

# 11 killed in road accidents

## STAR REPORT

Eleven people were killed in separate road accidents across the country yesterday.

Our Correspondent from Manikganj reports: Three people, including a mother and her daughter, were killed in two separate road accidents on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Manikganj yesterday.

The first accident occurred at around 10:30am near Pukuria Bus Stand when a speeding bus knocked down the mother Chobi Khatun, 30, and her daughter, Rozina, 6, while they were crossing the road, killing them on the spot. The victims hailed from Ashutosh village in Pabna district.

The another accident, a speeding bus ran over a woman named Sona Banu, 55, of Borotia village at Tepra Bus Stand at around 5:00pm.

UNB adds: Four people were killed and eight others injured in separate road accidents in Chittagong yesterday.

Two people were killed and eight others injured when a Chittagong-bound bus rammed a taxicab, coming from opposite direction, on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar Road at Moulavir Dokan

Crossing in Satkania at 10:00am.

Cab driver Majnu, 40, and its passenger Jasim Uddin, 32, died on the spot. The injured persons were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

In another accident, a pedestrian was crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus while he was crossing the road at Sundarpur in Fatikchhari upazila at 8:00am.

Police said Salahuddin, 35, a resident of Purbabazar area, died on the spot. The bus has been seized, but the driver fled the scene.

In another accident, Sultan Ahmed, 45, a pedestrian, was killed when a city-bound truck hit him from behind at Kaptai Road in Chandgaon thana of the port city at 2:00pm.

Our Correspondent from Barisal adds: A tempo passenger was killed and six others were injured in a road accident on Barisal-Patuakhali highway yesterday afternoon.

The victim was identified as Matiur Rahman Talukdar, 40 while the injured were Habib Hawlader, 60, Barek Hawlader, 50, Shahid, 35, Harun Biswas, 40, Sultan Khan, 38 and Mamun

Khan, 31. Sources said the accident occurred when a passenger bus hit a passenger tempo from behind near Gochhra Bazar of Awliapur Saw Mill area.

The injured were rushed to Barisal Shere Bangla Medical College Hospital and Bakerganj Upazila Health Complex. The bus was seized at Lebukhali ferry ghat but the driver managed to flee away.

Our Correspondent from Satkhira reports: A 10-year-old boy was killed in a road accident yesterday on Satkhira-Jessore highway near Kukudanga village in Kaligonj.

The victim was identified as Rakib Hossain, 10, son of Faruk Hossain of Kukudanga. Quoting local people police said a Satkhira-bound mini bus ran over the victim while he was crossing the road, leaving him dead on the spot.

On contact, Assistant Police Super (ASP) Ashiqur Rahman of Kaligonj circle confirmed the incident.

Our Correspondent from Brahmanbaria adds: A man was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Brahmanbaria highway at Tholiara village at Ashuganj in



Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman and cultural personality Nasiruddin Yusuf present a crest to Professor Kabir Chowdhury at a reception at the National Museum auditorium in the city yesterday marking his 85th birthday.

PHOTO: STAR

## VICTIMS OF EVICTION

## 300 slum dwellers live under open sky in Rajshahi

## RU CORRESPONDENT

Around 300 slum dwellers are now living under open sky at a newly emerged shoal of the river Padma as the government agencies evicted them after demolishing their thatched houses on the city protection embankment on Wednesday.

But some influential locals are pressing them to leave the place, they alleged.

"The land grabbers are threatening us through loud speakers to leave the shoal immediately, otherwise we will loot our belongings," said Hajera, 40, while talking to newsmen yesterday.

"We are passing our nights amidst fear of further eviction coupled by biting cold at the river

bed," she added.

The children and elderly people are the worst sufferers as they are not getting enough food and pure drinking water.

Afsar Mia, 45, told newsmen that he along with his four dependents, had been leading their lives by pulling a rickshaw.

"But during last three days I could not rent a rickshaw as I was busy in building a makeshift shelter," he said.

Hafiz, a footpath vendor, said he had been living at Seerampur slum for last two years.

"Now I am living under the open sky with my family having only a meal a day," he added.

Zahid Ali alleged that before their eviction some people from the local administration wanted to see

their papers.

