

Money Double Scheme
Deposit One lakh or its multiple
make double in 6 years
NCC Bank Ltd.
www.nccbank.com.bd

OFFICE COPY
CIRCULAR

The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

Plus Star Insight

TRANSTEC
Free Installation
Split AC
CS 24T/EM (24,000 BTU/hr)
CS 18T/EM (18,000 BTU/hr)
CS 12T/EM (12,000 BTU/hr)
TRANS COM ELECTRONICS

REGD. NO. DA 781 VOL. XVIII No. 170 DHAKA SATURDAY JULY 5, 2008 www.thedailystar.net ASHAR 21, 1415 BS RAJAB 1, 1429 HIJRI 24 PAGES PLUS STAR INSIGHT PRICE: Tk 10.00

TO People's Right to Know

ACCIDENTS IN GHORASHAL, BRAHMANBARIA

6 killed as train rams car 7 die, 40 hurt in bus plunge

STAR REPORT
Six people, including five women, were killed when Dhaka-bound intercity train "Mohanagar Express" rammed a private car on an unmanned level crossing near Ghorashal railway station in Palash upazila yesterday.
The dead are Rokeya Begum, 60, her daughter Eti Akhter, 14, her son's mother-in-law Shamathan Begum, 45, Saleh Begum, 58, Shiria Begum, 60, and driver Yusuf Mia, 30.
Rokeya Begum died at Narsingdi Sadar Hospital while the rest on the spot.

The accident occurred at 1:30pm on Baribari level crossing where there was no signal, no bar and even no guard, said witnesses. They alleged that the level crossing remained unmanned for long.
"I heard a big sound and found the wrecked car on the rail tracks," one of the witnesses said, adding that parts of the bodies were also seen scattered on the tracks.
People from the railway station and nearby places rushed to the spot and found Rokeya Begum alive. Some of them took her to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital where she succumbed to her injuries.

Seven people died and 40 others were injured when a bus, carrying a bridal party, skidded off the Dhaka-Sylhet highway and plunged into a ditch at Baishamura under Sarail upazila of the district yesterday.
According to police and witnesses, the accident occurred at around 6:00pm when the bus with about 50 people aboard was returning to the bridegroom's house at Satbarga village from bride's house at Shahbazpur village under the upazila.
The bride and the bridegroom escaped the accident as they were travelling in a microbus.
One of the survivors said the driver of the bus lost control over the steering while he was taking a turn on the right at Baishamura.
On information, fire fighters from Brahmanbaria and cops from Sarail Police Station rushed to the spot. They with the help of locals recovered the bodies and rescued the injured.
The dead were identified as Mohammad Mondal, 16, Osman, 18, Keno Mia, 15, Md Shamim Mia, 14, Md Saddam, 20, Md Rahul Amin, 12, and Md Anu Mia, 10. They all hailed from Satbarga and



After Thursday's rain, streets of Motijheel Commercial Area remained under water for hours, telling the tale of the poor state of the city's drainage system. PHOTO: STAR

MOST LOW LYING AREAS, WATER BODIES GONE City braces for worse water logging ahead

HELEMUL ALAM
Filling up of eighty percent low lying areas and water bodies in the capital by encroachers is the main reason for water logging in the city, since those used to be the major channels for draining out rain water, said experts.
The rivers around the city were also encroached upon over the years worsening the situation, they added.
The experts cautioned that the problem of water logging in the city will fast deteriorate if the lost water bodies are not recovered and rehabilitated immediately.
Abu Naser Khan, chairman of Save the Environment Movement said, "Although the number of storm drains in the city was much lower 15 years ago, still the residents did not suffer from the severe water logging they face now, as there were enough unencumbered water bodies and low lying areas in the city, eighty percent of which are now filled up by encroachers."
Most of the city's 43 canals have been encroached upon and totally or partially filled with dirt over the years, said architect Iqbal Habib who is also a member secretary of the Urbanisation and Good Governance Committee of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon.
Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) took an initiative to recover 26 of those canals from the grip of encroachers

SECRET WB REPORT Biofuel caused food crisis
Biofuels have forced global food prices up by 75% - far more than previously estimated - according to a confidential World Bank report obtained by the Guardian.
The damning unpublished assessment is based on the most detailed analysis of the crisis so far, carried out by an internationally-respected economist at global financial body.
The figure emphatically contradicts the US government's claims that plant-derived fuels contribute less than 3% to food-price rises. It will add to pressure on governments in Washington and across Europe, which have turned to

