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# A bloody day on roads

16 perish in 4 dists; victims include 7 of a family, 5 SSC examinees

STAR REPORT

At least 16 people, including seven in a single incident, died and 15 others were injured in different road crashes in four districts yesterday.

In Netrokona, five Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinees were killed and 18 others injured in a road accident in Durgapur upazila.

The accident took place in Shantinagar area on the Birisiri-Netrakona road around 9:00pm, reports our Mymensingh correspondent quoting police.

One of the victims was identified as Ridoy Mia, 16, son of Romzan Ali of Shalihor village in Gouripur. Identities of the four others, all of them male, could not be known immediately.

"23 SSC examinations from different educational institutions in Gouripur upazila of Mymensingh came to Birisiri for picnic travelling on two pick-up vans this morning [Saturday]," said Mahmuda Sharmin Nely, assistant superintendent of police (Durgapur-Kalmakanda Circle).

"When they were returning home, a Birisiri-bound truck from the opposite direction collided with the pick-up vans, and another sand-laden truck hit the vans from behind, leaving three dead on the spot and injuring others," said Superintendent of Netrakona Police Md Akbar Ali Munshi.

Of the injured, two died on the way to a local hospital, said the SP.

The other injured were admitted to Purbadhala Health Complex and Durgapur Upazila Health Complex in Netrakona. Of them, three were referred to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital as their condition deteriorated, the official also said.

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People thronging the Amar Ekushey book fair at Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital on the last day of the month-long event yesterday, which was also a weekend. Inset, buyers at a book stall.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



## Ekushey book fair ends with big turnout

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The month-long Amar Ekushey book fair, the country's biggest congregation of booklovers, authors, and publishers, ended yesterday with a massive turnout.

This year the fair, which offers city dwellers an oasis of solace amid the busy urban life, has witnessed the highest number of new books hitting the shelves in the last five years.

Many of the publishers seemed very happy with the sales on the last day of the fair while a few expressed dissatisfactions.

Member secretary of the fair organising committee Jalal Ahmed said the arrangement this time was better than the previous years.

While reading out the closing report, he said a total of 4,919 new titles hit the fair this year with 184 of them on the last day.

Like the previous years, books on poetry, novel and short story dominated the new arrival list.

According to Bangla Academy, the number of new titles was 4,834 in 2019, 4,591 in 2018, 3,646 in 2017 and 3,444 in 2016.

Jalal said according to organisers' estimates, the combined sale at this year's book fair was about Tk 82 crore, a rise from Tk 77.55 crore last year.

Several publishers

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### PRAYER TIMING MARCH 1

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5-15 12-45 4-30 6-05 7-30  
JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Muggers lurk on city streets

Police on special drive, arrest 42 suspects

MUNTAKIM SAAD

Wearing decent clothes and looking like a gentleman, one of them would greet you on the street or at a terminal.

"Assalamu Alaikum, how are you, brother?"

The chances are, you would stop for a moment and wonder if you knew him from somewhere. Once you stop, several men would appear at the scene, surround you, and mug you at knifepoint.

"Do not scream. Give us everything you have," they would tell you.

Several groups of muggers in the capital employ many other tricks to mug people.

Detectives in a special drive arrested 42 suspected muggers in different areas in the last few days, Abdul Baten, additional commissioner of Detective Branch of police, told a press conference at the Media Centre of Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday.

"Most of the arrestees had been accused of mugging in cases filed earlier," he said.

Meanwhile, a middle-aged woman died in Mugda area yesterday morning after she fell off a rickshaw because muggers in a moving car grabbed and snatched away her purse, causing her to fall from the moving three-wheeler.

Baten said bag snatching had become frequent in the city and the victims were mostly women.

Another trick employed by the muggers is, one of them would bump into a pedestrian and blame them of breaking their phone. The muggers would then corner the victim and rob him, the official added.

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MUGGING ATTEMPT CLAIMS WOMAN'S LIFE - PAGE 2

## FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

### 'My country is irrevocably committed to democracy'



Axei Kosygin, prime minister of the Soviet Union, receiving Bangabandhu at Vnukovo Airport in Moscow on March 1, 1972.

MARCH 1, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

### BANGABANDHU- KOSYGIN TALKS BEGIN

Talks between the Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Alexei Kosygin and the Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman opens in Kremlin. The talk starts shortly after the arrival of Bangabandhu in Moscow.

