

## 6 killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

Six people were killed and 120 others injured in separate road accidents in Sirajganj, Barisal, Meherpur and Jessore in the last two days.

Three of them were killed and 80 others, including five policemen, injured in Sirajganj road accidents yesterday, reports our correspondent in Sirajganj.

Police said Dulera Khatun, 36, wife of Khairuzzaman of Kajibari village in Mithapukur, Rangpur, and an unidentified child, aged about 7, died on the spot when a speeding bus hit another bus from behind on Jhaoil bridge amid dense fog at about 5:00am.

At least 15 people were injured in the accident. They are now undergoing treatment at Sirajganj General Hospital.

Another accident took place at 6:00am on Dhaka-Bogra highway at Kuthirchar in Kamar Khanda upazila as two tempos collided head-on, killing one driver identified as Helal Uddin, 17, and injuring five people. The injured were admitted to Kamar Khanda Health Complex in a critical condition.

In another incident, at least 15 people were injured when a Dhaka-bound coach of Hanif Paribahan and a coach of Ananda Paribahan collided head-on at

## 20 injured as villagers clash in Sirajganj

BDNEWS, Sirajganj

At least 20 people were injured and seven houses destroyed during clashes between two rival groups of villagers in Sirajganj municipal area over a trifling matter on Friday. They chased each other and pelted bricks during the clash.

Police and locals said the clash ensued over a marble playing table under Sirajganj Municipality and those of the neighbouring village Gayala.

Police arrested one person from the spot in this connection.

Additional policemen were deployed in the area.

Kodda area.

Five policemen were injured, two of them critically, when a pick-up van of Sadar Police Station skidded off the road and fell into a roadside ditch as the driver lost control over the steering at Bazar station area in the town.

In another accident, at least 40 people were injured when two buses collided head-on amid dense fog at Mulibari.

Our correspondent in Barisal adds: Two passenger buses collided head-on on Barisal-Dhaka highway at about 9:30am yesterday, killing the driver of a bus.

Thirty-five passengers were also injured in the collision between Barisal-bound night coach of Druti Paribahan and Dhaka-bound coach of Sakura Paribahan, witnesses said.

The accident took place near Gournadi Fire Service Station and both the vehicles hit roadside trees after colliding with each other.

Fire Service men, police and local people rushed to the spot and rescued the victims.

Md Hanif, 50, driver of Druti Paribahan, died at Gournadi Upazila Health Complex.

Five injured people, including Delwar Hossain, 45, driver of Sakura Paribahan, were sent to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

Traffic movement remained suspended for over an hour due to rescue operation and protests by people. The police brought the situation under control at about 11:00am.

Our correspondent in Jessore reports: A hide trader was killed

and six others were injured in two road accidents in Jessore.

A private car met with an accident on Jessore-Magura road at Shimakhali at around 10:00am yesterday, killing Khokon, 35, a hide trader from Dhaka, and injuring businessman Javed, 34, and driver Hiru, 30.

The traders were coming from Dhaka to buy hides and skins of sacrificial animals from Rajarhat market in Jessore.

In another accident on Friday, a private car of a bridal party hits a roadside tree when the driver lost control over the steering on Jessore-Narail road at Bhangura, injuring four people -- Shikdar Khalid, a sub-editor of the daily Loksamaj, his wife Swarani, Khairul, 7, and his sister Muslima, 15.

BDNEWS adds: A university student was killed and another injured in a road mishap at Bamunpara on Meherpur-Mujibnagar highway yesterday.

The dead was identified as Tapash Kumar Patra, 19, a first year student of BBA at the University of Development Alternative (UODA) in Dhaka.

Sources said Tapash, son of Sahadeb Kumar Patra, a jeweller, and Sunny, 19, a student of Dinajpur Medical College, were travelling in a motorcycle when a bus of Dolna Enterprise hit them on Meherpur-Mujibnagar highway at Bamunpara, leaving both of them injured.

Later, Tapash succumbed to his injuries on the way to hospital. Sunny was admitted to a clinic in Dhaka.

## 40 injured in clashes over land disputes

BDNEWS, Faridpur

At least 40 people were injured in separate clashes over land disputes in Alfadanga, Faridpur, on Friday.

