

# Call for coordinated approach to tackling road safety problems

## DU CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a workshop yesterday called for addressing the road safety problems through a coordinated policy of planning, implementation and evaluation of their solutions.

The rapid expansion of road transport services and motorisation will lead to more accidents and casualties in the coming years unless the problems' epidemic nature is addressed with due importance, they warned.

The figure of deaths from road accidents -- 1.2 million across the world each year, with about 85 percent of them occurring in the developing countries and many survivors becoming permanent disable -- has an enormous economic cost, ranging from one to

five percent of GDP for every nation, they added.

Road accidents are occurring in the country mainly due to lack of awareness about road safety among the drivers, passengers and pedestrians. There are also economic, social and cultural reasons for road accidents, the experts observed.

The Accident Research Centre (ARC), Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), organised the 'National workshop on organisational roles and responsibilities of road safety in Bangladesh'.

Health and Family Welfare Adviser Maj Gen (Retd) Dr ASM Matiur Rahman formally inaugurated the workshop on the Buet campus in the city.

Buet Vice-chancellor Prof

AMM Safiullah, National Professor MR Khan, secretary to the communication ministry Md Mahbubur Rahman, ARC Director Prof Md Mazharul Hoque and Professor of Canadian University of Calgary Dr Richard Tay also spoke.

Dr ASM Matiur Rahman said many road users, including drivers, helpers, commuters and pedestrians, are not aware of traffic laws.

He also called for proper implementation of these laws.

The government is firm to address the road safety problems on priority basis, he said.

ARC Director Prof Md Mazharul Hoque said 1.2 million people die from road accidents worldwide a year.

"For every death, there are far

greater numbers of injuries -- four people become disabled, ten people require hospital admission and 30 people require emergency room treatment."

He also suggested developing a comprehensive and consistent approach to ensure that the society and the economy treat road safety and mobility with equal importance.

"Goals can be achieved through, among others things, safer design, technology, training, education, a policy of monitoring, enforcement and effective sanctions and incentive schemes," he added.

Prof Dr Richard Tay called for promoting leadership, strengthening organisational capacity and adopting scientific approach to address the road safety problems.



PHOTO: ISPR

Newly appointed Air Chief Air Vice Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman pays a courtesy call on Army Chief Lt Gen Moeen U Ahmed at the Army Headquarters in the city yesterday.

## PSC suspends promotion of officials with 'graft charges'

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Public Service Commission (PSC) yesterday decided to postpone some of its officials' promotion, including in the two vital posts of controller of examinations, on charges of alleged previous corruption.

The decision came following a report titled "Corrupt PSC officials get promotion" published in The Daily Star yesterday.

Sources said a meeting of the Departmental Promotion Committee of PSC decided not to promote its directors Rabiul Islam and Anwarul Islam as controller of examinations (cadre) and controller of examinations (non-cadre) respectively.

The two directors, who were made officers on special duty (OSD)

on June 16, 2002 and October 1, 2003 on charges of corruption, irregularities and negligence of duty, recently regained their positions. They have also been discharging additional charges of controller of examinations for the commission's cadre and non-cadre divisions since February 13 this year.

Sources said the PSC Departmental Promotion Committee will either accept or reject the promotion of Rabiul and Anwarul as controllers of examinations after scrutinising their previous records.

The allegations of corruption against the two directors were revealed at a time when the caretaker government decided to reconstitute the PSC.

## Sino-Bangla ties to grow further

### UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and China yesterday resolved to further deepen the existing relations through strengthening cooperation in trade, economic and political arena.

"As being an Ambassador for the first time and in Bangladesh as well, I will do my best to continue our friendship and cooperation in trade, political and other areas," new Chinese Ambassador Zheng Qingdian told reporters after a meeting with Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury.

During the meeting, they discussed ways and means of

strengthening political and economic ties between Dhaka and Beijing.

In reply to a question, Iftekhar said priority of both Bangladesh and China would be to broaden, deepen and strengthen the current relations.

"We're traditionally being the best of friends bilaterally and internationally...We've excellent economic cooperation," said the adviser.

"If there is anything constant in the international relations, it is the friendship between China and Bangladesh", he added.

## JMB cadre gets 17 years' RI

### OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

The Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal here yesterday sentenced a JMB cadre to 17 years' rigorous imprisonment in an arms case.

