

# Road crashes kill 8

## STAR REPORT

At least eight people were killed in separate road accidents in Keraniganj, Gazipur, Tangail and Chittagong yesterday.

UNB from Keraniganj reports: Two people, including a woman, were killed when a truck hit a CNG-run auto-rickshaw at China Friendship Bridge in Dakkhin Keraniganj yesterday.

Witnesses said the Dhaka-bound truck hit the auto-rickshaw at about 2:30pm, leaving its two passengers dead on the spot.

One of the deceased was identified as Anwar, 40, while identity of the other could not be known immediately.

Later, police seized the truck and arrested its driver Kalam. A case was filed.

Another report from Gazipur adds: Two people were killed and two others injured in a head-on collision between two covered vans at Mouchak on Dhaka-Tangail highway yesterday.

Police said the Dhaka-bound covered van from Pabna collided with another van coming from opposite direction, leaving driver Milon, 40, and helper Monju, 45, dead on the spot.

On information, police rushed to the spot and sent the bodies to the Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Our Correspondent from Tangail adds: One person was killed in a road accident on Tangail-Mymensingh Road at Ghatail upazila in the district yesterday.

The victim was identified as Mohammad Babar Ali, 40, of Bangua village under Ghatail upazila.

Police and witnesses said the accident took place at around 11:00am when a Sagardeeghe-bound passenger bus from Tangail ran over Babar Ali when he was crossing the road at Ghatail Bus Stand, leaving him died on the spot.

Police sent the body to Tangail General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

BSS from Chittagong says:

Three people, including two members of a family, were killed in separate road accidents in Chandanaish and Patiya upazilas here on Monday night and early yesterday morning, police and hospital sources said.

The victims were identifies as Abdul Monaf, 35 and his younger brother Mohammad Yusuf, 30, sons of Ledu Meah of Dohazari villages under Chandanaish upazila and Syed Ali, 45, son of late Azhar Meah of Purba Haigdaon village of Patiya upazila.

Yusuf died on the spot while his brother Monaf succumbed to his injuries at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) when the auto-rickshaw by which they were travelling collided head-on with a truck in Hashimpur area on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway at about 11:30 pm on Monday.

Sayed also died on the spot when a Cox's Bazar-bound minibus knocked him at Patiya Sadar in the early morning yesterday.

## Singer Mujib Pardeshi arrested

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Singer Mujib Pardeshi was arrested from his house at East Jurain in the city last night on charges of swindling.

A team of Shyampur police arrested Mujib at around 8:00pm and handed him over to Teigaon Police Station as one Abul Khair Swapan filed a case against him with Teigaon police on Monday.

In the first information report (FIR), Swapan said he gave Tk 8.14 lakh to Mujib as he promised to send him (Swapan) to London.

But Mujib did not return the money even after he failed to send Swapan to London within the specified time he (Mujib) mentioned, Swapan added.

## Anwarul Tareq sent to jail

### COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered to send businessman Anwarul Islam Tareq held for possessing illegal firearms and ammunition, to jail rejecting a bail petition.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mamun Al Rashid passed the order after the investigation officer (IO) produced Tareq before the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate on completion of his one day remand in the second phase.

The magistrate also directed the jail super to submit a report by February 18 on health condition of Tareq's heart disease following the defence verbal plea if they treated him in jail custody.

On January 30, the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested Tareq and seized a shotgun, two double-barrel guns, an airgun, three walkie-talkies, 5,242 cartridges and 5,373 rounds of ammunition from his Bijoynagar residence in the city, according to the case statement.

## Appeal for help

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT



The father of Purabi Roy, a promising singer, has appealed for financial assistance for the treatment of his daughter who has been suffering from kidney diseases.

Both the kidneys of Purabi, also a student of Central Women's College, have been damaged.

In 2005, she underwent kidney transplantation at Christian Medical College Hospital in Vellore after her mother donated a kidney to her. But the kidney has stopped functioning since June 2006.

