

SNAPS

One killed in road mishap

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira
An old man was killed and seven persons were injured when a microbus collided with a truck at Alipur on the Satkhira-Kaligonj road in the Sadar upazila on Sunday.
Nazimuddin, 60, of Alipur village died on the spot. Of the injured, Abdur Razzak, Abdul Alim, Probir Mondal and Kanika Pal have been admitted to Satkhira Sadar Hospital, police said.

Polythene bags flood Meherpur markets

BSS, Meherpur
Banned polythene shopping bags are being sold and used openly at markets in Meherpur.
A group of polythene manufacturers in connivance with some unscrupulous traders are supplying those.
Polythene shopping bags are being sold at Tk one apiece and jute or cloth bags at Tk 6 and 12 respectively.
The district authorities are yet to take any step against use and the marketing of banned polythene bags.

Wife killed for dowry

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla,
A housewife was strangled allegedly by her husband at Mijhar village under Chandina upazilla on Sunday.
Quoting neighbours, police said Md. Salim often tortured his wife Farzana Akter for dowry since their marriage about four years ago. The couple has a two year-old son, Shakil.
The couple had an altercation just before sunset on Sunday. At one stage, Salim strangled his wife.
The killer husband poured insecticide into her mouth to prove the incident a suicide and fled away.

Heyday for ticket touts in Rajshahi

Bus-train tickets sold at double the fares in black market

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi
"All seats booked", reads the notice hung in front of most of the ticket counters. Nearby, touts sell tickets at almost double the actual fares.
This is the scene at long distance bus terminals in Rajshahi city for the last couple of days.
Tickets are not available even in counters for advance ticket at bus terminals and at the railway station.
Yesterday, bus tickets for Dhaka were sold openly by touts at Tk 250 to 300 against the actual fares of Tk 120 to 200.
Queues are not seen in front of counters for bus tickets. Instead, worried passengers are seen looking for or negotiating with touts.
All these are happening at the very nose of the law enforcers, who are unmoved even after complaints from passengers.
At railway booking counters, clerks say there is no ticket. They issue 'extra tickets' without seat. But tickets with seats are available in the black market, many passengers told this correspondent.

In regional routes also, passengers have to pay Tk 30 to 50 more per ticket. If any one refuses, he is forced to get down from the bus on way.
Such insult to passengers is common in Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj and Rajshahi-Rangpur routes.
Sometimes, transport workers assault passengers to realise the enhanced fare.
Shahidur Rashid Montu, secretary of Rajshahi Transport Owners Association, however denied that extra fares were realised.



'Ritha' a sea fish, once plentiful in the Padma, is near-extinct in the river now. This fish was caught by fishermen in Rajbari recently.

PHOTO: AKM MOHSIN

4 held with fake notes in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Palashbari police recovered 36 fake notes of 100 taka denomination and arrested four persons including a head master of a primary school in this connection.
The four arrested persons are Nurul Islam, headmaster of Tekani Primary School, its assistant headmaster Moshir Rahman, Ashraf Ali and Abdus Sattar.
Police said Nurul Islam had given the fake notes to students as stipend. This was detected when guardians of two of the students went to market with the notes.
Twelve of the fake notes were recovered from the two guardians--Ashraf Ali and Abdus Satter--of village Mirzapur. The rest were recovered from the headmaster and the assistant headmaster.
The headmaster told police that the fake notes were in the cash he drew from Palashbari branch of Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank.
Aminul Islam, the bank employee who disbursed the money, is absconding since detection of the fake notes, police said. A case has been filed with Polashbari thana.

KSM to face production setback

BSS, Kushtia

Production at Kushtia Sugar Mills (KSM) may suffer a setback this season because of a sugarcane supply deficit like in the past.
KSM sources said the mill has been incurring huge loss every year due to failure in achieving the target.
The mill faces shortage of sugarcane as growers in the mill area are selling sugarcane to molasses producers at comparatively higher prices, violating their agreement with the mill authorities.
At least 200 illegal power crushers are producing molasses in the mill zone, sources said.
Growers said, for one maund sugarcane, they get Tk 40 from the mill and Tk 60 from molasses producers.
Every year, the mill authorities provide loan to the growers in the mill zone, but they sell their products to molasses producers.

Erratum

In the caption of three photos printed on page 15 in The Daily Star on November 22, it was mistakenly written that Kajol's father Nizamuddin was talking to State Minister for education ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon (not in picture). The person (right in circle) talking to the state minister was Hasan Ali, father of Kajol's friend Pear Ali, who was also injured along with Kajol. We regret the inadvertent mistake. Co-ordinator, NATIONAL page.