Police said two groups of villagers were locked in a clash at Kamar, leaving 20 people injured. Both the groups used country-made weapons during the clash.

In a separate incident, two groups of villagers clashed over land in a char area at Panail Sabaria village, leaving at least 20 people injured.

The injured were admitted to the Alfadanga Upazila Health Complex.

Two separate cases have been filed.

## Rab ignores gypsies' demand to arrest goon

BDNEWS, Savar

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) had to fire in the air to clear their way barricaded by about 200 gypsies at Savaryesterday.

The members of the nomadic clan surrounded the elite force demanding arrest of Hanif, a notorious criminal in the gypsy colony, when they (Rab) went there to arrest another alleged criminal Mintu Mollah at noon.

The gypsies staged demonstration, demanding arrest of Hanif.

At one stage, the Rab members fired blank shots to disperse the agitating gypsies.

Later, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Police have been deployed in the gypsy colony to avert any untoward incident.

## 91st death anniversary of Sir Salimullah tomorrow

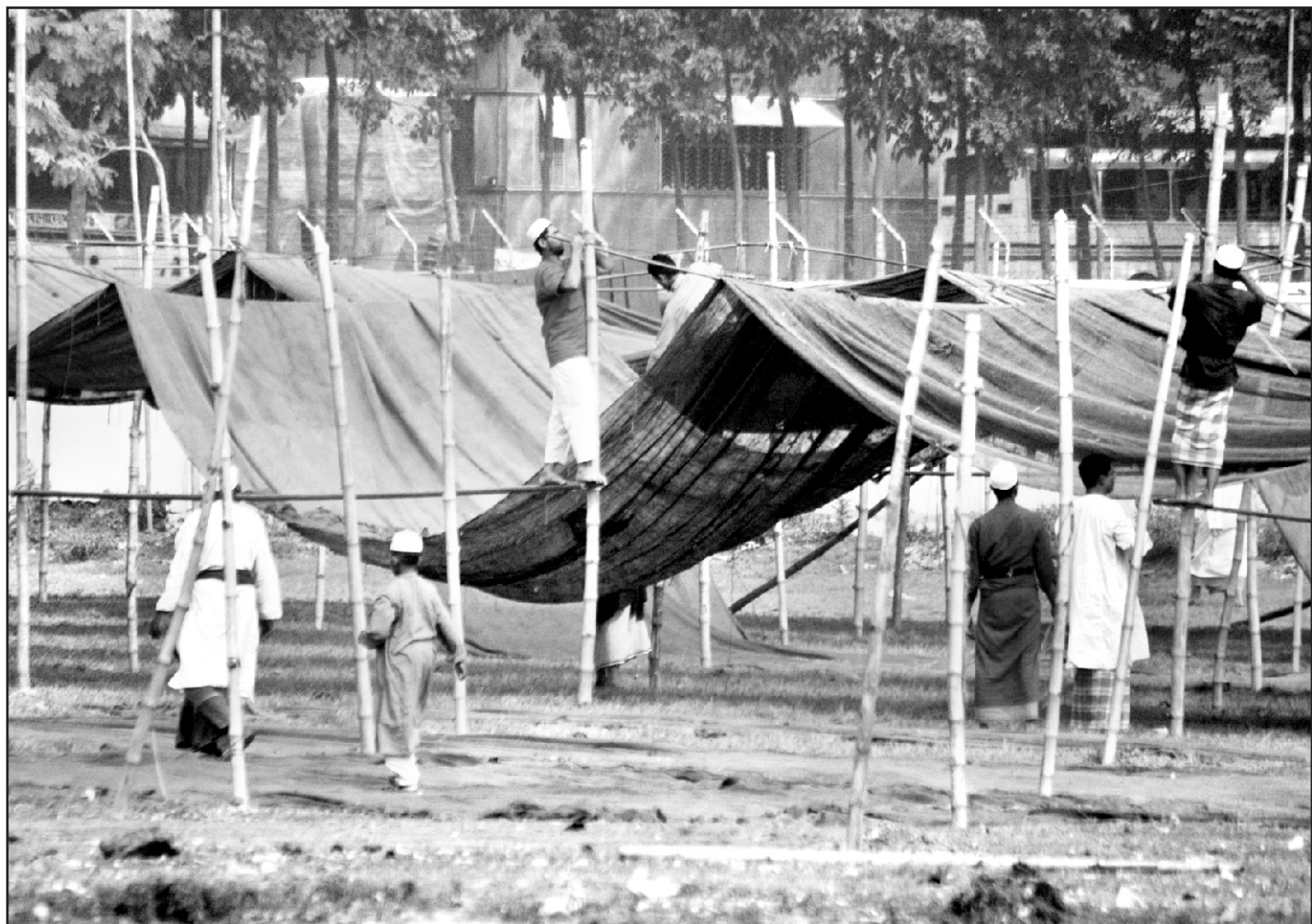
BSS, Dhaka

The 91st death anniversary of Nawab Khwaja Sir Salimullah Bahadur will be observed tomorrow in a befitting manner.

Different socio-cultural organisations have chalked out an elaborate programme to observe the death anniversary of Sir Salimullah.

National Writers' Forum will organise a seminar on 'Nawab Salimullah: Today's Bangladesh' at 3:00pm tomorrow at the Jatiya Press Club (JPC).

Besides, Qurankhwani, milad and special munajat will be held at the mazar of Sir Salimullah on the occasion. Sir Salimullah Muslim Orphanage will also hold a milad mahfil on the orphanage premises.



Preparations for the Bishwa Ijtema, the second largest congregation of the Muslim Ummah after the holy Hajj, have been going on in full swing on the bank of river Turag at Tongi. The three-day event will begin on January 27.

PHOTO: STAR

## 'Govt pledge-bound to construct Padma Bridge'

BSS, Munshiganj

Information Minister M Shamsul Islam yesterday said the government had always extended all out cooperation to the victims of natural disasters, including river erosion.

Speaking at the gathering of the victims of river erosion at Hasail-Banri and Phanchgaon unions in Tangbari upazila in the district, he said all measures have been taken to protect riverbanks from erosion.

The minister distributed relief materials among the victims.

Deputy Commissioner of the district Mohammad Anis Uddin Manzur, Chairman of Hasail union council Kamruzzaman Bachchu and chairman of Mirkadim pourasabha Mohammad Hossain Renu also addressed the gatherings.

