

# 12 killed in road accidents

## STAR REPORT

At least 12 people were killed and 29 others injured in separate road accidents in Chittagong, Chandpur, Naogaon, Sherpur, Mymensingh and Magura yesterday and on Wednesday.

CU correspondent adds: Three people were killed and four others injured in separate road accidents in the port city and district on Wednesday and yesterday.

Two people were killed and four others injured when a truck hit a CNG-run auto-rickshaw in Chandanaish College Gate area under Chandanaish upazila in the district at around 6.00am yesterday.

The auto-rickshaw driver Mohammad Kamal Hossain, 20, and passenger Rahim Uddin, 20, died on the spot while injured passengers Mohammad Ali, 60, Saiful Islam, 20, Mintu Mian, 20, and Nizam Uddin, 21, were rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH). They were undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Meanwhile, Humayun Kabir, 65, was killed when a speeding truck hit his rickshaw in front of Ocean City Shopping Centre near GEC intersection in the port city at around 3:30pm on Wednesday.

Humayun was sent to CMCH where on-duty doctors declared him dead, sources said.

Our Correspondent from Chandpur adds: Two children were killed and two others seriously

injured on Kochua-Kaliapara Road at Akania village under Kochua upazila yesterday.

The dead were identified as Shohag, 10, son of Md Sultan Ahmed and Sharmin Aktar, 8, daughter of late Abu Taher, of Akania village of Kochua upazila said police and witnesses.

A Dhaka-bound ambulance of a private clinic from Kochua Sadar ran over the two children while they were playing beside the road and plunged into a roadside pond due to reckless driving, witnesses said. The children died on the spot.

Local people rescued the injured driver and helper, who managed to flee saying they were staffs of a government hospital.

Police seized the ambulance. Meanwhile, one Salahuddin Chowdhury Robin, 22, was killed in a separate road accident in Hajiganj Sadar on Wednesday evening.

The accident occurred when a motorcycle and a van collided head-on. Salahuddin was driving the motorcycle.

BSS from Rajshahi reports: Three people, including a woman, were killed and another was injured in a road accident at Deluabari on Rajshahi-Naogaon highway under Manda upazila of Naogaon district in the early hours of yesterday.

Police and hospital sources said, two of the deceased were identified as Biren, 55, and Khadem Ali, 35. The identity of the woman aged around 20 could not be known immediately. The accident took place when a

Naogaon-bound truck from Rajshahi hit a tempo carrying four passengers coming from opposite direction at around 5.30am.

Of the passengers, Khadem Ali died on the spot while driver of the tempo succumbed to his injuries at local Manda Upazila Health Complex.

Two injured passengers were rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where the female passenger succumbed to her injuries.

Police seized both the vehicles. Another report from Sherpur adds: At least 25 people were injured, 18 of them critically, in a road accident on Sherpur-Kamalpur road at Mazpara under Sadar upazila yesterday.

The accident took place at about 12:00 noon when an overcrowded bus skidded off the road and fell into a roadside ditch while going side to a truck coming from opposite direction, police and local people said.

The Dhaka-bound bus from Roumari was carrying about 70 passengers, the sources said.

The seriously injured people were rushed to Sherpur and Jamalpur Sadar Hospitals and the rest were given first aid.

Our correspondent from Mymensingh reports: A boy was killed in a road accident at Mashaonda on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in the district town yesterday.

The victim was identified as Ashik, 8, of Mashaonda. Police and locals said the child

was crushed under the wheels of a truck bound for Dhaka from Mymensingh while he was crossing the road yesterday morning, leaving him dead on the spot.

The body was sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) morgue for autopsy.

Meanwhile, a rickshawpuller was killed and woman passenger was injured critically in a road accident at the Northern site of Shambhuganj Bridge at Patgodam yesterday.

The dead was identified as Emdadul Haque, 25, of village Dhakirkanda in Phulbari upazila.

