

Six security men of Khaleda hurt in road accident

By Staff Correspondent
Six security men of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia were injured, one seriously, when their pick-up van collided head-on with a private car on the Hare Road in the city on Eid day.
The security men of the Special Branch of police were escorting Begum Zia's car to Bangabhaban from her cantonment residence. She was going to Bangabhaban to exchange Eid greetings with President Shahabuddin Ahmed.
According to Ramna police, the car, bearing the number Dhaka Gha-9936, hit the police van at 8:05pm. The car was driven by one Ashik Sultan. He

2 minor girls raped in city

By Staff Correspondent
Two minor girls were raped in the city in the last five days, police said.
In one incident, a 10-year-old girl was raped inside a godown at Mohammadpur Krishi Market Wednesday afternoon.
The girl was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. A case was filed with Mohammadpur thana.
Police held the lone accused in the case, Rahim. He was sent to Dhaka Central Jail.
In the other incident, a 16-year-old garments worker was gang-raped in Mirpur Section One early Monday. A case was

Inside Today

Article

Economic Reforms Require Good Governance

Column: Beneath the Surface
by Abdul Bayes
Symbols for Accountability
Column: As I See It
by Ikram Sehgal
Page 4

Star Literature

Critical social theory: An introduction; Compiling and editing folklore
Pages 6,7

Peace deal ending bloodshed in Northern Ireland

BELFAST, Apr 10: After a day and a half of non-stop talks, weary negotiators concluded an agreement late this afternoon designed to bring peace to Northern Ireland for the first time in decades, reports AFP.
"I am pleased to announce that the two governments and the political parties in Northern Ireland have reached agreement," said the American Chairman of the peace talks, George Mitchell.
"I have never felt the sense of gratification, responsibility and gratitude that I feel today," he added.
"It was a truly remarkable

experience for me. I have never been in any place with better people. This is a remarkable place with remarkable people," he added.
The agreement was formally put to the opening of a plenary session of the talks chaired by Mitchell.
Negotiators in turn, including Gerry Adams, leader of Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, and Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble paid tribute to Mitchell for his conduct of the talks.
There were also tributes to British and Irish Prime Ministers Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern for the role they had played

over the past 48 hours.
The historic accord was reached in a marathon session at Stormont outside Belfast. Negotiators worked right through a midnight Thursday deadline set by George Mitchell.
The agreement aims to end decades of violence between Protestants who make up the majority in the province and want continued British rule there and Catholics who seek union with the Irish Republic to the south.
The peace settlement will be put to a referendum in Northern Ireland on May 22. Blair's spokesman said. Ireland will

Hasina greets Blair

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina last night congratulated British Prime Minister Tony Blair for achieving great success in settling the long-drawn Northern Ireland problem and wished the friendly British government and people their continue success in the coming days, reports BSS.
In a message to British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Sheikh Hasina said, please accept our heartfelt and warmth

150 Hajj pilgrims killed in stampede at Meena

MEENA. (Saudi Arabia) Apr 10: A total of 118 Hajj pilgrims died in a stampede Thursday near the holy city of Makkah. Saudi Arabia's health ministry said in a statement read on state television, report agencies.
"The total and definitive number of the dead is 118, 11 having died in hospital," the ministry said, updating the previous toll of 107 given by the official SPA news agency.
Saudi officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said 150 people, most of them elderly, were trampled or plunged to their deaths as pilgrims rushed forward to take part in the 'stoning the devil' ritual.

An additional 200 people were injured, the Arab News, a Saudi newspaper reported.
Gen Ahmad Bilal, director general of public security, said some 700,000 pilgrims were crowding by the site of the stoning at midday Thursday, when people began to press forward.
"The number was frightening and the crowd advanced like a torrent," he told the English-language paper.
He said some security officers who tried to control the crowd were trampled and hospitalized.
"What can the government do if the pilgrims do not follow the instructions?" he asked.

