

# Road accidents kill five

STAR REPORT

At least five people were killed and 10 others injured in separate road accidents in Manikganj, Mymensingh, Chandpur, Rajshahi and Netrakona yesterday.

Our correspondent from Manikganj adds: A motorcyclist was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Aricha highway at Pukuria under Ghior Police Station in Manikganj yesterday.

The victim was identified as businessman Abdul Mannan, 35, of Kushtia.

Locals said the accident occurred at around 4:00pm when a Dhaka-bound speeding vehicle ran over the motorcyclist from behind, killing him on the spot.

Family sources said Mannan was going to his business place in Dhaka from Kushtia in a motorcycle.

The motorcycle and a mobile set recovered from the spot.

Our correspondent from Mymensingh adds: One person was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Bharaduba in Bhaluka Upazila yesterday.

The victim was identified as Khorshed Ali, 55, son of late Samar Ali of village Rasulpur in Nandail upazila. He was a member of a Tabligue Jamaat staying at Bharaduba in Bhaluka.

Bhaluka Police said the accident took place when a Dhaka-bound

passenger bus from Mymensingh crushed Khorshed while he was crossing the road after Asr prayers at a local mosque at around 5:15pm. He died on the spot.

Our correspondent from Chandpur adds: A rickshawpuller was killed and four others were injured in a road accident on Chandpur-Matlab South Road at Udami village under Matlab South yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Arshad Ali Mridha, 60, of Udami village in Matlab South.

The accident occurred when a Matlab South-bound speeding truck from Chandpur Sadar hit two rickshaws from behind yesterday.

Arshad was rushed to Chandpur Sadar Hospital where the on-duty doctor declared him dead while the injured were admitted to Matlab South Health Complex.

Police seized the truck but the driver fled the scene.

An eight-year-old boy identified as Md Shakil was run over by a speedy maxi on Chandpur-Comilla road in Hajiganj town on Thursday evening.

The accident took place when Shakil was crossing Chandpur-Comilla road. He was rushed to Sadar Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

RU correspondent adds: A minor boy was killed in a road accident at Rajbari crossing under Godagari upazila of Rajshahi yesterday.

Police said the accident took place at around 10:00am when a Chapainawabganj-bound truck hit the boy in Rajbari crossing area, leaving him dead on the spot.

The victim was identified as Abu Raihan, 10, son of Arshad Ali, a resident of Kashiadanga area in the city.

Local said the truck hit Raihan when he was crossing the highway. The truck managed to escape.

Our correspondent from Netrakona reports: One person was killed and six others were injured in a road accident on Netrakona-Purbadhala road at Trimohani Bazar under Purbadhala upazila in the district yesterday.

The dead was identified as Kamala Rani Saha, 60, of village Shaldiga under Purbadhala upazila.

Police said the accident occurred at about 8:00am when a Purbadhala-bound passenger tempo from Netrakona knocked down Kamala Rani at Trimohani Bazar as its driver lost his control over the steering, killing her on the spot.

The tempo also fell into the roadside ditch, leaving six passengers injured.

Seriously injured Sirajul Islam, 38, Abdul Mannan, 45, and Rakibul Hasan, 50, were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Local people seized the tempo and its driver.

## DRIVE AGAINST YABA Intelligence activities beefed up in posh city areas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) beefed up their intelligence activities in the city's posh areas following the arrest of six people on charges of carrying illegal drugs from the city's Gulshan area on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Rab personnel yesterday filed a case with Gulshan Police Station against the arrestees --- Dayee Khan Beer alias Chiku, 32, Mushfiqur Rahman alias, 34, Sheikh Ahd Shafiq, 33, Salman Rahim Juardar, 28, Altaf Akmal Kollol, 33, Mahmud Al Jubere alias Shanon, 19 under Narcotics Control Act and Special Powers Act. Rab officials seized the Porsche and BMW 325i, which were allegedly used by the arrestees for selling and carrying illegal drugs including 'yaba tablet' and phensidyl. They also said that they had been investigating whether the cars had valid papers.

Gulshan police said that the arrestees were sent to Court urging it to put the arrestees on a five-day remand. The trial would begin on Monday.

Commander SM Abul Kalam Azad, director of Media Wing of Rab, told The Daily Star that they would quiz some of the arrestees for further information.

