

## Road accidents kill 8 in Dhaka, Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least eight people were killed and 65 others were injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka and Sylhet districts yesterday.

Of them, five were killed in Sylhet and the rest three in Dhaka.

Our Staff Correspondent from Sylhet reports: Five people were killed and 30 others injured in a road accident at Dakurmohal under Osmani Nagar police station on Dhaka-Sylhet highway yesterday morning.

The accident occurred when a Habiganj-bound passenger coach from Sylhet collided head on with a bus coming from Brahmanbaria at about 9-30 am.

Three persons died on the spot while two others succumbed to their injuries at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Of the injured, 20 were admitted to the hospital.

On of the dead was identified as Bidyut Chakrabarty, 42, of Nayasarak of Sylhet town. The identity of two others could not be known.

## Clash between 2 groups leaves 30 hurt in Sirajganj

UNB, Sirajganj

Some 30 people were injured in a clash between two groups of people at Chandrakona village in Sadar upazila here yesterday.

Witnesses said the clash erupted at about 3:30 pm when supporters of Matzal of the village equipped with lethal weapons launched attack on his son-in-law Motaleb.

Motaleb had a quarrel with his wife Sufia on Thursday night following his third marriage.

Thirteen of the injured were admitted to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital.

Condition of five injured people -- Motaleb, Abu Taleb, Milon, Abul Hussain and Moti -- was stated to be critical.

A case was filed with local police in this regard.

## They killed my father

FROM PAGE 12  
police on the plea of searching it to nab a terrorist, Tayeb, Saikat said. "One of them confined my mother in a room and three others entered the bedroom to wake up my sleeping father. When my father woke up, he was forced to come to the drawing room. The killers asked him whether Tayeb was inside our house" Saikat said.

"Before the firing, I heard my father saying I am the principal of Nazirhat College. I will not tell a lie. I don't know anything about Tayeb", Saikat narrated.

Replying to a question Saikat said his father might have been killed because of disputes in the college.

"Actually, my father did not tell us about any problem in the college. He always advised us to be devoted to studies.

"My father also used to advise others to be very careful about studies. He helped many poor students of the college. Every year he gave money from his pocket to 10-12 poor students to fill in examination forms. My father did not allow students to do politics on the campus. This angered some vested groups there."

Saikat said, "My father became principal of Nazirhat College in 1989 and brought about some changes which were widely acclaimed" Saikat said.

Gopal Krishna Muhuri had joined the college in 1964 as a teacher. But he left it 1976 following a dispute with the then principal on the issue

of copying by students during examination. "My father was a man of strict principles and never bowed down to any pressure" Saikat said.

"In recognition to my father's good qualities and principles, the college committee took him again in 1989 and made it principal. He worked there until his assassination" Saikat said.

"My father received awards from the then BNP government in 1993 for plantation work in and around college campus.

"The vested groups were out to grab the college property. I think one of the reasons for killing my father might be to forcibly fell the valuable trees.

"I feel proud that my father was a freedom fighter who fought in Sector 1 during the War of Liberation," Saikat said.

Gopal Krishna set up a girls' school at his village Roshangiri under Fatikchhari thana. He was a former student of Nazirhat college. He earned fame and respect from all classes of people for his contributions as a teacher.

After his killing, people irrespective of age, cast and creed took to streets and staged protests demanding immediate arrest of the killers and their punishment.

Police are questioning the arrested four FIR-named accused. They are three teachers of Nazirhat College and a suspected killer. Police have started a manhunt to nab the other killers.

## VC of BSMMU removed

FROM PAGE 1  
and Dr Abdul Mannan, Professor of Pediatric Hematology and Ontology Department of the university, have been made pro-vice-chancellors.

Professor Mobin Khan, Chairman of Hepatology Department of BSMMU, became new treasurer in the shake-up to the top order of the varsity administration.

The government handout said President Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, also the chancellor of BSMMU, appointed the VC under Section 12 of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Act 1998 while the pro-VCs under Section 15(1) and the Treasurer under Section 16(1).

Earlier, the president and chancellor "cancelled the appointments" of BSMMU Vice-chancellor Prof Dr Mahmud Hasan, Pro-Vice-chancellors Prof Rashid-e-Mahbub and Prof Kazi Mesbahuddin and Treasurer Prof Dr. Pran Gopal Dutta.

