



PHOTO: STAR

A crane lifts a sunken truck from a canal near Borni in Sylhet yesterday. The truck along with seven other vehicles plunged into the canal after the collapse of an old bailey bridge on Sylhet-Companiganj Road on Friday night.

# Paddy processing makes roads risky for vehicles

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

The metalled roads in the district have become risky for vehicular movement as farmers are using them for threshing and drying paddy and straw in the ongoing boro harvesting season.

One person was killed and five others were seriously injured as a three-wheeler slipped off the road and fell into the roadside ditch while running through straw spread on Sardarerhat-Nautara road in Dimla upazila a few days ago, police said.

Thirty-five people were also injured in 14 other accidents in the district during the last one month.

The frequency of accidents during the boro harvesting season is much higher than that in other times, said locals and police.

The 10-kilometre-long Saidpur bypass of Dinajpur-Dhaka highway is now virtually covered with crops and straw as farmers of adjacent villages including Wapdapara, Bokpara, Sarkarpara, Dhalagachh of Saidpur upazila often bring bundles of harvested paddy and maize on the highway early morning.

After threshing, they spread paddy,

maize and straw on the same road for drying in the sun all day long.

Very often, straw gets entangled with the running wheels and cause the vehicles to slip from the road.

Motorcyclists face difficulties, especially while moving through the thick layers of maize on the road, as surface of the corn is very hard and slippery.

People living beside Nilphamari-Jaldhaka road, Nilphamari-Kishoreganj road, Domar-Dimla road, Domar-Deviganj road, Dalia-Chander Teesta canal road, Sardarerhat-Nautara road, Jaldhaka-Dalia road and others told of similar tales.

While visiting Dalia-Chander Teesta canal road last week, this correspondent found the whole road busy with farmers threshing and drying paddy and other crops.

Thick layers of green paddy plants were also spread on the road to dry in the sun for preservation as straw and use as fodder later.

Aziruddin, 65, was seen threshing boro paddy on the road. Asked why he was using the busy road instead of his house yard for the purpose, he said, "There is hardly any space wide

enough for threshing and drying paddy as houses are to be made due to rapid population growth."

Several farmers said they prefer threshing and drying paddy and maize on the road as earth and sand get mixed with fresh paddy and maize and discolour the crops if the crops are threshed on open fields or spaces beside homesteads.

Vehicles face frequent accidents during the boro harvesting period as farmers use roads for threshing and drying crops, said Shahjahan Chowdhury, convenor of bus, mini bus owners' association in Nilphamari.

Asked about the matter, Traffic Inspector Shamsul Alam said, "We try to persuade farmers to clear roads and highways. But after our departure, they again start the same practice."

District Roads and Highways Department Executive Engineer Mahbul Alam Khan admitted that threshing and drying paddy, maize and straw on roads and highways has become a matter of concern for vehicular movement. I shall discuss the matter with the district administration to find ways for



PHOTO: STAR

Farmers thresh paddy on Dalia-Chaderhat Teesta canal road, right, dry paddy on Dinajpur-Dhaka highway at Saidpur of Dinajpur district, making the roads risky for vehicular movement.

# BCL men torch BNP's office

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The temporary office of BNP's Meherpur town unit was torched allegedly by BCL activists on Sunday night.

District Awami League (AL), however, claimed that the burnt office was not BNP's party office.

Source said, the incident followed tearing off of posters having photos of Awami League chief and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Police arrested two BNP activists after the incident of removing and tearing the posters.

BCL recently hung post-

ers at different places of Meherpur town eulogising Sheikh Hasina and the victory over Myanmar in sea boundary issue. Unidentified people tore off a number of those in different areas.

Jahangir Alam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Meherpur Sadar police station told this correspondent that BCL Meherpur district unit brought out procession in the town on Sunday night protesting the incident. Some BCL men attacked the BNP's temporary office at Notunpara when the procession was crossing the area at about 9:45pm. They

also set it on fire.

After the incident, Saleh Uddin Torik Biswas, advisory body member of Meherpur district AL, filed a case with Sadar police station, accusing 12 unknown BNP leaders and activists.

The case was recorded with the police station at about 11:30pm, the OC said. Contacted, Tonik Biswas told this correspondent that the structure set ablaze on Sunday was not BNP's office.

"The criminals involved in removing the posters sit there regularly. We just wanted to flush them out of

the place," Torik said.

Masud Arun, former lawmaker of Meherpur-1, also former president of Meherpur district BNP, said no BNP activist was involved in tearing off the posters.

He said that the burnt structure was temporary office of town unit BNP.

Sadar police yesterday arrested two BNP activists for their alleged involvement in removing the posters. They are Saidul Islam and Jahangir Hossain.

Of them, Saidul was president of BNP Raipur village committee Sadar upazila.

## Party rivals cut wrist, tendons of Jubo Dal man

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Rival party men severed wrist and tendons of legs of a Jubo Dal man at Bhatikhana Rokeya Azim Sarak in the city on Sunday night.

The victim is Nizam alias 'Kasai' Nizam, 31, younger brother of Shahin Howladar Raza, former president of Jubo Dal Ward No 7 unit.

Police arrested two Jubo Dal activists-Jasim and Monir-in connection with the incident the same night.

Jubo Dal city unit sources said the incident occurred due to an internal feud between two groups over capture of the leadership of Ward No 7 unit.

