

## Four killed in road accidents

### STAR REPORT

Four people were killed and 46 others injured in separate road accidents in Cox's Bazar, Munshiganj and Tangail yesterday.

Our correspondent in Chittagong reports: Two people were killed and six others injured in a road accident on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway at Chakaria.

The victims are Apel Mahmud, 22, and Dipak Dev, 21.

Sources said the accident occurred at 4:00am as the driver of a Cox's Bazar-bound microbus from Comilla lost control of the steering. The microbus skidded off the road and fell into a roadside ditch, leaving eight people injured.

Apel and Dipak succumbed to their injuries on the way to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH). The passengers of the microbus were going for a picnic, sources said.

Our correspondent in Tangail adds: A schoolboy was killed in a road acci-

dent on Tangail-Basail road at Basail yesterday morning.

The victim was identified as Mohammad Russel, 11, a class five student of Bathulee Primary School.

The accident took place when a Tangail-bound soil-laden truck from Basail knocked Russel down while he was crossing the Tangail-Basail Road at around 7:00am.

A correspondent from Munshiganj adds: A bus helper was killed and at least 40 were injured in a road accident in Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

Witnesses said the incident occurred at around 12:00 midnight at Gazaria in Bhabar Char area when a passenger bus lost control and turned upside down while trying to make way for a human hauler.

The helper of the bus Mohammad Alam, 25, died on the spot.

Vehicular movement was disrupted for an hour on the highway following the accident.



Myles Hilton-Barber speaks at a press conference on 'Seeing is Believing' programme of Standard Chartered Bank at Purbani Hotel in the city yesterday. On his right is Richard Meredith-Hardy while on his left are M Enamul Kabir and Shah Masud Imam.

PHOTO: STAR

## Blind aviator comes to aid of visually impaired

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Visual impairment is not a big problem and those, who remain mum thinking that they are blind, are not aware of their potentialities, said Myles Hilton-Barber, a blind aviator and adventurer.

"The only limits in our lives are those that we accept ourselves. Strong determination, and most importantly the support from all, can lift the bar of physical challenges," said Myles, who arrived in Dhaka on April 2 on a three-day goodwill visit to support the fund raising for Standard Chartered Bank's 'Seeing is Believing' programme.

While talking to journalists at a press conference at a city hotel organised by Standard Chartered Bank, Myles said, "Sight is a wonderful gift many take for granted. Whilst I will never see again in this life, but many people of the developing countries may get back this priceless gift by the money being collected through our flight."

On March 7, Myles ventured out on his latest challenge 'Flight for Sight' to become the first blind aviator in history to fly halfway around the world through a specially customised microlight plane and since then he had travelled 20 countries, the organisers said.

In his 55-day journey that started from London, he will fly over 13,000 miles before ending his mission in Sydney after travelling through Myanmar, Thailand, Singapore and East Timor, they said, adding that during this trip he hoped to raise at least one million pounds sterling towards the sight restorations programme.

Myles has been blind for about 25 years but that did not let him stop from challenging barriers, seeking adventure and succeeding on expeditions to deserts, mountains and polar regions.

Since losing his sight, Myles set numerous world records while undertaking extreme endurance events across the seven continents of the world, from Siberia to Sahara desert, from Antarctica to Africa, from Himalayas to Gobi desert, and from Alps to Death Valley.

While sharing his experience Myles said, "When I was 18, I applied to become a fighter pilot but was rejected due to poor eyesight."

"Now, after 37 years I have this wonderful opportunity and privilege to fly more than half-way around the world," he added.

He requested all to come forward to join in their initiative and stretch support for 'seeing is believing' commitment.

The organisers said 'Seeing is Believing' programme is aimed to raising funds for sight restorations of 10 million blind people in the developing world by 2010.

In Bangladesh, the collected funds will be utilised for cataract operations, training of doctors, and building of facilities in partnership with Sightsavers International.

Shah Masud Imam, head of Corporate Affairs of Standard Chartered Bank, said during his short interval, Myles will meet high officials of the bank and eminent persons of the country.

Richard Meredith-Hardy and M Enamul Kabir, country representative of Sightsavers, also spoke on the occasion.

## Two BNP leaders held in Munshiganj

### A CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Joint Forces in a drive yesterday arrested two influential BNP activists from Munshiganj city in charge of various criminal activities.

The arrestees are Sadar Upazila BNP Secretary Mohammad Mohiuddin Ahmed and BNP district General Secretary Shahidul Islam.

Mohiuddin is the younger brother of former deputy minister Abdul Hai and Shahidul is the ward commissioner of ward no 8 of Munshiganj Municipality, sources added.

The detainees were later sent to army camp for interrogation.

Sources said both Mohiuddin and Shahidul had been terrorising the locals for several years.