The chancellor rescinded their appointments in exercise of powers vested in him under the relevant sections of the university law.

Nursing staff and class-3 and class-4 employees of the medical university at the call of Sarkari Karmachari Samannaya Parishad (SKSP) had gone on a strike a week ago demanding restoration of the

hospital's previous status and protesting the death of a nurse owing to wrong treatment.

The SKSP, however, called off the strike on Thursday following a "consensus" between the Ministry of Health and the union on restoration of the hospital's previous status as IPGMR, better known as PG Hospital.

Incidentally, the change came in a row of restructuring of the administrations of different universities of the country, under the new BNP-led coalition government.

## L/C margin

FROM PAGE 12  
those importers who opened the L/Cs during this period.

After receiving the order on November 13, the Bangladesh Bank issued a circular to all commercial banks, asking them to follow the order from the next day.

The items include cement, motor vehicles of 1800 cc and above, television, refrigerator, deep freeze, washing machine, fan, microwave oven, cosmetics, ceramic tableware, biscuit, chocolate, air cooler, CIsheet, footwear etc.

Earlier, L/C margin for many of these items used to be fixed by banks depending on bank-client relationship.

The L/C margins for other items imported for commercial purposes were about 50 per cent.

## PM hosts iftar for political leaders

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia hosted an iftar for political leaders and lawmakers at Prodhannantri Bhaban yesterday.

Opposition leader and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina as well as other leaders and MPs of her party were not seen at the party.

The invitation card to the Awami League chief was reportedly received by her personal assistant DrAwlad Hossain.

Speaker Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, Gano Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain, CPB president Manjurul Hossain Khan and general secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim, Workers Party leader Rashed Khan Menon, GM Qader of JP, Samyabadi Dal leader Dilip Barua, Gano Azadi League president Abdus Samad, JP leader Kazi Zafar Ahmed and Shafiqul Alam Prodhann of JAGPA attended the function, among others.

Four-party coalition leaders, including Matruh Rahman Nazami of Jamaat, Nazirul Mahmud of JP (MF) and Shaikhul Hadith Azizul Huq of IOJ were also present.

The prime minister exchanged greetings with the guests.

## Pro-VC of Khulna University resigns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Pro-Vice Chancellor of Khulna University Prof Zafar Reza Khan has resigned.

"I have resigned on health ground and not under political pressure", he told this correspondent on Thursday night.

Prof Zafar joined the university on June 14 this year as its first pro-vice chancellor. He was asked by the chancellor to act as vice chancellor from August 29 to November 18.

According to sources, Prof Zafar was 'pressured' to resign for 'political reasons'. Failing to put up with the heavy pressure allegedly by a group of ruling party leaders, he sent his resignation letter to the Chancellor through the vice chancellor on November 21.

Campus sources said, the pro-vice chancellor incurred displeasure of pro-BNP teachers for taking 'some bold steps' to free the university administration of politicisation and corrupt practices.

## Moudud says Black laws may be scrapped in next JS session

UNB, DHAKA

Black laws, including the much-talked-about Public Safety Act, may be scrapped in the next session of the new parliament, Law Minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed indicated.

"It's our election pledge and we are going to scrap these black laws," he said addressing the concluding ceremony of a three-day workshop on Crime Reporting at Dhaka Reporters Unity office yesterday.

His predecessor, Abdul Matin Khasru of Awami League, also spoke at the function where both the leaders agreed that the country's judiciary should be reformed for smooth delivery of justice.

Referring to the qualities of Public Prosecutors, the Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Barrister Moudud, said that under the past Awami League regime, appointments to PP and Assistant Public Prosecutor (APP) posts were given to the Awami Leaguers.

And for that precedence, now BNP is also under pressure to appoint party men to the posts of PP and APP.

Emphasising the importance of appointing PP and APP from the specialist lawyers, the minister said the government initiated steps to establish a free, independent and neutral prosecution system.

Barrister Moudud said a growing tendency that nothing would happen to one even after committing an offence is one of the major causes of rise in crimes.

The law minister told reporters that he would like to take all legal measures so that none could sneak out through loopholes of law.

Dhaka Reporters Unity president Anwarul Huq presided over the meeting while its general secretary Mokter Hossain Masum, advisory editor of Aker Kagoj Naimul Islam Khan and attorney general Hasan Arif also took part in a discussion.

