

Schoolteacher killed in road accident in city

BDNEWS, Dhaka
A schoolteacher was killed in a road accident at Tejgaon in the city yesterday.
The deceased was identified as Shamsuddin Khan, 58, a teacher of Nakhlapara Hossain Ali High School.
According to police and hospital sources, the incident took place at around 10:30am when he was crossing the busy Tejgaon road in front of Nabisco Biscuit and Bread Factory.
"A speeding bus knocked him down and fled the scene," police said. Shamsuddin was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he succumbed to his injuries at around 2:30pm.
Shamsuddin, who has been teaching in the school for the last 35 years, was a resident of 334/1/A, East Nakhla para and hailed from Bhanga upazila in Faridpur district.
He left behind his wife, three daughters and two sons.
The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Ensure quality education

Presidents asks university authorities

UNB, Dhaka
President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday called on the university authorities to take appropriate measures for meeting the growing demand of quality education so that the students can prove their worth anywhere in the world.
"To face the challenges of new millennium, there is a need for huge competent and capable human resources, and I believe universities, private or public, can play a vital role in creating human resources in our country," he told the first convocation of Southeast University.
The President, also chancellor of the university, congratulated the new graduates and appreciated their guardians for their support in shaping up their children.
Thanking the university authorities for arranging the convocation, he said, "I firmly believe that convocation is not a formality alone but also it reflects the advancement of a university and achievement of its graduates."
Iajuddin said education makes a man civilised as it helps flourish

human values and inspires the students to exercise delicate disposition on their own.
The President mentioned that for achieving the desired goals, a congenial academic atmosphere is needed and said this type of atmosphere could be achieved through sincere efforts and cooperation both from the students and the authorities.
He called on the authorities concerned to ensure proper academic atmosphere for the sake of quality education.
The President observed that private universities are facing many constraints, including lack of campuses of their own, library facilities, research works and above all congenial atmosphere.
He hoped that the authorities would be able to solve the problems, and the University Grants Commission, which monitors public and private universities, would adopt appropriate measures to monitor the academic programmes developed by the private universities to ensure the quality.
He expressed his satisfaction as

the Southeast University has introduced some new subjects and Distant Mode of Education to keep pace with the demand of modern age and appreciated the university as it received Financial News Services Award 2005.
"I believe, the Southeast University will be able to dispense standard education by proving its utmost sincerity and endeavours," he added.
He also hoped that the students who received degrees would demonstrate the higher degree of personal honesty and integrity, social responsibility and commitment for the betterment of the country.
"On your shoulders rests the sacred responsibility of furnishing the future of our nation and making the world a better place," he said.
Education Minister Dr M Osman Faruk was present at the function. Vice Chancellor of the Southeast University Justice Dr Javid Iqbal also spoke on the occasion.

The Daily Star, Prothom Alo Baishakhi Festival held in Chittagong

CU CORRESPONDENT
Agami, a cultural organisation of Chittagong University (CU), organised a Baishakhi Festival on Sholshahar Railway Station premises in the port city yesterday amid fanfare and festivity.
Thousands of students and common people joined the festival titled "The Daily Star-Prothom Alo Baishakhi Utsab - 1413" from early in the morning. The railway station and its surrounding areas wore a festive look.
In the inaugural ceremony, Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury was the chief guest while Resident Editor of Prothom Alo Abul Momen, eminent social scientist Professor Dr Anupam Sen, noted scientist Professor Jamal Nazrul Islam, Professor Gazi Saleh Uddin, and Associate Professor Hossain Kabir were present as guests of honour.
Later, the guests formally inaugurated the festival by lighting flame.
The organisers brought out a colourful procession with portraits of dragon, horse, python, cow and different birds of the country.
The daily Prothom Alo and The Daily Star jointly sponsored the festival where the Suprabhat Bangladesh, a local daily, was the media partner.
Mayor Mohiuddin in his speech called upon all to resist the evil forces, which are trying to destroy country's rich cultural heritage.
The Mayor also assured the students of providing them a land for setting up a Teachers-Students Centre (TSC) in the city.
Momen urged the students to come forward to get involved in cultural activities alongside their studies.
He also emphasised the need for free thinking among the students through the spirit of liberation war for creative activities.
The daylong programme included rural sports events like cockfight, Kut-Kut, Ludu, Marble, cake festival, book fair, recitation and traditional folk songs (Baul song).
Baul Humayun Shadhu and Kun Kun Shah from Kusthia enthralled the audiences by their melodious numbers.
Members of different cultural organisations and shuttle train-based musical groups of the university also participated in daylong song and recitation programme.
The programme was earlier scheduled to be held on CU campus on April 15 but could not take place following a student strike enforced by Shadharan Chhatra Chhatra Sangram Parishad, which is known as an umbrella organisation of the Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) CU unit.

