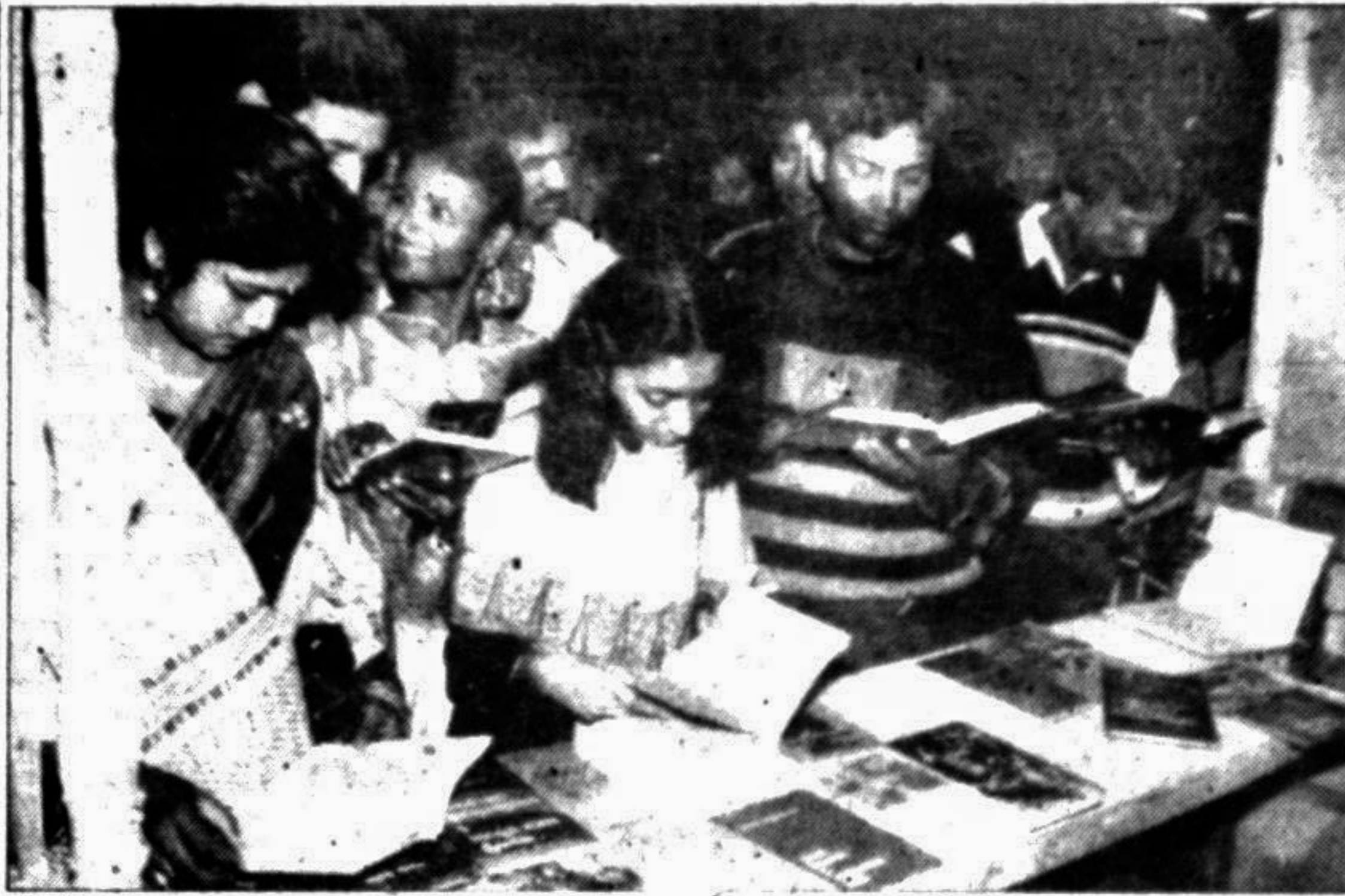


Metropolitan

**Dhaka Day by Day**

**A Book Fair Looking to Newer Horizon**

by Shamsad Mortuza



Browsing among books at the fair.

