



Classmates of 11th grader Dia Khanam Mim break down in tears at Kurmitola General Hospital upon news of her death. Mim, along with a 12th grader, was killed when a bus ploughed into a group of students waiting on Airport Road for transport to go home. *Inset*, this photo that went viral on Facebook shows the body of a student stuck between the bus and the boundary walls of the Armed Forces Medical College.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



AL upbeat, BNP apprehensive

Barisal, Sylhet, Rajshahi vote today

STAR REPORT

Voting in Barisal, Sylhet and Rajshahi city corporations begins this morning with all the mayoral candidates except for the ones from the Awami League casting doubts about fair polls amid arrests and harassment of their supporters.

The AL-nominated mayoral hopefuls, however, said a festive mood prevailed in the cities, and the voters would elect whoever they deem fit for the posts.

Polling opens at 8:00am in 395 centres of the three cities with around nine lakh voters. It will continue till 4:00pm without any break. Voting materials were sent to all the polling stations yesterday. 1Pa

A huge number of law enforcers and BGB personnel were deployed in the city corporations to maintain law and order.

The elections appear to be a major challenge for both the AL and the BNP.

The AL seeks to secure the mayoral posts in the three cities following its candidates' landslide victory in Khulna and Gazipur



CITY POLLS
2018

recently.

On the other hand, the BNP wants to retain the mayoral posts in the three cities.

In the 2013 polls in Barisal, Sylhet and Rajshahi, BNP-backed candidates won all the three mayoral posts several months before the 2014 national elections.

Today's elections in the three cities have become the centre of attention in politics after Khulna and Gazipur city polls, held on May 15 and June 26, were marred by violence and ballot stuffing.

The polls are a challenge for the Election Commission, which drew a lot of flak over its role in the Khulna and Gazipur polls.

BNP leaders have alleged that the AL might resort to "vote rigging" in today's elections like it did in the Khulna and Gazipur polls.

The BNP candidates' polling agents had been driven out of all the polling centres in the two city elections, they claimed.

Days before those elections, BNP leaders

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

"Many bus owners recruit drivers considering relationship and recommendations of known people without properly examining their driving skill. By doing this, they [recruiters] are virtually giving them [unskilled drivers] the licence to kill."

JAHANGIR FAKIR, FATHER OF MIM



"A road crash has claimed 33 lives in India's Maharashtra; but do they talk about it like the way we do?"

SHAJAHAN KHAN,



SHIPPING MINISTER AND TRANSPORT LEADER

RECKLESS DRIVING takes two young lives

Bus ploughs through commuters, mostly students, waiting near ramp of Mirpur-Airport Road flyover killing 2, injuring 9; 100 vehicles vandalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

During a mad race between two buses for passengers, one of the drivers slammed on the brakes near the ramp of the Airport Road flyover adjacent to the Armed Forces Medical College in Kurmitola.

While some people, mostly students, were about to get on the vehicle, the second bus came and ploughed into the crowd.

The result: the loss of two young lives.

To the horror of passersby, two students of Shaheed Ramiz Uddin Cantonment College were killed on the spot. At least nine others were injured after being hit or run over.



Mim



Karim

Immediately after the incident around 12:30pm yesterday, students of the college went on a rampage, vandalising over 100 vehicles on the busy street in the capital.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

They are given licence to kill
Says grieving father, himself a bus driver

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

He has spent the last 30 years of his life at the wheel as a professional bus driver.

He believed his daughter Dia Khanam Mim would

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

2 more 'drug peddlers' killed in 'shootouts'

STAR REPORT

Two alleged drug peddlers were killed in separate incidents of "shootout" with Rapid Action Battalion in Munshiganj and Rajshahi early yesterday.

In Munshiganj's Srinagar upazila, Sohrab Hossain, a resident of the upazila and an alleged drug peddler, was killed in a "gunfight" with Rab.

Mohitul Islam, a company commander of Rab-11, said Sohrab was accused in 13 cases for drugs, murder and abduction.

The Rab official claimed that the "shootout" took place when a Rab team raided Chhatrabhog area at around 4:30am, after receiving information on a drug consignment hand-over.

Sensing Rab's presence, the criminals opened fire at them. As they retaliated, Sohrab was left dead on the spot as the others fled, claimed Mohitul, also an assistant superintendent of police, adding that two Rab men were also injured.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Yaba coming in via new route

Smugglers bringing in the drug from Myanmar thru' Indian border with Sylhet region

DWOHA CHOWDHURY and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Drug dealers are now smuggling yaba from Myanmar into Bangladesh through the Indian border with three districts in greater Sylhet using Mizoram, Meghalaya and Assam as the conduit route.

The crazy medicine first enters Mizoram, a northeastern state of India, through hill roads and then makes its way to Assam and Meghalaya states in cars, buses or motor-bikes.

The consignments finally cross over into Bangladesh mainly through four points -- Zakiganj in Sylhet, Madhyananagar and Tekerghat in Sunamganj and Balla in Habiganj.

Yaba dealers have recently started to take the route, already infamous for smuggling Phensedyl, heroin and cattle, as law enforcers stepped up vigilance at Teknaf in Cox's Bazar, the easiest gateway of the drug, according to peddlers and Rab and BGB officials.

Yesterday, Rab Director General Benazir Ahmed at a programme in the capital said smugglers are carrying yaba

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

NEW YABA ROUTE



INTRODUCING
A BETTER CHEMISTRY FOR BIGGER PHYSICS

KSRM
PREMIUM

for colossal construction **80 GRADE**



The KSRM Premium 80 Grade steel re-bar is especially engineered for the construction of metro rail, power plants, long bridges, tunnels, flyovers as well as large scale buildings by adhering to the ASTM A706 Grade 80 USA Standards. This ensures, a BUET tested Tensile Strength of 690mpa (100,000psi) and a Ratio of over 1.25 which results in a High Strain Hardening Capability, making mega structures safer.

KSRM
শেকড় থেকে শিখরে