

# 7 killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

At least seven people, including two women and two police constables, were killed and 25 others injured in separate road accidents in Dinajpur and Faridpur yesterday.

Our correspondent from Dinajpur reports: At least four unidentified people, including two women, were killed and 25 others injured in a road accident at Garoadangi highway under Chirirbandar upazila here early yesterday morning, according to police official sources.

Police quoting Goroadangi villagers said a Panchagarh-bound night couch fell into a roadside ditch as the driver lost his control over the steering near the Goroadangi Bridge under Chirirbandar upazila of Dinajpur, leaving three passengers, including two women, dead on the spot and 26 injured.

Local people and police rushed the injured to Syadpur Sadar Hospital

and Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH). Of them, a five-year-old unidentified child succumbed to his injuries at RMCH.

Three were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) as their condition deteriorated.

The bodies were sent to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

UNB adds: A Dhaka University staff was crushed under the wheels of a bus in the city's Kafur area yesterday morning.

The dead was identified as Motalab Howlader, 57, office assistant of Rokeya Hall. He hailed from Hogla village in Barisal.

Police said the Kachukhet-bound bus ran over Motalab near Jahangir Gate at about 8:30am while he was passing the road riding a bicycle.

Police seized the bus while the driver managed to escape.

A case was filed with Kafur Police Station in this connection.

Meanwhile, two police constables were crushed under the wheels of a truck at Shibrampur village in Sadar upazila on Faridpur-Dauladia section of Dhaka-Khulna highway in Faridpur early yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Mizanur Rahman, 41, of Pathanpara village in Bagharapara upazila of Jessore, and Rabiul Islam, 42, of Baka village in Kalia upazila of Narail. Both of them were the constables of the district highway police outpost.

Police said the accident occurred when the Dhaka-bound truck, loaded with tobacco, hit the cops and plunged into a roadside ditch at about 1:45am., leaving them dead on the spot. They were on patrol duty in the area.

Later, police sent the bodies to Faridpur Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

## CAG submits audit repots to President

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed stressed the need for further expediting and modernising government financial management so that financial discipline is ensured.

His suggestion came when Comptroller and Auditor General Asif Ali submitted audit reports to the President at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Iajuddin also called upon all concerned to "work with more responsibility for ensuring transparency and accountability in every sphere of government financial sectors".

He said, "Audit Department has to ensure all facilities regarding the pension case and gratuity at the end of service without hassles."

The reports include seven annual reports, three performance audit reports, three special audit reports and three issue-based audit reports for the financial years 2003-04 and 2004-05, which shows a backlog in auditing work.

The CAG apprising the President of "Entity Wide Audit" that takes each ministry as entity and vertically goes down for detailed auditing.

"This audit approach would lead to performance audit, certification audit, social audit and environment audit," he said.

The CAG also apprised the President of the need for training of the officials concerned of the Audit Department, both at home and abroad.

President thanked the CAG for submitting the audit reports in time.

The President also underlined the need for training of the concerned officials and staff of the Audit Department for skill development.

Military Secretary to the President Major General M Aminul Karim, President's Secretary M Sirajul Islam and Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General (Accounts and Reports) M Moslemuddin were present.

## EC should hold polls as soon as possible: USAID

UNB, Dhaka

A delegation of American aid agency USAID yesterday said that the Election Commission should take necessary time to make the right choices and hold the elections as quickly as possible.

"They (EC) should take the time necessary to ensure that they made the right choices and hold the elections as soon as possible," said chair of its Election Working Group Tod Sorenson after a meeting with the Election Commission.

Sorenson, who led the five-member delegation, made the remarks while talking to newsmen after the hour-long meeting with the EC in the afternoon.

The delegation exchanged information regarding what they had done with the past EC and discussed the possibilities and activities about what they could do in the future with the new EC, Sorenson said.

He said the EC is still looking into variety of options they have in front of them and analysing those. They expected that the EC would share matters with everybody, including the donor parties.

Earlier at a press briefing at his office, acting secretary to the EC secretariat M Humayun Kabir said they have formed an informal inquiry committee to scrutinise the matter of taking away documents and files by former joint secretary Mohammad Jokoria who was made OSD last week.