Shamsul Islam said the government has been implementing a number of projects to reduce the damage by the river erosion.

He said the four-party alliance government under the leadership of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is pledge-bound to construct the proposed Padma Bridge. He hoped that the erosion of the river Padma in the area would be controlled after the construction of the bridge.

Referring to the various development programmes implemented by the present government in the last four years, he said massive development works have been done across the country.

Shamsul Islam called upon the people to keep a sharp eye on the people who are involved in hatching conspiracy to hinder the development of the country through

different activities including bomb explosion. He said a certain section had launched the bomb attacks on the innocent people in the name of Islam in a planned way just to hinder the ongoing development activities in the country.

He said, however, there is no alternative to the BNP government for bringing about development of the country.

He said the heinous conspiracy has been foiled due to the stringent action by the government.

The information minister said Islam does not allow the killing of innocent people through acts of terrorism.

The minister distributed 300 bundles of corrugated iron sheets, Taka 1.30 lakhs and nine metric tons of rice among the victims of the river erosion.

## Manik Saha's 2nd anniversary of death today

Mastermind of killing still at large

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna Union of Journalists (KUJ) and Manik Saha Smriti Parishad will observe the second death anniversary of journalist Manik Saha today.

KUJ will bring out a mourning procession from the Khulna Press Club at 11:00am followed by a rally.

Khulna Press Club will also hold a discussion at its VIP auditorium.

Manik Saha Smriti Parishad will take out a mourning procession at 3:00pm today from the press club and lay wreaths on the place where he was killed on January 14 in 2004 at Choto Mirzapur Road.

Smriti Parishad will also hold a discussion at 4:00pm at the press club auditorium.

Meanwhile, journalists of Khulna strongly condemned the delay in fair investigation of the murder case leaving godfather out of the charge sheet.

## 25 houses gutted in Comilla

UNB, Comilla

A devastating fire gutted 25 houses at Rajganj under Kotwali thana here on Thursday night.

Local people said the fire originated from the kitchen of a house in the area at 9:00pm and soon engulfed the adjacent houses.

Seeing the devastating fire, an old man identified as Janu Mia, 60, died of heart attack.

On information, fire fighters rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze with the help of local people.

