

7 killed in road accidents

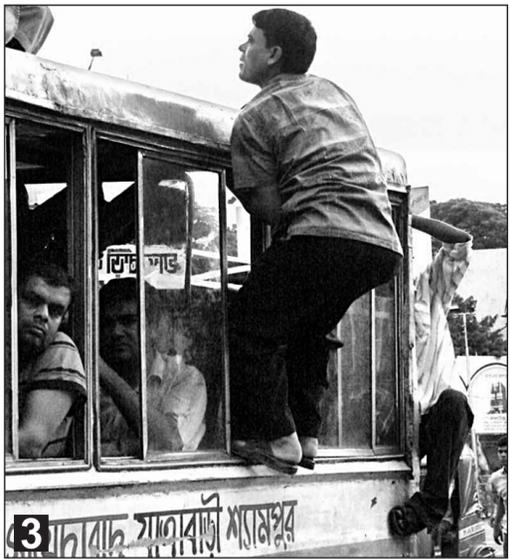
STAR REPORT
Seven people, including five motorcyclists, were killed and 24 others injured in separate road accidents in Narsingdi, Comilla, Thakurgaon, Rangpur and Kishoreganj in the last two days.

The victims were identified as Md Mainuddin, 20, and Jahiruddin, 22 while the injured was their friend Helal, 32.
The accident occurred when a speeding bus hit the motorcycle they were riding on at about 4:00pm.

Dhaka-bound Hanif Enterprise from Panchagarh knocked Joytun down while she was crossing the road.
BSS adds: A teenage bicycle rider was killed in a road accident at Chatra Bazaar at Pirganj in Rangpur on Thursday.

KCC, Kuet sign agreement on promotion of solar energy

BSS, Khulna
Khulna City Corporation (KCC) yesterday inked an agreement with Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (Kuet) on the promotion of renewable energy (PRE).
The agreement envisages a Tk 3.60 lakh project to conduct a three-month baseline survey in urban households as well as small and medium enterprises in the city for solar energy, KCC sources said.



(Top) A large number of people throng Kamalapur Railway Station in the city yesterday to go to their home districts after the curfew was relaxed at 8:00am. (Bottom) Home-bound people trying to reach bus terminals scramble to get on vehicles as there was insufficient number of transport yesterday morning.

First semifinal of Citi Financial Quiz today

The first semifinal of the Citi Financial Quiz Competition 2007 will be held today, says a press release.
In today's semifinal Jahangirnagar University and Stamford University will vie for a place in the final.
Channel 1 will telecast the programme at 6:20pm.



A doctor attends a patient at the ICCDR,B Hospital in the city yesterday. Although floodwater has started to recede, more and more diarrhoea patients are coming to the hospital.

Gaping hole found in universe

AP, Washington
Astronomers have stumbled upon a tremendous hole in the universe. That's got them scratching their heads about what's just not there. The cosmic blank spot has no stray stars, no galaxies, no sucking black holes, not even mysterious dark matter. It is 1 billion light years across of nothing. That's an expanse of nearly 6 billion trillion miles of emptiness, a University of Minnesota team announced Thursday.

broad expanse of the universe. But one area of the universe had radio pictures indicating there was up to 45 percent less matter in that region, Rudnick said.
The rest of the matter in the radio pictures can be explained as stars and other cosmic structures between here and the void, which is about 5 to 10 billion light years away. Rudnick then checked observations of cosmic microwave background radiation and found a cold spot. The only explanation, Rudnick said, is it's empty of matter.

AIDS claims nine in Khulna in two years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna
Nine people, including six women, died of AIDS in Khulna metropolitan city in last two years.
According to a press statement of World Vision Bangladesh, the number of HIV-positive people in the city is 19. Of them, 12 are women.
The statement said there are 5000 floating sex workers only in Khulna metropolitan city.

17 injured in Sunamganj clash

UNB, Sunamganj
At least 17 villagers were injured in a clash between two groups over using a road at Chhoyara village in South Sunamganj yesterday.
Local sources said the clash ensued between the supporters of Chhoyara UP chairman Raushan Khan Sagar and the supporters of one Fakru Mia at about 10:00am as Fakru's men didn't let villagers use a certain road.

ELT seminar today

An English Language Teaching seminar by ELT expert Jeremy Harmer will be held at Sonargaon Hotel from 4:00pm to 7:00pm today, says a press release.
Bangladesh English Language Teachers' Association (Belta) and the British Council have jointly organised the seminar.
Another two-day ELT seminar jointly organised by Belta and Presidency University will also begin on the university campus in the city today.