D-8 SUMMIT Top officials' preparatory meet ends

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
Senior officials from the D-8 group yesterday wrapped up their two-day talks in the Indonesian tourist city of Bali on laying the groundwork for the D-8 summit beginning on Saturday over there.
The two-day summit is to be attended by the heads of state or senior delegations from the eight developing member countries: Bangladesh, Egypt, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Turkey and host Indonesia.
Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan will lead the Bangladesh delegation at the summit as Prime Minister Khaleda Zia dropped her plan to attend the meet at the last moment. She also didn't attend the last D-8 summit held in Tehran in January 2004.
Talking to The Daily Star, a member of Bangladesh delegation said the summit is expected to focus on ways to boost trade, build cooperation in finance, poverty alleviation, debt reduction and development of alternative energy sources.

The summit would also review the results of decisions made at the last summit, approve projects planned for the next two years and identify new areas of cooperation, official sources said.
It will also discuss and decide on the proposal to strengthen the D-8 Secretariat.
Three documents will be signed during the summit, namely the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), the Multilateral Agreement on Administrative Assistance in Custom Matters and the Bali Declaration.
The ministers for commerce and trade of D-8 countries will sign the D-8 PTA on behalf of their governments for promoting trade among the populous eight Islamic countries.
The draft of the D-8 PTA was finalised at Islamabad during the second meet of the D-8 high-level expert group on trade and trade-related matters a few months ago.
Following the finalisation of the draft, the eight countries have settled the tariff reduction modalities and lists of items to be traded among the signatory countries.

After the formal signing of this agreement at the upcoming summit, the enforcement date for the D-8 PTA would also be announced, officials added.
The draft of PTA is primarily designed to serve as a framework for further negotiations, which are to be subsequently undertaken for expansion of the scope of PTA.
In the initial phase the member countries would lower their tariffs at a certain percentage on a number of import items according to their choice, for example 10-20 percent of their harmonised system tariff lines.
At subsequent stages, the number of import items, which will be subject to tariff reduction, and the amount of reductions may be increased in a progressive manner.
On the sidelines of the summit, the D-8 Trade Fair began on Tuesday and will continue till Saturday and the D-8 Business Forum will start today.
The D-8 was established in Istanbul, Turkey in 1997.

Controversy over fund to allocate room to former DU VC

DU CORRESPONDENT
To allocate a room to a former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University (DU), anthropology department has requested the authorities concerned for a space and over Tk 6 lakh giving rise to controversy among the teachers.
The authorities have already allocated 700 square feet space on the fifth floor of Arts building for the construction of a room for Prof Anwar Ullah Chowdhury as he is back from Bahrain after performing his duties as ambassador.
As the matter was placed before the DU syndicate, it formed a four-member committee to review whether Tk 6.36 lakh is really needed for one room of a professor.
A teacher preferring anonymity said it is not acceptable that over Tk 6 lakh should be spent for one room of a teacher when many other teachers even do not get rooms or share with others.
None should get extra favour for his/her previous position, he added.
When contacted Prof Zahidul Islam, chairman of anthropology department, said a space was requested for teachers, not specifically for one teacher.
The space would be divided into two rooms and allotted to four teachers of the department, he added.
When asked whether over Tk 6 lakh is excessive, he said syndicate has formed a committee to review the matter, let it take the decision.



PHOTO: STAR
Bangladesh Community Primary Teachers Association stages a demonstration at Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday demanding nationalisation of jobs.

UP secretaries demand nationalisation of jobs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Union Parishad secretaries at a press conference demanded nationalisation of their jobs, granting them second class gazetted officer status and specification of their duties within the purview of the union parishads.
Bangladesh Union Parishad Secretary Samity (BUPSSA), an association of 4498 secretaries of union parishads, organised the press conference at National Press Club in the city yesterday.
Expressing grievances, they said, although we are to monitor activities of some union level government officials we do not have any formal status in the hierarchy of officials working at the union level.
"Even we do not get our monthly payments regularly", they said, adding "We do jobs like secretaries in other government offices but we have no provision for promotion and pension after retirement", they said, adding "Even we do not get our monthly payments regularly".

