

30 hurt in separate incidents

NARSINGDI, July 9: At least 30 people were injured in separate incidents at Algi and Alipur villages in sadar thana today and Thursday night, reports UNB.

Police said as a sequel of previous enmity, the supporters of two neighbours Hossain Mia and Qudus Mia of Alipur village engaged in a fierce clash this morning leaving at least 20 people of the two sides injured.

Discussion on secondary edn held

A discussion on "Secondary and Higher Secondary Education System: Problems and Solutions" was held at the Dhaka Oriental College at Lalmitia yesterday, reports BSS.

The President of Anubhabh Multi-Purpose Cooperatives Limited Jitendra Lal Bhowmik presided over the discussion. Additional Secretary to the Establishment Ministry Hira Lal Bala was present on the occasion as chief guest. Joint secretary to the Ministry of Education Mohammad Abdul Kalyum Thakur and Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) of Dhaka Mohammad Shahjahan Ali Mollah attended the function as special guests.

Head Masters of 50 high schools from the capital attended the function.

A memorandum comprising suggestions of 150 teachers on the issue was handed over to Education Minister ASHK Sadeque through Joint Secretary Abdul Kalyum Thakur.



A heap of garbage has accumulated in city's Kawran Bazar area as DCC Conservancy Unit has failed to collect garbage from the area for the past few days. —Star photo

Prices of essentials ride high despite reduction on duty

Despite duty reduction on crude edible oil and all sorts of pulses in the new budget, there was no downward reflection in the prices of edible oil and pulses in the city's retail markets last week, reports UNB.

Prices of almost all sorts of rice remained steady, excepting coarse Boro and Pajal which dropped slightly while fine variety of Polao rice increased. Prices of vegetables and spices soared during the week.

Traders said bumper production of new Boro helped reduce its price while the off-season caused sharp rise in the price of polao rice (Chingura and Kalijira). Prices of vegetables shot up due to flooding in central parts of the country and transport strike in the southern districts, they said.

Loose soybean oil was being sold at Tk 38-39 per litre at the retail markets of New Market, Kawran Bazar, Hatirpool and Mohammadpur. However, a 5-litre can costs Tk 215-225.

The price of open soybean oil remained at the same level for the whole month of June compared to Tk 51-52 per litre during the same period last year.

sources at the Department of Agricultural Marketing said.

The price of local variety of lentils remained steady at Tk 38-40 per kg last week while imported variety sold at Tk 34-36. Other variety of pulses also remained steady.

Market sources said the budgetary measures did not help reduce the prices due to the off-season, when price normally rises. The budget might have helped to keep the prices steady, they added.

The price of the local variety of lentils was Tk 32-34 per kg during the same period last year.

The price of coarse Boro rice fell by Tk 0.50-1.00 to Tk 12-13 per kg on Friday against Tk 13-15 in the previous week. New Boro harvest helped reduce the price, market sources said.

Polao rice was sold at Tk 42-44 per kg on Friday against Tk 36-40 in the first week of June. It was Tk 28-30 in June last year. The price of Kataribhog was Tk 28-29, Aman fine Tk 19-20, Aman medium Tk 16-17 and

Aman lower quality Tk 13-14, and Pajal Tk 17-18 per kg.

In the spices group, prices of onion, ginger and garlic shot up during the week. Local variety of onion sold at Tk 32 per kg and the imported variety Tk 26 on Friday. The local variety of onion sold Tk 28-30 and the imported variety Tk 22-25 the previous week.

The price of ginger is now quite unstable and sold at Tk 55-65 on Friday. It was sold at Tk 70-75 the previous week as against Tk 38-50 in the first week of June, market sources said. The price of ginger was Tk 20-24 in the first week of June last year.

Traders said Bangladesh now became almost fully dependent on imported ginger.

Local variety of garlic sold at Tk 50-60 per kg last week compared to Tk 48-54 the previous week while the imported variety Tk 40-46 against Tk 40-44.

Potatoes sold at Tk 12 per kg on Friday compared to Tk 10 in the previous week while other vegetables soared by Tk 2-4 per

kg. However, the price of green papaya remained steady at Tk 8-12.

Sources at the Department of Agricultural Marketing (DAE) said prices of vegetables might increase further and continue up to the last week of October until the winter vegetables come into the markets.