Judge AHM Mostaque Ahmed handed down the verdict to convict Md Mashur Rahman alias Milon alias Ujjal, a member of outlawed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

According to the prosecution, a team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested Mashur from a house of one Jahura Khatun at Cox's Bazar and recovered a revolver and four rounds of bullets from his possession on December 14, 2005.

An arms case was filed with Cox's Bazar Police Station in this connection on the following day.

The charge sheet of the arms case was submitted on January 4, 2006.

Charge of the case was framed on March 20 after the case was shifted to the speedy trial tribunal.

Public Prosecutor (PP) Ahmad Quamrul Islam Chowdhury Sajad appeared for the state while there was no lawyer for the defendant.

## Two killed in road accident in Noakhali

### A CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Two people were killed and six others were injured in a road accident on Begumganj-Feni highway in Noakhali yesterday.

Identity of the victims is yet to be confirmed. The injured are now receiving treatment at Noakhali General Hospital.

Police said the accident took place as a Feni-bound truck from Noakhali lost control and fell into a ditch.



PHOTO: STAR

Chief Election Commissioner Dr ATM Shamsul Huda, second from right, inspects a transparent ballot box during his visit to Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory in Gazipur yesterday.

## Pintu in BSMMU prison cell for medical tests

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu was taken to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) yesterday for some diagnostic tests as his physical condition deteriorated.

Prison authorities took Pintu to the hospital at 10:30am where he was admitted to the prison cell.

DIG (Prison) Major Shamsul Haider Siddiqui told The Daily Star that Pintu will remain in the prison cell for another two to three days where the doctors will carry out diagnostics tests on him.

Siddiqui also said Pintu was taken to BSMMU for treatment on the recommendation of the prison doctors, who found blood in his stool.

## Income tax clerk arrested while taking bribe

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Members of joint forces arrested a clerk of income tax department while he was taking bribe of Tk 500 at his office in the city yesterday.

He was identified as AKM Joyal Abedin, a senior upper division clerk at the office of the Deputy Income Tax Commissioner of Circle-1, Khulna.

According to sources of joint forces, Joyal was caught red handed while he was receiving Tk 500 as bribe from Abul Kalam Azad, an official of Khulna Branch of Popular Life Insurance.

Sources said the arrestee earlier demanded Tk 1000 from Azad for dealing with a matter relating to tax evasion.

He was sent to Khulna district jail in the afternoon.

## British Council English courses resume April 24

The British Council Teaching Centre has announced some new changes for 2007, says a press release.

English language programmes will resume on April 24 with registration between April 17 and 23. British Council students will be offered Fuller Road Library and Supported Open Learning Centre memberships, with cutting edge software & materials to improve English.

To enhance the learning environment, the teaching centre has recently been refurbished with bright redecorated classrooms.

The centre is now offering special courses for students who have just finished their SSC and HSC exams. These are general English courses which will help improve students' English for further study.

## BANGABANDHU AGRI VARSITY Classes suspended for indefinite period

### A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

The authorities of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University yesterday suspended the academic activities of honours degree for an indefinite period in the wake of agitation by students demanding introduction of grading system in evaluating the results of their examinations.

The authorities also directed the students to leave the campus by 12:00 noon yesterday. But the students did not comply. However, they left the campus at around 3:00pm following requests from the police deployed on the campus in huge number.

The honours students have been demanding introduction of the grading system as per the directive of the University Grants Commission (UGC).

In a circular on June 13 last year, the UGC asked all the public and private universities to introduce the grading system, they said.

To press their demand, the students submitted a memorandum to the vice-chancellor of the university on April 8 giving him a 72-hour ultimatum to transform their previous results into grades.

They also started boycotting their mid-term examinations and classes from Sunday.

The students yesterday met Deputy Commissioner Syed Mizanur Rahman and submitted a memorandum.

When contacted, Prof Dr Abdul

Khalek said the academic council of the university at a meeting on April 10 decided to introduce the grading system, but it will be applicable for the students who got admitted in 2007, not for those admitted in 2005 and 2006.

## Navy chief calls on president

### UNB, Dhaka

Navy Chief Rear Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam made a courtesy call on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday and apprised him of various aspects of the naval force.

During the meeting, the president, also the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, stressed the need for modernising of the Navy and training of its officials.

The navy chief hoped that Bangladesh Navy would work sincerely to fulfill the expectations of the nation and sought cooperation of the president in this regard.

Earlier, on his arrival, the president welcomed the navy chief at Bangabhaban.

