

**"Helping students score 'Golden A+' is not the only duty of the teachers. They should also encourage students to be logical and mindful."**  
CTTC CHIEF MONIRUL ISLAM (PAGE 3)



**"The price hike of goods is like a nightmare. I always monitor the prices of basic commodities in the market."**  
COMMERCE MINISTER TIPU MUNSHI RESPONDING TO A QUERY ABOUT PRICE HIKE OF ESSENTIALS (B1)



**"All I could think about was Bangladesh in the World T20 when they needed the same and they just hit it in the air."**  
BEN STOKES ABOUT FACING THE FINAL DELIVERY AGAINST NEW ZEALAND. (PAGE 14)



## New tests find lead in milk

Food Safety Authority reports to HC after testing pasteurised milk of 11 companies in six labs

Amid concerns about the quality of the packaged and non-packaged milk available in the market, Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA) has now detected lead, a harmful heavy metal, in pasteurised milk of 11 brands.

The companies are Milk Vita (state-run), Aarong Milk, Pran Milk, Dairy Fresh, Igloo Milk, Farm Fresh, Aftab Milk, Ultra Milk, Ayran Milk, Pura Milk and Safe Milk -- all registered with Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution (BSTI).

The BFSA carried out a series of tests last month at the laboratories of six government and nongovernment organisations -- Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Plasma Plus, WAFFEN Research and International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh.

The tests also found lead and cadmium, another heavy metal, in raw cow milk available in various markets in the capital, said BFSA lawyer Faridul Islam, who placed the test report before the High Court yesterday.

- HC asks BFSA, BSTI to report what actions taken to check adulteration of milk, curd and cattle feed.
- No drug store can sell antibiotic for cattle without prescriptions from registered veterinary doctors.

The samples of the packaged milk were collected from various markets in the capital, while the samples of raw milk were collected from 50 selling points in the city.

It comes just two weeks after Dhaka University researchers found detergent and antibiotics for humans in packaged milk of some of the top brands who boast of their "superior" quality in advertisements -- Milk Vita, Pran, Aarong, Igloo and Farm Fresh.

The antibiotics include levofloxacin, ciprofloxacin and azithromycin that are used mainly to treat bacterial infections in humans.

After the DU researchers published their findings, Kazi Wasi Uddin, additional secretary to the fisheries and livestock



Holding a red flag in his hand, a gatekeeper stops traffic at the city's Moghbazar level crossing yesterday when a train is about to pass. Just a few minutes ago, a rashly-driven double-decker, in picture, hit the iron barrier at the crossing and broke it. The bus driver fled the scene.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## FR TOWER DESIGN FORGERY HC orders two Rajuk officials to surrender

Ex-chairman gets anticipatory bail

The High Court yesterday directed two Rajuk officials to surrender before a lower court in six weeks in connection with a case filed for forgery over the design of FR Tower.

A devastating fire in the 23-storey building in the capital's Banani left at least 25 people dead and 73 others injured in March.

The two officials are Rajuk Inspector Aurangzeb Siddique Nannu and its Authorised Officer Md Nazrul Islam.

The Anti-Corruption Commission had filed the corruption case against the two and former Rajuk chairman KM Harun with Gulshan Police Station on October 7 last year.

According to the case statement, the three committed graft and forgery in connivance with each other to issue and approve an unauthorised design plan for FR Tower.

The building owner constructed

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## Procure directly from farmers

Food minister asks DCs to help meet govt's paddy procurement target

Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder yesterday asked all deputy commissioners to ensure that paddy is bought directly from farmers for meeting the government's rice procurement target.

"We set a target of buying four lakh tonnes of paddy from farmers in the current Boro season. So far, we have procured about 1.15 lakh tonnes. The deputy commissioners are helping with the process," he told reporters after joining a session on the third day of the DC conference in the capital.

"We asked them [DCs] to strengthen the paddy procurement process. Our officials will be more active. We asked them [DCs] to send the UNOs [Upazila Nirbahi Officers] to the field to expedite the process," said Sadhan.

Currently, the Office of the Upazila Controller of Food purchases paddy from farmers at the upazila level, and the Office of the District Controller of Food procures paddy at the district level. The UNOs monitor the process in upazilas and the DCs

in districts, said officials.

Since 1991, the Directorate of Food bought only 15 percent of its total annual purchase of the staple in the form of paddy from growers while it procured the rest 85 percent in the form of rice from millers.

As a result, millers have gained more from the government's food grain procurement policy, the number one objective of which is to provide price support to farmers.