4 DU students expelled

DU CORRESPONDENT
Dhaka University (DU) authorities temporarily expelled four DU students, also activists of Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), yesterday for their involvement in an intra-party clash between Ziaur Rahman Hall and Suryasen Hall.
A five-member probe committee, headed by Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof AFM Yusuf Haider, made the decision after interviewing students, JCD activists and leaders.
The expelled students are Torique Islam Torique of first year of philosophy department, Tareq Mojumdar of economics department, Hafiz and Rokon.
Four of the expelled students are from Zia Hall, while Torique from Suryasen Hall.

Terrorism, trafficking bracketed

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their home ministers scheduled to be held at the same venue today.
The home secretaries endorsed most of the proposals of the police chiefs of Saarc member countries who met in their fifth conference in Dhaka on Tuesday.
Safar Raj said while briefing journalists.
The participants reviewed the member countries' roles in implementing 'Saarc Convention on Suppression of Terrorism', which was signed in Kathmandu on November 4, 1987, 'Saarc Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances' signed in Malé on November 3, 1990, and the additional protocol on suppression of terrorism signed at the 12th Saarc Summit in Islamabad.
"Nothing that spread of drugs has taken an alarming turn in the region, all the countries emphasised on concerted efforts to check it," the Bangladeshi home secretary said, adding that they also discussed trafficking in synthetic drugs.
The member countries stressed the need to meet frequently to discuss and cooperate in fighting terrorism and the drug problem.
Noting that performances of Saarc Terrorism Offences Monitoring Desk (STOMD) and Saarc Drug Offences Monitoring Desk (SDOMD) are not satisfactory, Saarc home secretaries discussed ways to make those effective and said that their networking needs to be strengthened and manpower shortage addressed.
"New dimensions are being added to terrorism and drug problems with passing of time and every member country needs to be updated about the laws in other member countries in these regards," said Safar Raj, adding they've made a proposal, which he believes will be approved by the home ministers today.
They did not discuss extradition treaties and the issue of militants smuggling explosives from India, Safar Raj said terming those issues as bilateral concerns.
Indian Home Secretary VK Duggal, the Maldives Executive Director of Ministry of Home Affairs Ibrahim Ahmed Manik, Nepalese Ambassador Bagirath Basnet, Pakistan Interior Secretary Syed Kamal Shah, Sri Lankan Additional Secretary (Police) to the Ministry of Defence HK Balasuriya, and Bhutanese Home and Cultural Affairs Secretary Dasho Penden Wanchuck led their delegations.
While inaugurating the conference in the morning, Bangladesh State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar asked the home secretaries to provide realistic, focused and action oriented recommendations with a timeframe so that those can be implemented, terming the third decade of Saarc as the 'decade of implementation'.
"Even we are increasingly faced with challenges of sustaining peace and security," Babar said identifying terrorism as the most critical one.
He informed Saarc home secretaries that Bangladesh had banned organisations and NGOs that have links with terrorism and financing of terrorism, dismantled terrorist networks and succeeded in arresting most of those involved in such activities.
HOME MINISTERS' MEET
Home and interior ministers of six other Saarc countries already arrived in Dhaka to attend today's conference, which is the first of its kind in Saarc history.
Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the conference at the Winter Garden of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel at 11:00am.
Key issues to be discussed there include tackling terrorism, controlling drug abuse, trafficking in women and children, money laundering, cooperation in technical aspects of policing, training of police personnel, and strengthening STOMD and SDOMD.
BILATERAL TALKS HELD
Pakistan's Interior Minister Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao met Babar yesterday and discussed cooperation in combating drug trafficking through exchange of information and experiences.
Babar told reporters that they discussed how to implement Saarc decisions taken in the last 20 years to combat crime and drug trafficking.
Pakistan recently implemented a new Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and Bangladesh wants to look into it for reforming its own CrPC, the state minister said.
Aftab also paid a courtesy visit to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office in the afternoon.
Babar also held bilateral talks with Indian Union Home Minister Shivraj Patil last night.
The Bangladesh state minister for home affairs is scheduled to meet his counterparts from the Maldives and Bhutan this morning.
Shivraj Patil met Khaleda Zia yesterday evening. According to Indian media reports, Patil carries an additional assignment of persuading the Bangladeshi prime minister in signing an extradition treaty with India.