"Any officer can take his personal things before joining the new office... We are scrutinising the matter since he did it on Friday... I talked to him... he told me that he took his personal books... But he could do it on any working day... It was not right," said the EC secretary.

## Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



she has been diagnosed as having a hole in her heart.

According to doctors, she needs to undergo heart surgery as soon as possible. But her poor family could not afford such an expensive treatment, which involves about Tk 2 lakh, says a press release.

Sumaiya worked as a field level officer with a multi-purpose company to maintain her family. Her ailing father could hardly earn enough to meet the needs of the family.

She has appealed to generous people to extend a helping hand to save her life. Contributions can be sent to the following account: Suriya Ahmed, Savings Account No.-5391, Krishi Bank, Tajmahal Road Branch, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207.



PHOTO: STAR

Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain speaks at a discussion on 'People's Saarc' at Women's Voluntary Association auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left are Prof Anisuzzaman and Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmed.

# Saarc countries urged to strengthen cooperation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called on the Saarc countries to strengthen cooperation among themselves for regional development under the umbrella of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc), which hold immense potential.

Lack of cooperation is hampering Saarc activities, former principal secretary economist Dr SA Samad said, adding that whereas regional trade and investment is over 80 percent under North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta), it is less than five percent under Saarc.

There is no common project among the regional countries, he said, calling for fostering the spirit of cooperation and true regionalism in order to make the Saarc more effective.

Imagine New South Asia (INSA) and South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE) organised the discussion on 'People's Saarc' at Women's Voluntary Association auditorium in the city ahead of the 14th Saarc Summit.

Speaking as the chief guest, eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain said the Saarc countries are facing new problems due to the impact of globalisation.

The Saarc countries should strengthen regional cooperation to deal with these problems, he

added.

The speakers stressed the need for equitable distribution of natural resources and sharing of technology, skill and knowledge among the Saarc countries, more people-to-people contacts, simplification of visa procedure and smooth communication facilities.

They also called for greater coordinated efforts by the governments, civil society members and

the media to this end.

Editor of the daily Sangbad Bazlur Rahman, Prof Geeti Ara Nasreen, Rasheda K Chowdhury, Prof Anisuzzaman and Rokeya Kabir also spoke at the discussion moderated by Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmed, co-chair of Bangladesh National Steering Committee of INSA.

## College student beaten to death in Rajshahi

RU CORRESPONDENT

A college student was beaten to death and five others were also injured in an attack by a gang of hoodlums at Kazihata in the city on Sunday.

The dead was identified as Shafik Sabbir Joy, a first-year student of Rajshahi Model School and College and the only son of Abdul Sattar, a teacher of Loknath School.

Rajpara police arrested three youths -- Sohag, Shiplu and Nirjhar -- in this connection.

Sources said Joy was chatting with his friends in front of their college at noon when a gang of hood-

lums appeared there and asked them to leave the place. As Joy and his friends refused to comply, the gang beat them up, leaving Joy critically injured.

With severe head injuries, Joy was rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where he died at around 8:00pm.

Joy's father filed a case with Rajpara police station in this connection.

College Principal Shamsul Huda expressed deep shock at the incident.

The body of Joy was handed over to his family members after post-mortem yesterday, police said.



Apollo Hospitals organised a workshop on Total Hip Replacement in the city recently.

# Proper water management a must for sustainable dev

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a conference yesterday said the widening gap between demand and supply of water and the damage of flood have made the water management and flood control a challenging task.

They said integrated approach to land and water use and infrastructure improvement are needed to pave the way for sustainable development.

They were addressing a three-day international conference on 'Water and Flood Management' at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city.

Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWFM) of Bangladesh University of

Engineering and Technology (BuET) organised the conference.

Vice-Chancellor Prof AMM Safullah addressed the inaugural session as the chief guest while head of Development Cooperation of the Embassy of the Netherlands Fritz Meijndert spoke at the function as special guest.

Prof Jahir Uddin Chowdhury and Prof Rezaul Rahman also spoke.

Prof Safullah said being a lower riparian country, it is very difficult for Bangladesh to properly manage the water resources.