AUGUST 4 MAYORAL ELECTIONS Old faces likely to run in most places

HASAN JAHD TUSHER
Many known grassroots level leaders of major political parties including Awami League (AL) and BNP intend to run for the offices of mayors in the August 4 polls to four city corporations.
But disputes have arisen in both AL and BNP over nominating single partisan candidates for the mayoral posts in four city corporations as multiple members of both parties filed for candidacies.
The new electoral law and the code of conduct for local government electioneering however stipulate that the polls are absolutely non-partisan, banning use of candidates' political affiliations including use of names of the parties they are affiliated with, and name of any political leader in election campaigns.
In the meantime, AL is trying to convince both its grassroots and central leaders to nominate one candidate for each of the mayoral posts, while grassroots level leaders of BNP are trying to finalise the nominations for at least two city corporation mayoral races, sources said.
Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain of the BNP faction loyal to its detained Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday said BNP-led four-party alliance will not contest

ACC sues former Jamaat MP Gazi Nazrul for illegal wealth

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira
The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed a case against former Jamaat lawmaker Gazi Nazrul Islam yesterday accusing him of amassing wealth worth Tk 18.81 lakh beyond his known sources of income.
The case was filed with Shyamnagar thana police in the evening.
The joint forces detained Jamaat leader Gazi Nazrul Islam, elected from Sathkira-5 constituency in 2001 election as a 4-party alliance candidate, on March 9 in 2007. He was later released on bail on December 4.
The ACC issued a notice on Gazi to submit his wealth statement to the ACC. He submitted a wealth statement showing wealth worth Tk 21.55 lakh on September 10 last year.



Prices of all essentials mark further rise

STAR REPORT
Prices of almost all daily essentials including rice, lentils, edible oil and eggs soared by 5-15 percent across the country following the latest price hike of fuel, putting the people of low and limited income group in further distress.
The government raised the prices of fuel Monday by a large margin which had an impact on the prices of essentials.
Blaming the latest price hike of fuel, among other reasons, for soaring prices of essentials, traders yesterday said their transportation cost has gone up and a section of opportunist businessmen increased the prices even further giving the excuse of high fuel prices.
The traders fear the prices would go up more in the days to come as increased production and transportation cost is yet to fully hit the consumers.
In Dhaka, prices of lentils, edible oil, rice, eggs and vegetables soared because of increased carrying cost as well as the incessant rain.
Prices of all varieties of lentils went up by Tk 10 per kg in the kitchen markets of the capital after the government raised fuel prices.

In retail yesterday, Kangaroo lentils (good quality imported lentils) were selling at Tk 110 per kg, which was Tk 100 five days ago. Local lentils were selling between Tk 100 and Tk 105 per kg; it was between Tk 90 and Tk 100 five days ago.
One kg of lentil imported from Turkey was selling between Tk 90 and Tk 95; it was between Tk 80 and Tk 85 before the fuel prices went up.
The price of moog dal (pulses) rose to Tk 60 per kg from last week's Tk 50 per kg while the price of Keshari dal jumped to Tk 55 per kg

CG should give priority to parliamentary polls: Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina said the caretaker government should give holding parliamentary elections priority one for the sake of transition to democracy and the country's development rather than holding local body polls.
She said the AL always believes in people's power. The AL wants development in the country and for this reason none can stop its victory in the elections if people can exercise their franchise freely, US-based American News Agency (ANA) reports quoting her as saying.
She made the remarks during separate views-exchange meetings with Maria Minna, founding chairman of Bangladesh Caucus in Canadian parliament and former immigration affairs minister, and

Delwar accuses govt of showing double standards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday demanded immediate withdrawal of the charges against detained BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and her son Tarique Rahman of embezzling funds from Zia Orphanage Trust.
He said cases are being filed against the former prime minister to make her ineligible to contest the elections.
"Neutrality of this government is open to question for its unfriendly attitude towards BNP," the BNP secretary general told reporters at his Nam flat in the city.
"The Zia Orphanage Trust case involves incidents that date back to 1991-96, still it has been included for trial under the emergency power rules," he said.
The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case Thursday.
Delwar accused the caretaker

Green chilli sells at Tk 2 a kg!

SHAHEEN MOLLAH
Price of green chilli plummeted at the capital's Karwan Bazar wholesale market yesterday afternoon. The wholesalers claimed it "the lowest price in a decade".
Green chilli hit a low of Tk 2 a kg yesterday afternoon.
However, the low wholesale price did not have the expected impact on retail markets of the city. In retail, green chilli was



Price of green chilli fell drastically as farmers plucked it early from the rain-hit plants. PHOTO: STAR

13th Anniversary On July 25, 2008

More than 13 years of commitment

We want to share the joyous occasion of our 13th Anniversary with all our well-wishers, clients, partners and stake-holders. Thank you for supporting us for more than 13 years.

DHAKABANK LIMITED
EXCELLENCE IN BANKING
www.dhakabankltd.com