

## Three killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Three people were killed in separate road accidents in Brahmanbaria and Rangpur yesterday and Tuesday night.

Our Correspondent from B'baria reports: Two people were killed in two separate road accidents at Shahbazpur and Puniat of the district yesterday morning.

The dead were identified as Shahnaz Akter, 22, and Babu Mia, 22.

According to police sources, Shahnaz was run over by a private car when she was passing Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Shahbazpur.

On the other hand, Babu Mia, 22, son of Bazlu Mia of Betbaria of Sariai upazila, was knocked down by a train when he was crossing a rail gate through Paitala bypass highway.

Police sent both of the bodies to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

BSS from Rangpur adds: A motorcyclist was killed and two others injured when two motorcycles collided head on in front of a filling station at Jaigirhat on Rangpur-Dhaka highway under Mithapukur upazila in the district.

Police and hospital sources said the accident occurred when both the motorcyclists lost control over the steering amid stormy weather at about 8:00pm.

Being informed, a team of Mithapukur police station rushed to the spot and sent the injured to Mithapukur Upazila Health Complex with the help of the locals.

Doctors at the health complex declared one dead whose identity could not be known immediately. Abu Taher, 45, and his daughter Amina Khatun, 17, an HSC first year student, are now undergoing treatment at the same health complex.

## 16 cocktails recovered, mugger held in Chittagong

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) yesterday recovered 16 cocktails in the port city and held a mugger in this connection.

The arrestee was identified as Md Hashem Ali, 27, son of late Chan Mia, hailed from village Bidghar under Sarail Upazila of Brahmanbaria district.

Acting on a tip off, a team of Khulshi Police Station raided View Housing Society of Khulshi and arrested Hashem with 16 cocktails from his residence on Tuesday evening, sources said.

In primary interrogation, Hashem confessed his involvement in mugging at different city areas and said that he collected those cocktails to create panic while mugging.

## President, PM felicitate Malaysian counterparts

BSS, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia felicitated their Malaysian counterparts on the occasion of the National Day of Malaysia today.

President Iajuddin in a message to Yang-Di-Pertuan Agong XII of Malaysia Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Ibri Al-Marium Syed Putra Jamalullah said, "I truly believe that the traditional bonds of fraternal relations that so happily exist between our two countries will be further strengthened and consolidated in the days ahead to the mutual benefits of our two peoples."

The President conveyed his best wishes for his good health, long life and happiness as well as for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the people of Malaysia. The prime minister in her message to Malaysian Prime Minister Dats Seri Abdullah Bin Haji Ahmed Badawi said, "On the joyous occasion of the National Day of Malaysia, I, on behalf of the government and the people of Bangladesh and on my own behalf, extend to your excellency and through you to the brotherly people of Malaysia our heartfelt felicitations and warmest greetings."

"I firmly believe that the existing ties of brotherly relations between Bangladesh and Malaysia will be further strengthened in the years ahead to the mutual benefits of our two peoples," Begum Zia said.

She expressed her best wishes for his good health, long life and happiness and for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the people of Malaysia.

# Govt continues to violate constitution

Says Dr Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-Jamaat alliance is making new records everyday with regard to the violation of the constitution and politicisation of the judiciary, said eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain at a protest rally yesterday.

Although the ruling alliance swore an oath to uphold the constitution, they are now violating it every now and then and depriving the people of justice, he said.

Dr Kamal, also the president of Gono Forum, was speaking at a rally organised by Sammilita Ainjibi Parishad on the Supreme Court premises as part of its nationwide 'Save the Court, Save the Country' programmes.

He said the ruling alliance has brought about its own demise and that is why no movement to topple

the government is needed at the end of its five-year term.

"The ruling alliance has ceased to run the country as a government long ago. It would cling to power as an evil force during the remaining period of its tenure," said Dr Kamal.

The people have lost trust in the government as it failed to deliver any benefits to them, he added.

The government has also destroyed the environment of higher education in the country, Dr Kamal said and called for launching a movement to save the public universities.

Supreme Court Bar Association President Barrister Amir-Ul Islam presided over the programme while Advocates KM Saifuddin, Rahmat Ali MP, Mahub A Ali, Abdul Halim, Md Nuruzzaman Manir and Subrata Chowdhury also spoke.