Purabi now needs dialysis two or three times a week. According to doctors, she must undergo kidney transplantation again, but such treatment would cost around Tk 8 lakh, which her father cannot afford.

Her father Pradip Kumar Roy, a banker, has appealed to generous people to extend a helping hand to save his daughter.

Contributions can be sent to Pradip Kumar Roy, Savings A/C No. 8915, Pubali Bank, Karwan Bazar branch, Dhaka or Purabi Roy, Savings A/C No. 20520034854, Dhaka Bank. Interested persons can also call at 01712689780.

## Meleisea New Unesco director



M a l a m a Meleisea was appointed new director and country representative of Unesco Bangladesh, says a press release.

He replaces Wolfgang Vollmann. Before taking up his assignment in Dhaka, Meleisea represented Unesco in Afghanistan for two years. He is accompanied by his wife Dr Penelope Schoeffel Meleisea, an Australian.

Meleisea, a PhD holder in History and Politics, is from Samoa, an independent Pacific Island State.

Meleisea joined Unesco in 1998 as the regional adviser for Social and Human Sciences for Asia and the Pacific, and was based in the Unesco regional office in Bangkok.

## Obituary



Former general manager of Bangladesh Bank Sheikh Abdul Aziz passed away due to a cardiac arrest on Monday at the age of 59, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, a son, a daughter and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was buried at Shaymnagar in Sathkira.



PHOTO: STAR

People stand on charred tin-roofed rooms at Mohammadpur Geneva Camp in the city after a devastating fire yesterday.

## 40 shanties gutted in city

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fire gutted 40 shanties at city's Mohammadpur Geneva Camp area yesterday noon.

Mohammadpur police sources said the fire originated from short circuit at 11:00am and fire brigade doused the blaze after one and half hour.

In the mean time, panic gripped among the residents of the camp and some of them were able to remove their valuables from the place.

As the fire spread, the locals recovered one Lovely Begum, 60, with burn injury. She was rushed to the local hospital.

## Foreign, local currencies worth Tk 2 cr seized at airport

### UNB, Dhaka

Customs officials at Zia International Airport yesterday foiled an attempt to smuggle Bangladeshi and foreign currencies worth about Tk 2 crore.

They also arrested two Pakistani nationals in this connection.

Airport sources said Pakistani citizens Rashid Mahmud Khaled, 28, and Gull Arfalan, 24, were scheduled to fly for Karachi by a flight of Pakistan Airlines at about 12:50pm.

As they were approaching toward the boarding bridge, the customs officials found undeclared currencies concealed in their bodies.

After interrogation, the customs officials searched their luggage and recovered foreign and local currencies worth about Tk 2 crore, including 38,000 euro, \$3,51000, and 6,500 Pakistani currency.

The arrested Pakistanis were handed over to the Airport police. A case was filed with the Airport Police Station.

### BIAM MODEL SCHOOL

## Academic activities hampered

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Academic activities of Biam Model School and College in the city are being hampered severely due to conflict between teachers and 'president' of the governing body.

Panic has gripped students and guardians as the institute remained open only for six days in last one month.

The last classes were held on February 6, they said.

The guardians are asking the new Director General (DG) of Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management (Biam) to take initiatives for resuming the academic activities.

The sacked teachers led by principal Saima Banu blamed Shahidul Alam, former education secretary and director general of Biam, for creating abnormal situation inside the institute.

They alleged that Shahidul and his hired goons beat and hurled abusive words at the teaches on February 6 and 12 for protesting his corruption and irregular activities.

"According to the rules of the school, Biam DG will be the president of the governing body by virtue of his position, but Shahidul who was sacked from the post of DG on November 16, still grabs the post of president, said Saima while talking to The Daily Star yesterday.

She said Shahidul became angry with her and other teachers when a case was filed against him for beating up the teachers on February 6.

