



## UNFPA executive director Obaid arrives today

Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, UNFPA Executive Director and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations arrives in Dhaka today on an official mission to Bangladesh, says a press release.

During her stay in Bangladesh, Obaid is expected to meet prime minister, minister for health and family welfare, foreign minister, finance minister, development partners, members of civil society and senior government officials.

She will also attend a conference of Imams on May 16 at the China-Bangladesh Friendship Conference Centre.

She will meet the press on May 16 at 3:00pm at hotel Sheraton.

During her meetings, she will discuss the Bangladesh Population Programme in general and UNFPA assistance to Bangladesh in particular. She will also visit some UNFPA project sites.

## US hospital ship Mercy sets sail for Bangladesh

**BDNEWS, Dhaka**

The US hospital ship Mercy, which acquitted itself admirably after the tsunami in Indonesia, has set sail on a five-month humanitarian assistance mission for four Asia-Pacific states, including Bangladesh.

The Mercy has left San Diego, on April 24, to deploy at the Philippines, Indonesia, Bangladesh and East Timor, according to a report released by the USINPO, Washington.

The 900-foot-long Mercy is carrying a US military medical team, two H-60 helicopters, Navy construction engineers and representatives from the US Public Health Service.

The medical service the Mercy will bring to the region includes basic medical evaluation and treatment, dental and optometry screenings, eyewear distribution, preventive medicine treatment, general and ophthalmology surgery, public health services and even veterinary services.

The Mercy, along with its staffs, will also be carrying not just military personnel but civilians from several non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Admiral Gary Roughead, commander of the US Pacific Fleet, said, "I think perhaps the most unique aspect of this mission is that Mercy and her military professionals are being joined by nongovernmental organisations."

In the aftermath of the tsunami that hit Indonesia and other parts of Asia on December 26, 2004, the Mercy was deployed to Aceh, Indonesia, and then Nias Island and treated over 107,000 patients.

## Humayun Kahn Panni to be laid to rest today

**UNB, Dhaka**

Former deputy speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Humayun Khan Panni will be laid to rest at his family graveyard at Korotia in Tangail today.

He will be buried after namaz-e-janaza at Gulshan Azad mosque after Jozhr prayers.

Panni passed away due to respiratory problem at Apollo Hospitals on Thursday.

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of Panni.

He recalled Panni's political career and contribution to social welfare activities. He said the country lost a veteran politician at his death.

The President prayed for the departed soul and expressed sympathy for members of the bereaved family.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia also expressed her deep shock at the death of Panni.

In a condolence message yesterday, she recalled his contribution in democratic movement especially for parliamentary democracy in the country.

She conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

# 9 killed, 30 injured in road accidents

### STAR REPORT

At least nine people were killed and 30 others were injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka, Comilla, Chandpur, Chittagong and Sirajganj yesterday.

**BDNEWS reports:** A driver of a maxi, a human hauler, was killed when his vehicle fell into a roadside ditch on Dhaka-Nawabganj diversion road as he lost control over the steering yesterday.

The passengers of the vehicle, however, remained unhurt.

The deceased was identified as Anwar Hossain, 20, son of Nuru Mia of Nawabganj upazila.

The relatives of the dead took the body to their village Bakartpur without autopsy, police said.

According to locals, the incident took place at around 10:00am when the vehicle was going to Nawabganj from Dhaka.

Our Correspondent from Sirajganj adds: At least two people were killed and six others injured in a road accident on the Bogra-Nagarbari highway at Sorai Hazipur area in Ullapara upazila of Sirajganj district yesterday.

The deceased was identified as cattle traders Hosen Ali, 34, and Saiful Islam, 46, of Kuzagari in Naogaon district.

The injured were admitted to Sadar hospital in critical condition.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred at around 11:00am as a cattle-laden truck turned turtle on the road while its driver lost control over the steering, leaving two cattle traders dead on the spot and six others injured.

Police sent the bodies to Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Ullapara

Police Station in this connection.

**BDNEWS Comilla correspondent reports:** Two people were killed and 15 others injured, four of them critically, when a Dhaka-bound passenger bus collided with a covered-van coming from opposite direction at village Baroipara in Daudkandi Upazila early yesterday morning killing the drivers of both the vehicles on the spot.