After the rally, the lawyers took out a procession that paraded through different streets of the city.

Referring to the politicisation of key institutions, former secretary of

Supreme Court Bar Association M Enayur Rahim alleged that the government has turned the Election Commission into the Agargaon branch of BNP.

The Parishad announced that it would observe September 6 as 'Protest Day' in commemoration of the second anniversary of the ruling party cadres' atrocities at Dhaka Bar Association.

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## ABDUCTION OF BANGLADESHI Situation tense in Netrokona border areas

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrokona

A tense situation has been prevailing at Netrokona border belt as BSF did not free the youth who was abducted by them on Monday.

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) held a flag meeting yesterday to discuss the issue over abduction of a Bangladeshi youth.

BSF abducted the Bangladeshi citizen entering Bangladesh territory by pillar no 1600 at Barumari BOP range area under Kalmakanda upazila in Netrokona on Monday evening when he was collecting firewood near the Bangladesh border.

The victim was identified as Ataur Rahman, 35, son of Geti Sheikh of village Panchmari under Kolmakanda upazila.

Red alert was imposed at Netrokona border belt.

## JOURNO BELAL MURDER Transfer of case to Speedy Tribunal demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna Metropolitan Union of Journalists (KMUJ) yesterday submitted two memorandums to the prime minister and the state minister for home affairs demanding steps to transfer journalist Belal murder case to the Speedy Trial Tribunal of Khulna.

The Deputy Commissioner of Khulna Md Elias Hossain and the Commissioner of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) Khan Saeed Hasan received the memorandums separately from KMUR president Mohammad Anisuzzaman.

The memorandum said the trial of journalist Belal murder case is being delayed and the journalists of Khulna will not tolerate any attempt to delay the process of fair trial.

The KMUR has appealed to the PM to intervene in the matter in order to transfer the case to Speedy Trial Tribunal on priority basis.

## Prof Ehsanul joins UGC

BSS, Dhaka

Prof Dr Ehsanul Haque has joined the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh as full time member on August 28.

Prior to his joining the UGC, Prof Haque was the vice-chancellor of Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET), said a press release.



Jessore Union of Journalists (JUJ) brings out a mourning procession in the town to mark the 8th death anniversary of the Runner Editor Saiful Alam Mukul.



State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar visits the policeman at National Heart Foundation who died on duty during hartal hours at Mirpur in the city yesterday.

## Two bodies recovered in C'nawabganj

BSS, Chapainawabganj

Chapainawabganj sadar police recovered the bodies of two people from two different places of sadar upazila on Monday night and Tuesday morning.

Police said, being informed by the local people, a team of the police recovered the body of a teacher of Chapainawabganj Alia Madrasa from an abandoned latrine behind the victim's house on Monday.

The dead was identified as Abu Taher, 45, of Rehaicher under Chapainawabganj Municipal area. He had been remaining untraced since August 9.

Another team of the police recovered the body of a young lady identified as Idun, 20, of Malpara of Charbagdanga union under sadar upazila on Tuesday from a paddy field, some 200 yards away from her house.

However, the motive behind the murders is yet to be known.



## Moderately heavy falls likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said in a forecast.

Country's highest temperature 34.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 24.3 degree Celsius at Sandwip.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:18pm today and rises at 5:40am 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	32.2	26.8	72	67
Chittagong	32.7	25.6	76	75
Rajshahi	31.8	24.5	85	93
Khulna	31.4	25.5	89	95
Barisal	29.2	26.0	92	90
Sylhet	34.0	25.2	73	68
Cox's Bazar	31.0	24.4	97	83

# Bleak future for war-ravaged Sri Lankans

REUTERS, Kantale

Sheltering from the burning sun under a ragged awning in one of dozens of cramped refugee camps in Sri Lanka's war-ravaged east, 18-year-old Sharmila Rahim dreams of being a teacher and should be studying.

But her village was wrecked, her house damaged and her school books burnt as the military and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels began a new chapter of a two-decade civil war earlier this month.

She and her family are now among tens of thousands of people facing an uncertain future with no possessions, no money and living on food handouts.

