

SNAPS

Bhola BCL president held

BSS, Barisal Police arrested Bhola district Chhatra League President Nawsad Hossain Muna on Wednesday night. Police said he was arrested from his house in connection with a number of cases. Nawsad's family members claimed that the cases were filed with political motivats.

Miscreants attack houses: 10 hurt

A CORRESPONDENT, Bhola At least ten persons including a pregnant housewife were injured when miscreants attacked three houses at Daulatkhan on Wednesday. It is alleged that the miscreants were engaged by local BNP leader Harun Mazi, who had enmity with the house owners. The miscreants also ransacked the houses.

Seven of the injured were admitted to hospital. They are pregnant housewife Nazma, Fujlan Bibi , Shomiron, Zuki Begum, Yasmin, Bezan Bibi and Mamun. No case was filed yet.

2 held with smuggled rectified spirit

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia Two persons were arrested with smuggled Indian rectified spirit from Barkhada Bazar on the outskirts of the town Friday night. According to Kushtia Narcotics Control Department, a team raided the shop of one Jhumur Ali at about 8.30 pm and recovered 28 bottles of rectified sprit. Jhumur Ali and his son Masud were arrested. They were handed over to police and a case was filed.

Launch owners to make a mint during Eid

Fares doubled in all 28 routes from Barisal

AKTER FARUK, Barisal Transport owners have almost doubled fares in road and waterways ahead of the Eid-ul-fitr. Launch owners are realising the exorbitant fares from passengers travelling on river 28 major routes to and from Barisal. At least 224 launches ply in the routes, passengers and sources among transport workers said. One-way launch fares on Barisal-Dhaka-Barisal route were Tk 50 to 80 on deck, TK 300 for non-AC single cabin and 500 for double cabin. More Tk 100 was charged for AC cabins. Launch owners are now charging up to TK.100 for deck, Tk 500 for non-

AC single cabin, Tk 800 for non-AC double cabin, Tk 600 for AC single cabin and 900 for AC double cabin. But cabin tickets were not available in most of the counters since Friday. Clerks said all have been sold in advance. Some passengers this correspondent talked to said they paid almost double the fares but the amounts were not written in the tickets. Only "paid" is written on tickets. According to sources in launch workers association, at least 112 launches ply on the Barisal-Dhaka-Barisal route with average 30 cabins per launch. The owners will earn at least Tk one core 12 lakh from about 3,360 cabins by raising the fares

during the Eid, they said. But some launch owners said the enhanced fare is still less than the government-fixed fare. As per the government-fixed rate, one-way fare from Barisal to Dhaka is Tk 123 for deck and four times more for cabin. There is an exception. Unbelievable though, one company -- Crescent-Star Navigation-- did not charge extra fare till Friday. Bus owners have also increased fares by at least fifty per cent in all routes from the divisional city. About 100 coaches ply on different routes. Black marketing of tickets by agents of launch owners and staff is going on freely.

Hasina's comments on Dulu protested

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Lamonirhat district BNP on Friday protested the remark made by Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina about Deputy Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Asadul Habib Dulu on Wednesday. Leaders of BNP and its front organisations Chhatro Dal and Jubo Dal organised a meeting at Mogholhat railway gate to protest her comments, made at a public meeting at Khuniagachh High School ground in the Sadar upazila. Discarding Hasina's comment that Dulu, being a man from monga-affected Lalmonirhat, did not visit the area, they said Dulu is a freedom fighter and a man of integrity and good moral character.

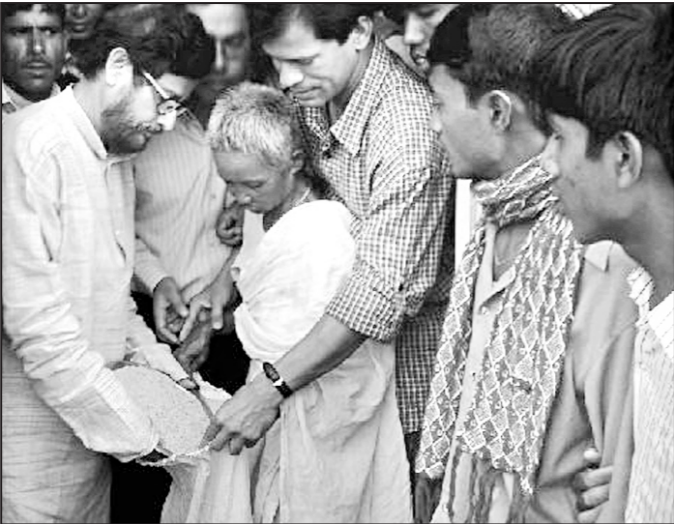
Refusal to carry zakat cloths of BNP leader 'Outlaw' beaten to death by police Transport co asked to stop Bagerhat-Dhaka bus service