## Tension prevails In Araihaazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Tension is prevailing in and around Narandi village in Araihaazar upazila following Thursday's clash in which three villagers were killed in police firing and over 200 people including 40 policemen were injured.

Araihaazar thana police yesterday handed over bodies of two of the victims -- Hossain and Bilal -- to their relatives.

The villagers laid a siege to the thana for about an hour in the afternoon demanding handover of the body of another victim, Monir. Police said the body could not be handed over due to lack of some official formalities.

The siege was withdrawn following intervention by local MP Ataur Rahman Khan.

The road barricades in the area were also removed.

No case was filed till yesterday. The local MP is likely to file a case against police, sources close to him said.

## Hasina: blueprint

FROM PAGE 12  
as the coalition regime and its administration remained silent about the crimes of ruling party terrorists, resulting in terrible breakdown of law and order."

Victims are not getting any help from the administration or police about redress for their sufferings, she observed.

Turning to the country's economic scenario, the former prime minister said her government had put the economy back on the right track with positive and rising indicators in all economic and social sectors.

She mentioned the lowest inflation at 1.59 per cent against 5.6 per cent during the preceding BNP rule, highest ever GDP of 6.5 per cent against 4.5 per cent of BNP and the country's first-ever self-sufficiency in food, during AL rule.

Besides, literacy rate went up to 67 per cent from 47 per cent and per capita income to US\$ 386 from US\$ 200. Prices of essentials remained stable.

Hasina also informed the WB executive that her government's reform and pragmatic steps had increased exports, revenue collection and developed human

resources. Micro-credit and social schemes improved economic status of the poor and women and strengthened rural economy.

About privatisation, she said her government privatised a number of industries, including Machine Tools Factory at Joydevpur, Khulna Shipyard and some textile mills, which started making profit. Besides, monopoly on the telecommunications sector was removed allowing operations of several private mobile phone companies.

On a query about power sector, Hasina said the Awami League government also brought about reforms in this field encouraging power generation in private sector and increased additional generation of electricity by 1200MW. Electricity was made available for 30 per cent of the population, up from the previous 15 per cent.

World Bank Country Representative Frederick Temple, Awami League International Affairs Secretary Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Hasina's Political Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury and Press Secretary Jawadul Karim were present in the meeting.

## Upazila election

FROM PAGE 12  
After the October 1 general election, the EC in consultation with the Local Government and Rural Development Ministry initiated a move to hold the Upazila election "as soon as possible".

As part of the move, the EC at a meeting last month decided that it would announce the schedule for Upazila election on December 31. The EC has planned to hold the election to 463 Upazila Parishes in a staggered manner in 10 days.

Meanwhile, the government is considering a bill seeking re-empowerment of the EC giving it "absolute authority" to hold Upazila election.

The immediate past Awami League government passed a bill in parliament at the fag end of its tenure withdrawing the EC's "absolute authority" to hold election and gave certain powers to the local government ministry.

The government has formed a five-member high powered committee to review re-empowerment of the EC.

A ruling party source said the current session of parliament will pass a bill seeking re-empowerment of the EC giving it "absolute authority" to hold Upazila election.

## Young man

FROM PAGE 12  
gossiping at Wireless Gate at about 12:30 am and started firing on them indiscriminately. The gang left the scene, leaving the three injured with bullets.

Sources said the incident took place following a rivalry among the members of the gang over capture of Wireless Gate Tempo Stand.

Montu's elder brother Abdur Rahim filed a case with Gulshan police station in this regard, but none was arrested till filing of this report last night.

## President visits his native village in Munshiganj

UNB, Dhaka

President A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday visited his native village, Majidpur Daihata, in Sreenagar upazila of Munshiganj district for the first time after his ascent to the presidency.

People of the area from where Chowdhury was elected MP five times were jubilant to see their leader as head of state in their midst.

The president shook hands with them, inquired about their welfare and assured them of his cooperation in solving local problems. He also had talks with some UP chairmen, members and other personalities of the area.

President Chowdhury went to his family graveyard and prayed for salvation of the departed souls of his ancestors.

He offered his Juma prayers at Majidpur Daihata Mosque and returned to the capital in the afternoon, said a Bangabhaban press release.

