

Madunaghat Bridge opens to traffic

UNB, Dhaka
The newly constructed Madunaghat Bridge on Chittagong-Kaptai road was formally opened to traffic yesterday. Communications Adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) Ghulam Quader opened the 211-meter bridge on Halda River, constructed at a cost of Tk 17.5 crore. The bridge will ease communication between Chittagong and Rangunia-Kaptai, Rajan-Bowalkhali and Hathajari.

Medicine seized

RU CORRESPONDENT
Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized huge quantity of medicine, heroin, and phensidyl from different areas in Rajshahi yesterday. In a drive at Shirampur village Rab seized 2,900 pieces of injection, 15,000 pieces of different tablets. In another drive it seized 400 grams of heroin from Balghat in the city. Rab also seized 30 bottles of phensidyl from Sipaipara village and arrested one person in this connection.

Road crashes kill 3

METRO DESK
Three people were killed and 27 others were injured in separate road accidents in Mymensingh, Rangpur and Jhenidah yesterday. Our correspondent in Mymensingh reports: A man was killed and 10 others were injured in two separate road accidents at Bhaluka and Phulbaria in the district yesterday. Six people were injured when a Mymensingh-bound passenger bus hit a human hauler on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Seed Store area at Bhaluka at around 8:30am. Four of the injured were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) where Abdul Hye succumbed to his injuries. Meanwhile, five people were injured in another accident when a Mymensingh-bound passenger bus from Phulbaria skidded off and fell into a roadside pond at Dapunia Kashaipara area in Sadar upazila at around 9:00am. BSS adds: A truck driver was killed and 17 others were injured in a road accident amid bad weather at Joyram Anowara point on the Rangpur-Bogra highway under Mithapukur upazila in Rangpur yesterday. The accident took place when a Bogra-bound truck from Rangpur and another Panchagarh-bound BRTC bus from Gaibandha collided head-on at about 10:00am, injuring at least 18 people. Mithapukur police with the help of the local people rushed the injured to different hospitals. Critically injured driver of the truck Reazul Islam, 35, succumbed to his injuries at Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) at 4:00pm. The conditions of three other injured passengers were stated to be critical. Our correspondent in Jhenidah adds: A man was killed in a road accident at Baromesha under Kotchandpur upazila in Jhenidah yesterday. The accident took place at about 7:30pm when a Kaliganj-bound truck crushed him, aged about 40, on Jiban Nagar-Kaliganj highway. Police seized the killer truck, but the driver and the helper managed to flee. The body was sent to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Incessant rains paralyse life in Rajshahi city

RU CORRESPONDENT
The last two days' incessant rains have paralysed life in Rajshahi city. The downpour began on Saturday and most of the residents in the city have been confined inside their rooms while few vehicles were seen plying on the roads. Water remains stagnant in Shaheb Bazar, Gonokpara, New Market, Station Bazar, Sonadighi, Upashahar, Beldarpara, Sultanabad, Kumarpara and Bospara areas. Sources in the Rajshahi Bus Terminal told this correspondent that passenger buses have been asked to stop plying along local routes due to incessant rains in the last 48 hours as an accident killed four people in Rajshahi. Shopping malls and other business establishments were virtually deserted of shoppers. A few rickshaws were seen in city that charged extremely higher fares. Water entered the ground floor of many thatched houses in the Railway Station Colony area and put slum-dwellers onto the streets, sending their shanties under water in many places. Mustak Hossain, owner of a shop at RDA market in the city, said their business is going on a low ebb due to the rains. It was raining heavily while the report was being filed. Local Weather Office sources said they recorded 45 millimeters of rainfall since 6:00am yesterday.



The luxurious Dhaka-Chittagong Eid special train leaves Chittagong Rail Station with only 58 passengers yesterday, whereas it has the capacity to accommodate 588 people. Travellers blamed it on lack of publicity. PHOTO: STAR



Artists render devotional songs at a programme marking Mahalaya, the auspicious occasion heralding the advent of goddess Durga, on the Dhakeshwari Temple premises in the city yesterday. Mahanagar Sarbojanin Puja Committee organised the event. PHOTO: STAR

Youth killed by rivals in Khulna

UNB, Khulna
A young man was killed by his rivals at Shahar Piggachha in Paikgachha upazila yesterday. The deceased was identified as Rajan Sardar, 23, son of Jahangir Sardar. Police said three neighbours hit Rajan on his head with sharp weapon when he was working on the courtyard of his house at about 4:00pm, leaving him seriously injured. Rajan was rushed to Khulna Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Eid special A/C train fails to draw passengers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
Bangladesh Railway in Chittagong started its three-day trial service of the special air-conditioned (A/C) train 'Eid Special' on Dhaka-Chittagong route yesterday with a very poor number of passengers. The 588-seat train left the port city at around 4:20pm with only 58 passengers while most of its 13 posh coaches remained fully empty. A number of passengers blamed the railway authorities for such poor presence of passengers due to lackluster publicity about the service. Railway officials agreed that the decision of launching the service was taken late. More publicity can attract the passengers. When contacted, Divisional Manager of Railway (East Zone) Ibrahim Khalil said they earlier planned to send the vacant coaches, imported several months ago from China, to Dhaka for launching the trial service from the capital. Imran, one of the passengers who made his home-bound journey by the special train, said, "I came to know about the service through newspaper only day before yesterday when I was taking my preparation to manage tickets of any A/C bus." He said many people who usually travel to Dhaka from Chittagong on A/C buses would opt. for train for comparatively secured and comfortable journey. Railway sources yesterday said a

total of 247 tickets of the special service have so far been sold for today's trip from Chittagong to Dhaka while 180 tickets sold for tomorrow's trip. Khalil, however, said almost 100 percent tickets were sold for the trip from Dhaka scheduled to leave Kamalapur Station at around 6:20am yesterday. British High Commission in Dhaka and its office in Sylhet will remain closed to the public on October 1-2 for holy 'Eid-ul-Fitra' press release of the HC said.

Poet Darwish memorial programme October 5

BSS, Dhaka
Liberation War Memorial Museum has taken a daylong programme in memory of noted Palestine poet Mahmoud Darwish on October 5. On the occasion, discussion on the works and deeds of Darwish will be held at museum premises on the occasion of Worldwide Reading in his memory and recitation from his poems will also be held, says press release. Nationally reputed poets and literary persons will attend the programme to pay their homage to Darwish, regarded as the Palestinian national poet and source of inspiration for Palestinian people in their struggle for liberation. Mahmoud Darwish died on August 9 last at the age of 67.

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