

6 killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT
At least six people were killed in separate road accidents in Comilla, Khulna and Pabna yesterday.

Dhaka-Chittagong highway at around 11.30am.
Rahima and Afia died on the spot while Shyamali succumbed to her injuries in Comilla Combined Military Hospital (CMH).

truck rammed their motorcycle.
They were returning home from Arambaria Bazar riding the motorcycle. Local people rushed them to Ishwardi Upazila Health Complex where the doctor declared them to be dead.

Shamsar Mobin's mother passes away

BSS, Dhaka
Tahmidunnahar, mother of Bangladesh ambassador to the USA Shamsar Mobin Chowdhury, passed away due to old-age complications at a city clinic yesterday evening at the age of 88.



PHOTO: STAR
Bangladesh Sangjukta Chat, Suta O Bastrakal Samik Federation stages a fast-unto-death at Muktangan in the city yesterday to realise its ten-point demand, including announcement of minimum wages for its workers and payment of group insurance money for deceased workers of Adamjee Jute Mills.

DEATH OF WORKER AT CHINESE EMBASSY 'Family under pressure to withdraw case'

BDNEWS, Dhaka
Some Chinese Embassy officials, including Chinese national, are allegedly pressuring the family members of the slain day-labourer Nur Nabi to withdraw the murder case in exchange for money.



PHOTO: STAR
Osman Gani of Agamee Prokashani speaks at a press briefing at the Central Public Library seminar room in the city yesterday.

AMAR EKUSHEY BOI MELA 'Fair should be fair of publishers, not sellers' Books to be sold at 30% discount

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Ahead of 'Amar Ekushey Boi Mela' starting on February 1 in the city, a group of publishers at a press briefing yesterday urged the authorities to implement the 'Boi-Mela' policies formulated by the Bangla Academy and stressed that it should be the fair of publishers, not that of sellers.

including a separate gate for the intellectuals and authors at the fair and lighting from TSC to the Doyel Chatter.
To attract the readers and discourage the non-publisher sellers, this year publishers will sell books at 30 percent discount, the association leaders said.

sell the books of other publishers.
The fair should not turn to a book market like Nikhet or New Market. For this, only exclusive books should be exhibited in the fair,' He added.

Shaheen Choudhury

BSS, Dhaka
Shaheen Choudhury, Head of Rangpur Regional Office of United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Bangladesh, passed away due to cardiac arrest at a hospital in Bangkok on Saturday at the age of 52.



Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Abir Mahmud, a student of standard one at the city's Biam Laboratory School, has been suffering from cancer for last few months.
He was already treated at the hospitals in Kolkata and Mumbai in India where he underwent a surgery in his cancer-affected tumour on his throat and nose.

Govt turns country into prison: Menon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon yesterday said the BNP-Jamaat-led coalition government has turned the whole country into a 'prison' through its repression on the opposition leaders and workers.
He demanded of the government to withdraw the false cases against the opposition workers immediately.

Photo exhibition on climate change begins February 2

BDNEWS, Dhaka
A month-long photo exhibition titled 'My World, My Future' will begin at British Council on February 2.
British Council and Map Photo Agency will jointly arrange the exhibition where 48 photographs of 32 photographers will be put on display.

Mesbah Ul Alam

Mesbah Ul Alam, principal of Barolihat College of Mirsarai in Chittagong, passed away due to old age complications in the capital yesterday at the age of 65, says a press release.
He left behind his wife, one son and one daughter.

Abir is now undergoing treatment at Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital in the city.
On inquiry, Abir's parents came to know that Tk 10 lakh is needed for his treatment.
But as a low-income service-holder they cannot afford it.
It may be mentioned that they have already spent Tk 14 lakh for the treatment of their child.



PHOTO: STAR
Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon speaks at a reception accorded to 11 party members who were released from jail on Thursday at the central office in the city yesterday.

World Philosophy Day tomorrow

BDNEWS, Dhaka
World Philosophy Day will be observed in the country tomorrow with due importance.
Philosophy Department of Dhaka University (DU) and Gobinda Deb Philosophy Research Center have jointly chalked out a two-day programme to observe the day.
As a part of the programme, teachers and students of DU Philosophy Department will bring out a procession from Aparajeya Bangla at 10:00am tomorrow.

Report on Electricity (Amend) Bill placed in JS

BSS, Dhaka
A report of the parliamentary standing committee on a bill titled 'The Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2005' was placed in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.
Mohammad Shahidul Islam, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the ministry of power, energy and mineral resources, placed the bill.
The bill has proposed that a person shall be deemed to have dishonestly abstracted consumed or used energy if he is found to connection of any meter on measuring apparatus.

Indian in guise of woman held

BSS, Rangpur
Patrolling BDR men arrested an Indian man, who entered Bangladesh in the guise of a woman wearing saree, this morning from Tentulia frontier in Panchagarh district.
The BDR also recovered a uniform of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) from his possession.
Patrolling BDR men challenged and held 'her' from the said border.

