

## TIME FOR JUICY JACKFRUITS



PHOTO: STAR

Khalishpur Bazar in Moheshpur upazila of Jhenidah sees a huge quantity of jackfruit as people from different areas of the district supply this juicy and nutritious summer fruit to this wholesale market.

## Deadly girders of a rail bridge

### 200 roof passengers killed in last 10 years

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR  
TOPU, Pabna

Around two hundred train roof passengers died after being hit by the girders of Koidanaga rail bridge in Bhangura upazila under the district in last 10 years, railway sources said.

Roof passengers are often hit by the girders as height of Koidanaga rail bridge is 14 feet and 10 inches while that of a train is 13 feet, said Md Salim Rouf, bridge engineer of Pakshey Division under Bangladesh Railway.

"Travelling on the train roof is illegal but many passengers defy the rule and risk their own life, especially at the rail bridges with low height overhead. Such accidents increase due to the rush of passengers during festivals and holidays," Sujit Kumar, divisional traffic officer of railway Pakshey Division, said.

Three train roof passengers died and three others were injured after being struck by the girder of Koidanaga rail bridge on June 13. This is third

of such incidents that claimed the life of eight train roof passengers in last six months, said sources of Sirajganj GRP police station.

"Unaware passengers often get on the train roof dodging our eyes. Such people face the risk of being hit by girders at Koidanaga bridge, especially at night. At least 200 people died

at the spot in last 10 years," said Md Laisur Rahman, officer in charge of GRP.

In reply to a question, bridge engineer Md Salim Rouf said there is no scope to remove or replace the girders of the bridge as the entire structure of the 80-year-old bridge is in a very strong condition and any attempt to

change will badly weaken it.

Two local trains, two broad gauge trains bound for Khulna division, three for Rajshahidivision, a broad gauge train bound for Nilphamari district and three meter gauge trains plying northern districts use Koidanaga bridge daily, Bhangura rail station sources said.



PHOTO: STAR

Koidanaga railway bridge in Bhangura upazila of Pabna district remains a deathtrap, especially during festival holidays that see a large number of roof passengers, as there is only a little over one foot space between the upper structure of the girder and the roof of train.

## A blunder by the city fathers

### Lamp posts installed in the middle of main road in Rangpur town

MEHEDY HASAN, Rangpur

Streetlight poles installed in the middle of the main road in Rangpur city speak of a blunder by the city fathers.

Vehicles as well as commuters face immense trouble as the newly installed poles have divided the 30 feet wide road, stretching from Modern intersection to Rangpur Medical College, into two narrow lanes.

Town service buses and other vehicles get stuck on the road everyday, killing valuable time of the commuters.

Townspersons said the then municipal authorities had installed the poles without expanding the road. The job done by the municipal authorities was not based on logical thought, they added.

They also expressed grave concern over the matter and urged the mayor and the district administration to immediately remove the streetlight poles from the middle of the main road.

Contacted, former mayor Abdur Rouf Manik said they installed the poles before the end of the financial year. Otherwise, the money had to be returned, he said.

Mosaddek Hossain Bablu, president of Rangpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), said they recently sent a letter to the Roads and Highways Department to remove the poles from the main road.

Copies of the letter were sent to deputy commissioner, the superintendent of police and the municipal mayor, Bablu added.

Sorfuddin Ahmed Jhontu, convener of Rangpur City Corporation Bastabayan Sangram Parishad and former mayor of Rangpur municipality, also sought removal of the poles and execution

of the four-lane road extension work.

Sadekul Islam, Executive Engineer of Roads and Highway Department, Rangpur, said they received a letter of Rangpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI).

He said the municipal authorities did not set up road divider before installing the streetlight poles on

the main road. As a result, traffic jam and accidents have increased.

"We will send a letter to the RCCI authorities very soon, asking them to immediately remove the poles from the road," the engineer added.

He further said that the construction of the four-lane road extension will start soon.



