

# Nine killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Nine people were killed and 46 others injured in separate road accidents across the country yesterday and on Thursday night.

Our correspondent in Mymensingh reports: At least four people were killed and 30 others were injured, 10 of them critically in a road accident at Shikari Kanda on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway under sadar upazila yesterday.

Two of the four victims were identified as Azizul, 50, and Khokon, 28, while the identity of the rest could not be confirmed immediately.

Police said the accident took place when a Netrokona-bound passenger bus from Dhaka hit a roadside tree at Shikari Kanda and skidded off the road as the driver lost control over the steering, injuring 35 passengers. The injured were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) where four people succumbed to injuries.

The bodies were sent to MMCH morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed in this regard.

Our correspondent from Satkhira reports: A construction worker was killed and another female worker

was injured seriously in a road accident at about 8:00pm on Thursday night when a truck crushed him on Satkhira-Jessore road in the town.

The deceased was identified as Shafiqul Islam, 18, son of Abdus Sobhan of village Kukhrail in sadar upazila.

The injured Aklima Khatun, 25, wife of late Zohor Ali in the same village was admitted to sadar hospital in a critical condition, hospital sources said.

Quoting local people, police said a Jessore-bound truck from Bhomra land port slammed Shafiq and Aklima in front of a petrol pump at New Market intersection when they were returning home after construction work by riding a bicycle leaving Shafiqul dead and Aklima injured.

On contact, sadar police Officer in Charge (OC) Shafiqur Rahman confirmed the incident.

UNB from Dhaka adds: In Jessore, three people were killed and 15 others injured in separate road accidents in Bagharpara and sadar upazilas in the morning.

In Bagharpara, two people were killed and 15 others injured when a bus plunged into a roadside ditch near Khajura Bazar in the early

hours of yesterday.

Police said a Dhaka-bound passenger bus of Eagle Paribahan fell into the ditch soon after one of its tyre burst at about 5:30am killing two passengers on the spot and injuring 15 others.

The deceased were identified as Taslim, 32, of Chittagong, and Raju, 15, son of Shahdat Hossain of Bagharpara upazila.

Of the injured 13 were admitted to sadar hospital.

In sadar upazila, an octogenarian man was crushed under the wheels of a truck at Balia Dhekutia village in the morning.

Police said Ali Box, 80, met the tragic end of his life at about 11:00am while he was crossing the road.

In Comilla, a bus rammed into a pickup-van at Korpai area in Burichang upazila at noon killing the unidentified van driver on the spot.

Separate cases were filed with the respective police stations following the two incidents.



BNP Chairperson Khaleida Zia visits ailing Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami at Ibn Sina Hospital in the city yesterday.

## 20 vessels fined Tk 3.5 lakh at Ctg port

BSS, Chittagong

Twenty vessels of different local categories were fined Tk 3.5 lakh by the Magistrate Court of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) for non-payment of huge outstanding mooring charges.

The court in separate drives on Thursday fined the owners of these vessels and asked them to pay the mooring charges within the next one week. The penalised vessels include 17 ocean-going fishing vessels, one cargo ship and two oil tankers, a CPA press release said.

Meanwhile, the court in another drive demolished office structures of two trade union organisations, which were illegally established on an area of more than 1,100sq ft CPA lands close to the restricted areas.

The offices of the Chittagong Port Marine Contractors Workers Union and Chattagram Sangikta Samik Karmachari Federation were constructed on the CPA lands, posing a threat to the port security.

As per the provision of International Port and Shipping Security (IPSC) code, construction of such structure within the 25 meters jurisdiction of port restricted areas is prohibited.

CPA retrieved its 1,100sq ft lands by removing the illegal structures, the press release said.

## 2 outlaws held in Rajshahi

UNB, Rajshahi

Police arrested two outlaws from Taherpur and Palashi villages in Bagmara upazila early yesterday.

The arrested were identified as Saidur, 25, son of Ershad of Taherpur village, and Quddus, 30, of Palashi village. They both are the members of Purba Banglar Communist Party.

The police said Saidur is also a fugitive accused in a murder case.

Acting on a tip-off, the police raided their houses at midnight and picked them up.

