

**4 hurt in blasts while defusing bombs**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Three army men and a police constable were injured in blasts while defusing two bombs at Jessore Sadar Police Station yesterday.

The injured army men are Babar Ali, 42, Korban Ali, 32, and Tarek Mia, 30, of Jessore Cantonment, and constable Jafar Ali, 43, of Sadar Police station.

Officer-in-charge (OC) Enamul Haque of the police station said the bombs went off when a bomb disposal unit was defusing those.

The injured were admitted to Jessore CMH, the OC added.

**Two held with pistol, bullets**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Two people were arrested with a pistol and 26 bullets in Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat early yesterday.

The arrestees are Mehbub Rahman, 39, son of Khoibar Rahman of Phuldighi village, and Rakibul Islam, 36, son of Rafiqul Islam of Sutrapur village under Bogra Sadar upazila.

Members of Joypurhat Rab-5 challenged the duo in Bagjana village on Panchbibi-Hili Road and seized the pistols and bullets from them.

Major Abdur Rahim, commander of Rab-5, said the two were wanted in several cases filed with different police stations of Joypurhat district.



**PHOTO: STAR**  
Huge quantity of earthenware lies piled up at a potter's house at Paalpara of Mulgram village under Pirojpur Sadar upazila. Sale of the item in the area, inhabited by potters' community locally known as Paal, sees drastic fall as wholesalers from other districts cannot go there due to the countrywide blockade enforced by BNP-led 20-party alliance since January 6.

political unrest.

Visiting Mulgram last week, this correspondent found men and women busy in making their products including earthen jars, cake making dices, cooking pots, lids and toys.

"We have continued making our goods but the sale has fallen due to lack of buyers. Now it is difficult to earn Tk 100 a day from this profession," said Shankar Paal, 35, of Paalpara at Mulgram.

Over 500 families related with the pottery at Mulgram village are passing days amid anxiety as wholesalers from different areas like Khulna, Jessore, Bagerhat and other places dare not come to the area due to countrywide

dent over mobile phone, a police team chased the robbers and caught eight of them.

The law enforcers seized the trawler and recovered Tk 8,000 from their possession. The other members of the gang managed to flee with the rest of the looted money, said Sub-Inspector Mosharraf Hossain of Muktarpur river police outpost.

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## 8 robbers held, trawler seized in Dhaleshwari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Police arrested eight robbers and seized a trawler from the Dhaleshwari River in Sadar upazila of the district yesterday.

The arrestees are Rafiqul Islam, Rubel, Dulal Mia, Alauddin Mia, Jahirul Islam, Nobin Hossain, Harun Mia and Ohidul Islam. They all are from Charhogla village

under Sonargaon upazila of Narayanganj.

Police said a gang of robbers on board a trawler swooped on a Khulna-bound clinker-laden cargo ship from Narayanganj near Haatkhigganj at around 9:00am and took away Tk 28 thousand from Mostafizur Rahman, master of the vessel.

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## Ensure land rights, withdraw false cases

**Madhupur indigenous people demand at human chain, rally**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Indigenous people in Madhupur upazila under the district yesterday formed a human chain, held a rally and submitted memorandum to the prime minister demanding proper steps for ensuring legal ownership of their land and withdrawal of 'false' cases against them.

The indigenous people organised the hour-long programme from 11:00am to 12:00pm on Tangail-Mymensingh Road at Jalchhata Bazar in association with Manusher Jonno Foundation, Enhancement of Indigenous Peoples' Land Rights and Community Based Advocacy and Networking Committee.

After the programme, they submitted a memorandum to the prime minister

through Muktadir Aziz, upazila nirbahi officer of Madhupur, demanding realisation of their nine-point demands, local indigenous leaders said.

The demands include demarcation of the indigenous villages through survey by forming three teams comprising representatives from the land ministry, forest department and social organisations dealing with indigenous people, ensuring traditional land rights of the indigenous people, giving them the opportunity to maintain forests and natural resources, cancellation of the gazette notification of 1984, withdrawal of a total of 1098 false cases filed by the forest department against 184 indigenous families in the upazila and

establishment of a cultural academy for preservation and development of the local indigenous people's history, culture and tradition.