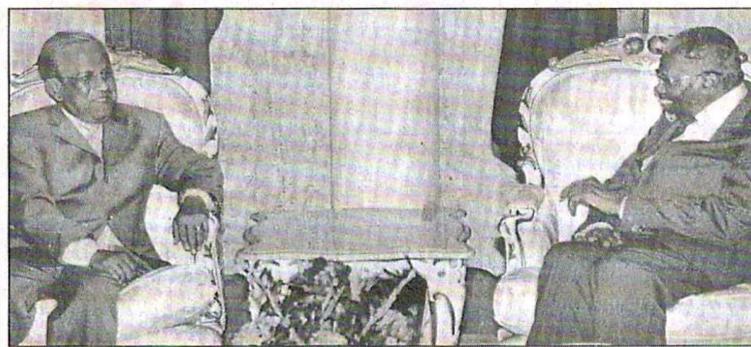
Police said the accident took place when a passenger bus bound for Mymensingh town from Netrokona knocked down the rickshaw from behind, killing the rickshawpuller on the spot and injuring the woman critically.

She was rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) for treatment.

Our correspondent from Magura says: One person was killed in a road accident on Magura-Sherpur Road near Kadamtal yesterday.

Witnesses said a man was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck while he was crossing the road at around 3:30pm.

The deceased was identified as Abdur Rashid of village Hatfadipur in Shaikupa upazila of Jhenidah district. The body was sent for autopsy.



Islamic Development Bank (IDB) President Dr Ahmad Mohamed Ali calls on Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at the latter's office in the city yesterday.

## 'Implement Phulbari contract'

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Electricity and Port yesterday demanded that the government clarify its position on Phulbari contract that was signed between the government and the National Committee and the government signed on August 30 last year.

In his keynote presentation, Justice Golam Rabbani said if a party of any contract implements it partially under the contract act, the contract is considered effective. "The party then is obliged to implement the rest of the conditions of the contract."

The government has implemented some provisions of the Phulbari Contract, which means it should implement other provisions, he said.

Justice Rabbani also said Tk 4 lakh has been allocated for the construction of a memorial to those killed in Phulbari firing, but no initiative has been taken yet to implement it.

As per the contract, the govern-

ment was supposed to take action according to the report of the committee that investigated the incident of firing, but no action has yet been taken against those responsible, he added.

Prof Anu Muhammad, member secretary of the national committee, said the victory of the Phulbari movement was due to the unity among people, as the open-pit mining was set to destroy their livelihoods and cause environmental disaster in the locality.

He said the UK-based Asia Energy tried to do everything to implement the coalmine project. "It even tried to create communal divisions and bribed people," he added.

He also said that many countries such as Germany, India, Peru, Argentina and Australia are now taking decisions not to use open-pit mining method considering its devastating impacts on the environment.

Sheikh Mohammad Shahidullah, convener of the national committee, columnist Syed Abul Maksud, CPB leader Ruhin Hossain Prince and Advocate Abdus Salam also spoke.

which will be finalised soon, will have the provisions of such methods," said Prof Shamsul Alam of the national committee.

He also urged the government to refrain from incorporating such provisions into the policy.

Prof MM Akash of Dhaka University said the government should clarify whether it accepts the contract between the National Committee and the government signed on August 30 last year.

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Shaheed Altaf Mahmud Foundation has awarded Altaf Mahmud Padak-2007 to renowned singer Sabina Yasmin. On behalf of Sabina, her daughter Badhan, right, receives the award from Prof Rafiqul Islam, left, at the Liberation War Museum in the city yesterday while Shimul Yusuf, 2nd from left, and Syed Abu Naser Bakhtiar, 2nd from right, look on.

## Sabina Yasmin awarded Shaheed Altaf Mahmud Padak-2007

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sabina Yasmin, one of the most melodious voices in the country, has been awarded 'Shaheed Altaf Mahmud Padak-2007' for her outstanding contribution to the musical arena.

At a meeting in memory of Shaheed Altaf Mahmud in the city yesterday, Prof Rafiqul Islam handed over the award to Badhan, daughter of ailing Sabina Yasmin, as she is now undergoing treatment in Singapore.

