



A Rath Jatra (chariot procession) organised by the International Society for Krishna Consciousness in Kazir Dewry in Chittagong city on Saturday commemorating the way Hindu god Krishna, in his form of Lord Jagannath, makes an annual visit to his birthplace.

PHOTO: STAR

# School feeding boosts students' attendance

BSS, Dhaka

Selina, a class IV student of FMB Government Primary School in Jessore, rarely used to stay for classes after the break for tiffin.

"I cannot concentrate on my studies when I am hungry. I used to eat 'panta bhat' in the morning and had to spend the whole day in school without eating anything else," she said adding that is why she could not wait to escape from school after tiffin break.

"But now I do not want to miss anymore classes because our school provides us free food," said the thin but lively 12-year-old.

Nowadays Selina is a regular student and her teachers could not be more pleased.

Attendance of students increased rapidly after the launch of school feeding programme. Students of class I to V are getting free food under the programme, said teachers of the school.

According to Primary Education Department of the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and the Bangladesh government launched the "School Feeding Programme" in July 2002, targeting schools located in food insecure rural areas and slums in the capital.

The programme was intended to distribute fortified biscuits to elementary schoolchildren in the targeted schools every day. The biscuits provide 300 kilocalories (about 15 percent of daily calorie requirement) and a range of micronutrients, contributing about 75 percent of vitamin A, zinc, folate and iron.

The goals of the programme were to increase school enrolment and attendance, reduce school repetition and dropout rates, improve attention and learning capacity by cutting short-term hunger.

The government and WFP are currently supporting some 33.95 lakh schoolchildren with high energy biscuits every day when they come to school, according to the Awami League website.

In 2010, the programme started at all primary schools in 72 upazilas in the country when its first edition was approved. After continuing its successful implementation, Ecnec gave its nod to the second phase in December, 2014 with the expenditure of Tk 314,552.20 lakh. Among the allocation, the government spent Tk 214,599.65 lakh and rest of the money came from the donor organisations.

Based on the WFP model, the government now covers 25 lakh students under 72 upazilas from its own funding for the National School Feeding Programme. On the other hand, the WFP with the support from the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education has brought nine lakh students of 21 upazilas under the programme to increase the attendance rate of primary students.

## Man dies falling thru'

FROM PAGE 4

Arena with his friend Sumon on Sunday night.

A hotel staff said 11 youths were with them in the hotel till 11:30pm on the day.

Police detained Sumon and recovered a bottle of foreign wine, cash money and playing cards from the room.

Visiting the spot police said there were signs of scuffle near the broken glass wall.

## NEWSIN brief

### Newlyweds commit suicide in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A newlywed couple committed suicide by hanging themselves in the capital's Mirpur on Sunday.

Farhad, 27, a barber by profession and Rupali, 22, got married seven months back. They hailed from Brahmanbaria.

Quoting family members, police said Rupali first killed herself over a feud with her husband. Farhad, after seeing her body when he returned home informed his family members over the phone and killed himself too.

Farhad's two brothers who used to live with them went to their village home to celebrate Eid.

### Fire guts Akij shoe factory in Ashulia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A shoe-manufacturing factory, Akij Footwear Ltd, was gutted by a fire at Narashingapur in Ashulia, outside the capital, on Sunday evening.

The fire originated at the two storied tin-roofed unit of Akij Group. The fire officials could not ascertain the reason behind the fire nor could estimate the damage immediately.

Fire fighters doused the blaze within four hours.

### New CU BCL committee formed

CU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League yesterday announced its Chittagong University unit committee, three years after the previous committee expired.

Alamgir Tipu and HM Fazly Rabbi Sujan were made president and general secretary.

Tipu is loyal to city Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin, also general secretary of the city Awami League; whereas Sujan is known as a supporter of the city AL President Mohiuddin Chowdhury, campus sources said.

The full-fledged committee will be declared soon, said BCL central President HM Bodiuzzaman Shohag.

### Body found in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of one Shovon from an under-construction building in the capital's Hazaribagh on Friday.

His head was crushed with bricks, police said.

### Waterborne, malnutrition

FROM PAGE 4

Development Studies Executive Director Dr Syed Samsuzzaman said health indexes of rural people had marked improvement during the past six and a half years with almost no report of waterborne disease-related deaths now.

Talking to the news agency, Rangpur's Chandanpat Union Parishad Chairman Aminur Rahman said rural people were now aware about health, hygiene, sanitation, personal hygiene, using safe drinking water and they did not use the open places as toilets any more.

Head of Programme Coordination of RDRS Bangladesh Monjusree Saha said the number of waterborne disease-related child and maternal deaths had come down also in the remote char areas where the number was alarmingly high even a decade ago.