"I am a village girl. I was studying general knowledge, Islam, Tamil and General English for my exams in 2007," the teen said in her native Tamil, standing in one of the few dresses she was able to salvage before fleeing on foot.

"Everything is destroyed by this life as an internally displaced person," she added. "I wanted to be a teacher, but it is God's will. The Army and LTTE do the fighting and in between we are the ones who suffer."

Her mother Nafeena is too scared to resettle in their village, despite a lull in fighting in the east. She says Tamil Tiger fighters shot her neighbour dead in front of her.

So instead they remain with more than 1,800 others crammed into 108 modest tents, each shared by up to seven families.

But many camps are situated on low-lying ground or slopes, and the imminent arrival of monsoon rains has prompted several hundred people to gradually try to resettle in their villages.

Already forced to spend most of the past year-and-a-half in a tent after his house was battered by the December 2004 tsunami, 58-year-old fisherman MCK Mohamed would rather take his chances back

in his native town of Muttur.

**WAR COMPOUNDS TSUNAMI WOE'S** "We are going back now," Mohamed said, clutching the hand of his grandson and standing beside a pile of plastic bags containing clothes and odds and ends, waiting for a bus. "I don't know whether the house I was rebuilding is still standing."

"We are afraid, but next month is Ramadan and I want to be back there for that. Besides when it starts raining, we can't live here," he added, his sarong dragging in the dirt and a fake Rolex on his wrist.

"All this is the Tigers' fault. I want to be rid of them."

Behind him, weary camp residents peek out from beneath tarpaulins watching a pot of water boil on an open fire as aid workers prepare a meal of rice and curry. Children play in litter-strewn corners and messages blare over a loud-speaker.

Aid staff have avoided epidemics

so far, but they and government officials alike worry that the heavy rains will cause havoc amid mounting pressure from Kantale's original mostly majority-Sinhalese community to empty schools of displaced people so that their children can resume lessons.

"We have two major problems. One is heavy rain will make these tents unusable," said Ahmed Zairak, project coordinator for local Muslim aid group Community Trust Fund, gesturing to some peppered with tears and gaping holes.

"The other is we don't have enough tents in the first place."

Local Muslim leaders are discouraging people from returning to conflict-hit areas until they have security guarantees from the government and from the Tigers, who each blame the other for continued sporadic fighting and show no signs of backing down.

The United Nations estimates that more than 180,000 people have been displaced in the north and east



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia addresses a huge public meeting at Badlagachi upazila in Naogaon yesterday.

## 'Political influence a threat to efficacy of arbitration'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Growing political influence in rural areas is posing a threat to the efficacy of community arbitration, which is playing an important role in resolving local and family disputes, speakers at a workshop said on Tuesday.

The impartiality of Union Parishad chairmen and members who conduct the mediation is in question as they are elected on political patronage, they said.

Nagorik Uddoyog organised the daylong workshop on 'Community Mediation: Strategies and issues in settling disputes and responding to domestic violence' at the VVA auditorium in the city, with its Chairman Dr Khan Sarwar Murshid as the chief guest.

Dr Dina M Siddiqi, research associate of Alice Paul Centre for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality, Pennsylvania University, presented the keynote paper at the workshop.

"There exists a broad consensus in Bangladesh that a modified Shalish (arbitration) has tremendous potential for making justice more accessible to marginalised individuals and groups. The huge backlogs, excessive delays, outrageous expenses and uncertain outcomes of the formal legal system make community mediation a much preferred alternative for many people," Dina said.

Mirza M Hasan of Brac University suggested establishing family court along with the Shalish conducted by non-government

organisations.

Advocate Maksuda Akhter said Bangladesh Mahila Parishad has been demanding establishment of family court to conduct Shalish and that this is an urgent need.

The speakers also stressed the need for a uniform system of Shalish procedures conducted by the human rights organisations.

Besides, achieving empowerment of women and promoting women leadership at local level is crucial to ensuring justice to the poor, they said.

Dr Faustina Perira of Ain O Shalish Kendra, Advocate Farida Yeasmin of BLAST, Advocate Ruma Sultana of Manusher Jonno, Advocate Rehana Sultana of BNWLA, and Zakir Hossain, chief executive of Nagorik Uddoyog, also spoke at the workshop.