The standing summer vegetables were damaged due to rain and flooding and the farmers were forced to harvest their vegetables early as the vegetable gardens in central parts of the country went under water, they said.

They said now the city markets would have to depend on supplies from the highlands of Jessore, Kushtia, Chuadanga, Comilla, Narsingdi, Chittagong areas.

The summer vegetables will continue to be available up to the end of this month, DAE sources said adding that the consumers would have to depend mainly on potatoes and green papayas till October last week from the first week of August.

'Foil attempts to come to power through killings'

KISHOREGANJ, July 9: LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman today urged the democracy loving people to foil any attempt to grab power through killing, conspiracy and coup, reports BSS.

The main opposition BNP wants to come to power by hatching conspiracy and unconstitutional way ignoring the country's existing electoral process," he said while addressing a rally at the Kalipur High School ground under Bhairab thana here.

The rally was organised on the occasion of unveiling the foundation stone of a bridge on the Kalipur Badsha beel under Bhairab thana.

Referring to the "hartal" enforced by the opposition political parties, he said the opposition has no rights to damage the public property in the name of hartal when a democratic government is in power.

"There is no logic for hartal at this time and the opposition, which wanted to find logic of hartal is not true. It is a blatant lie," he observed.

"The budget is not anti-people and there is no conspiracy regarding Gas and Corridor. The law and order has been improved significantly and the prices of essentials remained stable even after announcing the budget," he said.

He said the opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia is enforcing frequent 'hartal' causing untold sufferings of the people and damages public property.

Jatiya Mahila Sangstha Chairman Ily Rahman attended the rally as special guest while local Awami League, Jubo League and Chhatra League leaders addressed the rally.

Earlier, the minister inaugurated a newly built building of Jatiya Mahila Sangstha at Bhairab and distributed loans to the distressed rural women.

Seven hurt in Bagerhat clashes

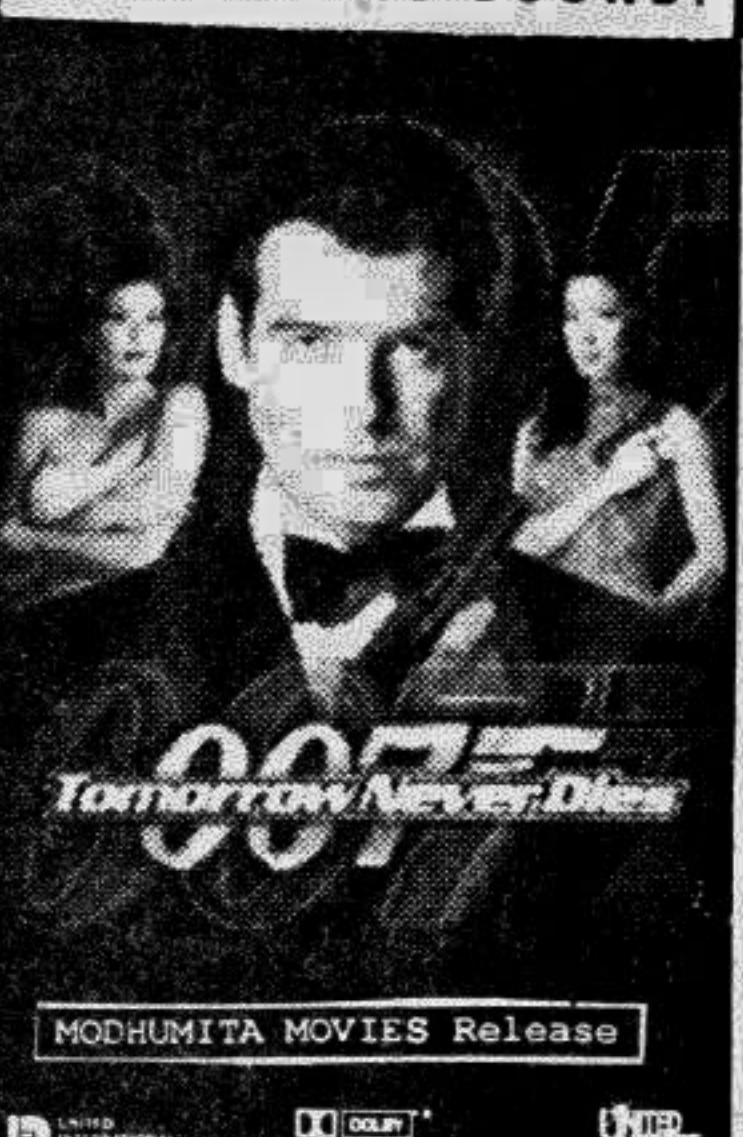
BAGERHAT, July 9: At least seven bus workers were injured, three of them critically, in a clash between two rival groups following previous enmity at Rano Bijoypur crossing today, reports UNB.