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Shohag Paribahan, a private transport company, was asked to stop its services on Bagerhat-Dhaka route via Khulna from Friday for not carrying nine gunny bags containing Zakat cloths of district BNP president MAH Selim MP. A night coach (Dhaka-Metro-Ba-0410) of the company reportedly refused to carry the cloths from Dhaka on Wednesday. The bags were allegedly thrown out of the company's office. The coach was detained when it reached Bagerhat Thursday morning from Dhaka. The Sadar thana police took three employees of the coach into custody, reportedly at the instruction of Bagerhat BNP leaders.

Leaders of Bagerhat Bus Owners' Association were directed by BNP leaders to suspend services of Shohag Paribahan till the dispute is resolved, sources said. Accordingly, two coaches on Bagerhat Dhaka route via Khulna were forced to stop playing from Friday morning. Bagerhat Sadar thana OC said the buses were detained for "not having necessary documents". Shajahan Mina, general secretary of Bus Malik Samity, refuted the allegation. "None has the right to compel any transport owner to carry any luggage free of cost", he said. MAH Selim MP could not be contacted for comment despite several attempts over phone.

'Outlaw' beaten to death by police STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna An alleged outlaw --Jasim Shaikh (30) - belonging to Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) was beaten to dead by Rupsha thana police on Friday at Mahishaguni village, witnesses claimed. Another outlaw of the same party--Noor Mohammad alias Mohon, 34--has been admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) with severe injuries, also from police beating. The two outlaws were arrested from Mohishaguni village under Rupsha thana. When asked, Khulna Police Superintendent Habibur Rahman refuted the allegation that Jashim was beaten to death by police. He said the outlaws were beaten by an angry mob and handed over to police. He died while being taken to KMCH. The officer-in-charge of Rupsha thana said the slain outlaw was a listed terrorist and FIR-named accused in several criminal cases including two murder cases.



Awami League has taken up a programme to distribute food grains among monga-affected people in Nilphamari. The photo shows AL Publicity Secretary Asaduzzaman Noor MP on Friday distributing the rice among people at Sarkerpara Secondary Girls High School in Tupamari union under the Sadar upazila (left) and the long queues for the doles (right). Each family got five kilograms of rice.

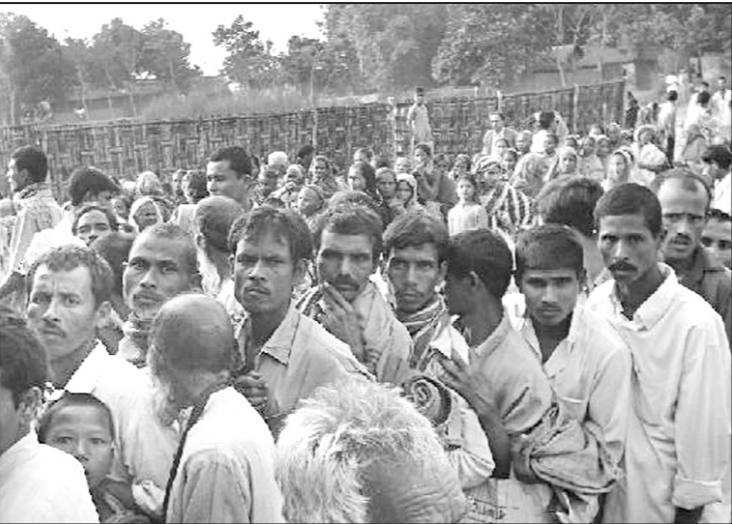


PHOTO EAM ASADUZZAMAN

Eid shopping at its peak in Ctg Thai, Indian goods are of less demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