Panic in Satkhira Outlaws' letters for toll, many leave homes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Panic has gripped the people of Assassuni upazila as outlaws have demanded toll to so many through letters and threatened with death for non-compliance.
Outlaws belonging to Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Jana Judha) have become active in the upazila following deterioration in law and order.
PBCP cadres gunned down police source Haroon Dhali, 50 in front of his house at Budhasa village on November 5.
During last one week, they gave

letters to so many some businessmen demanding tolls ranging from Tk 50,000 to Tk one lakh.
Recipients of the letters include brick field owner Emdadul haq, grocer Shib Pada and Shrimp enclosure owners Abdul Gafoor, Ashok Das, Joy Narayan Gain, Rajkumar, Chandan Debnath and Bikash Debnath.
So many letters in a week proves the outlaws have become very active and are well organised, local people said.
But police is taking no action to arrest the outlaws, they claimed.
Some recipients of letters have left homes, their families said.

BADC 'deceives' farmers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Farmers who bought BADC Boro-IRI seeds have been deceived as about 80 per cent of the seeds did not sprout, many farmers alleged.
This has created a crisis of seeds and seedlings at the beginning of the Boro-IRRI season because the deceived farmers have turned to markets in large numbers for those.
They are purchasing seeds from markets at high prices.
Many of the farmers have also submitted written complaints to Upazila Nirbahi Officers and BADC offices in different areas.
In their complaints, they said eighty percent of the high yielding Boro seeds BRI-28, 29,35,36 and 16 supplied by BADC did not sprout.
Farmers said they are purchasing inferior quality Boro seeds from NGOs like BRAC and PROSHIKA at

prices as high as Tk 300 per 10 Kg bag.
BADC seeds are supplied through dealers and sub-dealers.
When contacted, local BADC officials said they will prove the matter and write to higher authorities for necessary action.

375 MT VGF rice for Narsingdi during Eid

BSS, Narsingdi,

The government is distributing 375 metric tons (MTs) of rice among distressed people in Narsingdi ahead of the Eid-ul-Fitr under Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme.
Under the programme, each cardholder will get 10 kilograms of rice.

Frequent change in rules hinders local govt strengthening

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Local government rules are frequently changed through ordinances, which is the main obstacle to strengthen local bodies.
Speakers revealed this finding at an opinion exchange meeting titled "Role of Mass Media in Strengthening Local Government" in Kurigram on Saturday.
The Bangladesh Centre for Development, Journalism and Communication (BCDJC) in joint collaboration with the USAID funded Local Government Initiatives ARD and Kurigram Press Club organised the meeting.
Kurigram Pourasabha Chairman Md Abdus Salam, commissioners Md Rafiqul Islam and Safiqul Islam including the Press Club President Rabintra Nath Roy, Vice President Alok Sarker and General Secretary Mominul Islam Monju actively took part in the meeting.

Participants further told that bureaucrats control local government bodies. Moreover, there is lack of coordination among public representatives and government servants which is also one of the hurdles in the way of strengthening local government.
Positive and negative aspects of the problem was also discussed there.
However, the problem can be solved by publishing actual and informative stories in the print media.
Shafi Khan, Kurigram district correspondent of Prothom Alo, a major vernacular national daily, conducted the meeting.
BCDJC Director Samar Roy in his introductory speech dwelt on various aspects of the issue.
Among others, members of the press club, local public representatives, social workers, teachers and members of civil society were present there.



A partial view of a meeting organised by BCDJC to exchange views with members of civil society on "Role of Mass Media in Strengthening Local Government", held at Kurigram Press Club on Saturday.

Police on high alert in Barisal division

Leave cancelled apprehending "sabotage"

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Police are on high alert in Barisal division in apprehension of "sabotage" by criminals against the backdrop of a law and order situation. Superintendents of Police (SPs) of the six districts under Barisal Police Range have been asked unofficially not to grant leave to any policeman during Eid, sources said. The measures have been taken as criminals may be active king the chance of relaxed Eid mood, the sources said.
Police have already received secret information from different sources that "sabotage attempts" could be made during the Eid.
The recent incidents of looting by armed robbers at Neamoti and

Vandaria Bandar created panic in the entire Barisal division.
Besides, illegal drug trading, toll collection, hijacking, acid violence and extortion have become a regular feature which made people's life miserable.
However, when contacted, Golam Mustafa, DIG of Barisal Range, denied that SPs have been asked to cancel leave of policemen.
But he acknowledged that special precautionary measures have been taken to maintain order during the Eid.
He further told this correspondent that he met with Officers-In-Charge of police stations in crime-prone and sensitive areas on Saturday.

Journalist beaten for news against traffickers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A local journalist was injured when beaten by some BNP activists on Saturday at Jhowdahga bazaar in the Sadar upazila for publishing a news against women and children traffickers. Police said Abul Hossain, correspondent of local daily The Dristipat was attacked with lethal weapons.
The attackers led by Jhowdanga union BNP convenor and Union Parishad number Abdul Mazed and Jubo Dal leaders Shahidul Islam also threatened him with 'dire consequences' if he publishes news against traffickers in future.
A case was filed with Satkhira thana.
Local journalists in a statement condemned the attack and demanded immediate arrest of the attackers.
On Sunday, a protest meeting held at Jhowdahga bazaar demanded arrest and punishment of the attackers.