

## Hasina is a 'pathological killer': Sarjis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,  
City

Sarjis Alam, general secretary of the July Shaheed Smriti Foundation, yesterday



accused former prime minister Sheikh Hasina of being a 'pathological killer'.

"If Hasina were not a pathological killer, she would not have committed 2,000 murders. If she had any compassion for human life, she would not have taken so many lives," he said.

He made these remarks while speaking at a programme at the Primary Teacher Training Institute, Chattogram organised to provide financial assistance to families of those killed in the July Revolution.


"We are ready to take to the streets again and sacrifice our lives to ensure justice for the murderers and counter all conspiracies. Those who support or rehabilitate Hasina will be identified and held accountable," Sarjis said.

The event distributed Tk 5 lakh to each of the 105 families of martyrs in the Chattogram division.

Many family members were seen breaking down in tears as Sarjis consoled them during the event.

The programme was attended by Khan Talat Mahmud Rafi, co-coordinator of the anti-discrimination student movement, among others.

# PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 8



	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	5-15	12-45	3-45	5-19	7-00
JAMAAT	5-50	1-15	4-00	5-22	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



PHOTO: TITU DAS

On a misty winter morning, a group of fishermen heads out in small boats into the Kirtankhola river. Despite the chilly weather, they will spend hours trying to catch various types of fish like pangas and shrimp. The photo was taken in Charbaria area of Barishal Sadar upazila yesterday.

## Govt-distributed onion seeds fail to germinate

9,200 farmers suffering in Rajbari, Faridpur

SUZIT DAS, Faridpur

Around 9,200 onion farmers in Rajbari and Faridpur are suffering after onion seeds that they received from the government failed to germinate. As a result, onion farmers are anticipating that onion production will fall across these two districts, which are known for being the top producers of onion in the country.

According to sources of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in Faridpur, a total of 5,200 farmers received onion seeds of the Taherpuri, Bari-4 and Bari-6 varieties as government incentives this year, along with 20kg of fertiliser per farmer. Out of 5,200kg of onion seeds, 4,000kg of Taherpuri variety and 1200kg of Bari variety have been distributed.

On the other hand, according to sources of DAE in Rajbari, a total of 4,000 farmers got Taherpuri, Bari-1 and Bari-4 varieties under the same project.

Speaking to farmers, this correspondent learned that not even five percent of these seeds germinated.

Sanjit Mondal, an onion grower of Bastuti village under Nagarkanda upazila in Faridpur, said the government gave him only one kg of Bari-4 variety seeds. He then sowed

these seeds on 45 decimals of land, but most of the seeds did not germinate.

Ahsan Molla, a farmer of Kagdi village under Saltha upazila, said he received only one kg of Taherpuri variety seeds as a government incentive. To cultivate onions on 105 decimals of land, he also purchased an additional one kg of seeds from the market. But the



seeds received from the government did not germinate. However, the seeds purchased from the market are germinating well.

Nazrul Mia, a farmer from Kaichail village in Nagarkanda upazila, along with Muktar Hossain, a farmer of Madhupur village under Balikandi upazila in Rajbari, echoed Ahsan and Sanjit.

Rafiqul Islam, sub-assistant agriculture

officer in Baliakandi upazila, said, "Onion seeds were provided by Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC). Under this incentive scheme, BADC procured onion seeds from their own farmers and other sources. However, the seeds are distributed through sub-assistant agriculture officers from the sub-district agriculture offices under the Directorate of Agriculture Extension. But most of the seeds did not germinate."

Tilok Kumar Ghosh, sub-assistant agriculture officer in Nagarkanda upazila, said their work was only to distribute. BADC (seed marketing) officers are responsible for seed testing.

"We have come to learn that out of the seeds distributed by the government, only 10 percent germinated."

Syed Kamrul Haque, deputy director of BADC (seed marketing) in Faridpur, said, "We collect these seeds through our designated farmers. A farmer is given one kg of seeds as an incentive. This is insufficient for them. Farmers buy seeds from the market and sow them. Farmers bought seeds from the market on their own initiative and sowed them in the lands where seedlings did not germinate."

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## Bottled soybean oil disappears from Munshiganj markets

TANJIL HASAN, Munshiganj

Bottled soybean oil cannot be found on the shelves of markets in Munshiganj. There has been a shortage of the product for the past two weeks.

However, this situation has become severe over the last one week. Buyers are returning home without getting bottled soybean oil when they come to the shops. A visit to various markets in the district revealed that most of the shops do not have any soybean oil.

Earlier, bottled soybean oil of various brands was available in these shops. However, now there is no oil of any brand.

A visit to Swapna Super Shop in Munshiganj city revealed that there is no soybean oil there. One sales person said that bottled soybean oil has not been available for quite some time.