The deceased were identified as bus driver Masudur Rahman, 41, and covered-van driver Abdullah.

Seriously injured an unidentified man, 45, Jahangir, 30 and Kalam, 35, were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) while the other injured admitted to different clinics.

Police and locals said, the incident took place at around 4-30am when a passenger bus of Eagle Paribahan, coming from Chittagong, collided head-on with Feni-bound covered van.

Meanwhile, a police constable was killed and four others injured when they were going to join the protocol duty of Dr Khandkar Mosharrar Hossain at Bagur busstand in Chandina upazila at around 12:30 pm Friday.

The deceased was identified as police constable Abdur Rashid, 24.

The injured were identified as Sub Inspector of Armed Police Battalion (APBn) Shafiqul Islam Babul, constables Jamil Hossain, Anil Chandra and Ahsan.

They were admitted to the Comilla Medical College Hospital with critical injuries.

Police arrested the driver of the covered-van.

Our Correspondent from Chandpur adds: One young man was killed on the spot and five

others were injured when a speeding truck and three-wheeler auto-rickshaw collided on Chandpur-Comilla Regional Highway early yesterday near Miar Bazar, about 10-km east from Chandpur town.

The dead was identified as truck helper Mainuddin Mia, 23, hailing from Dharmapur under Kotwali Police Station in Comilla. Mainuddin was reportedly driving the loaded truck bound for Chandpur from Comilla.

The auto-rickshaw with five people was going to Mohamaya, Sadar upazila from Chandpur.

The injured Jashim Uddin, 40, Khorshed Alam, 30, and Alauddin were admitted to Sadar Hospital in critical condition. They hailed from Daulatpur in Comilla.

BSS from Chittagong adds: A woman and an unidentified man were killed in separate road accidents in the district yesterday, hospital sources said.

They said Chabila Khatun, 65, wife of late Amin Sharif of Daulatpur under Patiya upazila, was injured seriously while she was getting down from a passenger bus at Shanthirhat at 10:00pm.

Family members of the victim rushed her to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where she died at 1:00am yesterday.

An unidentified man sustained severe injuries when a city bound truck knocked him from behind at Patiya Bus Station at about 1:00pm yesterday.

Local people sent him to local health complex and later he was shifted to CMCH where he succumbed to his injuries.

Our Correspondent from Chandpur adds: One young man was killed on the spot and five



One minute's silence was observed at a meeting on the occasion of the first death anniversary of Lieutenant General Jagjit Singh Aurora at the Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday.

## Tributes paid to Gen Aurora

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

People of Bangladesh and India are bound together by the bond of blood, said the speakers at a discussion in the city yesterday.

They said during the liberation war Indian people extended all types of help to the people of Bangladesh as both of them wanted to achieve democracy, secularism and socialism.

The discussion was organised by Bangladesh Muktijoddha Kalyan Foundation (BMKF) on the occasion of the first death anniversary of Lt General Jagjit Singh Aurora, commander of Bangladesh-India joint forces during the liberation war, at the Cirdap auditorium yesterday.

"Gen Aurora helped us in materialising our dream of independence that we cherished in our heart through ages," said Dr Kamal Hossain, president of Gono Forum.

Awami League (AL) leader Tofail Ahmed said the best way to show respect to liberation war heroes is to topple the present regime and establish a government of pro-liberation forces.

Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, AL presidium member, said being the wife of a valiant freedom fighter the prime minister is humiliating national flag by accommodating anti-liberation elements in her cabinet.

Suranjit Sengupta, another presidium member of AL, said, "The victory in liberation is the outcome of the collective efforts of Bangladesh and Indian people."

Indian Deputy High Commissioner in Dhaka S Chakrabarty said like 1971 India is also willing to help Bangladesh to combat fundamentalism and terrorism.

Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, said people have every right to overthrow the government that fails to protect their basic rights.

Shahriar Kabir, president of Ghatak Dalai Nirmul Committee, said, "Crisis has engulfed the whole nation because we have deviated from the principles of the 1972 constitution."