PHOTO: STAR

Electric poles, installed in the middle of the main street in Rangpur city, hinder smooth vehicular movement.

The Daily Star - **রবি** ENGLISH FAIR

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Students of seven more schools in Barisal, Moulvibazar and Kurigram districts yesterday took part in the English language fairs held under English in Schools (EIS) programme, a joint initiative of The Daily Star and mobile operator Robi.

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

Our Barisal correspondent reported that over 50 students from Barisal Zila School, Government Girls' High School and Udayan School participated in joyful events at the English language fair held at Zila school auditorium in the afternoon.

The fair venue saw screening of The 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 took part in extempore speech on different topics and role-play. Students entertained the audience by reciting poems, telling jokes and singing songs.

Md Soleman Haque Milon of Adcomm Limited conducted the programme. Prizes were distributed among the winners of different events at the end of the programme.

In Moulvibazar, the English language fair at Nari Shikha Academy in Barlekha upazila of the district saw lively participation of at least 150 students

PHOTO: STAR

Prize-winning students flash V-sign at the end of the English language fair at Ulipur Government Girls' High School in Ulipur upazila of Kurigram yesterday.

### Kids from 7 more schools join the joyful events

of the school, reports our staff correspondent from Sylhet.

Md Mazharul Islam, headmaster of the academy, opened the fair. "I congratulate the organisers of this wonderful programme. We are very happy to have the English language fair in our school. And by reading The Daily Star regularly under EIS programme, the students and teachers of this school are being benefited," the headmaster said.

Following screening of the movie, The Lion King, the students took part in spot quiz, vocabulary test, one-word question and quick questions--all based on the movie.

Selected students participated in role-play and extempore speech on different topics. Md Fahad of Robi conducted the programme.

Our Kurigram correspondent adds: Over 250 students of Ulipur Government Girls' High School, Ulipur Girls' High School and Gunaigachh Pilot High School spent the eventful day as the joined the English language fair held at the government girls' high school auditorium in the morning.

After watching The Lion King, students took part in spot quiz, vocabulary test, one-word question and quick questions--all based on the movie. Selected students took part in extempore speech and role play.

Students also entertained the audience by reciting poems, telling jokes and singing songs.

Aiming to promote English language learning among school students across the country, The Daily Star in cooperation with Robi undertook English in Schools programme in 2009.

PHOTO: STAR

Two students of Barlekha Nari Shikha Academy in Barlekha upazila of Moulvibazar district take part in a role play at the school auditorium yesterday.

## Bodies of 'missing' boy, girl recovered

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Bodies of a boy and a girl, who went 'missing' days ago in Manikganj and Pirojpur, were recovered yesterday.

In Manikganj, police recovered the body of a schoolgirl from the River Dhaleswai in Singair upazila yesterday afternoon, reports our correspondent.

The victim, Kamrun Nahar, daughter of Kamal Hossain of Char Krishnapur village in Sadar upazila, was a class five student at Brac School at Jamalpur village.

Kamrun remained missing since she left the school for home on Tuesday, said Zakia Sultana, a teacher of the school.

Locals found her body floating in the river and informed the police at around 12:30pm.

The law enforcers recovered the body and sent it to Manikganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Tarafder Maksuda, sub-inspector of Manikganj Sadar PS.

In Pirojpur, the law enforcers recovered the body of a teenage boy at Borobiral Jhuri village in Kaukhali upazila yesterday morning, nearly a week after he went missing, reports UNB.

The deceased was identified as Uzzal, 15, son of Shahid Akhand of the village.

A boy of neighbouring village, Liton, called Uzzal out of their residence on July 8 and since then he did not return home, family sources said.

The body was sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy, said police.

## Office Space For Rent

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**Let us All March towards further glory with hard work and dedication.**

**M.A. Mannan**  
Chairman & Managing Director  
Butterfly Marketing Ltd.

71, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh  
Phone: 7169148, 7169150-53  
Fax: +88-02-9561318  
E-mail: info@butterfly-ig.com

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