METROPOLITAN/NEWS

'Bangladesh to benefit from Asian Highway

StaffCorrespondent

The proposed Asian Highway, once implemented, would allay Bangladesh's current political fears that the longer route linking West Bengal and northeastern India would give India political control of both ends of the highway, said Dr Robert Bradnock, a South Asian geopolitics expert.

Bangladesh has fears that through the longer route its goods would be forced to pass on to Southeast Asia, he said at the inaugu-ral session of Third Bangladesh-India Dialogue for Young Leaders.

A cursory examination of the highway map shows that on economic grounds alone, Bangladesh would benefit from a direct route linking it with Southeast Asian economies through Myanmar, he said in his keynote paper on 'Bangladesh and India: The Geopolitics of Cooperation'.

Cheating case

against **BNP**

lawmaker

Mongu

Adviser to the foreign ministry

DHAKA WEDNESDAY JANUARY 18, 2006

the routing of the proposed highway illustrate the way in which immedi-Reaz Rahman was present as the chief guest while Indian High ate political concerns can override wider geostrategic interests, he said. Commissioner Veena Sikri and British High Commissioner Anwai Dr Robert, a senior research fellow of King's College, London, said one of the intractable features of Choudhury were present as special guests at the inaugural session of the hree-day event organised by Bangladesh-India disputes over water is the difficulty of reaching agreement over any of the objective Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) at its auditorium. BEI President

Farooq Sobhan chaired the session. variables of the water system. Peoples' representatives, academicians and media professionals from Bangladesh and India are taking partin the dialogue on various issues such as tives of water management would be an attempt to agree a common programme of data collection and cross-border issues and security, analysis," he suggested. interlinking of rivers, sharing of water, trade, economic and regional coopera-Rahman underscored the need for strengthening the bilateral relations

tion and foreign policy. "It is clear that India -- and potentially Bangladesh -- could also benefit greatly from a direct link between West Bengal and northeastern Indian states," Dr Robert said, adding that such advantages, however, may depend on trust. The current disagreements over

and organised crimes as negative elements in the region, he said both the countries should remove the mistrust and work towards cooperation for regional development.

British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury said terrorism is an alarming problem for the world today and it is not possible to combat the menace without regional and international cooperation

"The most crucial strategic objec Indian High Commissioner Veena Sikri hoped that more open and friendly relationship would be built through dialogues among the young leaders and professionals and people-to-people contact between Speaking at the session, Reaz the two countries

Prof Obaidul Haque, Asif Nazrul, between India and Bangladesh side by side expediting the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) activities for Prof Mahendra P Lama, Dr Sanjay Bhardwaj, Assistant Editor of The Daily Star Zafar Sobhan and Senior Sub-Editor of The Telegraph Sreyashi Dastidar will give presenta-tions at the dialogue today and Describing environmental degradation, drug trafficking, new diseases

occurred when a Mymensingh-

bound passenger bus from Dhaka

Sumon critically.

Hospital (MMCH).

Appointment of 2 election commissioners condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of different political parties yesterday condemned the appointment of two new election commissioners (ECs).

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) slated the government for its lecision to appoint Justice Mahfuzur Rahman and SM Zakaria as election commissioners.

In a statement, CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim said the countrymen would not accept their appointment creating obstacles to hold free and fare election in the country.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu) said the appointment is part of a conspiracy of the government to manipulate the next general election.

In a statement, JSD President Hasanul Haque Inu and General Secretary Syed Zafar Sajjad also rejected the appointment of the election commissioners.

Jatiya Party (JP-Manju) Chairman Anwar Hossain Manju and Secretary General Sheikh Shahidul Islam said the way the government appointed two more election commissioners is mysterious and it would deepen political crisis.

"Appointment of two ECs in a mysterious way has made stronger the opposition's apprehension of manipulating the next general election by the government.," said the IP leaders in a joint statement. "We want to tell the present rulers

knocked a motorcycle from behind, killing Minto, a motorcycle rider, on the spot and injuring that any election without people's participation would not be accepted," they added.

