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Tk 10/KG RICE SCHEME Some AL men giving it a bad name

STAR REPORT
Some ruling party men are tainting the government scheme to provide cheap rice for the 50 lakh ultra poor across the country.

A number of ruling party activists are selling the rice, meant to be sold to the poor for Tk 10 per kg, to their well-off relatives or in the black market. Some party men are stockpiling the rice too.

On September 7, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina formally inaugurated "Food-Friendly Programme" in Chilmari upazila of Kurigram.

Under the programme, selected poor who have special cards would get 30kg rice a month from ration dealers during September-November and March-April. The months had been chosen as work is difficult to find during this period. The ultra-poor families were supposed to be listed by the local public representatives.

In Lalmonirhat for instance, all 122 dealers of 45 unions in five upazilas were identified as ruling party leaders and activists.

Khalilur Rahman, one of those dealers of Dahagram in Patgram upazila, said he has been actively involved in AL politics in the union and that was the reason for his getting the dealership.

"I have practical knowledge of the business ... so there is no way for making any mistake in controlling the dealership," he claimed.

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PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN AND PRABIR DAS
A huge boat, the ruling party's electoral symbol, is being built at the city's Suhrawardy Udyan for the 20th National Council of the Awami League. This boat will serve as a stage. Inset, workers giving finishing touches yesterday.

ALCWC to get bigger

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League Central Working Committee has approved a proposal for increasing the number of the committee members to 81 from 73.

According to the proposal, four more posts for presidium members, one for joint secretary, one for organising secretary and two for members would be created.

The decision was made yesterday at the last meeting of the existing committee with party President Sheikh Hasina in the chair. The meeting was held at the Gono Bhaban.

The meeting also approved the list of councillors who would be elected by the party's next leadership at its 20th triennial council, scheduled to be held on October 22-23 at the city's Suhrawardy Udyan.

The central working committee, the apex decision-making forum of the party, is now comprised of the president, the general secretary, 13 presidium members, 19 secretaries, two deputy secretaries, three

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Girl hacked at her house Classmates say her slapping a stalker a few months back might be the reason

STAR REPORT

Unidentified assailants hacked a schoolgirl at her house in Sirajdikhan upazila of Munshiganj on Tuesday.

With critical injuries, Tahmina Akter, 15, a tenth-grader at Roshunia High School, has been undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Family members said she took part in an exam that day and was on her way home. As soon as she arrived at their home yard, the assailants hacked her from behind.

The attackers had left the scene before her family members, who could not say anything about the motive, realised what was going on, reports our Munshiganj correspondent.

Recently, Khadiza Begum Nargis, a Sylhet Government Women's College student, has been brutally hacked by Badrul Alam, a fourth-year student of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) and also senior assistant secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League of the university unit.

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Bhabadah's tale of waterlogging woe

At public hearing, locals narrate how everything there is on the brink of ruin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"We don't want relief; we want permanent solution," said Safia Khanam who, like several lakh other people, has been suffering due to tidal water that remains stagnant in Bhabadah area on the country's south-western part for most of the year.

At a public hearing, the woman in her 40s was describing how people, surrounded by water, go about their everyday life. The hearing was organised on "Government initiatives to solve waterlogging in Abhaynagar-Manirampur-Keshabpur region and people's demand" in the capital's Brac Centre Inn.

Many women in the affected area suffer from various skin diseases. Families live in constant fear that their toddlers may get bitten by snakes or drown, said Safia, an inhabitant of Abhaynagar of Jessore.

Doing routine jobs are so full of troubles that woman eat less to avoid going to toilets.

The situation is more or less similar for the past 20 years.

"How long life can go on like this?" said Safia at the hearing organised by the Association for Land Reform and Development and Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association in association with Water Rights Forum.

All the participants, mostly residents of Abhaynagar, Manirampur, Keshabpur of Jessore, demanded an immediate end to their ordeal that had become worse in June 2012 following the suspension of Tidal River Management (TRM) in Beel Kapalia area of Manirampur.

The TRM is a natural water management process that local people adopted in late 1970s against the backdrop of perpetual waterlogging during rains and high tides. According to this, beels are connected to the river system so that large volumes of water can flow into them during tidal

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Twin sisters beaten up as they protest harassment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A hotelier severely beat up teenage twin sisters in the capital's Mirpur yesterday for protesting abusive language used by him.

The sisters came under attack around 11:30am when they were returning home from BCIC College on Chiriakhana Road.

The 16-year-old sisters are HSC students at the college.

Talking to The Daily Star, one of the sisters said they were waiting on the road, around 100 yards from the main entrance to the college, for a bus to Manipur.

All of a sudden a man, aged about 30, hurled abuse at her. As she glanced back, the man became furious, used abusive words and slapped her on the face.

Seeing the incident, her

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Magpies help their friends selflessly



MAIL ONLINE

It's long been thought that humans and primates were unique in their selfless care-giving behaviours, with both found to carry out deeds that benefit others without expecting anything in return.

Now, researchers have discovered this altruistic trait in birds for the first time.

In a new study on azure-winged magpies, researchers found that the birds would spontaneously give food to other members of the group without being asked.

The findings go in contrast to the behaviours of

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NATIONALISATION DEMAND Five injured as police fire rubber bullets on students

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

At least 20 people were injured while five students and teachers hit with rubber bullets as they were demanding for nationalisation of Bahubal Din Nath Model School yesterday morning in Bahubal upazila of Habiganj.

The incident took place

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JAMAAT 5-25 1-15 4-15 5-41 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A thick layer of filth on the water of Hatirjheel canal in the capital. The canal water emits bad odour, making it difficult for city dwellers to take strolls along the canal. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

7 months on, no progress in probe yet

STAR REPORT

Even though seven months have passed since the killing of Comilla college student Sohagi Jahan Tonu, the investigators are yet to arrest any suspect in connection with the murder.

Even the Criminal Investigation Department has not asked the court for permission to cross-match the DNA samples collected from the victim's clothes with any suspects.

In May, when CID officials said DNA test results had found three spermatozoa on Tonu's clothes and that she had been raped before her murder, the family started hoping for justice.

The sluggish investigation into the sensational murder over the last seven months frustrated the family, fading away their

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MURDER AFTER GROUP FIGHT Saudi prince executed

AGENCIES

Saudi Arabia on Tuesday executed a member of the royal family for murder, the first time in four decades it had done so, after he was convicted of shooting another man to death during a brawl.

Prince Turki Bin Saud Al-Kabir was found guilty of shooting to death Adel Bin Suleiman Mohaimeed following a group fight in al-Thumama region on the outskirts of Riyadh.

The execution orders have been carried out in Riyadh city, according to a statement from the Ministry of Interior, carried by the Saudi Press Agency. While the report did not detail the method used, most death penalties in Saudi Arabia are carried out by beheading in a public square.

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