Pappu Saha, a trader in the district's traditional Munshirhat market, said, "There has been a shortage of soybean oil for the past two weeks. Companies have reduced their supply. However, oil supply has totally been stopped for the past one week. To meet customer demand, some traders buy oil from Narayanganj at a higher price. Although the price is Tk 167 per litre, they buy it at Tk 172. Then they sell it for Tk 180. They buy 5-litre bottles for Tk 835 despite the label price being Tk 818. They then sell it for Tk 850."

**We have found out that this is not happening only in Munshiganj. There is a shortage of bottled soybean oil across the country. There is nothing we can do about it. However, if it is sold at a price higher than the price written on the bottle label, so we will take legal action.**

ASIF AL AZAD  
Assistant Director, The Department  
of Consumer Rights Protection

The trader said, "No monitoring has been done in the market regarding this."

The owner of Abul Hossain Store in Munshiganj market said, "Maybe the price will increase. That's why the companies are not supplying soybean oil. They are not saying when the supply will normalise."

Haliz, a staffer of a soybean oil brand company in Munshiganj, said, "We have a short supply now. Therefore, the oil supply to the shops is not being met."

Manzil, a dealer of one of the major brands in Munshiganj, said, "Due to the short supply, we are supplying 5-10 cartons of bottled soybean oil to the shops that require 50 cartons. The company has said that the situation will be normal after a week."

In this regard, Asif Al Azad, assistant director of the Department of Consumer Rights Protection of Munshiganj, said, "We have found out that this is not happening only in Munshiganj. There is a shortage of bottled soybean oil across the country. There is nothing we can do about it. However, if it is sold at a price higher than the price written on the bottle label, so we will take legal action."



Salesmen at DC Market in Barishal city are busy showcasing blankets of various colours and styles to customers throughout the day. As winter drives temperatures lower, the demand for blankets is on the rise. Depending on size and quality, blanket prices start at Tk 600 and go up to Tk 6,000. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## Six killed, 3 hurt in road accidents

Five die in Cumilla alone

STAR REPORT

Six people were killed and three others injured in road accidents in two districts yesterday, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Cumilla, five persons were killed and three others injured in two separate accidents in Daudkandi upazila on Saturday.

Three persons -- two women and a child -- were killed and three others injured as a CNG-run auto-rickshaw collided with a Dhaka-bound bus on Dhaka Chattogram highway at Daulatpur near Eliotganj around 7:00am.

Doli Akter, 30, died on the spot and Jahanara Begum, 60, and Jiyana, 11, were declared dead at Dhaka Medical College

Hospital, said Dewan Koushik Ahmed, in-charge of Eliotganj Highway Police Outpost.

The injured were undergoing treatment at various hospitals, said police.

In another accident, two labourers were killed as a brick-laden tractor overturned and fell into a ditch beside Amirabad Sachar Road at Mahanando village, said police.

The incident happened around 10:30am while the tractor was trying to avoid a collision with a passenger bus, said Aminul Islam, in-charge of Gouripur police.

The deceased were identified as Burhanuddin, 18, from Gouripur in Daudkandi; and Md Ali Alias Sohel, 32, from Jamalpur. The two had died

before they were taken to Daudkandi Upazila Health Complex, said duty doctors.

In Jamalpur, an 11-year-old boy died after a battery-run auto-rickshaw hit a roadside tree in Melandah upazila.

The accident happened at Adyarpara area around 2:30pm.

The deceased -- identified as Reduan Islam, son of Sirajul Islam of Dilalerpara village -- was a student of Dilalerpara Government Primary School. Quoting the locals, Rasheduzzaman, officer-in-charge of Melandah Police Station, said Raduan was returning home on his father's auto-rickshaw from a local market. When he reached Adyarpara, the vehicle hit the tree.

## Five more die of dengue

STAR REPORT

At least five dengue patients died and 562 others were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

Of them, three were reported from Dhaka South City Corporation. One death each has been reported from Dhaka and Chattogram divisions.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), with the new deaths and cases, the total number of deaths rose to 522 while a total number of cases rose to 95,632.

Currently, 2,408 dengue patients are undergoing treatment in hospitals across the country, of which 1,412 are from outside Dhaka. A total of 92,702 patients have been released till yesterday.



## 9.9°C in Naogaon, season's lowest

STAR REPORT

Winter has firmly set in across Naogaon, the northern district of Bangladesh, as the temperature dropped to a biting 9.9 degrees Celsius at 9:00am yesterday, marking the coldest day of this season.

Mizanur Rahman, an official from Badalgachhi Agricultural Meteorological Observatory Centre, confirmed the reading at Badalgachhi. This marks a sharp decline of 2.1 degrees Celsius compared to yesterday's 12°C in the upazila.

"The cold wave is intensifying due to chilly winds blowing from the north," Mizanur added.

Thick fog enveloped the area from early morning, compounding the discomfort of local residents. Swapna Ahmed, a resident of Naogaon town, said, "The cold wind has made the weather feel even colder. People started wearing warm clothes. Fog covers the area from night until dawn. The sun came out at 10:00am. Nights feel so cold that wearing a coat is necessary."

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