Pilgrimage Minister Mahmud Safar said the deaths were due to 'fate and destiny' adding that the pilgrims has neglected to follow instructions, the newspaper reported.
Two thousand police cordoned off the area of the stampede and helped evacuate the dead and the wounded to hospitals, the Saudi Gazette reported.
A local police official said on condition of anonymity that thousands of pilgrims would have died if security forces had not intervened to stop the rush.
Before the stampede began, police had been holding back crowds outside the area where



President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Eid congregation at the Jatiya Eidgah in the city. —Star photo

Road accidents kill 14 during Eid holiday

By Staff Correspondent
At least 14 persons were killed and 34 others injured in road accidents in six districts during the Eid holiday.
Four people, including three members of a family, were killed and 15 others injured in a road accident at Dawlatpur of Daudkandi thana on Dhaka-Chittagong highway on Tuesday.
Police said the accident occurred when a microbus collided with a Dhaka-bound truck and later was hit by a Comilla-bound passengers bus at about 11 am.
Of the dead, three were identified as Abdul Quyum, 35, of village Kamella in Muradnagar thana of the district, his wife Shahida, 25, and son Saddam, 9. The other person was the

Eid-ul-Azha celebrated

Holy Eid-ul-Azha, the second greatest festival of the Muslims, was celebrated throughout the country on Wednesday with due solemnity and religious fervour, reports UNB.
The Muslims observed the day sacrificing animals in the name of Almighty Allah and offering wazeh prayers at Eidgah and mosques all over the country.
The main Eid congregation in the capital was held at National Eidgah at 8 am under the supervision of the Dhaka City Corporation.
President Shahabuddin Ahmed offered his Eid prayers there. Ministers, city mayor Mohammad Hanif and elite of the city also offered their Eid prayers at the main congregation.
The President exchanged Eid greetings with the elite of

Violent protest follows arrest of 16 BCL activists at Ctg

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Apr 10: Workers of Bangladesh Chhatra League went on a rampage and exchanged fire with police in the city last night following the arrest of some 16 party activists.
One police constable was injured and about 20 vehicles were damaged during the clash, police and witnesses said.
The arrested included former vice president of MES college students' union Helal Akbar Chowdhury Babar and incumbent general secretary Surajit Barua. They were arrested from Nandankanon area at 6 pm in connection with criminal cases.
Angered by the arrest, the supporters went on a rampage. They damaged vehicles and exchanged fire with police at Nandankanon, Bouddhamondir Road, GEC crossing and Sholoshahar area.
Later, police were reinforced to bring the situation under control.

BCL activists attack house of Nasir's accomplice: 2 shot dead

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Apr 10: At least two villagers were shot dead when a group of armed activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) attacked the house of one Humayun, an accomplice of Shibir-backed terrorist Nasir, at Mandakini village under Hathazari thana early yesterday.
The dead were identified as

31 Bangladeshi pilgrims die, 3 in stampede

Three Bangladeshi pilgrims were killed in the stampede in Meena on Thursday. Foreign Office sources in Dhaka said yesterday, reports BSS.
The victims were found by a team formed by the Bangladesh embassy in Saudi Arabia, the sources added.
The dead were identified as Mohammad Hamiduddin (Passport No 352125, Maktab No 33 and File No 54), Ershad Ali Bashar Mia (Passport No 1892, Maktab No 39 and File No 49) and Ahmed Baqi Dhali (Passport No 3667, Maktab No 35 and File No 36).
Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, who is now in Saudi Arabia, has visited the site of stampede.
He confirmed the death of three Bangladeshi pilgrims and visited others injured during the stampede.
Meanwhile Prime Minister

Settlers, tribals clash: Sec 144 at Dighinala

From Our Correspondent
KHAGRACHHARI, Apr 10: At least 15 people were injured when settlers and tribesmen clashed near Dighinala thana here yesterday over killing of two settler children by unidentified persons on April 6.
Authorities clamped Section 144 of CrPC in Dighinala sadar area.
Besides police, Army and BDR personnel have been deployed to ward off further clash, administration sources said.
See Page 12 Col 4

Bill Richardson's visit 'highly significant'