"Getting back from the court on February 11, Shahidul sacked me and six other teachers. But he cannot sack us because his holding of the president post is illegal," she added.

### RIGHT TO INFORMATION

# CG to take steps to enact law

## Mainul tells RTI core group

Law and Information Adviser Barrister Mainul Hossain yesterday said the caretaker government would initiate steps towards enactment of the Right to Information Act, says a press release.

Mainul Hossain made the assurance when a five-member delegation of the Right to Information (RTI) core group called on him at his office and submitted the draft law.

Manusher Jonno Foundation has been facilitating and coordinating with other civil society members to raise awareness about the need for RTI and to have the RTI Act enacted. Three core groups have been formed to facilitate this work.

A draft law on RTI has been prepared by the law core group. The draft law is based on a working paper prepared by the Law

Commission in 2002. This working paper had many gaps and loopholes which have been addressed in the present draft law. A series of discussion and consultation meetings in the divisional towns with national and international experts, lawmakers, human rights activists, media persons and professionals on RTI resulted in useful recommendations for the draft law.

The members of the delegation are advocate Sultana Kamal, former adviser to the caretaker government, Dr Atiur Rahman, chairman of Unnayan Shamunay, Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, Professor Asif Nazrul of Law Department, Dhaka University, and Barrister Tanjib ul Alam.

# Eden girl stabbed to death in city

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A student of Eden College, who was stabbed by her husband on Thursday, succumbed to her injuries yesterday morning.

Dilruba Afroz Sonia, 23, a second year BA student, had been living separated from her husband Morshed Alam Chowdhury alias Khokon for the last two years.

On Thursday evening, while Sonia was returning from the college to her Shyampur residence, Khokon intercepted and forcibly took her to his residence. He beat her up and stabbed three times at her abdomen.

She was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and then shifted to Apollo Hospital where she died yesterday morning.

Mujibur Rahman Ripon, Sonia's maternal uncle, told The Daily Star Sonia and Khokon themselves got married in 2001. Although Sonia's family refused to accept them primarily, later they accepted the couple.

As Khokon was unemployed, Sonia's family gave him around Tk four lakh in installments.

But when he started to beat Sonia occasionally demanding Tk two lakh more, her family took Sonia to them, he said.

Sonia filed a general diary with Shyampur Police Station on December 23 last year in this connection. This made him more furious.

Khokon is absconding since the date of stabbing.

## Release of Uttaran chief demanded

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and five US-based organisations have urged the caretaker government (CG) to take steps for immediate and unconditional release of Shahidul Islam, executive director of Sathkira-based NGO Uttaran.

In a letter to Chief Adviser to Caretaker Government Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed, The Observatory- a joint programme of International Federation for Human Rights and World Organisation Against Torture- expressed deep concern and 'fears for his physical and psychological integrity'.

Terming his detention arbitrary, the organisation also called for an investigation into allegations of torture on him and punish those responsible for the torture.

The joint forces arrested Shahidul, who has been working for the rights of the landless people in the area, from Tala upazila on January 27 and handed him to police in the afternoon.

He was sent to jail a day later with one-month detention.

Meanwhile, ActionAid International USA, Centre for International Environmental Law, International Rivers Network, Bank Information Centre and International Accountability Project have sent separate letters to Asian Development Bank President Haruhiko Kuroda and Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States Shamsheer M Chowdhury, asking them for taking necessary steps from their parts for immediate and unconditional release of Shahidul.

The organisations also demanded an end to harassment on Shahidul and punishment for those involved in torturing.

## Saarc Car Rally starts from Cox's Bazar tomorrow

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The First Saarc Car Rally 2007 will begin from Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh tomorrow with a view to demonstrate the commonalities in South Asia.

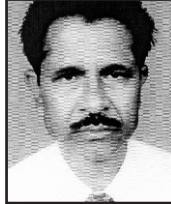
The rally would cover around 8000 kilometres in 30 days and end at Sri Lanka capital Colombo after touching all the Saarc member states.