The minister's comments come at a time when farmers in many areas are getting prices much lower than their production costs.

Frustrated by low prices, many farmers have threatened to stop growing rice.

"We don't have any food crisis now. We have enough stocks of food and relief. We are prepared to face any situation," Sadhan said in response to a query whether the current flood would create any food crisis in the country.

When Shadhan's attention was drawn to the DCs' proposal for setting up offices of the Food Safety

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## RIFAT MURDER Police arrest the wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Police yesterday arrested Aysha Siddika Minni for her alleged involvement in the murder of her husband Rifat Sharif.

Maruf Hossain, superintendent of Barguna police, said they found Aysha's involvement in the murder while quizzing her.

The SP made the claim at a press briefing in his office yesterday night.

Earlier on the day, police summoned Aysha to record her statement for the case filed over the murder of Rifat Sharif as she was one of the witnesses.

Police took Aysha and her father to Barguna police lines around 9:45am.

Abdul Halim Dulal



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## RISING RAIL FATALITIES Unmanned level crossings to blame

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Rail-related fatalities are on the rise as over 80 percent level crossings, authorised and unauthorised, in the country are unprotected.

Experts say the railway authorities have a tendency to develop infrastructure, ignoring the safety-related issues. And it puts rail operations at risk. If the authorities continue to put emphasis only on structural development without proper safety measures, such fatalities will increase, they fear.

The authorities say they are appointing gatemen at the unprotected crossings, but they can do little about the unauthorised crossings, mostly built by different government bodies without approvals.

The risk posed by unprotected level crossings came to the fore once again after 11 people, including a newlywed couple, lost their lives as a Dhaka-bound train rammed their microbus at an "authorised" but "unmanned" level crossing in Sirajganj's Ullapara on Monday.

A week ago, two people were killed and two others injured when Maitree Express crashed into a sand-laden truck on an unattended level crossing in Gazipur.

On April 13, three people died when the same train hit a small truck at an "unauthorised" level crossing in Sirajganj's Kamarkhand.

UNPROTECTED LEVEL CROSSINGS  
According to Buet's Accident Research Institute (ARI), 122

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## Two 'drug dealers' killed in 'gunfights'

STAR REPORT

Two suspected drug peddlers died in reported gun battles with police in Rajshahi and Narayanganj early yesterday.

The one from Rajshahi drowned in the Padma River during a gunfight between police and his cohorts at Kashiadanga, local police told this paper.

Amin, 31, of Paba upazila was accused in a number of narcotics cases, according to police.

"On a tip-off that a drug consignment was being carried, a police team raided Kashiadanga around 3:00am. Sensing presence of the law enforcers, the drug peddlers opened fire triggering a gunfight," said Monsur Ali Arif, officer-in-charge of Kashiadanga Police Station.

Amin's body was found floating in the river after other peddlers fled the scene, said the official, adding, police took Amin to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where he was pronounced dead.



With their home flooded, a couple sit on a bed in Porarchar village of Gaibadha's Sundarganj upazila. Inset, a woman cooks in the flood shelter set up at Bandarban Government Girls High School. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## FLOOD-HIT AREAS Food, drinking water scarce

4 children, woman drown in floodwater in Kurigram

STAR REPORT

Four children and a woman drowned and died in floodwater in Anantapur area of Kurigram's Ulipur upazila yesterday.

Meanwhile, thousands of people in flood-affected areas across the country are suffering from a shortage of food and drinking water for the last couple of days.

In Kurigram, the victims were Runa Begum, 28; Rupa Moni, 8; Hasibul Islam, 8; Sumon, 8, and Ruku Moni, 8.

Officer-in-Charge of Ulipur Police Station Moazzem Hossain said around 1:30pm, some 20-25 women and children were traveling on boat in the area. Suddenly, a portion of the boat began leaking and it sank.

Many managed to survive by swimming ashore, but the five persons could not survive, said the OC.

In the district, over three lakh people of nine upazilas are currently marooned in waterlogged areas, while homes of 1,031 families have been inundated in the flood, according to sources at the district relief and rehabilitation office.

Many of the affected people are having to have meals only once a day, as food supply has been scarce.

"We have been taking shelter on Guribadh [embankment], on the bank of Dharla river, for the last five days. We have been eating only once a day since then," said Mobarak Ali, 66, a flood victim of Char Madhobrum village in Kurigram's Sadar upazila.

According to the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC), the floods may worsen in Kurigram, Jamalpur, Gaibandha, Bogra, Sirajganj and Tangail today, while

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