## Prof Safiullah new Buet VC

Prof Dr AMM Safiullah was appointed vice-chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) yesterday, official sources said.

Safiullah, a professor of the Department of Civil Engineering of the University, succeeds Prof Dr M Alee Murtuza on the expiry of his four-year tenure.

## 79 AL men get bail in case filed by BNP

UNB, Benapole

Some 79 local Awami League leaders and workers yesterday got anticipatory bail from the High Court in a case filed by BNP men on August 15 over a clash in Sharsha upazila.

The High Court also asked the authority concerned not to harass them for the next six months.

At least 10 people were injured in the clash between BNP and Awami League activists over observing the death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Navaron Bazar in the upazila on August 15.

Following the clash BNP men filed a case against 79 AL leaders and workers while AL men also filed counter case against 47 BNP men.

After the incident the 79 AL men went into hiding to avoid arrest.

## Dawn-to-dusk hartal in Rangpur today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Rangpur Unnayan Parishad will observe a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the district today.

The local organisation called for the hartal demanding gas supply through pipe line, an education board in Rangpur division and formation of Rangpur region comprising eight northern districts.

Different socio-cultural and professional groups in the district expressed solidarity with the call for hartal.

Rangpur Unnayan Parishad held a rally at eight points in the town in the last two days in support of today's hartal.

## DHAKA TODAY

### Photo exhibition

The concluding ceremony of a photo exhibition on the life and works of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, organised by Bangabandhu Lalitakala Academy, will be held. Venue: Bangabandhu Memorial Trust premises. Time: 5:00pm.

### Drama

Nandonik Nattayasampradaya will stage 'Cleopatra'. Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall. Time: 7:00pm.

### Film manifestation

Dhaka University Film Society will screen two films as part of its 42nd World Film Manifestation programme. Venue: Alliance Francaise. Time: 3:00pm & 6:00pm.

### Conference

Ai Ai Ltd in association with British Council will present a delivery partnership conference on 'The longest story in the world project'. Venue: British Council auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

### Seminar

Mechanical engineering division of Engineers' Institution, Bangladesh will organise a seminar on 'Advancement of textile industries in Bangladesh: Future potentials'. Venue: Engineers' Institution. Time: 5:00pm.

### Consultation meeting

The national consultation meeting on proposed Broadband Policy will be held. Venue: ball room, Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Time: 4:45pm.

### Certificate giving ceremony

The closing and certificate giving ceremony of a daylong workshop on 'Millennium development Goals', jointly organised by UN, DFID and Debate for Democracy, will be held. Venue: IDB

Bhaban auditorium. Time: 3:30pm.

### Convention

Jatiya Krishak Samity O Khetmojur Union will hold 'Krishak-Khetmojur Convention'. Venue: Engineers' Institution. Time: 11:00am.

### Get together

Admirers of Humayun Azad organises a get together in memory of the versatile writer. Venue: Opposite to Bangla Academy. Time: 4:00pm.

### Bonsai exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of the 8th Annual Bonsai Exhibition, organised by Bangladesh Bonsai Samity, will be held. Venue: Shilpakala Academy exhibition gallery. Time: 10:30am.

### EDIM EXPO

EBL 6th EDIMEXPO 2006, organised by Conference and Exhibition Management (CEMS), will begin. Venue: Bashundhara City, level 7. Time: 10:00am.

### Blue for peace

Family members of slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria and civil society members will stage a demonstration as part of 'Blue for peace' programme. Venue: Satmasjid Road. Time: 5:00pm.

### Dialogue

Unnayan Shamannay and CUTS, India jointly organise a dialogue on 'Trade liberalisation and poverty linkage: RMG and mobile phone sectors in Bangladesh'. Venue: Conference room, Department of Development Studies, Arts Building, Dhaka University. Time: 01:00pm.

### Human chain

Princess Diana Memorial Club of Bangladesh will form a human chain demanding declaration of August 31 as 'International Day for Protecting Road Accidents'. Venue: Muktangan. Time: 10:30am.