Sources of Narcotics department told journalists use of 'yaba tablet' was first reported in 2002 in the city. But it is now widely used in the older part of the city and in the posh areas.

Ingredients of 'yaba tablet' come through the border areas and manufactured in Bangladesh, sources said.

Doctors said that 'yaba tablet' are used as sex stimulator, but it is very harmful for health.

## Body to probe fire incident at Banglar Jyoti

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) yesterday formed a three-member committee to probe into the fire that broke out in the state-owned ship Banglar Jyoti on Thursday night.

Headed by BSC General Manager (Ship Repair) AHM Mamun, the committee comprises BSC Master of Staff (Ship Repair), Captain Masud Rana and Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Harbour Pilot Captain Abu Sufian.

The committee is to submit report within three working days, said a press release.

Mentionable, a fire broke out at the cargo tank no 4 of MT Banglar Jyoti while undergoing a routine repair work at the River Mooring 9 of Chittagong Port at around 9:15pm.

## 2 youths drown in Noakhali

A CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Two youths drowned when they were taking bath in a pond in Noakhali yesterday.

They were identified as Tanmoy Ahmed Bappi, 22, son of ZA Khan, and Sayedur Rahman Bappi, 22, son of Jahangir Alam of Pikepara village in Narayanganj district.

Both of them were the members of the Prothom Alo Narayanganj Bandhushava.

Police said they went to visit the house of their another friend Sahed Hossain, son of Rafiqul Islam, at Charbata under Subarnochar upzila of the district on October 16.

Locals rushed them to Char Jabbar Hospital where the on-duty doctors declared them dead.

## Release of DU teachers, students demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) demanded release of the arrested Dhaka University (DU) teachers and students before DU reopens on October 28.

In a joint statement yesterday, CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim urged the government to bring back normalcy in the educational institutions through immediate release of the teachers and students, including Chhatra Union leader Manabendra Dev.

The leaders said despite chief adviser's assurance to keep the situation normal, arrest of Manabendra Dev and taking him for remand was totally unwanted.

The nation expected the things would be sorted out after the meeting among the teachers and the chief adviser, army chief and army chief of general staff.

But no initiatives have been taken to reopen the university, the leaders added.



Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed speaks at a press conference of Bangladesh-born journalists at the Bangladesh Consulate office in New York on Thursday. On his right is Bangladesh Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Ismat Jahan and on his left is Shamsul Haque, Consul General of Bangladesh in New York. (Story on Page 1)

## Give more importance to women health in decision-making

British state minister urges poor countries

BSS, Dhaka

The UK Secretary of State for International Development Douglas Alexander has called upon the leaders of world's poorest countries, particularly those in Africa, to give more importance to women's health in their decision-making.

He made the call on Thursday

## Cooperation sought for separation of judiciary

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Judicial Magistracy Programme Observation Committee yesterday sought cooperation from all concerned for the separation of judiciary.

The committee made the call at a view exchange meeting with the judges, judicial officials and other high officials of district and police administrations at the Chittagong Circuit House.

Committee Chairman and a Judge of the Supreme Court Appellate Division MM Ruhul Amin termed November 01 a historic moment when the separation of judiciary comes into effect.

He called for cooperation from all to overcome the problems that the judiciary is likely to face at the initial stage of separation.

Committee member and Law Secretary Kazi Habibul Awal, High Court Division Judges Mirza Hossain Haider and Kamrul Islam Siddiqi, Supreme Court Registrar Ekteder Ahmed, Additional Registrar Farid Ahmed Shibli, Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Hossain Jamil, Deputy Commissioner Ashraf Shamim and Police Commissioner Mainur Rahman Chowdhury were present at the meeting.

while addressing the inaugural session of a three-day event in London, billed as the biggest conference on women's health in 20 years, said a DFID press release here yesterday.

Announcing an additional 100 million pounds over five years to help prevent unwanted pregnancy and make childbirth safer, the British secretary of state said more than 500,000 women die every year from complications during pregnancy and childbirth.

"The death of a mother deprives a child, a family, a company and ultimately a country of its most valuable sources of health, happiness and prosperity," Alexander said.

