

## 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 Chandra upazila 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.

Moulvibazar  
Shilpkala  
Academy body  
formed without  
election

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar**

A new executive committee of Shilpkala Academy here has been formed without election.

Local members of the ruling party have captured all the seats of the executive body, sources claimed.

The new committee was formed at a meeting held at the Deputy Commissioner's office recently. DC Md Mukhlesur Rahman, who is the ex-officio president of Shilpkala Academy, presided.

The DC is the ex-officio president of the new body. Other office bearers include Vice-presidents-- Additional Deputy Commissioner Tajul Islam Chowdhury (ex-officio) and District Children Affairs Officer Md Jasim Uddin (ex-officio); general secretary--Md Akbar Hussain; joint secretaries -Maruf Ahmed and Surajit Kishore Das Chowdhury; treasurer- Jakir Hussain Ujjal

Some members of the Academy said they did not get any notice or letter for the meeting. As per law, the committee has to be elected by all the general members, they told this correspondent.

They also said none of the members of the new committee has any cultural background. They are workers or supporters of BNP or its front organisations, they claimed.

Mob damages  
police microbus  
in Barisal

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal**

Mob damaged a hired microbus of police for hitting a cyclist named Md Mohiuddin, 17, who was rushed to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital with critical head injuries on Sunday noon.

Eye witnesses and police said, Sub Inspector (SI) Golam Mustafa of Jhalakati Sadar Police Station along with four other constables were going to Swarupkati by a hired microbus to take over an arrested accused from there.

On way while their vehicle was crossing the C and B road in Amtala area of Barisal city at about 12.30 pm, the driver went on wrong way and hit the bicyclist.

After the accident the driver was forced to leave the vehicle and fled away after being chased by people who also damaged the microbus.

However, people did not hurt any policemen.

SI Golam Mustafa lodged a GD entry at Barisal Kotwali Police Station.

## 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 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 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.

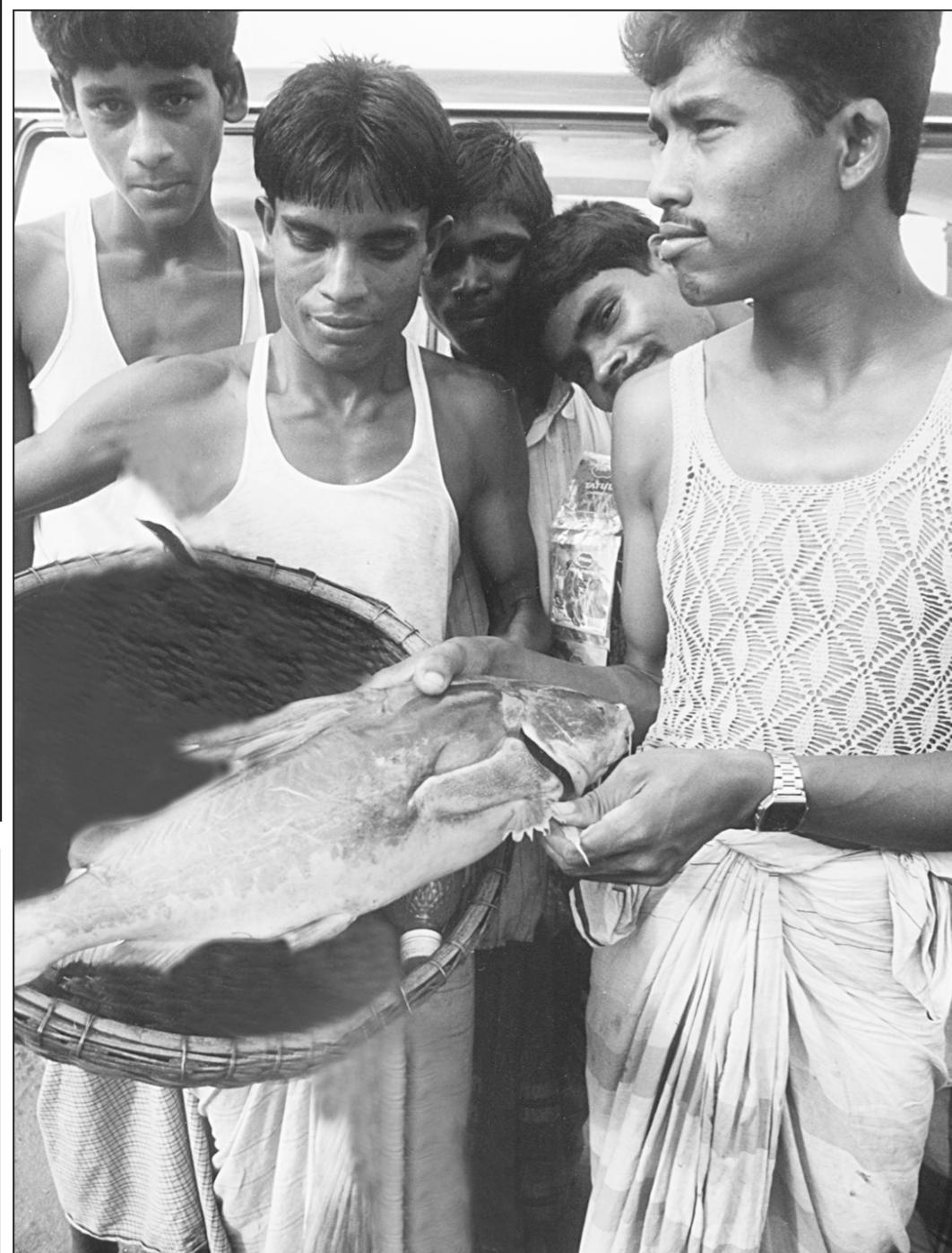


PHOTO: AKM MOHIN

'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.

## Panic in Satkhira

## Outlaws' letters for toll, many leave homes

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira**

Panic has gripped the people of Assassini 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 Juddha) have become active in the upazila following deterioration in law and order.

PBCP cadres gunned down police source Haroon Dhal, 50, in front of his house at Budhsa 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 Shab 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-IRI 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 Safigul Islam including the Press Club President Rabindra Nath Roy, Vice President Alok Sarker and General Secretary Monimul Islam Monju actively took part in 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.

## 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 Moshiur 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 Sattar--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.

Aminal 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.

## 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 officially not to grant leave to any policeman during Eid, sources said.

The measures have been taken as criminals may be active during the 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 Jhowdhaga bazaar in the Sadar upazila for publishing a news against women and children traffickers.

The attackers led by Jhowdhaga 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 Jhowdhaga bazaar demanded arrest and punishment of the attackers.