Military Secretary to the President Maj Gen M Aminul Karim and Secretary to President Office M Sirajul Islam were present.



## Rain likely

### UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet, Chittagong and Barisal divisions and at one or two places over Khulna division with hails at places 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 Jessore and lowest 19.5 degree Celsius at Comilla.

**The sun sets in the capital at 6.19pm today and rises at 5:39am 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	27.5	21.8	81	71
Chittagong	30.7	21.0	71	89
Rajshahi	32.0	24.5	78	68
Khulna	34.4	25.2	73	58
Barisal	32.5	24.5	76	65
Sylhet	25.8	19.8	86	66
Cox's Bazar	29.6	24.1	72	100

### GRAFT CASES

## Koyes Sami on 2-day remand, Aman to be quizzed in jail

### COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former managing director of Oriental Bank Limited Chowdhury Koyes Sami, an accused in a case of embezzlement of Tk 488.5 crore, was placed on a two-day remand yesterday.

Meanwhile, another Dhaka court directed an investigation officer (IO) to interrogate Amanullah Aman, former state minister for labour and employment, in the jail custody.

Metropolitan Magistrate Quamrunnahr passed the remand order against prayer for a seven-day remand after the investigation officer produced Sami before the court at 12:30pm.

The defence lawyers submitted a petition for cancellation of the remand saying that their client was implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass him.

In the remand prayer submitted on April 2, IO Syed Momin Hossain of the Criminal Investigation Department mentioned that the accused along with others misappropriated Tk 488.50 crore. So, he needs to be quizzed to find out where he deposited the money and to know the whereabouts of his accomplices, the IO added.

On March 25, Koyes Sami surrendered before a court and submitted a petition seeking bail. The court rejected the bail petition and sent him to the Dhaka Central Jail.

On January 25, the Oriental Bank filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station against Orion Group chief Obaidul Karim, Koyes Sami and 23 other present and former officials of the bank for embezzling Tk 488.5 crore.

According to the FIR (first information report), Tk 488.50 crore was misappropriated through unauthorised issuance of 369 inter-branch debit advices with the help of several officials at the Oriental Bank head office and at Bangshal, Nawabpur, Mirpur Road and Karwan Bazar branches between 2003 and June 2006.

"Obaidul Karim, who is a close relative of some members of the then board of directors of the bank, is the main beneficiary of the misappropriated money," said the FIR.

### Aman Case

Metropolitan Magistrate Jagannath Das Khokon directed the IO Jiban Krishna Roy, deputy director of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), to interrogate Aman in connection with the graft case filed against him and his wife Sabera.

The court passed the order following the written prayer submitted by the IO for interrogating Aman in the jail custody about his wealth.

ACC DD Abdullah Al Zahid filed the graft case against the former state minister for labour and employment with Kafrul Police Station on March 6.

According to the FIR, Aman had acquired properties, including house and vehicles worth over Tk 8.28 crore.

It also mentioned that there is a wide discrepancy between incomes and expenditures of the former BNP lawmaker from Keraniganj. He had made vast sums by misusing power and bribery.

Besides, the DD accused Aman's wife Sabera Aman of giving false information in her statement to the anti-graft body.

## One arrested for selling OMS rice on black market

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police yesterday arrested one person for selling OMS rice on the black market at Nayakati Bazar under Dumuria upazila in Khulna.

The arrestee was identified as Ahmad Gazi, father of OMS rice dealer Alamgir Gazi.

He was found selling OMS rice at higher price than the price fixed by government, police said.



PHOTO: STAR

Rajuk bulldozes illegal structures at DIT Road in the city yesterday.

## Inquilab journo sent to jail

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

ATM Rafique, Khulna bureau chief of the Bangla daily Dainik Inquilab, was shown arrested under Speedy Trial Act and sent to Khulna district jail yesterday afternoon after court rejected his bail prayer.

Rafique was caught red handed while receiving bribe of Tk 20,000 on Tuesday night from two officials of the west wing of Sundarban Forest Division.

Yunus Ali, travel inspector of Sathkira Range office of Sundarban Forest Division, lodged an FIR with Sonadanga Police Station on Tuesday night as complainant soon after his detention.

## Jica to help clean Dhaka city

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) Vice President Atsushi Hatakenaka yesterday reiterated the organisation's commitment in providing technical assistance to Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) to make Dhaka a clean city.