By Staff Correspondent
A high level US government delegation led by influential politician and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Bill Richardson will arrive in Dhaka tomorrow on a two-day official visit to Bangladesh.
He will be accompanied by Karl Inderfurth, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia and Bruce Riedel, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director, Near East and South Asian Affairs, National Security Council. The team will arrive by a special US government aircraft.
The visit of Richardson, who holds the rank of cabinet minister and is a close friend of President Clinton, is being viewed as very important for promoting US-Bangladesh business ties. The team will particularly probe the prospects of US companies getting big business in Bangladesh, specially relating to the potential energy sources said.
A foreign ministry official, without elaborating, said Richardson's visit is "highly significant as it would be renewing US business interest in Bangladesh besides improving bilateral ties."
Richardson will arrive late tomorrow night and leave early Tuesday. He is due to visit a rehabilitation centre in the city, where women and children rescued from traffickers are staying. He will address a seminar on 'Making Democracy Work in



Abeda Hafiz dead

By Staff Correspondent
Dr Mrs Abeda Hafiz, renowned educationist, ex-principal of Eden Giri's College and wife of former Speaker Mirza Golam Hafiz, died in London on Wednesday. She was 72.
Mrs Hafiz along with her husband and son was on her way to the United States on Tuesday for treatment. Her condition deteriorated during the flight and she was rushed to a London Hospital. Following

আমরা শোকাভিভূত

দেশের ঔষধ শিল্প বিকাশে অনন্য ব্যক্তিত্ব, বৃহত্তর বরিশালের কৃতি সন্তান, নিরলস সমাজসেবক ও আত্ম মানবতার সেবায় নিবেদিত প্রাণ বিশিষ্ট শিল্পপতি অপসোনিন কেমিক্যাল ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ লিমিটেড -এর প্রতিষ্ঠাতা চেয়ারম্যান জনাব আব্দুল খালেক খানের ইন্তেকালে আমরা গভীরভাবে শোকাভিভূত। তাঁর মৃত্যুতে দেশ এক মহত্বপূর্ণ, দানবীর, নির্ভীক সমাজসেবককে হারাল। আমরা তাঁর বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি এবং শোক সন্তপ্ত পরিবারের প্রতি গভীর সমবেদনা জানাচ্ছি।

অপসোনিন কেমিক্যাল ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ লিমিটেড -এর কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীবৃন্দ

Deportation begins soon 'Malaysia detained not more than 1029 Bangladeshis'

By Reaz Ahmad
One thousand twenty-nine Bangladeshi nationals in Malaysia, served with deportation orders, might return home within a week, Bangladesh High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur has said.
Talking to The Daily Star over telephone on Monday, High Commissioner Wajed Ali Khan Panni confirmed that except those 1,029, no other Bangladeshi national was now in detention camps.
Following a press report in this regard, Panni said, "We checked it with the Malaysian government and learnt that these people have no legal work permits in their possession."
The Malaysian authorities will arrange a special flight

Number of motorised vehicles doubles in eight years till '96

By Mizan Ali
The number of motorised vehicles plying on the roads across the country had nearly doubled in eight years, till 1996, according to a survey conducted by the Transport Survey Wing of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority.
The total number of motorised vehicles was 2,51,765 in 1989 and it rose to 4,35,311 in 1996.
"In recent years, road traffic increased by about nine per cent annually," said the survey report, available recently.
Motorised traffic exceeded 1000 vehicles per day (VPD) on about 13.8 per cent of the road network under the Roads and Highways Department and it was below 200 VPD on about 60 per cent of these roads.
But 40 per cent of the national road network had 1000-2000 VPD, 13 per cent had 2000

আমরা শোকাভিভূত

বাংলাদেশের ঔষধ শিল্প বিকাশে অনন্য ব্যক্তিত্ব, বৃহত্তর বরিশালের কৃতি সন্তান, নিরলস সমাজসেবক ও আত্ম মানবতার সেবায় নিবেদিত প্রাণ বিশিষ্ট শিল্পপতি আমাদের শ্রদ্ধেয় চেয়ারম্যান জনাব আব্দুল খালেক খান এর ইন্তেকালে আমরা গভীরভাবে শোকাভিভূত। তাঁর মৃত্যুতে দেশ এক মহত্বপূর্ণ, দানবীর, নির্ভীক সমাজসেবককে হারানো। আমরা তাঁর বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করি এবং শোক সন্তপ্ত পরিবারের প্রতি গভীর সমবেদনা জানাই।

কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীবৃন্দ
অপসোনিন কেমিক্যাল ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ লিমিটেড -এর
কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীবৃন্দ