Scientists recreate out-of-body experiences

AFP, Chicago
For centuries, people have claimed to have had out-of-body experiences but now scientists have recreated the sensation without using drugs in the first experiments of their kind, a study said Thursday.
As many as one in 10 people say they have experienced the sensation of being awake and seeing their own body from another location, according to the study published in the journal Science.
"Out-of-body experiences have fascinated mankind for millennia. Their existence has raised fundamental questions about the relationship between human consciousness and the body," said Henrik Ehrsson, a neuroscientist formerly of University College London, and now at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden.
Now neuroscientists have manipulated a group of perfectly healthy volunteers into thinking they had moved outside their bodies by distorting their perception of reality.
Using virtual reality goggles to mix up the sensory signals reaching the brain, they induced the volunteers into projecting their awareness into a virtual body. Participants confirmed they had experienced sitting behind their physical body and looking at it.
The illusion was so strong that the volunteers reacted with a palpable sense of fear when their virtual selves were threatened with physical force.
The findings suggest there may be a scientific explanation for these types of out-of-body experiences, which are often thought of as delusional or paranormal, and the scientists believe their research could have important applications.
"The invention of this illusion is important because it reveals the basic mechanism that produces the

feeling of being inside the physical body," said Ehrsson.
"This represents a significant advance because the experience of one's own body as the center of awareness is a fundamental aspect of self-consciousness."
And inducing people to have out-of-body experiences could have wide-ranging uses, he believes.
"This is essentially a means of projecting yourself, a form of teleportation. If we can project people into a virtual character, so they feel and respond as if they were really in a virtual version of themselves, just imagine the implications."
"The experience of video games could reach a whole new level, but it could go much beyond that. For example, a surgeon could perform remote surgery, by controlling their

virtual self from a different location."
But scientists still don't know exactly what causes such experiences which have often been associated with traumatic experiences such as car accidents and linked to compromised brain function in epileptics, drug addicts and stroke victims.
"Brain dysfunctions that interfere with interpreting sensory signals may be responsible for clinical cases of out-of-body experiences," said Ehrsson.
"Though, whether all out-of-body experiences arise from the same causes is still an open question."

Housewife commits suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A housewife committed suicide in the city yesterday.
She was identified as Sufia Khatun, 35, of city corporation colony at Gabtoli.
Police recovered the body which was found hanging from the ceiling of her room with rope and scurf tied to her neck at around 11:30am and sent it to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.
Rashida Begum, owner of the house, filed a case accusing Badal Mia, husband of Sufia.
In her case, Rashida alleged that Badal used to beat his wife very often. But on Thursday night he beat her wife severely breaking her teeth.
Hearing her scream, the neighbours rushed to the house and scolded Badal for his unruly behaviour, she said in the case.
Police arrested Badal and sent him to the court.

RMG worker killed in N'ganj

BSS, N'ganj
A worker was killed inside a knit garment factory allegedly by two of his fellow workers at Ukil Para in Narayanganj Sadar in the early hours of yesterday.
The victim was identified as Mahmudur Rahman Mona, hailed from Fatikchhari in Chittagong district.
Police arrested two alleged killers, identified as Tito, 16, and Polash, 25, in this connection.
Police said Mona was attacked by Polash and his friend Tito following an altercation over asking for a glass of water from Polash, who is also a nephew of Mona, a week ago.
Mona slapped on the face of Polash as he delayed to bring the glass of water. Polash became angry but remained silent for the past couple of days.
But at around 2:00am yesterday they chopped Mona with sharp weapons while he was sleeping at his workplace - Suleman Hosiery.
They were caught by other workers of the factory while trying to escape the scene and were handed over to police yesterday.

Lightning kills father, son

UNB, Narsingdi
A father and his son were killed in lightning at Polash upazila of the district yesterday.
They were identified as Kalachan Mia, 70, and his son Manik Mia, 30, of Sultanpur village.
Locals said thunderbolts struck them while they were working in their paddy field at about 8:00am, killing them on the spot.

3rd anniversary of Ivy Rahman's death observed

UNB, Dhaka
The third death anniversary of Ivy Rahman, women's affairs secretary of Awami League and the wife of acting AL President Zillur Rahman, was observed yesterday.
Leaders and workers of AL and its front organisations and family members placed wreaths at her grave at Banani graveyard. AL leaders Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, Abdul Mannan and Adv Sahara Khatun, among others, were present.
A milad mahfil was also held at Zillur Rahman's residence at Gulshan after Asr prayers.
Ivy Rahman, a dedicated leader of democratic movement, was grievously injured in a grenade attack on an AL rally on August 21, 2004, and died three days later.

WEATHER TODAY
Moderate rain likely
UNB, Dhaka
Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over all the six divisions in the next 24 hours as of 6:00pm today.
Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also expected at places over the country during the period, Met Office said.
Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.2 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 24.5 degrees at Khepupara.
The sun sets in the capital at 6:23pm today and rises at 5:37am tomorrow.
The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.



Old Airport Road in the city has gone under water following torrential rain yesterday because of poor drainage system.