The questions of bilateral issues, international problems and subjects of mutual interests have been discussed during the talks. Bangabandhu explains to the Soviet leaders the extent of devastation and destruction caused by the Pakistan occupation army and points out to them the urgent need for massive aid for the reconstruction of the ruined economy of Bangladesh. He seeks help from the Soviet Union for the ongoing projects in Bangladesh.

Kosygin expresses confidence at the banquet given by him in honour of Bangabandhu that cooperation between Bangladesh and the Soviet Union is going to be fruitful and that it will meet

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2

## Normalcy returns to Delhi

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA

Signs of normalcy returned to riot-hit areas of northeast Delhi yesterday with people venturing out of their homes to buy groceries and medicines from a few shops that were opened amid intensified patrolling by security personnel.

Since early morning, civic workers were seen clearing roads of bricks, glass shards and burnt vehicles and tyres in the aftermath of three days violence that left 42 people dead and over 200 injured.

The number of people and vehicles in the streets of Jaffrabad, Maujpur, Yamuna Vihar, Chand Bagh, Mustafabad and Bhajanpura was higher than those in the previous five days.

These are among the areas worst affected by the communal violence that erupted on February 23 over the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act.

Personnel of the Delhi Police and paramilitary forces encouraged people to open their shops and appealed for peace and communal harmony.

Schools in northeast Delhi will remain closed till March 7 and board

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

## Will the real Putin please stand up?



AFP, Moscow

Russian President Vladimir Putin has revealed there was a secret plan to use a double to make public appearances for him, while insisting he vetoed it -- and that he is the real Putin.

Putin's comments showed that a conspiracy theory widespread on the internet that the Russian strongman has been impersonated over the years or even replaced by a lookalike is not entirely without basis.

TASS state news agency showed Putin a list

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## US, Taliban sign historic peace deal

Agree 14 months' timetable for a full foreign troops withdrawal

AFP, Doha

The United States signed a landmark deal with the Taliban yesterday, laying out a timetable for a full troop withdrawal from Afghanistan within 14 months as it seeks an exit from its longest war.

The agreement is expected to lead to a dialogue between the Taliban and the Kabul government that, if successful, could ultimately see an end to the grinding 18-year conflict.

Taliban fighter-turned-dealmaker Mullah Baradar signed the accord alongside Washington's chief negotiator Zalmay Khalilzad, in a conference room in a luxury hotel in the Qatari capital.

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সর্বকালের সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ বাঙ্গালী জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের

বীমা স্মৃতি বিজড়িত

**১লা মার্চ জাতীয় বীমা দিবস উপলক্ষে**

আয়োজিত সকল অনুষ্ঠান সফল হক, স্বার্থক হোক।

“বীমা দিবসে শপথ করি উন্নত দেশ গড়ি”

শেখ কবির হোসেন  
প্রেসিডেন্ট



**বাংলাদেশ ইন্স্যুরেন্স এসোসিয়েশন**

হোসেন টাওয়ার (লেভেল-৯), বঙ্গকালভার্ট রোড, ১১৬, নয়া পল্টন, ঢাকা-১০০০

**১ম জাতীয় বীমা দিবস**  
সফল হোক

জাতির জনক বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান  
১৯৬০ সনের ১লা মার্চ বীমা পেশায়  
যোগদান করেন। সরকার ১লা মার্চকে  
জাতীয় বীমা দিবস  
ঘোষণা করায় বীমা শিল্প গর্বিত

- পলিসিহোল্ডার ও বীমাকর্মী উপকৃত হলেই বঙ্গবন্ধুর প্রতি প্রকৃত শ্রদ্ধা প্রদর্শন করা হবে।
- মেঘনা লাইফ পলিসিহোল্ডার ও বীমাকর্মীদের স্বার্থ সংরক্ষণে বন্ধপরিকর।
- মেঘনা লাইফে পলিসি করুন। নিজে লাভবান হউন ও পরিবারকে নিরাপদে রাখুন।
- মেঘনা লাইফ ২০১৯ সন পর্যন্ত প্রায় ৭ লক্ষ পলিসিহোল্ডারকে মেয়াদোত্তীর্ণ ও ২৪ হাজার পরিবারকে মৃত্যু দাবীসহ প্রায় ২২০০ কোটি টাকা দাবী পরিশোধ করেছে।

**মেঘনা লাইফ ইন্স্যুরেন্স কোম্পানী লিমিটেড**  
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