— Star photo

Bijoy Sharoni is certainly not the ideal venue for a book fair. The rickshaws do not have access there, there is no bus-stop nearby and the venue does not have a traditional area like that of Bangla Academy. Besides, with only days ahead of the Ekushey book gala, even the timing does not suit many of the followers of such events. Well, against all odds the Dhaka Book Fair 1995 has managed to draw a healthy flow of book lovers. According to the organisers — the Jatiya Grontha Kendra, the number of crowd varies between 10,000-12,000 every day. On a Friday, the figure even rose up to 20,000. The visitors also do not seem to mind the two-take entrance fee to enter the venue, spread over four acres of land.

A total of 53 publishing houses, including five foreign companies and 24 local agents of foreign publishers are taking part in the fortnight-long book fair. The foreign participants are: The World Bank, Cirdap, ICDR, ACCU and European Kaleidoscope (printed matters put on display by the British Council, Goethe Institut and the Alliance Francaise). The foreign publishers represented, by their local dealers are Oxford University, Willy Eastern, Vikas, Rupa, Madhuban, UBSPD from India, Gollins, Pitman, Pinter, Cassell, Transworld Ladybird, Cambridge University Press, Hodder and Soughton from the United Kingdom; John Wiley, Walter Forster, Mac Graw Hill from the USA; KIP, Elsevier, EJ Brill from the Netherlands and Erobekhan from Japan.

The list of the publishing houses may well support the organisers' claim that the fair is an international one. But the fact remains that the internationally famed houses have only a token participation in the fair. No wonder, you will

only find the cheap paperback edition of popular writers like Sidney Sheldon, Robin Cook or Alberto Moravia. And most of the overseas publishers have piled up development-oriented books. At least, the buyers will be acquainted with the names of the World class publishers. To add further lure to the fair, the exchange rate of one pound is Tk 50 and one rupee is Tk 1.20. This, normally in any city book stores will be Tk 80 plus and Tk 1.5 respectively.

Even the local publishers are giving a 20 per cent commission on their sales. The most interesting feature of the fair is probably that publishers are only entitled to sell their own books. This gives the buyers a rare opportunity to browse through a good number of books to make their choice. And for those who like to be in the crowd-usually known as the window-shoppers, the organisers have even arranged various cultural programmes. The distractions of Ekushey Mela — cassettes and handicrafts — are based in this Dhaka Book Fair. To give a further life lift to the whole show, the organisers have arranged several sponsors. The huge yellow balloon hovering over the fair premise is sponsored by a foreign agency. According to unconfirmed sources, 50,000 taka was spent just to fill up the gas balloon. Still, the helium was not enough to give its full shape, one Mela official said.

Well, whether or not the balloon has its full flight seem immaterial as long as the crowd of the book lovers is concerned. The mela will surely set the tone for the Ekushey book fair. Let us hope this Dhaka fair will one day expand into a full fledged international congregation of book lovers, publishers and writers.

**Dhaka, Warsaw likely to sign 3 accords**

Bangladesh and Poland are expected to sign three agreements shortly to bolster cooperation between the two countries, reports UNB.

Diplomatic sources here said yesterday Dhaka and Warsaw are now negotiating the three agreements on promotion and protection of investment, avoidance of double taxation and on air service.

A two-member high powered Polish delegation is due to arrive here on Saturday to give final touch to the process of concluding the accords.

The sources said a new horizon will be ushered in the Dhaka Warsaw relations, particularly in the fields of economic cooperation after signing of the agreements.

Poland may also provide assistance to the mining, cement production and power sectors of Bangladesh, they said.

Experts from the Eastern European country have earned name by extending their services to different Asian and African country in the fields of coal and limestone mines.

**31 to get award for agricultural development**

Thirty-one people will be given 'Presidential Award for Agricultural Development' for their outstanding contributions in the field, reports UNB.

