

## Road accidents kill 11, injure 22

### STAR REPORT

At least 11 people, including three of a family, were killed and 22 others injured in separate road accidents in Moulvibazar, Gopalganj, Faridpur and Madaripur yesterday and on Friday night.

Our Correspondent from Moulvibazar reports: Four people, including two women, were killed and at least 20 others injured in a road accident near Moulvibazar town yesterday.

Witnesses and police said the accident occurred when a Habiganj-bound microbus collided head-on with a Moulvibazar-bound mini-bus on Moulvibazar-Dhaka highway in BSCIC area at about 4:00pm, leaving three passengers of the microbus dead on the spot. Another was rushed to the Moulvibazar Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

The dead were identified as Champa 22, Jewel 25, Zannab Ali 25 and Lubna 28. All of the dead hailed from Habiganj.

The injured were admitted to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital and Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital. Of them, condition of Kutub Uddin, Kanai Lal Pal and Mitu Pal at Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital was stated to be critical.

The injured passengers of the microbus said the accident occurred when they were returning to Habiganj after visiting Madhab Kunda water falls, a tourist spot at Baralekha upazila in Moulvibazar.

UNB from Gopalganj reports: A mother and her two sons were killed in a collision between a private car and a human hauler on Khulna-Dhaka Highway in Kashiani upazila on Friday night.

The deceased were identified as Latifa Begum, 45, wife of Dr Rahim

of Khulna, and her sons—engineer Jitu Rahman, 28, and Mishu Rahman, 15.

Local sources said the private car collided head-on with the human hauler, locally known as Nasiman, at Mazra at about 8:15pm, killing Jitu and Mishu on the spot. Their mother died on the way to hospital.

They were going to Dhaka from Khulna when tragedy struck down the family.

A Faridpur report adds: A local leader of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Khulna highway at Kanaipur Bazar in the town yesterday.

The dead was identified as Shaukat Kabir, 48, a member of JSD district committee.

Police and witnesses said Shaukat died on the spot when a Jessore-bound microbus from

Dhaka hit him at about 9:00am. Police recovered the body and sent it to Faridpur Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Another report from Madaripur says: Two people were killed and two others injured when a bus hit a rickshaw van on Faridpur-Barisal Highway in Rajoir upazila yesterday.

Local sources said the bus ploughed through the van in Shanerpar area, killing the van puller and a passenger on the spot and injuring two others.

The dead were identified as van puller Emdadul Huq, 35, and Taslim Sardar, 40, of Barodia village in Narail district.

Meanwhile, a passerby was killed when a motorcycle hit him at Gobindabari in Shibchar upazila Friday night.

The dead was identified as Rathin Chandra Sutradhar, 40.

## Voter registration starts in C'nawabganj

A CORRESPONDENT, C'nawabganj

Voter registration with photos began in Chapainawabganj municipality area yesterday.

Commanding Officer of joint forces of local camp Lt Col Sohel Anwar Siddique formally inaugurated the programme at Green View high school in the morning.

Presided over by ADC (Rev) Shah Alam Mridha, the function was attended, among others, by Chapainawabganj Poursabha Chairman Ataur Rahman, Lt Col Taher and other officials.

The first phase of voter registration will continue till September 24 when the work will be done in ward No 1 and 3, election officials said.

In the second phase, the work will be done in other wards of Chapainawabganj Poursabha October 25 to November 8.

## BSS journos urged to discharge duties neutrally

BSS, Chittagong

Information Secretary Mohammad Didarul Anwar yesterday visited Chittagong bureau office of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) at Jamal Khan Road in the city.

During the visit, the information secretary exchanged views with the newsmen working in the bureau. He called upon the journalists to discharge duties in neutral manner to uphold the image and dignity of the national news agency.

He stressed the need for projecting the country's economic and tourism potentials along with the rich and diversified cultural heritage of this region at home and abroad through the national wire service-BSS.

Anwar went round different sections of the bureau and enquired about the activities of the bureau and its problems.