He said the water system is largely dependent on the intricate river network with fluctuating sediment and flow, delicate groundwater system and large areas of natural depression, locally called haors,

baors and beels, that function as storage and retention pools.

Emphasising knowledge in engineering and technology is a key component in efficient water resources management, Prof Safullah said in our present endeavor towards integrated water resources management, other relevant disciplines are equally important.

Fritz Meijndert said since water is one of the most important natural resource of the region, it should be developed and managed in a rational, efficient and equitable way. Only then it could act as the engine for socio-economic development of the region, he added.

## Yunus embarks on tour of USA, Europe to receive awards

UNB, Dhaka

Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday embarked on a tour of the USA and Europe to receive more awards and have meetings with the management of a university.

During the 20-day tour, he will visit Washington DC to receive the 'Global Trailblazer Award' from Senator Hillary Clinton at a ceremony to be organised by 'Vital Voices' on March 14 and address a convocation at Georgetown University.

In Miami, the microcredit guru will receive Association of B-national Chambers of Commerce 'Award for Leadership in Global Trade'.

He will then go to Baltimore to have meetings with the top management of Johns Hopkins University and Hospital.

Prof Yunus will also fly to Italy to address the Senate and have meetings with the president, parliament speaker and other dignitaries and a dinner with the prime minister.

He will travel to France to have meetings with the governor of the Central Bank of France, the mayor of Paris and the foreign minister.

The tour will also take Prof Yunus to Portugal where he will meet the president and the secretary of state.

He will travel to London where he will be accorded a reception by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Local Government. Mayor of London Ken Livingstone will attend the reception as the chief guest.

Later, Prof Yunus will deliver a lecture at the Oxford University elaborating his concept of social business.

He will then travel to Oslo, Norway, at the invitation of the director general of NORAD where he will launch a Norwegian Government Microfinance Initiative and hold meetings with the prime minister and the minister for development.

Dr Yunus will attend the launch of a chair after his name for Development Studies and Micro-finance at the Norwegian School of Management.

He is scheduled to return home on April 1.

## Workshop on Total Hip Replacement

A workshop on Total Hip Replacement (THR) was held in the Apollo Hospitals in the city recently, says a press release.

A number of patients who had their total hip replacement in this hospital attended the workshop. They celebrated the event by cutting a cake and shared their Apollo experience with the delegates.

Dr Praful B Pawar, director, Medical Services, and interim CEO, inaugurated the workshop presided over by eminent orthopaedic surgeons Prof Dr AFM Ruhul Haque and Prof Dr Abdus Samad Sheikh.

Dr Prashant Agrawal, consultant, orthopaedics and trauma, delivered a speech on techniques of replacement operation and demonstrated the practical aspects of THR on bone model. He also demonstrated the operation by video screening.

Orthopaedic surgeons from different parts of the country took part in the educative and informative discussions at the workshop.

## Madrassa student gets life for raping girl

BSS, Barisal

A court here yesterday sentenced one madrasa student to life imprisonment for violating a teenage girl about four years ago.

Court sources said the convict was identified as Masum Billah, 21, a madrasa student of Rasmi village under Bakerganj upazila in the district.

The judge of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal Belayet Hossain delivered the judgement in a crowded courtroom.

The judge also fined Manum Tk 25,000, in default, to suffer another six months in prison.

The prosecution story in brief is that the convict established physical relationship with the girl aged about 16 of the same village promising to marry her.

At one stage the girl became pregnant and put pressure on the convict to marry her. But he refused to marry.

A case was filed in this connection with Bakerganj Police Station on July 25, 2003.

Police submitted charge sheet on August 31, 2003 against Masum Billah.



PHOTO: STAR

Meherun N Islam, managing director of CEMS, speaks at a press conference in the city yesterday. On her right is Ali Reza Iftekhar and on her left is Mokhlesur Rahman. (Story on Page 8)

## Nazimuddin Alam among 13 BNP men sued in Bhola

UNB, Bhola

An attempt to murder case has been filed against 13 BNP men, including ex-lawmaker Nazimuddin Alam, in Bhola.

Akhtarul Alam Samu, a former pourasava commissioner, filed the case with a cognizance court on Sunday.