A government announcement said Tuesday the nominations for the awardees were finalised at a meeting of the board of trustees held at the Secretariat with Agriculture and Water Resources Minister Major General M Majid-ul-Haq (ret'd) in the chair.

On choosing the candidates, emphasis had been given on those sustaining increased productivity in the agricultural sector to meet the demand of the growing population.

The meeting also discussed the strategy of motivating common farmers to follow modern technology and popularising high-yielding varieties of crops, and stressed the need for giving incentives to women for the production of milk, poultry and eggs.

Agriculture Secretary M Akhtar Ali, Justice (ret'd) Abdul Wadud Chowdhury and Vice-Chancellor of Mymensingh Agriculture University Shah Mohammad Faruk attended the meeting.



Ambassador of Switzerland to Bangladesh Jean Pierre Zhenner made a farewell call on Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday. — Star photo

**Taka 20 lakh allocated**

**Month-long CCC mosquito killing programme from Jan 14**

CHITTAGONG Jan 11: Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) will begin a month-long crash programme on cleanliness and mosquito killing from January 14, reports BSS.

City Mayor Alhaj A B M Mahiuddin Chowdhury told newsmen in the corporation conference room here today that an additional amount of Taka 20 lakh has been allocated for the programme.

The mayor expressed his grave concern over the large scale breeding of mosquitos for past few months.

Mahiuddin Chowdhury said every nook and corner of the 41 wards of the corporation will gradually be brought under crash programme.

The mayor said new kinds of effective medicines would be used in the mosquito killing and brick preparations have been made to make the programme a success.

He said the Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperative Abdu Salam Talukdar will formally inaugurate the programme tomorrow.

Referring to the on-going development projects in the corporation the city mayor said 727 different schemes under development programmes an expenditure of Taka 113.71 crore is being implemented during the current financial year.

The chief executive officer Abdul Wahhab, secretary of the corporation Alauddin and acting chief conservancy officer Saifuddin Khatebi were, among others, explained the various programmes at the press conference.

**Outgoing Swiss envoy meets President**

Outgoing Ambassador of Switzerland to Bangladesh Jean-Pierre Zhenner made a farewell call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangladesh yesterday, reports UNB.

Exchanging views with the envoy, Biswas expressed his satisfaction at the excellent relations between Switzerland and Bangladesh that have grown in depth and dimension.

**Khaleda greets Jordanian PM**

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has extended greetings to Jordanian Prime Minister Sharif Zaid bin Shaker on his appointment as the Prime Minister of Jordan, reports BSS.

Begum Zia in a felicitation message to the Jordanian Prime Minister said "I look forward to working in close cooperation with you for further strengthening the fraternal ties that exist between our two Islamic countries."

**Free Friday Clinic**

By Staff Correspondent

Three specialist doctors Dr Maniruzzaman Bhuiyan, Dr N M Abdal and Dr Mohammad Shahidullah, will treat the patients free of cost at a specialised Free Friday Clinic of the Bangladesh Private Medical Practitioners Association (BPMPPA) from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon tomorrow.

The clinic is situated at 215/A, Outer Circular Road in Baramaghazbar in the city.

**JU convocation**

By JU Correspondent

Preparations for the convocation of the Jahangirnagar University (JU) are going on in full swing. Students who received graduation degrees in 1987-88, session, post graduation in 1990-91 session and MPhil and PhD till December 31, 1994 will be given certificates.

Students of the university willing to attend the convocation have been asked to submit applications and registration fees to the Registrar Office by January 19.



The stipend distribution ceremony of Mazedul Islam Education Trust was held yesterday in the city. Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives, Abdu Salam Talukdar was present at the chief guest. Deputy Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad, Humayun Khan Panni was the special guest.

**'Govt gives priority to female edn'**

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday said government had given priority to female education in the country by making education free up to class ten for the girl students outside the municipal areas and also providing them stipends, reports BSS.

The President said this while he was speaking with the members of a delegation representing the teachers and managing committee of Bardonia Shah Mojida Moulana Abdul Bari Girls' High School under Satkania thana of Chittagong called on him at Bangabhaban.