Presided over by Maj Gen (Retd) K M Shafiqullah, the discussion was also addressed by Air Vice Marshall (Retd) A K Khandakar, Maj Gen (Retd) Amin Ahmed Chowdhury, Maj Gen (Retd) C R Datta, Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, former president of Duta, Prof Momtaz Begum, Shahadat Uddin, Abir Ahad, Harun-or-Rashid, Shamsul Alam Duda, A B M Jafarullah, M A Bari, Shaheen Reza Noor and Journalist Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury.

## Two shot over land dispute in Tangail

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail**

At least two people were hit with bullets in a clash over land dispute between two cousins at Nagarpur upazila in the district yesterday.

According to police, Ruhul Amin of Goyhata village had dispute over a piece of land with his cousin Jhantu Miah for long.

In the day of the incident, Jhantu came to Gayhata Bazar at around 11:30am and locked in altercation with Ruhul Amin over the disputed land.

Meantime, supporters of the two gathered at the spot.

At one stage, Jhantu fired 7 to 8 rounds of bullets from his revolver, leaving two of Ruhul's supporters bullet-hit on the spot.

The injured were identified as Rashedul Islam, elder brother of Ruhul, and Aminur Rahman.

They were admitted to Nagarpur Upazila Health Complex.

A General Diary (GD) was filed with Nagarpur Police Station in this regard.

## 40 hurt in clash over cricket in Satkhira

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira**

At least 40 people were injured in a clash between the supporters of two cricket clubs over a cricket match at village Basantapur in Debhata upazila yesterday.

The seriously injured who were admitted to Sakhipur Health Complex, are Hasan Sardar, Nuruzzaman, Islam, Hannan Sardar, Shah Jahan, Enamul Haque, Shariful, Mizanur, Al-Amin, Asarul of village Basantapur and Abdul Karim, Sobhan, Samsur Rahman and Liakat Ali of village Panchpota in Debhata upazila.

Quoting local people police said the Basantapur Cricket Ekadash and Panchpota RRB

cricket Ekadash took part in final match of eight-team Cricket Tournament at Basatapur cricket ground.

Batting first, Panchpota team made 124 runs in 16 over while Basantapur club scored 88 runs in 10 over.

The clash ensued when sensing defeat, the supporters of Panchpota club attacked the supporters of Basantapur Club.

Both sides used lethal weapons during the clash that had lasted over half an hour leaving 40 people injured.

On contact, SI Mahbubur Rahman of Debhata Police Station confirmed the incident.

## Fire breaks out at Shamsur Jute Mill: Huge jute gutted

**BDNEWS, Narsingdi**

A huge quantity of jute that kept in five godowns was gutted in a devastating fire in Shamsur Jute Mill at Kararchar area in Narsingdi yesterday.

Fire brigade sources said the fire was originated from a storehouse and engulfed the other godowns of the mill.

On information, five fire brigade units from Narsingdi, Bhairab, Demra and Kanchan rushed to the spot and made frantic efforts to extinguish the fire.

The fire fighters could not bring the blaze under control till 12.30pm.



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina speaks at the inaugural session of a two-day 13th Annual District Convention 2006 of the Lions Club International District 315 B2, Bangladesh, at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday.

## 30 hurt as BCL factions clash in Tangail

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail**

At least 30 activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) were injured in a clash between two rival groups of the organisation at Govindashi area in Bhuapur yesterday.

Bhuapur upazila unit of BCL organised a public meeting on Govindashi High School premises.

It was announced earlier that former lawmaker from the constituency Khandakar Asaduzzaman will address the meeting as chief guest and seek public support for nomination.

As the meeting started at around 3:30pm, a local group of BCL, supporters of Rafiqul Islam Manju, who also seeks nomination from the

constituency, launched attack on the meeting.

At one stage, both groups of BCL locked in clash, leaving 30 activists of the both sides injured, local sources said.

Of the injured, 10 were admitted to Bhuapur Upazila Health Complex.

Later, two of the injured were shifted to Tangail General Hospital with critical condition.

They were identified as Masudul Hassan and Mohammad Lebu, activists of BCL Bhuapur upazila unit and supporters of Asaduzzaman.

It has been reported that supporters of Manju occupied the stage and held a meeting.