According to the DFID release, in Bangladesh, 12,000 women die every year as a result of the complications of pregnancy and childbirth. Only 13 percent of the births are assisted by medically trained people in Bangladesh.

The release says Bangladesh government invests around three billion US dollars over seven years in the health, nutrition and population sector programme to make safe motherhood a fact of life.

The Department for International Development (DFID), UK, will provide Bangladesh with 100 million pounds through a World Bank-managed partnership programme, the press release said.

## Lone bread earner's murder shatters dream of a family

Architect Jewel laid to rest in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Sakhawat Ullah Jewel, an architect who was stabbed to death by muggers on Thursday, was laid to rest at his village graveyard at Chunati under Lohahara upazila in the district yesterday.

The murder shattering cherished dream of Jewel's family has triggered strong resentment among people, particularly professionals, who wanted to see an end to such incidents.

Police arrested two muggers with a dagger as suspects from the same spot of Siraj-Ud-Doula Road at the east gate of Chittagong College in the early hours of yesterday.

They were identified as Md Dhanu Mia, 28, son of Sultan Ahmad, and Sujon Chakrabarti, 25, son of late Dhiren Chakrabarti, said Abu Baker Siddique, assistant commissioner of Kotwali Zone. Both the suspects hailing from Muradnagar in Comilla were produced before the court that

placed them on a three-day remand, said the Investigation Officer SI Abul Kalam Azad of Kotwali Police Station.

Jewel, who was working in an architectural firm in Chittagong after graduating from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), fell victim to the attack by muggers at around 3:45am.

The young architect became the lone bread earner of the five-member family comprising mother, two sisters and two brothers after his father Mahib Ullah died of cancer in August last year.

Meanwhile, leaders of the Institute of Architect, Bangladesh (IAB), Chittagong chapter have expressed profound shock at the tragic death of Jewel and sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Old Faujians' Association (OFA), Chittagong chapter has condemned the killing of Jewel who was also an old faujian.

## Nobel-winning climate chief warns Asia at risk

AFP, Tokyo

The head of a UN climate panel that shared the Nobel Peace Prize warned yesterday that Asia was particularly vulnerable to global warming, with the continent set for more disasters unless action is taken.

Rajendra Pachauri, chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, warned that fighting greenhouse gases entailed more than adopting new technologies, with individuals required to change their lifestyles.

"Asia being the rapidly growing continent with the largest share of the human population located over here, clearly vulnerabilities in Asia are going to be of importance," Pachauri told an environmental conference in Tokyo.

The Indian scientist said Asia risked floods and diminished access to fresh water and food supply if global warming continued unabated.

"Poor communities are of course at the highest risk," he said, explaining that they did not have the capacity to adapt to climate change.

"In the case of coastal areas, flooding of the residences of millions of people could take place in South, Southeast and East Asia."

He warned that the vital agricultural production of Asia's densely populated delta regions would be in jeopardy if temperatures kept

rising. Pachauri's panel, a network of 3,000 experts regarded as the world's top scientific authority on global warming, shared this year's Nobel Peace Prize with former US vice president turned environmental activist Al Gore.

Pachauri applauded the Nobel committee, which announced the award a week ago, for linking climate change to peace and stability in the world.

"I thought the Nobel Peace Prize committee has taken some of these factors into account," he said.

"We already have several areas of the world where there is intense competition for water resources. If these become more scarce, then the danger of conflict obviously will increase, substantially."

The brutal conflict in Darfur has sometimes been referred to as the world's first war triggered by climate change. UN statistics show that rainfall has diminished 40 percent in the Sudanese region over the past two decades, causing drought and intense friction over access to the land.



Bangladesh Ambassador to Turkey Major General Mohammad Ishtiaq presents his credentials to Turkish President Abdullah Gul recently.

## Indian wildlife park loses 32 rare Asiatic lions

AFP, New Delhi

A total of 32 rare lions have died at a national park this year, the Wildlife Protection Society of India said yesterday.

## Menon unhurt in road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon escaped unhurt in a road accident yesterday.

His car collided with a bus while he was going to attend the wedding ceremony of the son of a party leader Anwar Hossain at Majidi in Noakhali.

Menon and his associate Kamrul Ahsan were unhurt although the front part of his car was damaged.