The police said the two were involved in various crimes, including murder, extortion and mugging.

A court sent them to jail after they were produced before it in the morning.

## Sonadanga made model police station

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Inspector General of Police Noor Mohammad yesterday inaugurated Sonadanga Police Station in Khulna as a model police station.

Sonadanga PS is one of the 24 police stations that are being turned into model police stations with financial assistance from the government of Japan.

The IGP said it is high time to restore the lost image of Bangladesh Police.

The credibility gap between police and the public must be removed at any cost, he added.

Each member of the police department will have to work as a servant of the people and sentinel of peace, said the IGP.

Noor Mohammad asked the members of the police department not to harass people and misuse

power. Government will not hesitate to take drastic actions against delinquent policemen, irrespective of their rank and status, he said.

The IGP further said that political governments of the past used police as their own whim and thus destroyed the image of Bangladesh Police. Politicisation of police administration was among other factors which made it quite impossible to render services sincerely.

Khulna Range DIG Mesbaunnabi, Barisal Range DIG Khan Saeed Hasan and Chairperson of Khulna Citizens' Forum Shaikh Abdul Kaiyum addressed the function presided by KMP Commissioner Nazmul Haque.

Police Supers of ten districts of Khulna division were also present in the inaugural function.

# WEATHER

## TODAY

### Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Chittagong, Barisal, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Moderate to severe heat wave sweeping through Rajshahi division and mild to moderate heat wave sweeping through Khulna and Dhaka divisions may continue, Met Office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. Yesterday's highest temperature of 40.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Dinaipur and the lowest of 23.7 degrees at Sylhet.

**The sun sets in the capital at 6:42pm today and rises at 5:11am tomorrow.**

The 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	35.9	28.5	77	66
Chittagong	33.5	27.5	77	78
Rajshahi	39.8	27.6	76	45
Khulna	36.0	28.9	79	68
Barisal	34.5	27.5	77	70
Sylhet	30.5	23.7	77	79
Cox's Bazar	34.3	29.0	67	77

## South Asian University to be set up in India

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

India will house the prestigious South Asian University and all the eight Saarc countries will have its campuses.

This was decided at a two-day meeting of senior Saarc officials in New Delhi.

The university, intended to be a centre of excellence, will be set up in the vicinity of Delhi and is expected to be functional by July 2009.

India has offered to bear the entire cost of setting up the university which was proposed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at the 13th Saarc summit in Dhaka in 2005.

The Indian side informed the meeting that 250 acres of land is being acquired on the outskirts of Delhi for setting up the university which is expected to be a non-profit public-private partnership.

Gowhar Rizvi, director of Ash Institution of Democratic Governance and Innovations at Harvard University who was entrusted with the task of preparing a concept note, has recommended a middle path between government-funded and private education to facilitate autonomy from bureaucratic stranglehold while maintaining social commitment towards the have-nots.

The role of the governments of eight member countries will have to be confined to provision of capital for setting up the institution.

Once fully operational, the governments will not be expected to provide annual subsidies and grants, Rizvi said, adding the university will have to look for private and corporate donors without allowing them to influence its administrative and academic autonomy.

## 2 more trains introduced on Rajshahi-Khulna route

UNB, Dhaka

Two more inter-city trains were pressed into service on Rajshahi-Khulna route yesterday to meet the growing needs of passengers.

Communications secretary Dr M Mahbubur Rahman inaugurated the services of 'Kapotaksha Provati' and 'Kapotaksha Godhuli' at a simple function at the Rajshahi railway station in the morning by handing a flag to the guard.

Director general of Bangladesh Railways Belayet Hossain, General Manager of BR (western zone) Iqbal Mollah and other high officials were also present.

An official release said 'Kapotaksha Provati' would depart Rajshahi at 6:50am and arrive at Khulna at 1:40pm while 'Kapotaksha Godhuli' would leave Khulna at 3:00pm and reach Rajshahi at 9:25pm.

The trains will halt at Azimnagar, Ishwardi, Pakshey, Bheramara, Poradaha, Alamdanga, Chuadanga, Darshana, Kotchandpur, Mobarakganj, Jessore and Noapara stations.

The trains will not run on Mondays, said a press release.