Zahir Raihan's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Today is the 34th death anniversary of renowned filmmaker and author Zahir Raihan who was murdered by Pakistani soldiers and collaborators when he went to search for his martyred brother Shahidullah Kaiser, an eminent writer and journalist, on January 30, 1972.
To search for his brother, Raihan tagged along with Bangladesh army and policemen who launched an operation to liberate Mirpur from the remnants of Pakistani forces who refused to surrender on December 16, 1971, and laid siege to Mirpur area.
Hundreds of army soldiers and policemen were killed in the Mirpur operation and to commemorate their deaths along with Raihan's, January 31 is observed as Mirpur Liberation Day.
The Ekattur Ghatok Dalal Nirmla Committee will hold a rally tomorrow at the Mirpur National Stadium in the city and take out a procession to mark the day. Some sector commanders of the Mukti Bahini and wartime journalists will address the rally.

Entaj Ali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Entaj Ali, a city day-labourer, has been suffering due to expansion of his prostate gland.
At present he is under the treatment of Dr Fakhru Islam of Urology department at the Insaf Diagnostic and Consultation Centre at Eskaton.
Ali needs immediate operation which will cost Tk 30,000.
But his family is unable to afford the expenses and therefore appealed to people for generous help.
Contributions can be sent to Account No 21031271, Prime Bank Eskaton Branch, Dhaka, or Phone 0189081980.

4,000 X-ray films recovered at DMCH, 2 arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Police yesterday arrested two persons, including a Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH), employee and recovered 4,000 pieces of X-ray films from their possession.
Police caught Mashur Rahman, a storekeeper of the DMCH, when he was getting on a CNG-run three-wheeler along with two others with the booty.
Mashur, however, managed to flee leaving the films, worth around Tk one lakh.
Earlier, the employees of the hospital informed us about the heist, said one of the security personnel.
Police caught Shafiqul Islam, an X-ray operator of the hospital, and a buyer Nanda Kumar red handed and handed them over to the DMCH authorities.
A DMCH source told The Daily Star that a section of dishonest employees often steal materials from the hospital and sell those to the outsiders.

DUJ general meeting today

BDNEWS, Dhaka
The biennial general meeting of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) will be held at the National Press Club auditorium in the city at 10:00am today.
Veteran journalist Kamal Lohani will attend the meeting as chief guest.
The election of the DUJ will be held tomorrow.

WEATHER TODAY
Light fog likely
UNB, Dhaka
Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.
Light fog may also occur over the river basins of the country during early morning, Met Office said, predicting slight rise in night temperature over the country.
Highest temperature 29.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong and lowest 10.1 degree Celsius at Srirangal.
The sun sets in the capital at 5:43pm today and rises at 6:40am 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	27.5	16.6	52	46
Chittagong	29.8	14.3	74	72
Rajshahi	26.7	11.0	71	58
Khulna	27.7	12.9	65	59
Barisal	28.0	12.0	78	76
Sylhet	29.0	14.0	68	54
Cox's Bazar	29.2	16.0	60	--

Shaheed Lt Selim

Today is the 34th death anniversary of freedom fighter Shaheed Lt Selim Md Qamrul Hasan (Bir Pratik), says a press release.
On the occasion, Qurankhani, discussion meeting and milad mahfil will be held at Shahid Selim Shikshalaya, Moghbazar at 3:00pm and at Uttara at 9:00am in the city.
A milad mahfil will also be held at Selim's village in Barisal.

'One lakh city slum dwellers get safe water, sanitation in 2 yrs'

BDNEWS, Dhaka
Over one lakh slum dwellers in Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) have been brought under the safe water and safe sanitation coverage in last two years.
Population Services and Training Center (PSTC) took the initiative under its 'Poverty Reduction through Environmental Water Sanitation and Hygiene (PREWSH)' project with the financial support of Department for International Development (DFID) and the technical assistance of 'Water Aid Bangladesh'.
Project Director of PSTC Fayez Mohammad Mostaque told BSS that after successful implementation of the project at a cost of Tk nine crore, a total of 3.6 lakhs slum dwellers in DCC and CCC will come under safe water and sanitation coverage by 2009.
So far, significant achievements have been made in the area of hardware installation for safe water, promotion of households latrines, sanitation block, garbage van, soak point and hygiene promotion, he added.
PREWSH has been working as a member of National Sanitation Task Force under the Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) aiming to improve health status, livelihood and physical living condition of the people especially to the poor and underprivileged people.
The main focus of PREWSH is to repair or reconstruct the sewerage and drainage system, pit and cluster latrines at suitable places near their living areas to ensure the environmental health of the population in urban areas, PSTC sources said.

DHAKA TODAY
Corporate exhibition
Corporate Bazaar Executive Committee organises the First Corporate Exhibition with Foreign Minister M Moshed Khan as chief guest. Venue: BCFC. Time: 4:00pm.
Seminar
Bangladesh Quran Learning Society organises a seminar on 'Invitation and preaching of the prophets'. Venue: Hamdard auditorium, Bangla Motor. Time: 4:30pm.
Memorial meeting
Halder Smriti Parishad will hold a meeting in memory of eminent lawyer Sudhanshu Shekhar Halder with Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina as chief guest. Venue: Institute of Engineers. Time: 3:00pm.
Film
Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen 'hemlet', a film adapted from Shakespeare. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre. Time: 4:30.