"We handed over those papers to the office of the deputy commissioner for examination, but we are yet to get back those documents," he added.

Sohrab Hossain, vice-president of Rajpara thana Jubo Dal, and Israfil, an employee of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, took Tk 1500 to Tk 2000 from each family to negotiate a settlement, the victims alleged.

Sohrab and Israfil admitted the fact and told newsmen that they took the money to bear court expenditure.

The evicted victims have urged the caretaker government for taking necessary steps for their permanent rehabilitation.

## Trader shot in city

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gunmen shot and injured a trader at Dayaganj in the city's Jatrabari area last night.

Witnesses said a gang of four sprayed bullets on Haji Mohammad Ali Sobhan, 50, near Dayaganj Jame Mosque at around 8:30pm just after he stepped into his house after offering Isha prayers.

Sobhan received a bullet in his thigh.

Local people rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

They also managed to catch hold of Farhad, one of the attackers, and handed him over to the police.

Sources said rivals of Sobhan, general secretary of Dayaganj Bazar Committee, might have carried out the attack as he has disputes with some groups over establishing supremacy at Sayyababu Bus Stand.

## Student stabbed, robbed of mobile phone

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers stabbed a Stamford University student in the city's Kotwali area yesterday afternoon and snatched his mobile phone.

Sources said the victim, Nirjoy Hossain, 20, a first-year BBA student of the university's Shiddheswari branch, was returning to his Ganderia residence from Gulistan by a rickshaw.

When he reached Roy Shaheb Bazar area, a gang of three intercepted the rickshaw and asked him to give money and mobile phone to them.

As Nirjoy refused to comply, the gang stabbed him in the abdomen and took away the mobile phone.

He was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

## Nominations for Chand Sultana Literacy Prize invited

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has invited nominations from deserving individuals and organisations for Chand Sultana Literacy Prize 2006.

For the last five years, DAM has been awarding the prize which includes Tk 30 thousand, a crest and a certificate, says a press release.

Like previous years, the prize will be awarded to an individual or an organisation for making significant contribution to the development of education materials for various age groups, conducting research on non-formal education, awareness building for prevention of cancer or HIV/AIDS, and implementation of innovative projects.

Particulars of the interested persons or organisations along with their contributions are to reach Director, Human Resource Division of Dhaka Ahsania Mission at House # 19, Road # 12, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209 on or before February 28. (Phone No 8119521-22, 9123402).

DAM initiated Chand Sultana Literacy Prize in 2001 in memory of Chand Sultana who was working there as a senior materials developer and died a premature death on April 22, 1999 after being attacked by cancer.

Chand Sultana was known as a writer for the poor and she had authored more than 50 books written mostly for the neo-literates, persons with limited literacy and children of different ages.

## UNB, Dhaka

Members of Western Australian Parliament will form a Bangladesh Caucus of Friends with a view to contributing towards further promotion of bilateral relations between the two countries with particular focus on Western Australia.

Ray Halligan, MLC and Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs of Western Australia, said this during a meeting with Bangladesh High Commissioner M Humayun Kabir in Perth on Wednesday, according to a message received here yesterday.

Bangladesh has great potential, said Halligan recalling his trip to

Bangladesh in 1989. He assured the Bangladesh High Commissioner that he would be happy to contribute to the process of development of the country.

In order to facilitate this, Halligan also assured that he would soon discuss the issue of forming a Bangladesh Caucus of Friends in the Western Australian Parliament comprising members from all parties represented there.

Earlier, Deputy President of the Legislative Council George Cash, MLC, also agreed with the High Commissioner that such a friendly forum would help to deepen understanding between Bangladesh and the parliamentarians in Western

Australia.

Member of Legislative Council (MLC) Sue Ellery also agreed to work for the purpose.

She appreciated the impressive developments that had taken place in Bangladesh, particularly in the areas of women empowerment, health, literacy and disaster management.

Sue Ellery was speaking at a luncheon she hosted for High Commissioner Humayun Kabir.

Several members of parliament, business leaders, government officials and Bangladesh Honorary Consul in Perth attended the lunch.