Sumon was rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Workers' Party and Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal also condemned the appointment of two new election Police seized the bus but the

9th Dhaka Int'l Film Festival begins in city

The 9th Dhaka International Film Festival began in the city vesterday. Organised by Rainbow Film Society, the festival will continue till

About 200 films from 30 countries including Bangladesh will be screened in five venues.

The main venue of the film festival is Shawkat Osman Memorial auditorium at the Central Public Library. The other venues are Shaheed Zia auditorium at the National Museum, German Cultural Centre auditorium, Russian Science



PHOTO: STAR Newly appointed election commissioners Justice Mahfuzur Rahman and SM Zakaria talk with the Election Commission staffs at their office in the city yesterday.

ing out a statement at the press

nis secretariat office.

Kuwait.

The minister told them that a

new date for the postponed teach-

ers' rally would be announced on

return of the Prime Minister from

Appeal for help

Morshedia Begum, a 22-year-old woman, has appealed for financial

assistance for her treatment as

both of her heart valves have been

suffering from breast tumour, is

Morshedia, who has also been

Interested persons can also

contact Rokeya Akhter (mobile phone no. 0176-769861) in this

damaged, says a press release.

such an expensive treatment.

Hospital in the city.

hand to save her life.

regard.

Non-govt pry teachers' hunger strike from February 28

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

conference at the National Press Non-government primary Club. teachers will go for indefinite hunger strike from February 28 demanding nationalisation of their services while community primary teachers will observe the same programme from February 6 demanding the

Non-government primary teachers under the banner of Bangladesh Non-Govt Primary Teachers' Association and community primary teachers under the banner of Bangladesh Community Primary Teachers' Association yesterday decided to go for series of tough programmes if their demands are not met by January 19.

The new programmes have been taken up as the grand rally of primary teachers scheduled for

government primary teachers' long-standing demands for more government grant would be realised through an announcement of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at the rally.

Leaders of non-government primary teachers at a press conferon February 26.

"We have resorted to tough four-party alliance government did not meet our demands during its last four years. " said Mohammad Mansur Ali, secretary

Kader Siddiqui adopts baby who survived miraculously

The Daily Star

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangabir Kader Siddiqui MP has adopted a baby girl who miracu-lously survived after being buried in a sand field about a couple of months ago.

The child has been undergoing treatment at the Paediatric Surgery Department of Dhaka Media College Hospital (DMCH) since then.

Kader Siddiqui along with his family members came to the hospi-tal yesterday morning to take the child home. The DMCH's Social Welfare Department formally handed over the child to him.

Leaders of the community teachers announced their At present, the condition of the programmes from a gathering on child is good, said Dr Shah Alam the premises of Shikkha Bhaban to Talukdar, an assistant professor of paediatric surgery, who treated her for the last two months. There are about 100,000 teach-

"However, she will need a plastic surgery when she will be six-month-old," he added.

Local people rescued the new born baby smeared with blood and covered in a polythene sheet from Meanwhile, leaders of Jatiya the sand field near Hazaribagh-Boubazar in the city on November 17 last year. Half of the baby's right chin and lower part of the left leg Minister Dr M Osman Farruk at were eaten up by preying crows.

The two-day-old baby was soon rushed to the hospital where the doctors performed surgery imme-diately.

Police attack on Patuakhali AL

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Six killed, 65 injured in road accidents

regional development.

Fakrul Islam, 26 and Ridoy.

Our Jessore correspondent

reports, a woman bus passenger

was killed and 25 others were

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A union parishad (UP) chairman yesterday filed a cheating case against ruling BNP lawmaker Mosharraf Hossain Mongu, elected from the constituency-3 of Barisal.

Md Belal Hossain, the UP chairman from the same area, filed the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, accusing the lawmaker of embezzling Tk 18 lakh.