The exceptional success has been achieved following hectic government-NGO efforts in motivating rural people for better life with the help of the field-level health workers, local community leaders and public representatives, she added.

Social workers Akhterun Nahar Saki and Shahidul Islam said the success had been achieved by the rural people also following substantial improvement of their socioeconomic conditions in recent years.

Rural housewives Sonavan, Mollika Begum, Sabiha Khatun, Sakuntola Rani, Anarkoli, Rasheda, and Sultana Parveen of different villages said waterborne diseases had disappeared since they started using sanitary latrines, and drinking safe and pure water.

Specialist physicians Dr Mofizul Islam Mantu and Dr Ekramul Hossain said waterborne and malnutrition related diseases and related child and maternal mortalities would touch zero level very soon everywhere in the rural areas.

## Water rises at 56 river points, falls at 23

BSS, Dhaka

Water levels in 56 river stations, monitored by Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC), have marked rises while 23 stations recorded falls.

Among the stations, three are above danger level, said a bulletin of FFWC said yesterday.

All the major river systems are in rising trend.

The Ganges-Padma river system is likely to fall while the Surma-Kushiyara to rise in next 48 hours.

A total of 115mm rainfall was recorded at Rangamati, 80mm at Cox's Bazar, 74.2mm at Kushtia, 64.5mm at Satkhira, 53.8mm at Barguna, 93mm at Faridpur, 75mm at Sherpur and Sylhet, 65mm at Khulna, 59mm at Comilla and 52mm at Teknaf.

## No Eid for cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohammad Sharif was on duty in the capital, while thousands of people left the city to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr at their village homes.

On Eid day, when people were celebrating the festival with their near and dear ones, Sharif, a constable of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, was posted at the Central Eidgah in Dhaka to ensure security.

"I have not celebrated Eid with my families in the last three years because of my duty," said Sharif, who hails from Mymensingh.

He hoped to spend the next Eid with his family.

According to a press statement of Police Headquarters, around 80 percent of the total police force was on duty on Eid day.

Around 1.15 lakh cops out of 1.56 lakh could not go to their home villages in Eid vacation, it added.

All offices were closed but police officers were on duty on highways and other roads, shopping malls and Eidgahs to ensure people's security.

In the statement, Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque said, "It pleases us when we can reduce people's sufferings."

## Woman murdered in Sylhet

UNB, Sylhet

A woman was hacked to death while her mother was injured at Daulatpur village in Bishwanath upazila in Sylhet on Sunday evening.

The deceased was Sujina Begum, 19, wife of an expatriate in the UK Murad Ahmed, of Satal village.

Locals said four miscreants entered Sujina's parent's house introducing themselves as Murad's friends and hacked them indiscriminately.

Sujina died at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital where her mother Rezia Begum, 45, is undergoing treatment.

Family sources said Sujina used to have frequent arguments with Murad's first wife living in the UK.

## Gazipur youth rescued 15 days after abduction

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Rapid Action Battalion rescued a man from a Dighirchala house in Gazipur yesterday 15 days after he was kidnapped from the city's Shibbari.

Romen Hossen, Mahbub Chowdhury, his wife Shahinur Akter Samia, and Sumi, the victim's neighbours, were also arrested.

On information from them, Rubel, 27, of Dighirchala, was found unconscious in the house, Rab sources said.

A foreign pistol, two rounds of bullet and a magazine were seized from Romen, they said. The arrested four took him to the house on July 5 in the name of discussing a solution to a land dispute "between the victim's family and their other neighbours", said a press release of Rab. Afterwards, they doped him there. The accused later threatened the victim's father Shamsul Haque over mobile that if he did not pay them Tk 15 lakh they would traffic his son, it said.



Locals of the capital's Malibagh, top, yesterday beat up Masud, bottom right, reportedly CEO of an agency called "Rich Educare" which charged Tk 3 lakh to send two persons, one a son of Malu Mia, bottom left, to Malaysia on July 13 on student visas. The students, as per the victims' families, were abducted by two Bangladeshi accomplices of Masud who are now demanding Tk 1.8 lakh for their release and threatening to kill the two otherwise. Members of the families were seeking assistance at Ramna Police Station as of last night.

## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Language Movement veteran advocate Abdur Razzak died of cardiac arrest in the capital on Sunday morning.

He was 77.

He left behind his two sons, grandsons and a host of admirers.

He was buried with state honour at Rajshahi city's Hetomkhan graveyard following his three namaz-e-janazas.

Abdur Razzak was one of the veterans who risked their lives to build the country's first Shaheed Minar on the Rajshahi Government College premises during the Language Movement.

Razzak was the school affairs secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra Union in Rajshahi in 1953 and the vice president of Rajshahi University Central Students' Union in 1965.

He was the general secretary of Rajshahi Bar Samity in 1992.



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

  
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