Shaheed Altaf Mahmud Foundation organised the meeting at the Liberation War Museum, with Syed Abu Naser Bakhtiar in the chair.

Syed Abu Naser presented an 'Utariya' (shawl) to the awardee while cultural personality Shimul Yusuf handed over a cheque for Tk 25,000.

Paying tribute to Altaf Mahmud, a singer, cultural activist and martyred freedom fighter, the speakers at the programme said he was a composer as well as freedom fighter, but the nation is yet to document his heroics.

ing the heroic stories of the youths like Altaf Mahmud in lyrics and music.

A speech of Sabina Yasmin transmitted over telephone was read out at the programme.

Sabina said she is honoured to receive the award inscribed with the name of her 'Guru'.

Shimul Yusuf, Kanak Chandra and Mahmud Selim rendered songs at the function and Shamima Islam Tandra and Sanjida Soheli recited poems. Members of Nrityalok performed dance numbers while Altaf Mahmud's daughter Shawan Mahmud presented the biography of her father.

Altaf Mahmud used to music the famous song 'Amar Bhaier Rakte Rangano Ekusha February, Ami ki bhulite pari?' He had composed music for at least 20 films during the period from 1964 to 1971.

Altaf Mahmud actively took part in the guerrilla operation in Dhaka during the Liberation War. But he has remained missing since the Pakistani army picked him up on August 30 in 1971.

## Distribute seeds among farmers on urgent basis

### Speakers urge govt

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday called on the government to distribute local seeds among the farmers on an urgent basis to overcome food uncertainty in the country.

They said the hybrid seeds of multinational companies should be discouraged as it only benefits the companies rather than the farmers who have already started planting seedlings.

The press conference titled 'Responsibilities in flood and post-flood agricultural rehabilitation' was organised jointly by Nayakrishni Andolan, Khaddya Sarbabbhoumatta Network, Narigrantha Prabartana and Ubinig at the National Press Club in the city.

In a written statement, Dr M A Sobhan, scientist of Ubinig, said the country may experience a huge shortfall in food supply due to delay in planning and implementing immediate measures after the flood.

Citing information of the agricultural extension department, he said resources worth around Tk 591 crore were damaged by the flood in agricultural sector.

He however suggested formation of a taskforce comprising planning commission, finance ministry and agriculture ministry to estimate the loss caused by the flood and determine how much it will affect the economy.

He alleged that a plan has been taken up to allocate Tk 7700 crore for hybrid seeds especially vegetable seeds with fertilisers and pesticides in the name of agricultural rehabilitation which will only benefit the multinational companies.

Farida Akter, executive director of Ubinig, Jahangir Alam Jony, coordinator of Naya Krishi Andolan, Shishir Shil and Farhana Akter, members of Khaddya Sarbabbhoumatta Network, were present at the press conference.

## Tarique to be released through legal process

### Says Hannan Shah

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman would be released soon through legal process, party chairperson's adviser Brig Gen (ret'd) Hannan Shah said on Wednesday.

He was addressing the party leaders and workers while inaugurating a free medical camp for flood-affected people at Koierpara in Sariakandi.

Earlier, Hannan Shah, on the behalf of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, distributed relief materials among flood victims at Tekaini Chukainagar in Sonatala and on the premises of Chandanbaisha Degree College.

Before the distribution of relief at Sariakandi, Khaleda Zia's speech transmitted over telephone was relayed by loudspeaker for the flood victims.

"I could not appear before you due to various reasons but I have sent Hannan Shah to distribute medicine and relief. The party activists have always stood by you and will help you also in the future," Khaleda said.

Jubo Dal Office Secretary Reaz Uddin Nasu, BNP leaders Abdur Rahman Tapan and Maj (ret'd) Mizanur Rahman were also present on the occasion.

## Two drug peddlers killed in crossfire: 2 Rab members injured

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two alleged drug-peddlers were killed in a 'crossfire' between Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and their cohorts at Hemayetpur Balughat in the early hours of yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Khokon Miah and Nazmul Khan Shimul.