In his complaint, Belal alleged that Mongu borrowed a total of Tk 18 lakh from him on different dates during the period from July 13, 2001 to April 24, 2002 for election and business purposes, but now he has been dilly-dallying in paying back the money.

The UP chairman also stated that he sent a letter on December 25 last year asking Mongu to pay back the money. In response, Mongu gave him a death threat over cellphone, said Belal who sent a general diary (GD) to Muladi Police Station by post on January 3.

The same day the complainant's lawyer Dr Tuhin Malik sent a legal notice asking the lawmaker to pay back the money within seven days. But Mongu again gave him a death threat over cellphone on January 15, said the complainant.

After a hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate Md Mizanur Rahman recorded the statements of the complainant, took the complaint into cognisance and directed the Officer-in-Charge (OC) to take necessary steps against the accused after an investigation.

STAR REPORT At least six people were killed and 65 others injured in separate road accidents in Jessore, Mymensingh

and Sirajganj yesterday. UNB from Gazipur adds, at least three people were killed and 40 others injured yesterday when a Dhaka-bound fell into a roadside ditch in Gorgaria under Sreepur upazila.

Witnesses said the Balaka Paribahan bus from Mymensingh met the accident while trying to overtake another bus at about 4:15pm.

Passenger Aklam, 30 and Helel, 25, and an unidentified young man died on the spot. Of the injured, nine were rushed

to the Gazipur Sadar Hospital in critical condition. They included Rafigul Islam, 25, Sabina, 23, Jesmin, 20, Suma, 20, Firuj, 13,

injured in a road accident on the essore-Satkhira Road at Kuada Bazar yesterday. The dead was identified as Nazma Begum, 30, wife of Shamsul

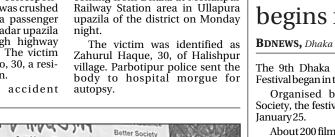
Alam of Farashpur village under Kaliganj upazila in Jhenidah. Of the injured, 16 were rushed to Jessore driver managed to escape. The body was sent to MMCH for Géneral Hospital. autopsy Our Sirajganj correspondent

Police said the Satkhira-bound bus collided head-on with a speeding truck.

Our Mymensingh correspon coming from Dhaka at Mohanpur dent adds, one person was crushed under the wheels of a passenger bus at Digarkanda in Sadar upazila Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at 11.30am yesterday. The victim was identified as Minto, 30, a resi

dent of Akua in the town. Police said the accident





says, a man was crushed under the

wheels of a Dinajpur-bound train

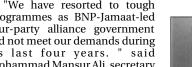
He said they will also hold a teachers' rally at Muktangan on February 28, the day when they will begin their indefinite hunger strike Bangladesh Community Primary Teachers' Association national pay scale. will lay siege to prime minister's office (PMO) on February 6 and go

for indefinite hunger strike from the same day if their demands are not met by January 19. press home their demands.

ers in 3,500 registered nongovernment primary schools and around 13,000 teachers in 3,778 community primary schools

January 19 was postponed. across the country. It was expected that non-Shikkhak Samity Oikya Jote, a progovernment primary teachers association, have met Education

ence said they will also observe token hunger strike at Muktangan programmes as BNP-Jamaat-led



rally: 50 hurt

Advocate Khondaker Mohammad Ismail moved the case on behalf of the complainant.

When contacted, Mongu told The Daily Star that the charges brought against him are false, baseless and concocted. The complainant filed the case only to harass him and tarnish his image in society, he added.

"I never took money from him (Belal) for election and business purposes. Even I am not involved in any business," he said.

Mongu also said his lawyer has replied to the legal notice sent by Belal

BSF hands over bodies of 2 Bangladeshis

UNB, Moulvibazar

The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) handed over the bodies of two Bangladeshi day-labourers to Bangladesh police here yesterday.