He said government believed that an educated mother could rear up her children better and contribute more to the socio-economic development including population control and proper education to the future generation.

**200 get Mazedul Islam Sikkha Trust stipend**

LCRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdu Salam Talukdar yesterday urged the well-off section of society to extend their hands to better the lives of country's poor people, reports BSS.

The minister said this at the stipend distribution ceremony of the Mazedul Islam Sikkha Trust, an affiliated body of the Greater Mymensingh Association, at city's Shilpakala Academy auditorium.

Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni attended the function as a special guest.

Deputy Minister for Shipping ABM Zahidul Haq, entrepreneur Shaful Islam Kamal Law Secretary Mirza Asaduzzaman al-Faruq, Dr Ashraf Siddiqi and secretary general of the Greater Mymensingh Association Fakir Ashraf also spoke at the function while president of the association and Defence Secretary Hasinur Rahman chaired.

Education Secretary Azizul Haq conducted the ceremony in which 200 poor and talented students of colleges and universities from Greater Mymensingh received stipend worth Tk 1000 each.

The owner of the country's one of the biggest business enterprises, Islam Family, introduced the regular stipend programme in memory of its member late engineer Mazedul Islam.

Elder brother of late Islam, Ahaj Zahurul Islam, was also present on the occasion.



**Kulkhwani**

Namaz-e-Janaza of Shaif Ahmed will be held today at Lalmatia Shahi Mosque (Bibir Masjid) premises after Zohr prayers, reports BSS.

The quikhwani will be held tomorrow at 4 pm at 3/1, block-c, Lalmatia.

Ahmed was the founder director of erstwhile Eastern News Agency (ENA), managing director of Bangladesh Gas Limited and Bangladesh representative of multinational advisory company John Brown.

Quikhwani of Kazi Abdus Sattar, general manager of Sonali bank, will be held today after Asr prayers at his residence at 60/9d Dhalpur, North Jaurabari in the city.

**12 pickpockets held at N'ganj**

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Jan 11: Narayanganj police nabbed 12 pickpockets, two of them women, from the bus and launch terminal areas of the town in a pre-dawn swoop yesterday, the third day of their week-long special drive against criminals.

**What's on today . . . .**

**Charity auction & fashion show:** An open charity auction sale of French luxury products will be held. The three-day auction sale will begin at 6 pm and continue till midnight. A fashion show will also be presented at 4 pm by Bibi Russef, and internationally reputed model and designer and Naseema Hasan Ankhil, another designer. Venue: Gulshan residence of French Ambassador, (House-7, Road-99, Gulshan).

**Kabi Ahsan Habib Memorial Committee:** The committee will hold the Kabi Ahsan Habib Award for Literature '94 presentation ceremony. The award will be given to poet Nirmalendu Gun. Venue: Biswa Sahitya Kendra auditorium. Time: 5 pm, Chief guest: Roknuzzaman Khan.

**Seminar:** The Bangladesh Manobigyan Samity will hold a seminar on 'Psychological and Educational Aspects of Technology Transfer in Developing Countries'. Venue: BANBEZ auditorium. Time: 3:30 pm.

**Jams Pharmaceuticals:** The foundation laying ceremony of Jams Pharmaceuticals-Complex Building will be held. Venue: Jams Pharmaceuticals, Section-7, Mirpur. Time: 10:30 am.

**Ghasful Khelaghar:** The organisation will hold a film show. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre. Time: 4:30 pm.

**. . . . and tomorrow . . . .**

**Project Five-O Workshop:** A workshop on women and development for creating awareness among the rural women about CEDAW and CRC will be held. Venue: Five-O Health Centre, Gacha, Gazipur. Time: 9:30 am.

**Bangladesh Sangbad Pathak Samity:** The 7th annual general meeting of the samity will be held. Venue: 'Sihapatil Sangsad Limited' (House No-4, Road No-9, Dhanmondi). Time: 10 am.

**Rotary Club of Ramna:** The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Eden Press, Hathkhola. Time: 9:30 am.

**Weather**

**Dry weather likely**

Weather is likely to remain dry across the country during the next 12 hours till 6:00 pm today, reports UNB.