He also expressed hope that with Jica's technical assistance, DCC would be able to make the capital clean by 2015.

Hatakenaka said this while paying a courtesy visit to Dhaka City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka in his office.

At the meeting Project Director of Clean Dhaka mega-project, which is being run with Jica's technical assistance, Tareq Bin Yusuf discussed the various aspects and

development of the project.

Termining the initial output of the project encouraging, DCC mayor expressed hope that upon completion of the mega project, Dhaka would be cleaner than ever.

The Clean Dhaka project was launched in 2003 and its first phase was completed in 2005. Initially DCC ran a pilot project of collection and disposal of waste in four wards of the city.

Being inspired by the output of the project, DCC now plans to replicate the models in other wards of the capital.

DCC and Jica agreed to extend cooperation in an Integrated Solid Waste Management and Medical Waste Management, both of which would run from 2007 to 2011.

## 4 CPA officials, MMD principal officer sent to jail

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The four high officials of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) and the principal officer of Mercantile Marine Department (PO MMD), who were held by the joint forces after their suspension from the service on corruption charges on Tuesday evening, were sent to jail yesterday.

The court of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Abdul Hye sent them to jail following a prayer made by the police for detention order in the afternoon, sources said.

Earlier, police produced the officials before the court showing them arrest under section 16 of the special emergency act when Officer-in-Charge of Bandar Police Station Sheikh Nasim Habib made the petition for detention.

After hearing the petition, the court ordered for sending CPA Chief Hydrographer Habibur Rahman Khan, Project Director (Equipments) Khairul Mostafa, Terminal Manager Mashur Rahman Beg, Deputy Manager (Estate) Zillur Rahman and PO MMD Captain Habibur Rahman to jail.

The court in its order at the same time directed the concerned jail super to make arrangement for treatment of Habibur and Mashur due to their illness, sources said.

The members of joint forces held five CPA officials, including CPA Director (Traffic) Ahsanul Kabir immediately after they were suspended on different charges of corrupt practices, irregularities and inefficiency on Tuesday evening.

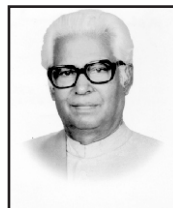
However, after interrogation the joint-forces released Ahsanul Kabir at midnight while the others were handed over to Bandar police later.

## Stamford varsity exam schedule

The admission test for bachelor programmes of summer 2007 trimester of Stamford University, Bangladesh will be held at 3:00pm tomorrow, says a press release.

The result of the admission test will be published on April 16 at 3:00pm.

## Death anniversary



Today is the 10th death anniversary of Mohiuddin Mahmood Afindi, a Language Movement veteran, one of the organisers

of the War of Liberation and former presidium member of Awami League, says a press release.

On the occasion, Mohiuddin Ahmed Jatiya Smriti Sangsad will place wreath at his grave at 9:00am and hold daylong Quarnkhwani and milad mayfil after Asr prayers.

Mothbaria Welfare Association of Dhaka and Mothbaria Students' Welfare Association will also arrange programmes, marking the day.

## Obituary

Dr Nasima Rahman, professor of Gyne and Oncology Department of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), passed away due to a cardiac arrest at United Hospital in the city on Tuesday at the age of 54, says a press release.

The teachers, staffs and employees of BSMMU prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

### Dr AKM Rezaul Huq Reza



Dr AKM Rezaul Huq Reza, a physician of the health ministry of Saudi Arabia, passed away in Saudi Arabia on March 28 at the age of 52, says

a press release.

He left behind his wife, one son and one daughter to mourn his death.

He will be buried at the Mohammadpur graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at Lalmatia Jame Masjid (near A Block) after Asr prayers today.

His qukhwani will be held at his Lalmatia residence after Asr prayers on 14 April.

Kazi Rafiqul Alam, president of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, said the country has lost a brilliant doctor at his death. He also prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

### Mohiuddin Mahmood Afindi

#### UNB, Dhaka

Mohiuddin Mahmood Afindi, son of former adviser to a caretaker government Kafiuddin Mahmood, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at his residence in the city on Tuesday at the age of 51.

Afindi, a Pubal Bank official, left behind his parents, wife, three brothers and two sisters to mourn his death.

He was buried at Kalsi Mosque graveyard in Mirpur the same day.

His qukhwani will be held at his Dhanmondi residence after Asr prayers tomorrow.