Two Rab members Belayet and Faruq were also injured during the shootout. Shimul is a professional killer and key figure of a Savar-based drug smuggling syndicate. He is also a cohort of infamous criminal VP Helal.

Both of them were wanted in a number of criminal cases, Rab said.

A team of Rab-11 (Savar Camp) went to Balughat area in Hemayetpur following secret information that a consignment of smuggled drugs will be unloaded at Balughat, says a Rab press release.

As the Rab team reached near Balughat at around 1:30am, the criminals opened fire on a Rab vehicle, prompting the Rab members to fire back. After a 10-minute fight, the criminals retreated.

Soon Rab members and Savar Police searched the scene and found Khokon and Shimul injured. They were rushed to Savar Health Complex where doctors declared them dead, the press release said.

The Rab members also seized two revolvers, five bullets, two spare revolver bullets, a motorcycle, two cellphone sets,

## C'WEALTH FINANCE MINISTERS' MEET FROM OCT 15

# Climate change to dominate Guyana meet: McKinnon

### DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Commonwealth finance ministers will hold a 3-day meeting beginning on October 15 in Georgetown, Guyana, to consider the implications of climate change particularly those from the poorest and most vulnerable member states.

This year's Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting (CFMM), to be held at Guyana International Convention Centre (GICC), will bring together ministers and delegates from 52 member countries.

The theme of the CFMM, which takes place just before the annual meetings of the International

Monetary Fund and World Bank will be on "Climate Change: The challenges facing finance ministers," according to a release of the Commonwealth.

"Climate change is a major global development challenge which requires urgent action," said Commonwealth Secretary General Don McKinnon ahead of the meeting.

"I hope that at the end of the meeting, ministers will have a better appreciation of the development challenges posed by climate change, including those relating to their portfolio responsibilities and how to address them," McKinnon added.

The ministers will consider the

implications of climate change particularly those from the poorest and most vulnerable member states.

Other issues for discussion include current trends in the world economy, in particular, the possible risks to the global economy from the recent turbulence in the global markets and a possible increase in protectionism, should the Doha Trade Round fail to be concluded by the end of the year.

The ministers will also address special challenges facing small vulnerable economies, as well as Commonwealth Development Cooperation.

## 2 murdered, one shot

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people were killed and another one was bullet-hit in three separate incidents in the capital on Wednesday.

The dead were identified as Mahbubur Rahman Lito, 34, a businessman of Uttar Jatrabari, and Habib Khan alias Sabuz, 28, a bus driver and resident of Purbo Shewrapara in Kafrul, while the injured was a garment worker named Shah Alam, 23.

A group of criminals stabbed Lito, owner of two pharmacies in the area, 13 times before slaughtering him inside his residence at Uttar Jatrabari early Wednesday.

The criminals killed him in front of his six-year-old child and left them locking the main gate of the residence from outside.

Informed by locals, police recovered the child in unconscious state with the body of his father in the afternoon.

Motiur Rahman, brother of Lito, filed a case with Jatrabari police station in the morning, accusing three including Lito's wife Basurunnisa Lisa.

Family sources said some 15 days back, Lisa threatened to kill her husband if he does not allow his son to go back to her.

Lisa got divorced two years ago and Lito brought his son to him one month back.

Police arrested Lisa from Mahin Beauty Parlour at Bibir Bagicha Wednesday evening and took her on three-day remand.

Police said after regaining his sense, the child disclosed the names of two killers that he could identify.

In another incident, unidentified criminals stabbed Habib Khan to death in front of his residence at Purbo Shewrapara in the early hours of Wednesday.

Police rushed Habib to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Police could not identify any motive behind the killing.

In an incident of snatching, Shah Alam was bullet-hit on Wednesday afternoon when the snatchers shot in his right leg before snatching Tk 5000 from him.

Alam was going to meet his snatchers waylaid his rickshaw in front of Rampura Super Market.