In his complaint, Samu said the cadres of BNP, at Nazimuddin Alam's behest, stabbed him indiscriminately and left him on Char Fashion Sadar road on February 16, 2004 thinking him dead.

Later, local people rushed him to local hospital.

Enamul Haque Masud, brother of Samu, had filed a case with Char Fashion upazila police station in this connection in the same month. But the case was disposed of because of political influence during the tenure of four-party alliance, Samu said.

Other accused include upazila BNP general secretary Ruhul Quddus, former JCD leader Mir Sayeed and BNP upazila office secretary Mizanur Rahman.

## Two Indians arrested with heroin

UNB, Sherpur

An Indian national was arrested along with 2kgs of heroin from a house at Polashikura village in Nalitabari upazila on Sunday night.

BDR sources said acting on secret information they arrested Raju Miah, 24, from the house of Shamsul Islam along with the drug at about 10:00am.

On interrogation, Raju, who hailed from Namargaon of Mankachar district of Indian State of Assam, said he often comes here to sell heroin.

BDR could not arrest Shamsul Islam as he went into hiding sensing their presence.

BSS from Chapainawabganj adds: The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) arrested an Indian with 10 grams of heroin and 800 grams of ganja from Bakchar of Halimpur frontier under sadar upazila of the district yesterday.

He was arrested on charge of intrusion into Bangladesh territory and identified as Md Jasim Uddin, 30, of Atrashia under Lalgola thana of Murshidabad district in India.

BDR sources said the arrested was handed over to Chapainawabganj sadar police.

## 'Monajatuddin pioneer in investigative journalism'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a function yesterday stressed the need for the inclusion of the writings and biography of journalist Monajatuddin in the curriculum of journalism as he had introduced a new trend of journalism in the country.

The young generation will be benefited from the study of Monajatuddin who played a pioneering role in investigative reporting, they observed.

The function was organised jointly by Samonnyay and Charon Sangbadik Monajatuddin Smriti Sangshad on the occasion of presenting a research paper titled 'Rural Journalism: Kargal Hari Nath to Monajatuddin' at the Unnayan Samonnyay conference room in the city.

As the first ever research fellow of Samonnyay-Monajatuddin Gobeshona Fellowship-1413, Kajal Rashid Shahin of the daily Sangbad presented the paper after working for six months on it.

The Smriti Sangshad introduced the fellowship jointly with Samonnyay last year and decided to continue research on Monajatuddin by granting fellowship to one journalist every year.

While summarising the paper Kajal said Monajatuddin expressed his view with courage and tried to invoke public conscience.

"He always did follow-up reporting to know whether there is any

impact of his report," Kajal added.

Eminent Educationist Dr Abul Ahsan Chowdhury, who supervised the research, said Monajatuddin roamed all over the country to expose the real picture of the society.

BFUJ President Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul said both Harinath and Monajatuddin were dedicated to bring out the truth.

Noted Journalist Syed Abul Maksud said Harinath struggled for bringing out the truth during the British regime while Monajatuddin had to work against various adversities living in an independent country.

Dramatist Mamunur Rashid, Journalist Nasimun Ara Huq and Nasima Monajat, wife of Monajatuddin, also spoke at the function presided over by Prof Atiur Rahman, president of Smriti Sangshad.

## Obituary



buried at the Azimpur graveyard. Her qulkhani will be held at 53, Baddanagar Lane in the city after Asr prayers today.

Rasheda Khan, wife of Dr Abdul Quader Khan, passed away in the early hours of Sunday at the age of 70, says a press release.

She was

WEATHER TODAY				
No change in temperature likely				
UNB, Dhaka				
Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.				
Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.				
Highest temperature 36.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong and lowest 15.4 degree Celsius at Srirongal.				
The sun sets in the capital at 6:07pm today and rises at 6:09am tomorrow.				
Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:				
City/Town	Temperature In Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.6	23.0	70	38
Chittagong	36.2	20.2	66	34
Rajshahi	33.3	20.5	81	69
Khulna	34.3	21.0	74	53
Barisal	33.8	20.6	82	52
Sylhet	34.0	20.0	50	49
Cox's Bazar	34.0	19.0	67	53