Police said BSF gunned down Kaisar and Haris of Gonokia village near pillar No

1841 of Muraichhara border in Kulaura area on Sunday.

BSF handed over the bodies to the police in presence of BDR. Family members of

Kaisar and Haris were also present. Meanwhile, BDR have sent a

letter to BSF protesting the killing.

5 shops gutted at Kalapara

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

At least five shops were gutted in two separate fire incidents at Kalapara upazila in the district.

Two shops were gutted within municipal area of the town at about 4:00am. Properties worth about Tk 12 lakh were damaged.

Another fire incident took place at Mohipur Bazar where three shops were gutted. The damage has been estimated at Tk 8 lakh.

Both fires broke out due to electric short circuit.

Musicians perform in front of the National Museum in the city yesterday as part of the inaugural ceremony of the 9th Dhaka International Film Festival.

TV artiste, college girl commit suicide in city

ceiling fan with her scarf in a closed

rushed her to Dhaka Medical College

and Hospital (DMCH) at around

Humidityin

percentage

Evening

67

86

74

64

72

74

74

Morning

76

91

100

100

100

79

79

1:15am

Night temperature may rise

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the

Moderate to thick fog may also occur during late night till morning over the country in this period, Met Office said, predicting slightly rise of night temper-

Highest temperature 30.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major

Min

12.8

14.1

11.0

13.0

14.0

13.1

13.1

The sun sets in the capital at 5:35pm and rises at 6:43am tomorrow.

Temperature

in Celsius

Max

27.0

28.2

26.0

29.5

28.2

24.6

24.6

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A TV artiste and a college girl have committed suicide in two separate incidents in the city. Kazi Israt Jahan Goldi, 21, an artiste of Ekushe Television (ETV) and a resident of Rampura, committed suicide by hanging herself from a

UNB, Dhaka

cities and

City/Town

Chittagong

Rajshahi

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

Cox's Bazar

Dhaka

next 12 hours till 6:00pm today

towns vesterday were

and lowest 09.0 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

Doctors at DMCH declared her Kingdom.

PHOTO: STAR

Breaking the door open, her Israt had long been suffering from husband AT M Rezinur Rahman mental disorder, says her father. Tunak freed her from the loop and

Her mother Amena Begum lodged an unnatural death case with Khilgaon Police Station in this regard. Shaheen Sultana Kakon, 22, a student of Demra Dania College, also committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling fan with a scarf at her room at around 8:00pm on Monday.

Her brother Monir Hossain said Kakon was mentally disturbed and committed suicide after she had a quarrel with her mother.



BAPA executives

Capt Syeed Mahbub Helal and Capt Mahbubur Rahman have been elected president and general secretary of Bangladesh Airlines Pilots' Association (BAPA) for 2006-2007, says press release.

Other office-bearers are Vice president: Capt Abdullah Mamun Maruf, Joint Secretary (Admin): Capt Sajjadul Haq, Joint Secretary (Operation): Capt Tahmidul Islam and Treasurer: Capt Shoaib Chowdhury.

The Executive Members are Capt Pasha Chowdhury, Capt Shah Alam, Capt AM Maqsood Ahmed, and First Officer Shahriar MGAlam.

Star Cineplex.

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan formally inaugurated the festival at Shaheed Zia Auditorium.

Chaired by Syed Margub Murshed, the chairman of the festival committee, the inaugural function was also addressed by High Commissioner of Norway Wood Lice Norham, Acting High Commissioner of Australia Richard Rogers, founder general secretary of Rainbow Film Society Mostafa Kamal and festival director Ahmed Muztaba Jamal.

The countries which are taking part in the film festival are Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Congo, China, Check Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Iceland, India, Iran, Ireland, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Russia, South Korea, North Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland and the United

Café Transit of Iranian filmmaker Kambozia Paratvi was screened after the opening ceremony.

