Your Right to Know

NO TO MOB JUSTICE

A post-Aminbazar look into mob violence and duties of police

PAGE 14

SHRABAN 10, 1418 BS

LITTLE STEPS GO FAR

Shaban 22, 1432 Hijri

Shirin makes bags in Jhenidah and brings hope to area's poor women PAGE B8

GIVING BACK

A few expatriates help poor Maruf to recover from accident injury

PAGE 3



Sugar available, price normal

Millers step up supply; HC asks govt to rein back price spiral of oil, sugar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sugar prices began to drop in markets of the capital yesterday following increased supply from refiners, giving a relief to consumers who had to pay as high as Tk 80 a kilogram early this week due to a supply crunch and hoarding by traders.

Yesterday, sugar was traded at Tk 64-67 a kg after supply improved, said retailers at Karwan Bazar, Hatirpool, and New Market.

"The market has become cool. There is no more hue and cry after two companies delivered sugar," said Mohammad Nur Nabi Bahar, owner of Padma General Store at Karwan Bazar, claiming of charging Tk 64-65 for each kg.

A day before, retailers sold sugar for Tk 74-75 a kg and in some cases for up to Tk 80.

Despite the price fall in Karwan Bazar and other markets, many stores still continued to charge Tk 70-75 for a kg as the benefit of the supply increase was yet to reach all

In the port city of Chittagong, sugar prices still SEE PAGE 19 COL 5



A man buys sugar at the government-set price of Tk 65 per kg from a truck in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday. City Group of Industries sent five trucks to different points of the capital and sold sugar and edible oil in an OMS-style sale. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Price hike for four reasons

Top businesses assure PM of stable market in Ramadan STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leading businessmen yesterday assured Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that they would help keep stable the prices of basic commodities such as sugar and edible oil during the Ramadan.

The assurance came at an emergency meeting between the businessmen and the prime minister at the latter's official residence Gono Bhaban in the wake of an unusual price hike of sugar on the retail market.

Hasina asked them about the reasons behind the price spiral of sugar and other commodities despite their normal supply.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday said it hopes Indian National Congress President Sonia Gandhi's visit to Dhaka will strengthen the country's relations with India and also help resolve the long-standing disputes between the two sides.

Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, acting secretary general of the party, talked to reporters yesterday after placing wreaths at the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman, founder of the party, at the city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

He at that time asked SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

BNP upbeat Dhaka rolls out red carpet for Sonia

She will attend conference on autism, receive first Bangladesh Freedom Honour for Indira Gandhi today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Sonia Gandhi was given a red carpet welcome last night on her first-ever visit to Bangladesh to attend a conference on autism.

She will receive the posthumous award to be given by Bangladesh to Indira Gandhi for her contributions to the 1971 Liberation War.

A special aircraft of Indian Air Force carrying Sonia, president of India's ruling Congress Party, landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport amid tight security.

She was greeted by Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, LGRD Minister Syed Ashraful Islam, Health Minister Ruhal Haque, PM's Health Adviser Syed Modasser Ali, SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

throws stones OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Lalmonirhat

A Bangladeshi cattle trader was killed after being hit by stones thrown by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) on Burimari frontier in Patgram upazila of Lalmonirhat

early yesterday. Police recovered the body of Rafiqul Islam, 32, from Saniyazan river with the help of locals in the morning, said Murshidul Karim, officer-in-charge of Patgarm Police Station.

Subedar Based Miah, Burimari camp commander of Border Guard Bangladesh, confirmed the killing saying that BSF men threw stones at Rafiqul while he along with few others were returning home from India crossing the river.

Victim's father Bahar Uddin said Rafiqul and six other cattle traders went

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Bangladeshi dies as BSF Transit thru' 2-3 routes for now



committee has earlier identified 17 transit routes -- seven by road, seven by rail and three by water-India, on the other

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh may sign

protocols with India,

commerce ministry

sources have said.

hand, proposed in April for 15 routes, all linked to Chittagong and Mongla ports.

But the committee in a report said, all of the routes are not fit for the facilities yet. For now, it suggested allowing transit

ROAD RAIL O RIVER SEE PAGE 19 COL 2



next month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) has decided to increase the water tariff by five percent from August 1.

The new tariff is Tk 6.66 for 1000 litres of water (1 unit).

Wasa Managing Director Taqsem A Khan, however, said the water tariff was not increased, rather it was adjusted to the inflation. The new tariff is still far less than what it should be, he added.

As per the Wasa Act 1996, the Wasa board has the authority to raise the traffic by five percent every year, said an official of Wasa.

Every year the authorities increase the tariff, adjusting to the expenditure, he said.

This is the fourth time Wasa increased the tariff

Supply water price goes up Population no less than 16cr: Muhith

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said the country's population would exceed 16 crore, nearly two crore more than the census data released by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) last week.

According to the preliminary report on Population and Housing Census 2011, the population now stands at 14.23 crore.

The difference between enumerated figure and the final figure is always between 4 and 5 percent. Some 7.5 million expatriates will also be included this time.

So the final figure would stand between 16.2 to 16.5 crore," Muhith told journalists at a discussion at the National Press Club.

The Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) is carrying out a sample survey, which will be published in September and the final figure will come out after that, the minister added.

The Economic Reporters' Forum organised the discussion on budget implementation and challenges with its president Monwar Hossain in the chair.

> **SEE PAGE 7 COL 7 RELATED STORY ON B1**



Indian National Congress President Sonia Gandhi is welcomed last night by Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and Saima Wazed Putul, 2nd from right, convenor of the conference on autism, at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

Withdraw robbery case

Appeal families, blame local leaders and police over killing of 6 students by mob in Aminbazar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local leaders and police have to bear the responsibility for the deaths of six students killed in mob-beating in Aminbazar, said a section of villagers of Baradeshi yesterday.

Another section however believes the students were "robbers" and the mob "consciously" killed them. They told this to reporters when a

four-member high-powered investigation team led by a deputy inspector general of police, visited Keblarchar, the place of occurrence.

The reporters were accompanying the investigation team. The investigation team recorded

statements of the family members of three slain students and lone survi-

vor Al-Amin. The mob in the name of resisting

robbers beat up the six students to death in the early hours of July 18, which was also the night of Shab-e-Barat. "Several robbers-resistance teams

were formed with the consent of both police and local leaders to prevent robbery spree in the locality. The teams have been vigilant at nights for about one month," a villager told The

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