## Kushtia gas link body meets today

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia**

A meeting of 'Gas Link Implementation Committee' (GLIC) Kushtia will be held today at the conference room of Kushtia Chamber of Commerce (KCC).

Mozibar Rahman, chairman of BRB cables industries, also president of Kushtia Chamber of Commerce (KCC) and convener of GLIC will chair the meeting.

All members of the committee have been asked to join the meeting.

According to GLIC, important decisions will be made in the meeting.

The GLIC is now mulling to start peaceful and non-political movement to implement their demands.

## Two get life for abduction

**Bss, Narail**

A court in Narail on Tuesday sentenced two peoples to life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) for abducting a madrasa student.

The convicts are Shamshu Beg, 35, son of Fulmia of Khamarbil village and Zolish Kumar, 30, son of Hazra of village Malidanga under sadar upazila. Both the convicts have been absconding since the starting of the case.

According to the prosecution, the convicts abducted Rikta Khanom, 10, a student of Durgapur Dhakhil Mazidia Madrasa and daughter of Zinder Beg of village Dumurtala under same upazila on July 16, 2003.

Hadiar Rahman Beg, brother of the victim, filed a case with sadar police station accusing the two. The police also submitted chargesheets against them.

The judge pronounced the verdict after hearing and examining the witness on the both sides.

## WEATHER TODAY

**Fall in temperature likely**

**UNB, Dhaka**

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Rajshahi, Khulna, Dhaka, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions with moderately heavy falls at places in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may fall by 1-3 degree Celsius over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 34.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Mongla and lowest 20.5 degree Celsius at Tangail.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:33pm today and rises at 5:17am 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	24.0	22.7	98	87
Chittagong	32.2	22.8	67	81
Rajshahi	30.0	25.5	84	81
Khulna	34.0	26.5	80	96
Barisal	30.8	25.6	86	100
Sylhet	26.6	23.8	90	78
Cox's Bazar	33.0	23.0	69	87



Carrying lanterns, city dwellers stage a demonstration at Nayatola in Moghbazar yesterday demanding adequate supply of power and water.

## Fake notes, phensidyl seized

**BSS, Khulna, Rajshahi**

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized 38 counterfeit notes and a huge quantity of phensidyl from Satkhira and Jhenidah on Thursday.

Rab sources said a special team seized 38 fake notes of Tk 500 denomination, 1119 counterfeit stamps worth Tk 6350 and an Indian-made pistol from one Hazrat Ali, 30, son of Abu Bakkar Ali of Kakshialy village under Kaliganj upazila in Satkhira district.

Another team from Jhenidah camp raided Shibnagar village under Kaliganj thana yesterday and arrested two people with 200 bottles of phensidyl.

The arrested are Lalbanu, 45, wife of Sekender Molla of Shibnagar Pashchimpara and Rezaul, 27, son of Sattar Shaikh of Shibnagar Gulshanpara under Kaliganj thana.

The arrested persons were handed over to police stations concerned yesterday.

Meanwhile, Rab members in separate drives arrested three people including two alleged drug-traders, from Rajshahi and Kurigram districts in last three days.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of the elite force conducted a drive at Doulatpur village under Charghat upazila here at 7.30am yesterday and picked up an alleged drug-trader Sufi Aslam Khan, 40, son of late Yeakub Khan of Laghu Colony under Ishwardi upazila, along with 130 bottles of phensidyl.

Another drug-trader Tipu Sultan, 35, son of Nawsher Ali Mollah of Talaimari area under Motihar Police Station, was arrested along with 300 grams of ganja from Kazla area under the same thana on Thursday night.

Another Rab team rounded up Lemon, 25, son of Mohammad Ali, from Kurigram town.

He was wanted for a long time in connection with various criminal cases, police said.

Separate cases were filed with police stations concerned in these connections and the arrested people along with the seized goods were handed over to police.

## Lightning kills one in Khulna

**BDNEWS, Khulna**

A teenager was killed in lightning on Thursday at West Terokhada village under Terokhada upazila in Khulna.

The deceased was identified as Ohidul Islam alias Jahir, 18, son of Ikramul Haque.

Family members of the deceased said, the incident occurred when Jahir was returning home during the rain.