The Met Office forecasts night temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country.

In its outlook for subsequent two days the Met Office forecasts further fall in night temperature. Giving extended outlook for another five days weathermen predicted a little change.

Country's lowest temperature 11.3 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Srimangal and the highest 28.4 degrees at Teknaf.

The sun sets today at 5:30 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:44 am.

The minimum and maximum temperatures and humidity in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Min	Max	Mor	Eve
Dhaka	15.8	26.3	77	61
Chittagong	16.0	27.3	70	65
Rajshahi	13.0	24.1	89	86
Khulna	13.7	26.3	78	77
Barisal	14.5	25.7	89	74
Sylhet	14.5	27.5	86	70
Cox's Bazar	18.0	28.0	67	74

**US embassy to remain closed Sunday**

The American Embassy, the United States Information Service (USIS), the USIS Library and the student counselling services will remain closed on Sunday on the occasion of birth anniversary Dr Martin Luther King, Jr, reports UNB.

Birthday of slain civil right leader Dr King is a national holiday in the United States.

Dr King's birthday is on January 16 but the holiday will be observed in the US Mission here on January 15 because of the Sunday-Thursday work-week.

**Bangladesh Foundation award**

The Bangladesh Foundation has decided to award gold medals every year on the occasion of Victory Day to noted personalities for their contribution in the field of literature, culture, journalism and social welfare, says a press release.

The gold medals will be awarded at New York, USA in March. The foundation has nominated the following personalities for the current year.

- Prof Abdullah Abu Syyed (literature), Matur Rahman Chowdhury (journalism), Subarna Mustafa (acting), Prosenjit Mukherjee (acting), Samina Nabi (music), Mitali Mukherjee (music), Ratna Rahmatullah (social welfare), Alhaj M Ibrahim Chowdhury (social welfare).

**5 killed in city road accidents in two days**

By DMCH Correspondent

At least five persons, including two minor girls, were killed and another two injured in separate incidents in and out skirts of the city during last two days.

A minor girl was killed when a speeding truck ran over her at Mughda Para in the city yesterday evening.

The seriously injured victim Moli, 9, was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the attending doctor declared her dead.

In another road mishap, a 28-year old Khorsheed was killed by an unidentified vehicle at Savedabad in the city yesterday morning.

A 6-year old pedestrian Lutfur Nahar, was fatally injured under the wheels of a speeding bus at Baripara on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway on Tuesday afternoon and later she was taken to the DMCH, where she died early yesterday.

A hotel employee Liton, 27, was sent to the Orthopaedic Hospital (Pongu Hospital) when a speeding truck knocked him down near Jurain rail gate Tuesday night. Later, seriously injured Liton succumbed to his injuries at 1 am yesterday.

A 25-year old pedestrian was killed on the spot when a train ran over him at Gandaria rail gate Tuesday evening.

The victim, however, was not immediately identified. Police sent all the bodies to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Two school boys were injured while making crackers at Sayed Awlad Hossain Lane, Sutrapur in the city yesterday afternoon.

The victims — Shiplu, 14, a student of class seven of the Progoz High School and Tarek, 15, a student of class nine of the Hamdia High School — received injuries in their faces and hands and was admitted to the DMCH.

**Obituary**

By Staff Correspondent

Muhammad Khalilur Rahman, a former civil servant and a former CSP, died of cardiac arrest yesterday at the Holy Family Hospital. He was 61.

His namaz-e-Janaza will be held today after Zohr prayers at the Banani Bazar Mosque. Later, he will be buried at the Banani graveyard.

The quikhwani of the deceased will be held at his Banani residence after Asr prayers tomorrow.

**ERRATA**

In yesterday's Computer Special tabloid top headings on page 3 and page 6 'How times have changed! Computer Served as fax, telephone and link to the Internet' and 'Electronic show/Use computers — keep desk clean' respectively were inadvertently put in place of one another. Readers inconvenience is regretted.