

## Road crashes kill 3

STAR REPORT

At least three people were killed and 20 others injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka and Cox's Bazar yesterday.

UNB adds: A young man was run over by a bus at Mohammadpur in the city yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Arif, 18, son of Falu Mia, of Sultananj at Rayer Bazar.

Local sources said the speeding bus ran over Arif when he was crossing the road near Asad Gate at about 7:00am, leaving him critically injured.

Arif was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at 9:00am.

Our correspondent from Cox's Bazar reports: Two women were killed and 20 others injured in a road accident at Eidgao union under Dadar Upazila in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

Two dead were identified as Dilruba, 60, of Pakoya upazila in Cox's Bazar and Minu Akter, 30, of Raozan upazila in Chittagong.

## NU identifies 52 fake students

The National University (NU) authorities have detected 52 fake students at honorus level in different colleges across the country, says a press release.

Twenty-three of them were admitted under 2004-05 session and 29 under 2005-06 session.

The university authorities found out that these students either did not take part or failed in the admission test. But they enrolled in colleges through release slips.

The academic (honours) section under Post Graduate Education, Training and Research Centre of the university spotted the irregularities while working on registration programme.

Later, the authority cross-checked the information about these students sent from different colleges with the university's database stored in computer and ICT Unit and confirmed that these students are fake.

Necessary steps to take action against the students are underway, the press release added.



Holger Fraider, German chargé d'affaires a.i. in Dhaka, hands over the Letter of Commission to Mirza Shakir Ispahani, honorary consul of Germany in Chittagong, at a ceremony at the German Embassy on Sunday.

## Shakir Ispahani made honorary consul of Germany

Mirza Shakir Ispahani has been appointed honorary consul of Germany in Chittagong by the president of Germany, says a press release.

The government of Bangladesh has approved the appointment.

Holger Fraider, German chargé d'affaires a.i. in Dhaka, handed over the Letter of Commission to Mirza Shakir Ispahani at a ceremony on Sunday at the German Embassy.

Mirza Shakir Ispahani has a BA (Hons) Law degree from the University of Kent, and an LLM (Hons) from the University of Cambridge, England. He was called to the Bar of England and Wales (Lincoln's Inn) in 1984.

He has a longstanding business career with his family business group, the Ispahani Group of companies.

## Bangabandhu murder case

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Another condemned in the case, also filed an appeal through the jail authorities on June 24, 2007 following his extradition from the US.

In almost six years, a three-member bench could not be formed as five of the seven Appellate Division judges either had reservations regarding the case or had heard the case before as HC judges.

After Syed JR Mudassir Husain retired as the chief justice on February 28, Justice Hassan Ameen was appointed to the Appellate Division on March 20 to fill the vacancy, making way for meeting the SC requirement of three judges to form the bench.

Out of the seven-member Appellate Division, three judges -- Tafazzul Islam, Joynul Abedin, and Hassan Ameen -- can hear the Bangabandhu murder case, as none of them has any reservation regarding the case nor did any

of them hear the case before in the HC.

Supreme Court Registrar Ikhtedar Ahmed informed the media that a special bench has been formed with the three judges of the Appellate Division to hear the case.

"All formalities for the hearing have been completed. The state also has appointed defence lawyers to stand on behalf of those still at large."

The appeal hearing originally had been scheduled for August 16, 2001, which was postponed eight times before it was finally dropped from the Appellate Division on March 19, 2002.

Twelve of the condemned had their death sentences upheld by the High Court's final verdict on April 30, 2001.

Four of them, who are in prison, filed appeals with the Appellate Division immediately after the High Court verdict.

They are former army officers Bazlul Huda, Syed Faruque Rahman, Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, and Mohiuddin Ahmed.

Another former army officer, AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed, filed an appeal through the jail authorities on June 24, 2007 following his extradition from the US. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated along with most of his family members on August 15, 1975. A case was filed on October 2, 1996 -- 21 years after the killing.