The whole city gives a festive look with crowded markets and shopping malls dazzling with kaleidoscopic lights and eye-catching decorations. All the markers remain alive with Eid shoppers till late night. To attract customers, most of the markets have introduced gift coupons and raffle draw for lucrative prizes. Coupons are available even against purchase of 100 taka goods. The offers seem to have succeeded in luring customers of all ages. Customers are also happy with stocks of latest and fashionable items. Markets like Chittagong Shopping Complex, Central Plaza, Lucky Plaza and Reazuddin Bazar that offer items and garments for all types of customers, are attracting larger crowds. Md Salauddin, president of Chittagong Shop Owners Samity Federation, told this correspondent last night that Eid shopping got a belated

momentum this year. "In fact, in the first two weeks of the Ramadan, customers move from markets to market," he said. Sales actually pick up after 15th Ramadan, he said. The supermarkets now remain crowded till midnight. Md. Abul Kashem, president of Mimi Super Market Traders' Association, said sales picked up since Friday last. Kashem, also the general secretary of Chittagong Shop Owners Samity Federation, said super markets are attracting more customers than other markets because of variety in the collections. Abu Bakar, a shop owner at New Market, said Thai and Indian goods do not attract customers this year as before. Some 100 markets in the city have announced prizes including private cars, motor-bikes, refrigerators, electric appliances and gold ornaments

against coupons and raffle draws. The private cars to be given as prizes have been put on display at entrances of markets to lure customers. But many customers alleged that shopkeepers do not give the coupons properly. Fashion and design houses seemed to lag behind in the race this year. Their festivals and display centres are less in number. However, fashion festivals organized by Chittagong Club at its swimming pool, Charu Chattagram at Shilpakala Academy, fashion designer Ivy Hasan at Shilpakala Academy and by women entrepreneurs at Shishu Academy attracted customers in large numbers. Besides, the Alokito-Konka Eid Fashion Competition organized by Alokito Chattagram, a regional publication of leading Bengali daily Prothom Alo, that ended on November 10 and the 3-day exhibition by Altamirah were great attractions.

40 hurt in Kushtia villagers' clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

At least 40 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups loyal to two local BNP men at Nohordin village in the Sadar upazila on Friday. The clash was a sequel to rivalry between the two influentials --Alfaz Uddin and Shorab Uddin--over supremacy in the area, sources said. Quoting local people police said, one Seriful, loyal to Shorab, beat one Maleka Begum, 32, wife of Matiur Rahman of Alfaz group during an altercation in the evening.

Hearing this, villagers loyal to Alfaz rushed to the spot and a clash ensued. The sporadic clashes continued till late night. On information, police went to the village and arrested three persons. Twenty of the injured have been admitted to Kushtia General Hospital. They are Maleka, Kheleg, Ala , Nekbar, Amirul, Anwar, Shorab, Peskar Montu, Nizam, Baharul, Soeb, Sher Ali, Hafizur, Paltu, Islam, Kubbat, Akkach, Letif, Kasem and Rafiqul. None filed any case till fling this report yesterday.

DC's permission for attending meeting Union Parishad leaders protest govt order

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Union Parishad Chairman and members of Moulvibazar district at a meeting protested the LGRD ministry order on local body representatives to take permission from Deputy Commissioners to participate in any meeting or workshop. They also demanded more powers for local bodies for development of rural areas. The UP chairman and members were speaking at a recent day-long meeting on 'Union Parishad Networking', held at Moulvibazar Pourasava auditorium. "Now, a Union Parishad chairman has only one function-- to sign nationality certificates", a frustrated UP chairman said addressing the meeting. The networking meeting was organized by USAID funded Local Government Initiative (LGI)-ARD Bangladesh in collaboration with Prochesta, a local NGO. It was presided over by Muazzem Hussain Matuk, chairman of Nazirabad UP and joint secretary of Moulvibazar

district BNP. Dr Zerina Rahman Khan, Deputy Chief of Party of the ARD-LGI Bangladesh was the chief guest while its Senior Training Specialist Kajal Chatarjee and Consultant Jamil Ahmed were special guests. Nawab Ali Noki Khan, Chairman of Prithim Pasa UP and executive director of Prochesta delivered the address of welcome. More than 100 chairman and members including women members from the six upozilas of the district attended the meeting. They shared their views on activities of UPs. Some UP chairman who are members of ruling BNP also criticised the government for the LGRD ministry order. They also said local MPs are ignoring UPs in rural development activities. The meeting formed a 15-members district Network Committee of Union Parishad Forum with Moazzem Hussain Matuk, Abdul Muktaadir and Abu Sufian Chowdhury as president, general secretary and treasurer respectively.



PHOTO: STAR

Dr Zerina Rahman Khan, Deputy Chief of Party of ARD, Local Government Initiative, a USAID-funded organisation, speaking at a networking meeting of chairmen and members of Union Parishads at Moulvibazar Pourasabha auditorium recently.