

সর্বনাশ করছে হাইব্রিড ধান  
২০০০  
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রাজনীতি কোথায় যাচ্ছে  
চট্টগ্রামের হালদা পুনরুদ্ধার প্রকল্প  
সংস্করণ: ১০  
এখন বাজারে

## Body to oversee S Asian port, maritime security

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

A new grouping comprising Coast Guard representatives from nine countries, including India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, was launched in the Maldives on Monday to oversee port and maritime security in the Indian Ocean.

The South Asian Regional Port Security Cooperative (SARPSCO), inaugurated by the Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, will bring together stakeholders from five South Asian countries and Madagascar, Mauritius, Oman and Comoros Island.

The body aims at ensuring safety

of cargo containers and international seaports from terrorist strikes.

Gayoom said the organisation with its broad representation provided an excellent opportunity to chart a new framework for regional cooperation in a vital area.

Rear Admiral Craig E Bone of US Coastguard, who delivered the keynote address, said time has come for the countries in the region to cooperate to stop any disruption of oil supplies using ships sailing across the Indian Ocean.

US Ambassador to Sri Lanka and the Maldives Robert O Blake said cargo containers and international seaports pose potentially attractive targets for terrorists as a successful attack on a port could cripple a nation's economy and disrupt international shipping, a statement released by the US Embassy here said.



Pro-Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof AFM Yusuf Haider inaugurates a mass signature campaign against corruption at Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) on the university campus yesterday.

## Mass signature campaign against corruption at DU

A mass signature campaign against corruption was launched at Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) on Dhaka University campus yesterday.

While inaugurating the campaign, DU pro-Vice Chancellor Prof AFM Yusuf Haider said, "This campaign will make people aware against corruption." He also called on the youths to contribute more to the anti-corruption movement.

Although corrupt people had dominated the society so far, it is time they are socially boycotted, he added.

Director of TSC Alamgir Hossain, Managing Director of Support Advertising Ltd Khandaker Sayed, Directors SM Shiplu and Mohammad Sohel Patowari, Event Director MA Samad and Mahmudul Hasan were present at the inaugural ceremony.

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## Road crashes kill six

STAR REPORT

Six people, including a woman and her children, were killed in separate road accidents in Chittagong and Gaibandha yesterday.

Our correspondent in Gaibandha reports: Kamala Begum, 28, and her eight-year-old son Sabil were crushed to death under the wheels of a speeding bus on Palashbari-Gaibandha highway.

The bus knocked them down when they were crossing the road at Sakoa, police and witnesses said. The bus sped away soon after the accident.

Angered by the accident, local people put up a barricade on the highway, disrupting traffic movement for about an hour.

Later, the police brought the situation under control.

Our correspondent in Chittagong adds: Four people were

killed and another person was injured in a collision between a Noakhali-bound bus and an autorickshaw on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Sitakunda in the afternoon.

The accident took place near Royal Cement Factory at Kumira at around 3:30pm as the autorickshaw was trying to overtake a rickshaw, said a witness.

Three passengers of the three-wheeler died on the spot. Two other passengers were also injured, but one of them died on the way to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

The dead were identified as Nurul Amin, 45, son of late Yunus of Comilla, Asadul Islam, 28, son of Zillur Rahman of Rajshahi, Naser, 22, of Barabkunda and Mainuddin, 23.

The other injured passenger, Jibon Krishna Das, is now undergoing treatment at CMCH.

## Poor services outcome of corruption in bureaucracy

Rajshahi Education Board staffs tell meet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi Education Board (REB) officials at a view exchange meeting yesterday attributed their failures and poor services to the outcome of moral degradation and widespread corruption at bureaucratic level in the country.

As educationists, the officials said, they want to deliver the best services, but they are helpless due to some 'legalised corruption' by

which inefficient officials were chosen to run the board.

Concerned Citizens' Committee (CCC), an organisation run by Transparency International, Bangladesh (TIB), organised the meeting on 'Developing quality of services at the board'.

CCC member and Rajshahi University prof Chowdhury Sarwar Jahan moderated the meeting with REB Chairman Dr. Enamul Haque in the chair.

REB Secretary Prof Shafiq Uddin, REB Inspectors Abul Kalam Azad, Dr Mustafizur Rahman, Employees' Union President Manjurur Rahman Khan, TIB Programme Officer Rafikul Islam and CCC members Rajiuddin Ahmed, Dr Sabrina Naj and Kamarullah Sarker spoke at the programme.

The REB officials said they were held hostage in the corruption web as they themselves became victimised when they are in need of services from the board.

They said the ongoing decentralisation process is at stake at REB as its activities of registration, examination and results are still being controlled centrally for lone computer centre in the capital.

They, however, said the board has increased quality services manifold with the help of CCC.

A recent CCC survey found that the REB services were improved.

The survey revealed that people recommended for close monitoring on REB activities, increasing staffs, maintaining transparency in collection of fees and proper supervision.

## BSF hands over 2 women to BDR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) handed two women -- the victim and the trafficker -- to Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) after a flag meeting at zero point at Bhomra in Sadar upazila on Monday.

BSF caught them from Shojadanga border under Basirhat Police Station in 24 Parganas, West Bengal while being trafficked to India.

The trafficker was identified as Amena Khatun, 23, daughter of Abu Bakar Siddique of Mojgunni in Khulna.

The victim was taken to safe custody.

## Four of a family get life in Natore

UNB, Natore

A Natore court yesterday sentenced four members of a family to life imprisonment for killing a man in 1999.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Jeh-un-Nesa handed down the verdict to Harunur Rashid, his sons Nuruzzaman and Abu Taleb and daughter-in-law Banu alias Bhanu of Nashratpur village in Naldanga upazila.

The convicts were also fined Tk 5,000 each. If they fail to pay, they would have to serve three more months in jail.

According to the prosecution, the convicts beat up Araj Ali of Mirzapur village on December 9, 1999, leaving him critically injured. Ali was rushed to local health complex where he died the following day.

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