## US to give Nepal aid despite Maoist terror tag

## AFP, Kathmandu

The United States said Thursday it will continue to supply economic aid to Nepal after the Maoists join the government, even though it lists the former rebels as a terrorist group.

Nepal's Maoists are due to enter the government after signing a peace deal late last year ending a decade-long bloody "people's war", but no date has yet been set.

The embassy said a special licence had been granted to allow the US government to get around

rules against providing aid to terrorist organisations. The licence is valid until February 28, 2008.

"This licence enables the US Mission to meet its commitments to continue supporting the people of Nepal and the peace process," said US ambassador James Moriarty in a statement.

The Maoists remain on a US list of terrorist organisations and the ambassador in Kathmandu has frequently said the leftists continue to use intimidation, extortion and violence.

The ambassador stressed that

if the Maoists enter the cabinet without abandoning violence, "the US mission will work to ensure that Maoists ministers cannot claim credit for US assistance."

Under the peace deal, the Maoists have agreed to place their weapons and army under UN monitoring and in return have been given 83 seats in a new interim 330-seat parliament.

Aid-dependent Nepal is one of the poorest countries on the planet.

The civil war wrecked an already fragile economy and killed at least 13,000 people.

## Taliban refuse to talk on captured town

## AFP, Kandahar

Taliban rebels who captured a southern Afghan town a week ago were fortifying their positions after rejecting talks, a tribal chief said Friday as officials played down the situation.

The Islamist guerrillas stormed and captured remote Musa Qala -- which British forces pulled out of last year in a controversial deal -- after disarming the weak police force last week.

One of their commanders was killed in a NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (Isaf) air strike days later but villagers told AFP by phone there were still a few hundred militants in town.

A tribal elder involved in talks to persuade the insurgents to leave, after warnings they could face more Isaf action, said they had "suddenly" refused further negotiations.

They had said that "our leaders have told us to resist," said the elder who spoke to AFP by phone from Musa Qala. He spoke on condition of anonymity, fearing his own safety.

"At the beginning the Taliban had accepted to talk to authorities through tribal elders," the chief said. "But suddenly they said they don't want to talk anymore."

The elderly man said there were around 300 Taliban fighters in the town and they had started digging trenches and laying mines to respond to any potential military action by Isaf and Afghan security forces.

Authorities would not confirm the elder's information.

"At this point, things are the same as they were," said Nabi Jan Mullahkhal, police chief for Helmand province in which Musa Qala sits.

The government has got its own programmes and we're working on it," he would not give details.

Isaf, which has most of a deployment of more than 5,000 British troops in Helmand, would not comment.

Nato defence ministers held talks yesterday with their Russian counterpart Sergei Ivanov amid tensions over US plans to deploy a missile shield in the Czech Republic and Poland.

The plan has sparked protests from Russia and Ukraine, and the Czech Republic has asked for it to be put on agenda of the Nato-Russia Council meeting in Seville, where frank talks were expected.

Last week, President Vladimir Putin said Russia would come up with a "highly effective" strategic response if the plans went through, adding that his country already had the missiles to overwhelm a US defence shield.

## NATO-Russia meet amid US shield tensions

## AFP, Seville

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## Book launch

The book launching ceremony of 'Shopner Bangladesh Khaje Fera' by eminent economist Dr Atiur Rahman will be held. Venue: Nazrul Mancha, Bangla Academy. Time: 5:00pm.

## Workshop

Women for Women and Department of Women and Gender Studies of Dhaka University will jointly organise a workshop on 'UN Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 9:30am.

## Seminar

Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) organises a seminar titled '3rd stakeholders' meeting'. Venue: LGED Bhawan. Time: 9:30am.

## Seminar

Office of the Cultural Counsellor of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, organises a seminar on 'The impact of the Islamic revolution on the solidarity and reawakening of the Muslim Ummah'. Venue: National Museum. Time: 3:00pm.

## Book launch

A poetry book titled 'Dui Dignata, Dui

## DHAKA TODAY

## Book launch

Dr Masudur Rahman Prince and Husnul Iqbal Khan Majilish (Yousuf), will be launched. Venue: WVA auditorium. Time: 5:00pm.

## Corporate Bazaar

The opening ceremony of Corporate Bazaar will be held. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 11:00am.