## Death anniversary

Today is the 10th death anniversary of Advocate Dabir Uddin Ahmed, a former lawmaker and organiser of the Liberation War, says a press release.

Dabir Uddin, a Sirajganj Awami League leader, was a close associate of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his village home at Islampur in Ullapara and at his residences in Sirajganj and Dhaka.

**Md Abdul Mannan**

Today is the 3rd death anniversary of Md Abdul Mannan, father of poet Arefin Shamsul Haque, says a press release.

On the occasion, milad mahfil will be held at Shams Nikunja, Telipara in Chandna, Gazipur and at Wali Hajir Bari Jame Masjid at Majidpur in Senbagh, Noakhali, after Zohr prayers.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the programme.



Justice Golam Rabbani speaks at a seminar on 'Ways to solve the crisis in jute sector' at National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right are Khushi Kabir, Selina Hossain and Nirmal Sen while on his left are Mohammad Shahidullah and Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman. Centre for Law Research and Support organised the seminar.

## TRIBUTES PAID TO MANIK MIA

# 'Press politicians to bring changes to politics'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Paying rich tributes to veteran journalist Tofazzal Hossain Manik Mia, founder-editor of the daily Ittefaq, speakers at a discussion yesterday said moral pressure should be exerted on politicians if they don't want to bring qualitative changes to politics willingly.

They said honest people, including politicians, professionals and social workers, should work together in the changed situation to initiate a true democratic process in the country.

The discussion was organised by Manik Mia Parishad at Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) Auditorium in the city yesterday evening to mark the 38th death anniversary of Manik

Mia.

Presided over by Sadeque Siddique, general secretary of Manik Mia Parishad, the meeting was also addressed by Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelley, acting editor of Ittefaq Rahat Khan, Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, MA Rashid and Abu Sayeed Khan.

Paying tributes to Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Tofazzal Hossain Manik Mia for their outstanding contribution to Bengali nationalism, Dr Shelley said democracy did not fail in the country, rather those who were entrusted to make democracy stronger have failed as they destroyed democ-

racy to serve their personal interest.

He said those who are responsible for destroying everything in the country must not be pardoned as they will not forgive the nation if they return to power again.

Mentioning the contribution of Bangabandhu and Manik Mia for laying the foundation of Bengali nationalism, Rahat Khan said democratic spirit was the inspiration for Manik Mia.

Sadeque Siddique said emergency has been imposed in the country due to intolerant activities of two major political parties.

Now everybody should help the authorities concerned to establish a fair and corruption-free society, he added.



Officials of Mercantile Bank Limited announce names of the winners of Mercantile Bank Annual Awards at a press conference at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

## Eight eminent personalities win Mercantile Bank Awards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eight eminent personalities will receive Mercantile Bank Annual Awards for their outstanding contributions to different fields this year.

They are Mamtaz Uddin Ahmed for Bengali language and literature, Prof Sanjida Khatun for education and culture, Meghna Guho Thakurta for research on Liberation War, Dr Akbar Ali Khan for economy and economic research, Latifur Rahman for industry and commerce, Dr MR Khan for science, technology and medicine, ABM Musa for journalism and Khaled Masud Pilot for sports.

The names of the recipients were formally announced by director of the bank Mosharaf Hossain at a press briefing in the city yesterday, marking its 8th founding anniversary.

## BBC Bangladesh Sanglap today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 33rd edition of the BBC Bangladesh Sanglap will be held at the Ball Room of Hotel Sea Palace in Cox's Bazar at 5:45pm today.

BNP leader and former lawmaker Md Shahiduzzaman, Awami League leader and Cox's Bazar Bar Association President Sirajul Mostafa, Educationist Prof Someswar Chakravarty and women leader and former lawmaker Aye Thein Rakhaing will feature in the four-member panel for this week's Sanglap, says a press release.

# DHAKA

## TODAY

### Regional seminar

A regional seminar on 'Local Government Reforms' will be held. Venue: STM Hall, Uttara campus, Scholastica. Time: 4:00pm.

### Roundtable

Channel i and Shapthahik2000 will jointly organise a roundtable titled 'Reconditioned cars: Export policy and reality'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

### Certificate distribution ceremony

The certificate distribution ceremony of the 17th batch of Theatre School will be held. Venue: Jatiya Natyashala. Time: 6:30pm.