## Intra-party feud JCD leader gunned down on BAU campus

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A leader of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was shot dead and two others were injured in a gunfight between two factions of the ruling party backed student organisation on Agriculture University campus last night.

The dead was identified as Rezaul Karim Hashu, 33, former auditorium secretary of BAU students union.

Two others, identified as Mahbubur Rahman and Minto, were shot during the clash.

Campus sources said the clash began when Hashu and his supporters were attacked at Jubber More on the campus at about 7-30 pm. Both the groups exchanged at least 30 bullets during the clash, sources added.

Additional police have been deployed on the campus to avert further clash.

## Zimbabwe win first ODI

FROM PAGE 1  
Wishart and Carlisle stabilised the rocking ball, putting on 105 runs for the fifth wicket.

The stand was a lesson for the reckless Bangladesh batters about how to graft and then pick up the pace.

The entertaining Wishart also hit the game's two sixes along with eleven boundaries. Besides, he also blasted 17 runs off spinner Sanwar Hossain's one over.

Though it was his fifth one-day half-century, the big-hitting Zimbabwean should have scored his second hundred in 19 matches had Bangladesh total been a little healthy. He was later adjudged man-of-the-match and received a cash award of 1,000 dollars.

The match was however a disappointment for a packed holiday crowd since it never came close to being a ball-bashing contest.

A youthful Bangladesh team under new captain Khaled Mashud were struggling as soon as Carlisle put them in.

Most of the top-order batsmen threw their wickets when a good partnership was needed to negotiate a surface that was rather moist.

Bangladesh lost three wickets inside the first fifteen overs, and the match as a contest was virtually over when they crashed to 59 for five.

The rot started with the fall of young opener Ashraf, who was run out after a terrible mix-up with Al-Shahriar.

Debutant Tushar Imran struck a beautiful four through the covers off paceman Heath Streak, but paid the price of playing one too many a shot.

Sanwar Hossain struggled to make five in his comeback match after three years and Khaled Mahmud, recalled after his dismal Test debut in Dhaka, was out for four when he tried to go over the top.

In-form Habibul Bashar was the only batsman who kept his nerve in the crisis.

An otherwise free-scoring right-hander, Bashar chose to be seinate and scored just two fours in a 91-ball 44.

He shared 50 runs for the sixth wicket with his captain Mashud. Mashud celebrated his appointment as skipper with a 78-ball 40 that included two fours.

Mohammed Rafique enjoyed a good outing in a lost cause.

Back in the side after touring Zimbabwe in April, the southpaw scored a cameo 15 that included three boundaries. The left-arm spinner also bowled impressively, finishing with figures of 10-4-25-1.

Right-arm paceman Travis Friend and Gary Brent captured

three wickets apiece for Zimbabwe.

Both teams returned to Dhaka last night to play the remaining two day-night affairs on November 25-26. Bangladesh selectors meanwhile have made no change in their 14-man squad for the second ODI.

(Scoreboard and other stories on Page 13)

## Pre-paid cards

FROM PAGE 12  
try for a fresh order today.

Cards worth Tk 1,200 are now available with a small number of GP sales outlets. Those worth Tk 300 and Tk 600 are also available in certain outlets allegedly on payment of 'extra money'.

Pre-paid cards are made outside the country and there are about 1,200 GP agents for distribution of those.

Meanwhile, GP has produced a small number of paper cards locally to ease the situation.

Some subscribers alleged that they had to buy cards by paying 'extra money' even during normal time due to a persistent scarcity of cards.

"GP should take effective steps to make cards available at fair price. Subscribers must not suffer due to bureaucratic tangle," one subscriber said.

Right-arm paceman Travis Friend and Gary Brent captured

## Thousands to lose eligibility

FROM PAGE 1  
Some 15,000 youths appeared at written tests under the 22nd BCS examination for jobs against about 1500 vacant posts. The results were scheduled to publish this month.

Applicants for the 23rd BCS examination are sons and daughters of freedom fighters. Viva and psychological tests of those who passed written examinations were scheduled to start from November 11.

Announcement regarding holding of the 24th BCS examination was scheduled to be made early this month after publication of final results of the 21st BCS examination. But this has also become uncertain now, the sources said.

Talking to The Daily Star, many youths who appeared at the 21st, 22nd and 23rd BCS examinations expressed deep frustration over the whimsical decision of the new government.