Raza said Nizam is one of the candidates for the post of president of the ward unit. His rival candidate Jasim and his associates Humayun, Monir, Pappu, Sumon, and Farhad abducted him (Nizam) from in front of Vatikhana Kazi Bari at around 9:00pm.

The abductors took Nizam to Jubok Housing area near Bhatikhana Masjid and severed his right wrist and tendons of legs, he further said.

## 30 houses vandalised during clash in Narsingdi

UNB, Narsingdi

Supporters of a union parishad chairman vandalised 30 houses belonging to a former UP chairman and his followers at Pirpur village in Raipura upazila yesterday morning.

The supporters of Manjur Elahi, chairman of Mirzapur union, also allegedly looted valuables worth Tk 20 lakh from the houses of Faizur Rahman and his men, apparently in retaliation for filing of a case against the incumbent chairman.

Five people were injured during the attack that took place at about 7 am.

Police and witnesses Manjur Elahi and Faizur Rahman had been at loggerheads since the last UP election.

Faizur filed a case against Manjur with the district Chief Judicial Magistrate Court after the supporters of the incumbent UP chairman allegedly looted valuables from a poultry farm owned by him a week ago.

Being angered at filing of the case, the followers of Manjur attacked the houses of Faizur Rahman and his supporters in the morning and looted valuables.

## Man dies to save his son

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A man met tragic death while trying to save his 12-year-old son from electrocution in Birampur upazila on Sunday.

The victim, Amal Kumar Sarker, 43, son of Upendranath Sarker of Shalgharia village, was acting president of Dighar union parishad Awami League.

Nayan, son of Amal, was admitted to the upazila health complex in a critical condition.

Family members said, Nayan while playing at home, suddenly came in contact of a live electric wire at noon.

Hearing hue and cry, Amal rushed in and sustained severe injuries while trying to rescue Nayan.

He was rushed to the health complex where the doctors declared him dead.

As the news of the sad incident spread, a pall of gloom descended on the area.

## The Daily Star - রবি ENGLISH FAIR



PHOTO: STAR

Two girls of AVJM Government Girls' High School in Munshiganj take part in a role play during the English language fair held at the school auditorium yesterday.

## Lively participation by kids of 7 more schools

STAR NATIONAL DESK

English language fairs held under English in Schools (EIS) programme, a joint initiative of The Daily Star and mobile operator Robi, saw lively participation of young learners of seven schools in Lalmonirhat, Narail and Munshiganj districts yesterday.

Adcom Ltd is the creative and event partner of the fairs.

Over 500 students of Hatibandha SS High School, Shah Goribullah Girls' High School and Parulia SCBL High School in Hatibandha upazila of Lalmonirhat district eagerly took part in different competitions at the English language fair held at SS High School, reports our correspondent.

Rezaul Karim Prodhan, headmaster of SS High School, inaugurated the fair at the school auditorium at around 12:00 noon. Robi Area Manager Shakil Jahan, teachers of the three schools and guardians of the students were present.

"The Daily Star and mobile operator Robi have created the opportunity for schools kids to learn English through taking part in such programme," the headmaster in his inaugural speech said.

Following screening of Lion King, a globally renowned movie, the students of the schools participated in spot quiz, vocabulary test, one word question and quick questions--all based on the movie.

Selected students also took part in extempore speech on different topics and role play.

In Narail, over 100 students of Narail government Boys' High School joined the English language fair held in a classroom of the school in the morning, according to our correspondent.

Monira Sultana, headmaster of the school,

inaugurated the fair at around 10:00am. Teachers of the schools and guardians of the students were present. Assistant teachers Nazrul Islam, Taraprodo, Sofili Alam, Hadiuzzaman, Abdul Jalil, Khalil Hasan, Arun Kumer, Bipul Pathok addressed the inaugural function.



After watching Lion King, a globally renowned movie, the students of the school participated in spot quiz, vocabulary test, one word question and quick questions--all based on the movie.

Selected students also took part in extempore speech on different topics and role-play.

The students also entertained the audience by telling jokes and singing songs.

Our Munshiganj correspondent reported that around 200 students of AVJM Government Girls' High School, Prof Iajuddin Ahmed Residential Model School and College and KK Government Institution in Sadar upazila of the district had an

enjoyable day as they took part in the English language fair held at the auditorium of AVJM Government Girls' High School.

Abul Kashem, acting headmaster of the school, opened the fair. Teachers of the three schools and guardians of the students joined the programme.

The acting headmaster in his inaugural speech said the learning techniques shown in the language fair are helpful for both the students and teachers as picking up a language is enjoyable and more effective than learning a language through arduous efforts.

The fair venue saw screening of Lion King, a globally renowned movie, followed by students' participation in spot quiz, vocabulary test, one word question and quick questions---all based on the movie.

Selected students also took part in extempore speech on different topics and role-play. Prizes were distributed among the winners of different events at the end of the programme.

Aiming to promote English language learning among school students across the country, The Daily Star in



PHOTO: STAR

Two students of Goribullah Girls' High School in Hatibandha upazila of Lalmonirhat district participate in an event at the English language fair held at SS High School in the upazila yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Prize-winning students of Narail Government Boys' High School pose for photograph at the end of the fair held at their school yesterday.