No dialogue with war criminals: Joy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Sajib Wajed Joy, son of Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina, said dialogue between the AL and the ruling BNP over reforms in caretaker system of government and the Election Commission (EC) should be held for greater interest of country's flourishing democracy.
Joy, who left Dhaka for USA at 10:45am yesterday, ruled out any possibility of dialogue with war criminals and patrons of militancy.
Terming Jamaat-e-Islami as a patron of militancy, Joy said no dialogue could be held with Jamaat men in discussion panel.
He was talking to newsmen at the VIP lounge of Zia International Airport prior to his departure. He spent 12 days in Bangladesh.
Leader of the Opposition and Joy's mother Sheikh Hasina along with leaders of AL and its front organisations saw him off at the airport.
Joy said people are now passing days with crises of electricity, gas, water and fuel everywhere in the country.
"Price of essentials in AL era stood at a stable point, inflation rate was only 1.59 per cent, and electricity production was 500 megawatt. But now poverty in every sector plunged Bangladesh into distress," said Joy.
He hoped that he would return to

Norwegian envoy calls on Hasina

UNB, Dhaka
Outgoing Norwegian ambassador to Bangladesh Aud Lise Norheim yesterday made a farewell call on the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at her 'Sudha Sadan' residence.
During the more than hour-long meeting, they discussed bilateral relationship between the two countries.
The Norwegian ambassador thanked Hasina, also Awami League president, for extending help and cooperation during her stay in the country.
AL leaders Kazi Zafarullah MP, Syed Abul Hossain MP and former ambassador Ziauddin were present at the meeting.

Pak minister meets Babar

UNB, Dhaka
Pakistan's Interior Minister Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao called on State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar in the city yesterday.
They discussed cooperation in combating drugs trafficking through exchange of information and experience.
The Pakistan minister is in the capital to attend the Saarc Home Ministers' conference.

CPB leader Selim's condition stable

BDNEWS, Dhaka
Health condition of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim remained stable yesterday at coronary care unit of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital.
He was admitted to the hospital as he felt pain in the chest while working at the party office on Tuesday.
"It was not a heart attack," Swarna, daughter of Selim, said quoting the physicians at the hospital.
She said doctors will keep him under observation.

UP chairman's elephant tramples one to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar
A member of the indigenous Khasia community was trampled to death and another seriously wounded by a mad elephant owned by a local Union Parishad chairman in Juri upazila of Moulvibazar on Tuesday night.
The dead was identified as Chellanjee Khasia, 50.
Seriously wounded Het Khasia, 30, chief of Adabari Panpunjee, was admitted to the Brahminbazar Mission Hospital.
The mad elephant attacked the inhabitants of Adabari Panpunjee (betel garden) on Tuesday night while they were collecting betel leaves from their gardens, leaving Chellanjee dead on the spot.
Three more Khasias were trampled to death by the same elephant a few months ago, but its owner, Masuk Ahmed, chairman of Fultala Union Parishad under Juri upazila, did not take any steps to control or treat the mad animal even after they informed him, the Khasia people alleged.
The mad animal also damaged the betel gardens several times, they added.
At present, the Khasia people are in a panic as the killer elephant is still at large and had been grazing in and around the Adabari Panpunjee.
When asked, Chairman Masuk Ahmed admitted that his elephant has gone mad and he failed to control it. He, however, said that the Khasia people should not live in the 'jungle' as it is the grazing place for elephants and other animals.

Contrabands worth Tk 30 lakh seized

UNB, Sirajganj
A truckload of contrabands, including Indian sarees, drugs, electronic goods and motor parts, was seized at the toll plaza of Jamuna Bridge yesterday.
Acting on a tip-off, Jamuna Bridge (west) police seized the truck of Karatoa Courier Service at about 3:00am and brought it to the police station.
Later, the illegal goods, worth Tk 30 lakh, were recovered in presence of a first class magistrate on the police station premises at about 11:00am.
The truck driver, his helper and another employee were arrested.
A case was filed.

WEATHER TODAY logo with sun and cloud icons.

Thundershowers likely

Table with 3 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

Obituary

A CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur
Harunur Rashid Khan, a freedom fighter of Sovorampur in Faridpur, breathed his last at a clinic in Dhaka on Tuesday at the age of 60.
He was laid to rest with state honour at Alipur graveyard in Faridpur yesterday.
He left behind his wife, two sons and one daughter to mourn his death.

Death anniversary

Today is the ninth death anniversary of social worker Joyotirmoy Chowdhury, son of late Jogesh Chowdhury, Zamindar of Sukhair Estate in Sunamganj, says a press release.
On the occasion, Religious functions will be held at his son's residence at Chartalapur and Siddheshwari Kali Mandir in the capital.



Participants of workshop for the mental health service providers for the women and children victims of trafficking and violation pose for photograph with the guests at the Dam auditorium in the city yesterday.