## UAE to compensate camel jockeys

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Children under 18 years of age, who were subject to physical or mental damages for working as camel jockeys in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) since January 1, 1993, have been advised to apply to the offices of respective Deputy Commissioners (DC) for compensation.

"The victims have to submit applications in the prescribed forms supplied by the DC office, along with necessary documents, by October 31, 2007," said an official release.

An administrative board comprising a representative from the United Arab Emirates and two officials from the Home Ministry has been formed in this regard.

## Chief executive of Marie Stopes arrives Sept 1

Dana Hovig, chief executive of Marie Stopes International (MSI), UK will visit Dhaka from September 1 to 4 to review the work of Marie Stopes in Bangladesh, says a press release.

Hovig is a global leader and innovator in the field of reproductive health. His expertise lies in the areas of family planning, HIV/AIDS prevention, maternal health, child health and nutrition.

Marie Stopes International is one of the largest reproductive health organisations in the world, with programmes in 35 countries.

## Train crash kills one

### CU CORRESPONDENT

One person was killed when a speeding train knocked him at Pahartali level crossing at around 6:30am yesterday.

Mohammad Monir Hossain, 15, died on the spot.

## UAE extends amnesty for illegal residents up to Nov 3

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has extended the amnesty period for the illegal residents up to November 3, allowing them to leave the country without punishment.

In early June, the UAE government announced September 3 as the last date for illegal residents' leaving the country.

The UAE interior ministry granted the extended time for the illegal residents who want to leave the country, but failed to submit the applications, a report of Gulf News, a Dubai-based newspaper, said yesterday.

The decision to extend the 'grace period' was taken also because there has been a huge rush for flights, and airlines are not being able to cope with it, the report quoted an official statement saying.

"Illegal residents must leave the UAE by that date or face the appropriate legal repercussions," Lt Gen Shaikh Saif Bin Zayed Al Nahyan of the ministry said in the statement.

Around six lakh Bangladeshi people are now residing in the Middle Eastern country and several thousand of them have become irregular for various reasons that include overstaying, leaving the employers with whom they had contracts and remaining with tourist visas.

Bangladesh foreign ministry officials however said most of the irregular Bangladeshis in the UAE are likely to get their status regularised and the Bangladesh mission there is working day and night to process their applications.

## Obituary

Maulana Mohammad Hasmat Ali, father of AKMA Hamid, general secretary of the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEB), passed away due to old age complications on Tuesday night at his residence at Mirpur in the city at the age of 90, says a press release.

He left behind his four sons and three daughters to mourn his death.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at his residence at 2/H/1-23 at Mirpur after Asr prayers today.

Friends and relatives are requested to attend the milad.

## Death anniversary

Today is the death anniversary of Mohammad Sajjuddin, father of Advocate Majibur Rahman, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad-mahfil will be held at his village home Noakandi at Shonargaon upazila under Narayanganj. Foods will also be distributed among the poor.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the milad.

## Chehlum

Chehlum of Saifuddin Khan, a Language Movement veteran and Ganatantri Party president member, will be held at his West Patna residence in Chittagong today, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the chehlum.

Saifuddin, also an organiser of the War of Liberation, died on June 28.

## Engr Md Abdul Mannan

The chehlum of Alhaj Engr Md Abdul Mannan will be held at his Gulshan residence in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

His relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the programme and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

## Qulkhwani

### BSS, Dhaka

Qulkhwani of KM Abdullah, a freedom fighter and former joint secretary, will be held at his residence at 1/2 Jigatola, Dhanmondi in the city after Asr prayers today.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the qulkhwani and pray for peace of the departed soul.

Abdullah died at Birdem Hospital in the city on August 25 and was buried with state honour at his village graveyard in Pabna the same day.



## Light to moderate rain likely

### UNR, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Barisal and Khulna divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 24.3 degree Celsius at Rangamati.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:18pm today and rises at 5:40am 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	33.1	28.0	76	92
Chittagong	31.7	25.4	92	77
Rajshahi	34.5	27.0	84	84
Khulna	34.0	27.5	84	