Chairman of Shonaimuri Municipal Corporation Mosharraf Hossain Manik, local Awami League President Momtazul Islam Baker and others rushed to the spot and salvaged the car.

## No evidence Iran arming Taliban

Says Afghan FM

AFP, Herat

Afghan Foreign Minister Ranganen Dadfar Spanta said yesterday there was no evidence that Iran was supplying weapons to Taliban militants waging a violent insurgency.

Spanta's comments came after the top US commander in Afghanistan, General Dan McNeill, said Thursday a convoy of explosives intercepted last month had arrived from Iran and probably with the knowledge of the Iranian military.

"Our government has no evidence to show Iran is giving weapons to the Taliban and we have never stated this," Spanta told reporters after meeting with his Iranian counterpart Manouchehr Mottaki in the western city of Herat.



## Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over all the six divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 32.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and lowest 21.5 degree Celsius at Dhaka.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:28pm today and rises at 5:58am 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	31.3	21.5	79	83
Chittagong	29.6	24.2	85	83
Rajshahi	30.0	23.0	90	83
Khulna	31.2	23.5	89	91
Barisal	30.5	23.0	83	92
Sylhet	30.4	22.0	80	85
Cox's Bazar	31.7	23.7	69	79

## World Osteoporosis Day today

DU CORRESPONDENT

World Osteoporosis Day will be observed today in Bangladesh like elsewhere around the globe with a view to create awareness about the disease.

Osteoporosis is a bone disease that occurs when a person's bones become very fragile and weak that could break down due to light pressure.

While women are four times more likely than men to develop the disease, men also suffer from osteoporosis. Those at risk of osteoporosis are generally females above 50, of thin body build, Asian or white race, a WHO website said.

World Osteoporosis Day is being observed across the world on October 20 to draw attention to this debilitating disease.

The factors enhance the risk are early menopause (before 45 years), hysterectomy, inactive lifestyle, intake of tobacco/alcohol, mother's history of osteoporosis or fractures, personal history of fracture as an adult, low calcium and vitamin D intake, poor sun exposure, medical conditions like diabetes mellitus, overactive thyroid and the use of certain medications like steroids (used for arthritis or asthma), anti-epilepsy medications and thyroxine (in excess), cyclosporine and heparin, the WHO website said.

To prevent the disease, children need plenty of foods containing calcium, exposure to the sun, physical activity and good nutrition in the growing years.

On the occasion, New Zealand Dairy Products Bangladesh Limited organises a procession and a seminar in the city. The procession will start from Wonderland in Gulshan at around 8:15am that will end up at Spectra Convention Centre, where the seminar will be held.

## RUJ secy gets ad-interim bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jahangir Alam Akash, general secretary of Rajshahi Union of Journalists and Rajshahi bureau reporter of recently closed CSB News, received an ad-interim bail from the High Court on Thursday.

A case was filed against him on October 2 following a report broadcast in CSB News television channel on the grabbing of Waqf estate properties in northern region including Delwar Hossain Waqf Estate.

The vacation bench of Justice AFM Abdul Rahman granted the bail as of October 28.

## Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

Begum Nur Jahan, mother of BSS News Editor Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, passed away at a city hospital in the early hours of yesterday at the age of 68.

She left behind her four sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

She will be buried at her family graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at her village home at Aichapara in Begumganj of Noakhali.

BNP Secretary General Khandkar Delwar Hossain expressed his deep shock at the death of Nur Jahan.

In a message of condolence, Delwar prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed his heartfelt sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) President Mozammel Haque and Secretary General Ruhul Amin Gazi and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) acting president, Azizul Haque Banna and General Secretary Sardar Farid Ahmed also condoled her death.

They prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

## Alhaj M Israil Hossain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Alhaj M Israil Hossain, an eminent social worker, passed away yesterday at the age of 107.

He left behind two sons, three daughters and hundreds of relatives and friends to mourn his death.

Rajshahi City Corporation acting mayor Rejaunabi Dudu and other politicians and different social and cultural bodies condoled his death.

## Death anniversary

Today is the third death anniversary of Abdul Hamid, a former senior assistant secretary of the industries ministry, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at Azimpur Colony Roadside Mosque in the city after Asr prayers.