A trial court on November 8, 1998 handed down death sentences to 15 retired and dismissed army personnel for the multiple murders. The HC upheld the punishment of the 12, only five of whom are currently behind bars, one died, and the rest are still at large.

## Hospitals crammed with diarrhoea patients

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thronged ICDDR,B yesterday compelling the authorities to employ more doctors and staffs to cope with the situation.

ICDDR,B authorities grappled with the pressure as over 200 seats arranged at the hospital's parking lot for treating the additional patients were not enough. They started arranging more space for them in the parking lot to tackle the situation.

A large number of children suffering from fever, pneumonia and skin diseases were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital, and Dhaka Shishu Hospital yesterday.

Dr Monir Hossain, resident physician of DMCH, said the number of child patients suffering from various water-borne diseases rose sharply as about 300 to 400 children get admitted to DMCH every day.

"The bulk of diarrhoea patients got admitted to ICDDR,B while DMCH received a small section in last few days", he said. He also cautioned the number of patients suffering from diarrhoea and skin diseases would increase after floods.

ICDDR,B physicians said usually 180 to 220 patients suffering from water-borne diseases get admitted to the hospital every day. But the number rose sharply in last few days, they said.

They cited consumption of contaminated food and water in the flood-affected areas as the main reasons of the outbreak of the disease.

Apart from children, adults and elderly people from the capital and its neighbouring areas were admitted to ICDDR,B in last few days.

Dr Mir Nasir Ul Alam, clinic manager of ICDDR,B told The Daily Star that the number of patients increases steeply during floods. But this time the situation might get worse in the coming days.

Dr S K Roy, senior scientist of Clinical Sciences Division of

ICDDR,B said that although children are affected by the disease in general, the number of adult patients increases sharply during floods.

"Adults are more prone to the disease during floods as they often take contaminated water and food in flood-affected areas", he said.

The doctors said people in flood-affected areas must boil water or use water-purifying tablets before drinking to prevent the disease.

ICDDR,B has been providing orsoline for free and giving advice to the patients, they said.

Meanwhile, sale of orsoline rose sharply in the city in last few

days.

Mohammad Rajib, a salesman of Faria Pharmacy in Uttar Begun Bari area, said the sale of orsoline had gone up after many people in the area were affected by diarrhoea.

He said that now about 200 packets of orsoline are being sold every day while the number was only 50 a week back.

Most of the diarrhoea patients are usually discharged from ICDDR,B within 12 to 24 hours after admission, said the doctors.

They said that the survival rate of the diarrhoea patients is 99 per cent and those who die usually have other complications.

Monir, 25, a labourer of

Kamrangir Char area, said he got admitted to ICDDR,B yesterday as he fell ill after drinking water outside his workplace on Friday.

Mustafizur Rahman, a biomedical engineer, who came to ICDDR,B with his 11-month-old baby, said the water of the reservoir of their house at Sabujbagh got contaminated as floodwater found its way into it.

The Health Directorate opened a control room on July 30 to monitor the diarrhoea situation across the country. They are also providing orsoline and medicines to the patients.

## Poll preparations to go on despite floods

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government's main priority is now to tackle the prevailing flood situation'.

Referring to the EC's roadmap announced on July 15, the CEC said the stalled ninth parliamentary election would definitely be held in December 2008 and elections to different local government bodies would be held by this time.

"There is no scope for deviating from the roadmap," CEC Huda said inaugurating a two-day training programme for district election officers, who will later train about three lakh enumerators and supervisors for simultaneously preparing the voter list with photographs and national identity cards by using high technology.

In its roadmap, the EC announced that the task of preparing the voter list would be completed in October 2008. "October 2008 is the latest for having the voter list ready. We want to complete the entire task before the deadline," said Huda, who was

appointed as CEC on February 4, and announced an 18-month timeframe on April 5 for completing the preparation for holding the parliamentary polls.