Of the critically injured, two were identified as Sheikh Furu, 23, and Lalu, 20, and admitted to local clinics.

Witnesses said the clash ensued at about 10 am when one group chased another with lethal weapons.

One of the feuding groups barricaded Bagerhat-Rupsha road disrupting communications for six hours till 4 pm.

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Managing Director, Khulna Newsprint Mills Ltd, Town Khalishpur, Khulna invites sealed quotation under 2 (two) envelope system against International Tender Enquiry No. KNM/PD (F)-06B/99 dated 26-6-99 for purchase of 1000 (one thousand) M. Ton Hard White Shavings (Waste Paper) on C&F (C) Mongla Liner term basis under Cash Foreign Exchange. The quotation will be received up to 3.00 PM on 11-08-99 which shall be opened immediately thereafter. Tender documents shall be available on payment of Tk 1000.00 (one thousand) per set (non-refundable) from a) KNM Ltd, Khulna b) BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka & c) BCIC Branch Office, 6-Agrabad C/A, Chittagong. Earnest Money is Tk 1% of the total quoted C&F (C) Mongla value. No tender documents shall be sold on the date of opening. The authority reserves the right to accept or to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.
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Roads & Highways Directorate's Ferryghat Lease Quotation Invitation Notice

- Quotation Notice No. : 3/EE/MRD/98-99.
- Name of work : Quotation for leasing out Arial Kha Ferryghat of Bhangra-Mowa Road under Madaripur Road Division with lubricant & fuel from the date of contract deed to 30-6-2000 during 1999-2000.
- Estimated cost : Tk. Quoted rate.
- Earnest money : 10% (ten per cent) of quoted rate.
- Those eligible to participate in the lease bid : Roads & Highways Directorate enlistd all contractors/Govt/Private/Autonomous organisation/experienced lessee & bonafide solvent Bangladesh nationals.
- Offices from which the quotation can be purchased : Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka/Executive Engineer (R&H), Road Division, Madaripur/Faridpur/Gopalganj/Rajbari/Shariatpur/Barisal/Planning Division, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer (R&H), Road Sub-Division, Madaripur/Bhangra/Assistant Engineer (R&H), 1st Line Workshop Sub-Division, Madaripur.
- Offices where the quotations will be received : Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Dhaka/Additional Chief Engineer (R&H), Barisal Zone, Barisal/Superintending Engineer (R&H), Road Circle, Faridpur/Superintending Engineer (R&H), Procurement & Monitoring Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Executive Engineer (R&H), Road Division, Madaripur.
- Last date of selling quotation : 19-7-99/4-4-1406 BS up to office hours.
- Last date & time of receiving quotation : 20-7-99/5-4-1406 BS up to 12-30 PM and the quotation, in sealed condition, will be opened from the quotation box on the same day at 12-45 PM.
- Date, time & place of opening quotations : Quotations will be opened on 25-7-99/10-4-1406 BS at 10-00 AM at the office chamber of the Executive Engineer (R&H), Road Division, Madaripur.

Tapas Kumar Paul
Executive Engineer (R&H)
Road Division, Madaripur



Arnold Zeitlin (3rd from left) Director of the Hong Kong-based Freedom Forum, exchanged views with journalists at the Press Institute (PIB) yesterday. Also seen in the picture are (from left to right) Abed Khan, ABM Musa, Dr Sheikh Abdus Salam, Director General of PIB, Dr Golam Rahman and Syed Kamal Uddin. — PIB photo

Freedom forum chief meets journalists

Arnold Zeitlin, Director of Freedom Forum, a Hong Kong-based organisation relating to the press, held a meeting yesterday with eminent journalists and academics at the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB), reports BSS.