"We are neither Awami League men, nor of BNP. We are eligible for government cadre service jobs. We want the jobs whichever party is in the power," one youth who appeared for viva vice under the 21st BCS examination told The Daily Star said yesterday.

Another youth--Setaful Islam Setu -- who completed vive voce in 21st BCS examination said, "After obtaining graduation, youths usually look for government jobs through BCS examinations. They have to go through a lengthy process under the present system. But all their hopes have been shattered by the government decision."

The "illogical" decision has made lives of thousands youths miserable, he said. "In case of failure in the 21st BCS, I could apply for the 24th BCS. But it is also uncertain now. If it (24th BCS) is delayed, my age limit for government job will expire. Now I have no way but to carry on with an uncertain life."

Khorshed Alam was preparing for the 24th BCS examination after completing his MA from Dhaka University. "Getting a government cadre service job is my ultimate goal. But I am very much disappointed as the 24th BCS examination has become uncertain," he said.

Liton, who has been waiting for announcement of the schedule for 24th BCS examination said the government should withdraw the suspension order immediately considering the fate of thousands unemployed youths. Liton is now a

private tutor after completing his university education.

Around one lakh youths sit for preliminary test in BCS examination every year. Of them, only 10 to 15 thousand are selected for written test. After that, one has to appear for viva voce and psychological test to be finally selected for a government cadre service job, which usually takes more than two years.

When contacted, PSC Chairman Prof. Mostafa Chowdhury said the government order came at a time when PSC was planning to publish final results of 21st BCS examination.

"We were at the stage of publishing results of written tests of 22nd BCS and planning for viva voce and psychological test of 23rd BCS this month. We are surprised at the order." He said schedule for the 24th BCS examination was due to be announced this month.

"Besides creating an administrative tangle in PSC, the order will cause immense sufferings to thousands of youths who appeared for cadre service jobs.

"This is the first that the government scrapped the appointment process through PSC."

## Shahriar sent to jail

FROM PAGE 1

Central Jail.

Shahriar Kabir was detained by the Special Branch (SB) of police at the Immigration Desk of Zia International Airport on his return from Kolkata and confined at the airport police station without any specific charge on Thursday night. He was sent to the jail yesterday afternoon after being produced before the CMM's Court.

Airport police sought one-month's detention. But the Magistrate M M Mamunur Rashid, sent him to jail pending decision by the District Magistrate.

In his order, the CMM said that the District Magistrate's Court was the proper authority to pass detention order. "As the District Magistrate's Court is closed today, the decision regarding the issue would be finalised on a working day," he said.

When contacted, airport police said that Kabir was arrested under Section 54 of the CrPC. They said that SB confined him on his arrival from Kolkata and was kept in their custody. The duty officer of the thana added that they were yet to bring any specific charges against him.

Police also seized Kabir's passport, five video cassettes, some audio CDs and cassette, his camera and film and are examining those.

Despite repeated calls, officials at the Immigration Department at the airport declined to make any comment on this issue. Neither the Home Minister nor any SB high official could also be contacted for their comments on Kabir's confinement till late Thursday night.

Additional Inspector General SB Masudul Haq confirmed to The Daily Star last night that Kabir was arrested at midnight Thursday on charges of his involvement in anti-state activities. He however did not offer any details about this.

When asked under what law Shahriar Kabir was arrested, Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Barrister Moudud Ahmed who was attending a workshop at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity yesterday told the journalists that he did not know the details about the case.

Shahriar Kabir went to Kolkata on November 11. While there, he gave an interview to the BBC radio on the minority issue in which he claimed that many Hindus have crossed over into India after the recent incidents of attack on the minorities. This has irked the government, sources speculated.

On Thursday night, after interrogation at the airport thana, Kabir was taken to the SB headquarters at Malibagh at about 11:45 pm where he was interrogated for another couple of hours, sources said. Kabir was kept at SB office overnight and was produced before the CMM's

court yesterday afternoon.

Sources said he was questioned on different political issues, particularly the reasons of his Kolkata trip and the comments he made on the issue of atrocities on the minority in the country.

A number of people, including friends, relatives and family members of Kabir desperately tried to contact or meet him since confinement at the airport, but nobody, including family members, were allowed to see him.

The police officials failed to give any official version of his arrest till Friday afternoon.

In a hurriedly called press conference at the National Press Club yesterday afternoon, the leaders