### Silver jubilee

Academic Press and Publishers' Limited will celebrate its Silver Jubilee. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4:00pm.

### EU Seminar

Eastern University (EU) organises a seminar on 'Role of mobile courts in the enforcement of laws in Bangladesh'. Venue: University auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

### Film festival

Russian Centre of Science and Culture (RCSC) and Ghash Ful Khelaghor jointly organise a daylong film festival to mark the International Child Protection Day. Venue: RCSC. Time: 10:00am.

### Graduation ceremony

The graduation ceremony of class X and

### class XII of the session 2006-07 of Scholastica School will be held. Venue: STM Hall, Uttara campus, Scholastica. Time: 4:00pm.

### Workshop

Bangladesh Manobadhikar Bastobayan Sangstha in association with Royal Danish Embassy (DANIDA) organises an access to justice workshop. Venue: Conference room of the district commissioner of Dhaka. Time: 10:30am.

### Art exhibition

Britto Arts Trust organises an exhibition of the outcomes of a month-long residency programme. Venue: Drik Gallery. Time: 5:30pm. The exhibition will run from June 2 to June 4 (3:00pm to 5:00pm) everyday.

### Baul Hunt

Palli Baul Samaj Unnayan Sangstha in association with Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany will organise a Baul Hunt. Venue: Public Library auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

### UODA Seminar

University of Development Alternative (UODA) organises a seminar on 'Bangladesh capital market, its growth, potentials and challenges'. Venue: UODA-2 training room, Dhanmondi 9A. Time: 9:00am.

### Roundtable on religion

Council for Interfaith Harmony, Bangladesh organises a roundtable titled 'The role of religion in building the nation and state'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

## FAKE STUDENTS AT RU Probe body submits report

RU CORRESPONDENT

The probe committee investigating cases of eight alleged fake students of social work department of Rajshahi University yesterday submitted its report to the vice chancellor after two months of investigation.

Earlier, a five-member probe committee, headed by Prof Khalequzzaman of zoology department, was formed for investigating alleged irregularities in the admission of eight students of first year honours in 2006-07 academic sessions at the social work department.

It was alleged that a clerk in the department was behind the admission of the fake students and he realised Tk 2 lakh for this ill-task.

A member of the probe committee told this correspondent that the committee found some irregularities in the admission process. However, he did not elaborate.

Earlier, several hundred students of the social work department staged demonstration on the campus protesting admission of eight alleged fake students.

The students also boycotted their scheduled class and examination demanding punishment to the clerk.

When contacted, RU Vice-Chancellor Prof Altaf Hossain said the university authorities will review the report and take disciplinary action against the responsible people in the next syndicate meeting.

A teacher of the department said admission of the eight fake students will be cancelled and genuine students will be taken in.

## President, CA greet Italian leaders

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed have felicitated their Italian counterparts on the occasion of the National Day of Italy today.

In a message to Italian President Giorgio Napolitano, President Iajuddin expressed his firm belief that the existing friendly relations between Bangladesh and Italy would be further developed in the coming years.

He also wished good health, happiness and long life of Napolitano and continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Italy.

In a separate message to Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi, the chief adviser expressed his firm conviction that the existing bonds of friendship between the two countries would be further flourish in the years ahead.

## 1st Nat'l Confence on Health Rights June 14-15

The first National Conference on Health Rights (NCHR), first of its kind in the country, will be held on June 14-15 at Bangladesh Institute for Administration and Management (Biam) auditorium, says a press release.

A total of 51 national and international organisations working on health rights are involved in organising the two-day conference.

A photography contest will also be held during the conference. Interested photojournalists have been asked to submit one or more entries for the contest.

The topics of the photography contest are – health related rights, deprivation in health care service, model medical organisation, country's health scenario, negligence to the women and child health.

Both black and white and colour photos are eligible for the contest while the size should be 12 16, added the press release.

The photos should reach NCHR Secretariat, PSTC, 103, New Circular Road, Dhaka-1217 by June 7.

The best photos as adjudicated by the judges will be put on display in an exhibition.