"Everybody will have to pledge to do the task properly for holding a free and fair parliamentary election," said the chief election official.

Huda said the district election officers, who are working as registration officers for preparation of the voter list, have to ensure the quality and efficiency of enumerators and supervisors while recruiting them.

"The enumerators and supervisors engaged other people to get their job done in the past. You will have to be careful so that none can repeat the previous wrongdoing," the CEC told the field level election officials.

"Image of the Election Commission was tarnished in the past. But now the commission will not allow any wrongdoing. Nobody will be allowed to favour any particular political parties," he said in a

tone of warning to the field level election officials.

Nobody will get promotion on the basis of seniority alone, the CEC said, adding that field level officials will be promoted considering their efficiency and performance.

Referring to the proposed electoral rolls ordinance 2007, which is now underway, the CEC said from now, an eligible person will have to enroll his or her name in the voter list in his working area. "If he or she does not want to register as voter in his place of work, he or she will have to apply to the Election Commission and the commission will decide the matter," he added.

Election commissioners Muhammed Sohul Hussain and Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakhawat Hossain also spoke at the inaugural session of the training programme at Electoral Training Institute in the capital.

## Money laundering charges

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Hossain of Gulshan Police Station, who is also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), Dhaka, showing 18 people as prosecution witnesses.

Following the charge sheet, the court had issued arrest warrant against Harris and ordered attachment of all his moveable and immovable properties.

On February 4, the joint forces seized two briefcases with the currencies from Harris' Gulshan residence. The foreign currencies were found when the briefcases were opened on April 2 in the presence of Metropolitan Magistrate Mir Ali Reza, sources said.

According to the statement, Harris hoarded foreign currencies worth about Tk 5.64 lakh with a plan to smuggle those abroad.

On April 9, Gulshan police filed the case against Harris under the Money Laundering Act.

The same court yesterday adjourned the proceedings of the arms case against Babar following a time petition by the defence lawyers.

In the petition, the lawyers mentioned that they had earlier filed a criminal appeal with the High Court (HC) against the order of framing charges against their client on July 25. The matter is now on the list hearing. So, the hearing of the case at the lower court should be adjourned until the HC matter is disposed of.

The army-led joint forces recovered a shotgun, a rifle, a pistol, and a revolver, two magazines and 297 bullets during a raid in Babar's Gulshan residence on May 28.

### CASE AGAINST BAPPI

Judge Mohammad Azizul Haq of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court fixed August 9 for hearing on charge framing against Bappi, detained ex-BNP lawmaker Harunur Rashid and a businessman Istiaq Sadiq in a graft case.

ACC Assistant Director Monayem Hossain, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, yesterday submitted the charge sheet to the CMM, Dhaka, against Bappi and others.

On March 7, police arrested Bappi, ex-MP Harunur Rashid of Chapainawabganj and owner of Sky Auto Istiaq Sadiq at their residences.

They were arrested for tax evasion in importing a luxurious vehicle by abusing duty-free car import privilege for the members of parliament (MP).

Harunur Rashid purchased the vehicle, a Hummer H2, on April 25, 2005 using his duty-free privilege and sold it to Istiaq violating rules. Istiaq later sold the vehicle to Bappi.

### BASHUNDHARA CASE

The same court yesterday asked the authorities concerned to pub-

lish an advertisement in two national Bangla dailies asking Basundhara Group chairman and five others to surrender to the court within three days in a tax evasion case.

Earlier on July 25, the court had issued arrest warrants against them after Kabiruddin Mollah, deputy tax commissioner of Circle-8, filed the case.

The accused are Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan Shah Alam, its managing director and also Sobhan's wife Afroza Begum, their sons-- directors Sadat Sobhan, Safayet Sobhan and Sayem Sobhan, and MM Kuddus, proprietor of Kuddus & Company.

In his complaint, Kabir mentioned that Shah Alam and others had evaded a total of Tk 8,48,15,746 in income tax during fiscal years 2004 to 2007.