Eugene Nokrek, president of Joinsihara Adivasi Unnayon Parishad, William Dazel, president of Tribal Welfare Association, Maloty Nokrek, president of Achik Michik Society, Sulekha Mrong, its secretary, Koch community leader Gouranga Bormon, Jostina Nokrek, former vice-chairman of Madhupur upazila parishad, Shree Kumar Guha, upazila unit president of Sachetan Nagorik Committee, and Golam Kibria, upazila unit president of Manobadhikar Bastobayon Parishad, addressed the rally, among others.



**PHOTO: STAR**  
Indigenous people form a human chain at Jalchhata in Madhupur upazila under Tangail district yesterday demanding proper steps for ensuring legal ownership of their land and withdrawal of 'false' cases filed against them.

## Mother, son found dead in Sherpur

A CORRESPONDENT, Sherpur

A young woman and her minor son were found dead at Kalakanda village in Shibriodi upazila yesterday.

The deceased are Surjomoni Aktar, 21, wife of Biplob Hossain, and her two-year-old son Simanta of the village.

Police said Biplob's younger brother Shamim spotted the body in the afternoon and cried for help.

Informed by the locals, police rushed to the spot and found Surjomoni's hanging body and Simanta's throat-slitted body lying in a pool of blood on the floor.

Md Shahjahan Mian, assistant superintendent of police in Sherpur, said they are trying to unearth the reason behind the killing.

They might have been killed over family feud, added the ASP.

## Man gets life for killing stepmother

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A Chapainawabganj court yesterday sentenced a man to life imprisonment for killing his stepmother.

The convict is Suruj Ali, 22, of Laxmiapur-Jamadarpara village in Sadar upazila of the district. The court also fined him Tk 20,000, in default, he is to suffer six months more in jail.

According to the prosecution, Suruj Ali beat up his stepmother Joly Begum mercilessly over a family feud on May 27, 2013. She died instantly.

Victim's daughter Sahida Akhter filed a case against Suruj with Sadar Police Station the same day.

After investigation, Sub-Inspector Dulal Uddin, also the investigation officer of the case, pressed charges against Suruj on July 31, 2013.

After examining witnesses and other relevant documents, District and Sessions Judge Kobita Khanam delivered the verdict in the case.

## 2,500 trees illegally axed, sold by ex-UP chairman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Around 2,500 trees on both sides of a canal in Askerpur union of Dinajpur Sadar upazila have been felled and sold off in a week.

The villagers claimed that they planted the trees on both sides of the canal 12 years ago. Former UP chairman Mosharraf Hossain felled the trees and sold them for Tk 10 lakh, they alleged.

People of Nimaikhari village in the union filed a complaint with the assistant commissioner of land (AC land) on Thursday, stating that Mosharraf Hossain, former chairman of

the village.

They demanded proper investigation into the matter and legal action against the ex-UP chairman. The

Askerpur Union Parishad (UP), illegally felled and sold off the trees.

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man. Contacted, Mosharraf

Hossain said he leased the

land from the authorities

concerned 15 years ago and

planted the trees there.

**PHOTO: STAR**

Stumps bear testimony to the felling of a large number of trees beside a canal on khas land at Nimaikhari village in Dinajpur Sadar upazila during the last one week.

## Clashes leave two dead in Bagerhat, Magura

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Two people were killed and five other injured as rival groups of villagers clashed in Bagerhat and Magura districts on Saturday night.

The deceased was identified as Rubel Kazi, 26, son of Layek Kazi of the village. Police recovered the body and sent it to Bagerhat Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

In Magura, a youth was killed and five others were injured in clash between two groups of people in Mohammadpur upazila on Saturday night, reports our Kushtia correspondent.

The deceased was identified as Azad Sheikh, 35, son of Majed Sheikh of Palla village in the upazila.

Police said two groups of youths from Bhatra and Palla villages locked in an altercation over a trivial matter during the annual sports and cultural programme of Nagripara Dakihil Madrasa at around 9:30pm.

The rest of the injured are undergoing treatment at different hospitals and clinics in Magura town.

Both sides filed separate cases with Mohammadpur Police Station.

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