Police and fire service men estimated the extent of damage at about Tk 20 lakh.

The affected people have been passing their days under the open sky.

They urged the government to extend financial help to rebuild their houses.

## Tarique launches village march in Natore

UNB, Natore

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman yesterday launched the village march programme from Haatpara of Sadar upazila to inform the people about the developments made by the government during the last four years.

The campaign, planned across the rural Bangladesh, is obviously intended to gain support of the people in the next general elections due by the end of this year.

Natore district BNP President Ruhul Quddus Dulu MP, also a deputy minister, led the march that went round the villages. The marchers stopped at important points where leaders spoke of achievements of the government.

Several local leaders demanded development of roads, culverts, schools, and bazars. A section of villagers demonstrated with lamp and lantern expressing annoyance at scarce supply of electricity. The party leaders assured the villagers of resolving their problems.

At places villagers welcomed the marchers and demonstrated hospitality by offering foodstuffs to the tired and hungry party activists.

Party leaders said a good number of Awami League activists joined BNP during the march.

## THIRD ROUND OF INDO-PAK TALKS ON KASHMIR Militants demand independence Give up demand for implementation of UN resolution

PTI, Islamabad

Ahead of commencement of third round of Composite Dialogue between India and Pakistan, a conglomerate of Pakistan-based terror groups has reportedly decided to give up its demand for implementation of UN resolutions for settling the Kashmir issue, in support of ideas of "independence and demilitarisation."

The Muttahida Jihad Council (MJC) headed by Chief of Hizbul Mujahideen Sayed Salahuddin has decided to support the idea of an "independent Kashmir and demilitarisation" of the state, Pakistan's Daily Times newspaper reported quoting an unidentified leader of an MJC-affiliated group.

"A consensus has been evolved among the MJC leaders not to oppose the idea of an independent Kashmir and its demilitarisation," he said, adding that MJC was of the view that an "independent" Kashmir was the most viable solution as UN resolutions failed to resolve the issue.

According to the newspaper, the MJC leader said it was a major shift in the group's stance because earlier it had always supported the solution of the Kashmir issue in accordance with the UN resolutions.

## 15 injured in Manikganj clash

BDNEWS, Manikganj

At least 15 people were injured in a clash over ownership of land yesterday morning at Louhadaha village under Sadar upazila in the district.

Police said the feud over ownership of the land of a mosque has been continuing for long between the mosque authorities and one Salimuddin, who claimed the ownership of the land.

The clash began when Salimuddin prevented the authorities of the Louhadaha Madrasa from fencing the land yesterday morning.

In the clash, at least 15 people were injured.

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) rushed to the spot, recovered four seriously injured, including a woman and sent them to Manikganj Sadar Hospital in critical condition.



A woman makes a quilt in the yard of her house at Savar yesterday as a spell of shivering cold sweeps the country.

PHOTO: STAR

## Obituary

BSS, Manikganj

Renowned lawyer and veteran politician Advocate Abdul Matin Biswas (Naim Biswas) passed away due to cardiac arrest at his house in the town yesterday at the age of 75.

Matin Biswas, son of a food minister in then Pakistan Abdul Latif Biswas, was a former president of Manikganj district lawyers' association.

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

He was buried at his family graveyard after a namaz-e-janaza there. Chief Whip Khondkar Delwar Hossain, lawyers, political leaders and people of all walks of life attended the janaza.

The district lawyers' association condoned the death of Matin Biswas.

## Alfazuddin Joarder

UNB, Dhaka

Alfazuddin Joarder, father of former national footballer

Mamun Joarder, died at his Chudangana house yesterday morning at the age of 90.

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) expressed shock at the death and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul, said a press release.



## Moderate to thick fog likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain dry over the country in the next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Moderate to thick fog may occur over the country during late night till morning, Met Office said, predicting slight rise in night temperature.

Highest temperature 30.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 8.5 degree Celsius at Srirangol.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:33pm today and rises at 6:44am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	25.4	11.7	94	74
Chittagong	29.8	13.8	84	55
Rajshahi	23.4	11.4	97	85
Khulna	27.0	12.4	90	81
Barisal	26.5	10.3	90	78
Sylhet	24.5	12.2	91	72
Cox's Bazar	30.2	15.4	63	68