During the meeting they discussed possibilities for holding seminars, workshops and training programmes for upgrading the standard of journalism here.

PIB Director General Dr Sheikh Abdus Salam chaired the meeting while BSS chief editor and managing director Haroon Habib, UNB chairman Amanullah Khan, eminent journalist ABM Musa, Habibur Rahman Milon, Syed Kamal Uddin, Hassan Shahriar, Abed Khan, Monjurul Ahasan Bulbul and Prof Dr Golam Rahman of Dhaka University attended the meeting.

While exchanging views with the journalists Arnold recalled his memories of the War of Liberation in 1971 and upheld his warm relations with Bangladesh.

Students' bodies renew demand to save trees

By Staff Correspondent

Different students organisations held a rally at the Osmany Udyan yesterday to renew their appeal to the government to save the trees of the Udyan and not to construct the Bangladesh Conference Centre for the NAM summit at the park.

Expressing their solidarity despite the rains the meeting was addressed by Dr Abrar Choudhury, a teacher of the Dhaka University, Saifur Rahman Tapan, Manzur-e-Rhoda, Torik, Ujjal Balo, Shahidul Islam Sabuj and Rasha, a sculptor. Ziaul Haq Zia presided over the rally.

Extended bldg of Betar Ctg centre opens 'Govt firm to make mass media more accountable'

CHITTAGONG, July 9: State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed said here today that the present government was firmly committed to making mass media more accountable and bringing very close to the people as it believed in free flow of information, reports BSS.

"The mass media by no means should be used merely for recreational purposes," he said, adding the basic objective of the role of media is to disseminate the day to day important information to the common people.

The minister was addressing the inaugural function of the newly constructed three-storied extension building of Bangladesh Betar, Chittagong centre in its studio at Agrabad here this noon.

Prof Sayeed urged all officers and employees of the Betar to put in integrated endeavours for projecting the massive people development activities of the government through the media and said access to information is a fundamental right of every citizen.

He said mass media, especially Betar and Television, should keep people informed of the latest important events and recent facts.

Listing various well-thought out programmes of the present government, the information minister said it had been striving to make the mass media time-believing and turn it into a nearest and dearest friend in need even during natural disasters.

Prof Abu Sayeed referred to the glorious traditional cultural heritage of Chittagong and its role in the national movement and said it was MA Hannan, the then Chittagong City Awami League leader, who first proclaimed the independence

Mannan says Thousands of industries facing closure

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has said the country's thousands of industries are facing closure due to the government's failure and pro-subsidy policy, reports UNB.

"The future of potential garment sector is also bleak," he told the leaders of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Garments and Buying Officers' Association when they called on him at 29 Minto Road yesterday evening.

Bhuiyan said Bangladesh would be left out of the global competition unless a large number of composite textile mills could be set up before the year 2005.

"But, the government has no attention in this regard. They are busy with repression," he said, adding, "they must be ousted through mass upsurge to save the country from their clutches."

The association leaders Jahangir Alam Tipu, Farid Amin Shaheen, Rezaul Alam Reza and Ruhul Amin were, among others, present.

'CEFE small business creation' training begins

A two-week training course on Small Business Creation for the Non-Literate began in the Proshika Training Hall in Kolkata, Manikganj yesterday, says a press release.

It is being organised by German Technical Cooperation in collaboration with 10 local partner organisations under the Ministry of Commerce. Around 20 mid level to senior level trainers of these partner organisations are participating in this course.

This training program will be delivered, following the CEFE (Competency Based Economics through Formation of Entrepreneurs) model which is an innovative and comprehensive business training programme for the existing and potential entrepreneurs specially in the field of Micro and Small Enterprise development.

With the successful implementation of the CEFE approach in the field of small enterprise through the formation of entrepreneurs from the illiterate community, the CEFE movement aims to establish proper roots in the rural areas, to contribute to poverty alleviation in these areas and work with the rural people CEFE will train the non-literate achieve this objective.

Through the participation in this training course these partner organisations will be able to transport the message of CEFE potential and usefulness, and help link up with these rural groups for training and networking.

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