In Bangladesh the rally would cover around 1300 km in four days. It would draw a number of celebrities and is likely to expose the cultural and tourist potential of the country.

Head of States and Governments of Saarc nations endorsed the idea of organising the Car Rally at Dhaka Summit in November 2005.

Adviser for Civil Aviation and Tourism Maj Gen (Retd) MA Matin and Adviser for Foreign Affairs Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury will jointly launch the Bangladesh part of the rally at Bangladesh-China Friendship Centre at Agargaon in the city at 4:00pm.

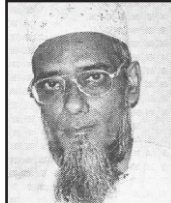
## Death anniversary



Today is the second death anniversary of Advocate Azizur Rahman of Kushtia, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at his residence after Asr prayers.

### Abul Bashar Mony



Today is the first death anniversary of Abul Bashar Mony, a freedom fighter and a social worker, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at his Teigaon residence in the city.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the programmes.

## SWID's committee dissolved

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ministry of Social Welfare yesterday dissolved the national executive committee of the Society for the Welfare of the Intellectually Disabled (SWID), Bangladesh and formed a caretaker body to run its affairs.

The new body consists of Md Zulfikar Haider as convener, Prof Gias Uddin Mollah, Nur Mostofa Al Amin, AGM Badruzzaman and a member of NFOWD (National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled).

The ministry dissolved the SWID's national committee on charges of its non-transparent handling of over 34 kathas of land at Eskaton in the city.

The committee tried to construct a multistoried building on that land amid protest of some of its members.

## Move to make political parties' registration mandatory hailed

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (Fema) yesterday hailed the caretaker government for its decision to enact a law providing for compulsory registration of all political parties with the Election Commission.

The proposed law will guard against mushrooming of political parties with no capability to contribute to democracy or society, it said in a statement.

The law should make elaborate provisions prohibiting activities inconsistent with the principles of true democracy and prone to create chaos, confusion and anarchy in society, it added.

Fema also hoped that one third of the total candidates nominated by each political party in an election should be women in order to ensure their political empowerment.



PHOTO: STAR

Masudul Haque, managing director of Min Oils Ltd., begs Magistrate Raihan Akhtar's pardon during a raid on his factory at Hemayetpur at Savar yesterday. A mobile court raided the factory which produced adulterated engine oil.

## DU 'Gha' unit admission test results published

### DU CORRESPONDENT

Results of the first year honours admission test under 'Gha' unit of Dhaka University for the sessions 2006-2007 were published yesterday, says a press release.

A total of 2549 candidates passed the examination out of 26888 applicants who contested for 670 seats in humanities, commerce and science groups.

Separate merit lists for humanities (of 1016 students), commerce (of 867 students) and science (of 666 students) groups have been made from passed students.

A total of 670 students can get admitted in different departments under Arts, Social Science, and Law faculties and Mathematics and Statistics departments under Science Faculty.

To know more about results and viva voce, applicants are requested to see notice boards at Arts Building or log on to www.univdhaka.edu.

Newspapers will run advertisement informing the details of viva voce of passed applicants.



## Rain likely

### UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Chittagong and Barisal divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light fog may occur over the river basins of the country during late night until early morning, Met Office said in a forecast.

It said night temperature may rise slightly over the country.

Highest temperature 29.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and Teknaf and lowest 12.8 degree Celsius at Ranpur.

**The sun sets in the capital at 5:53pm today and rises at 6:32am tomorrow.**

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature	Humidity in percentage	
		in	celsius
	Max	Min	
Dhaka	24.9	16.7	66
Chittagong	28.5	18.0	79
Rajshahi	19.9	14.5	97
Khulna	24.2	18.0	78
Barisal	24.6	16.5	88
Sylhet	25.7	14.4	76
Cox's Bazar	29.0	18.3	73