Qulkhwani of Mamtaz

Jasimuddin held

Qulkhwani of Begum Mamtaz Jasimuddin, wife of Palli Kabi Jasimuddin, was held at the residence of her son-in-law Law Minister Moudud Ahmed at Gulshan in the city yesterday, says a press release.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Food and Disaster Management Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Post and Telecommunication Minister Barrister Aminul Haque, Education Minister Dr M Osman Farruk, Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, Prime Minister's Advisor to Parliamentary Affairs Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury, Jatiya Party (Ershad) lawmaker Rowshan Ershad, Former chief advisor to a caretaker government Justice Latifur Rahman, former Chief ustice Mostafa Kamal, Jatiya Party (Manju) Chairman Anwar Hossain Manju, British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury, United States Charge d'Affaires Judith Chamas, ministers, members of parliament, ambassadors and high commissioners of different countries, political leaders and lawyers attended at the qulkhwani.

Special doa was offered for the salvation of the departed soul.

general of Non-Govt Primary Teachers' Association while read-



Garmentech

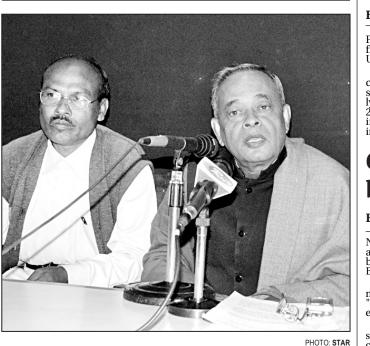
The inaugural function of a fair titled Garmentech Bangladesh 2006 will be held with Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 10.30am.

Installation ceremony

The installation ceremony of Bangladesh Secretariat Officers Association will be held with Law Minister Moudud Ahmed as chief quest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 5.00pm

Seminar

A seminar titled 'How can Brac University play a leading role in developing ethical leadership in Bangladesh' will be held with Professor Georg Gadow of Colorado University, USA as keynote speaker. Venue: Brac University, Mohakhali. Time: 4.00pm.



Awami League presidium member Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir speaks at a press conference organised by the Non-government Primary Teachers' Association at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.



Police also charged baton on them. Of the injured, 15 were admitted

to local hospital in critical condi-

Of them, Joint Secretary Goutam Roy, Organising Secretary Zakir Hossain, and Chhatra League leaders Enamul Haq and Kazi Shakil Bahauddin Labu arefighting for life.

The rally was organised to protest the death of Rehana Akter, an AL leader, in a road accident on Dashmina-Patuakhali Road on now under treatment at the National Heart Foundation Sunday.

The organisers said they decided to submit a memorandum Her treatment, involving valve to the Deputy Commissioner through Upazila Nirbahi Officer, replacement, will cost around Tk four lakh. But she could not afford but police attacked the peaceful rally illegally to disperse them.

She has appealed to the gener-When contacted, officer-inous people to extend a helping charge of Dashmina thana said the AL activists were trying to put up barricade on Dashmina-Contributions can be sent to Patuakhali Road in the name of Savings Account No.-5318/29, Sonali Bank, Mirpur Industrial Area Branch, Dhaka-1216. protest rally.

One murdered

in Savar BDSNEWS, Savar

Police recovered body of an identified young man from Aminbazar Union at Savar yesterday.

Sohrab Hossain, officer-incharge (OC) of Savar Police Station, said the miscreants might have lynched the young man aged about 27 since he bore marks of wounds in different parts of his body, including the head.

Cake festival begins today

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Nari Grantha Prabartana will organise a two-day Pitha Utsab (cake festival) beginning today at Prabartana Bhaban at SirSyed Road in the city.

Variety of winter cakes made of molasses and rice husked by "Dhenki" (indigenous tool) will be exhibited and sold on the occasion.

Besides, discussions, songs, stories, jokes and musical soiree on cakes will be also be arranged during the festival.

The festival will begin at 10:30am and will continue till 7:00pm.