The information secretary, who is now on a 3-day visit to the region, also visited the Chittagong regional center of Bangladesh Betar at Agrabad, its Kalurghat Transmission Center, BTV Chittagong Center at Foy's Lake, divisional office of Department of Mass Communication, offices of 3 local dailies—The Daily Azadi, The Daily Purbakone and The Daily Suprabhat Bangladesh and held meetings with the officials and journalists.

## CPC Congress to close today

AFP, Beijing

China's most important political event in five years, the Communist Party Congress, is scheduled to close today with the new leadership expected to be announced soon afterwards.

At the close of the congress—which determines the party's future agenda and approves a new leadership—a new central committee will be announced, who will then pick China's top leaders for the next five years.

Members of the central committee—around 200 senior cadres who can have a say in key party decisions—are expected to choose members for the powerful Politburo and the elite Politburo Standing Committee in its first plenum on Monday.

State media said Saturday the Communist Party had granted its party council marginally more say in electing its leadership this year, halting it as "a sign of progress of intra-party democracy."

In line with the party's election tradition, past congresses have allotted slightly more candidates than positions on the central committee and then a small number of officials will be eliminated after votes.

This year, the number of candidates exceeded the number of seats by eight percent, compared with last year's 5.1 percent, Xinhua news agency said.

In President Hu Jintao's opening speech on Monday, he emphasised the importance of "intra-party democracy," meaning more transparency and competition within party ranks.

## Firm manager, youth murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Criminals killed a construction firm official by slitting his throat in his apartment's bathroom on the second floor of a five-storied building on Rupsha Strand Road under Khulna Sadar thana on Friday night.

The victim, Kumaresh Biswas, 45, was manager of RR Traders in the city and son of Bijoy Krishna Biswas of Baroaria village under Batiaghata upazila of Khulna district.

Police recovered his blood-stained body from the bathroom at 9:30pm and seized a blood-stained dagger from the spot.

His wife Ambika Mallick and three college and school going sons were not in the house when the murder was committed.

Ambika Mallick, who is an official of Slum Development Project

under Khulna City Corporation, told police that the killers had taken away twenty tolas of gold ornaments and a sum of Tk 5,000 breaking the lock of their almirah.

Police suspect that the murder is a sequel to personal enmity over financial transaction with the victim's business partners.

Unidentified criminals stabbed a young man to death at Shalua under Dumuria upazila of Khulna district at 3:30am yesterday.

The victim, Asmatul Morol alias fibon, 26, son of Zahur Morol of Baghari village in the same upazila, was killed when he was returning home from Perikhalipujamandap, police said.

Police recovered his body at 5:30am from the spot.

Police also recovered his motorbike from Gutudia in Dumuria upazila.



## Shamsur Rahman's 78th anniversary of birth Tuesday

The 78th birth anniversary of poet Shamsur Rahman will be observed on Tuesday, says a press release.

An elaborate programme has been taken up by Shamsur Rahman Birth Anniversary Observance Parishad to mark the day.

The programme will start with cake cutting at 11:00am at the poet's residence at Shyamoli.

Besides, a discussion and poetry recitation will be held at the Teachers-Students Centre of Dhaka University at 4:00pm.

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury will chair the discussion which will be participated by Syed Shamsul Huq, Prof Borhan Uddin Khan Jahangir, Belal Chowdhury, Selina Hossain and Nasiruddin Yusuf.

Rafiq Azad, Nirmalendu Gun, Rabiul Hossain, Sazzad Kadir, Samudra Gupta, Habibullah Siraji, Nasir Ahmed, Shihab Sarkar, Asaduzzaman Noor, Kazi Arif, Laila Afroz, Rezina Wali Lina, Rafiqul Islam and Naila Tarannum Kakoli will take part in the recitation.

Ajit Roy, Subir Nandi, Kanak Chapa and Rupa Khan will render songs based on poems of Shamsur Rahman.

## Voter registration begins in Barisal

BSS, Barisal

Registration of voters for preparing a fresh voter list with photographs and National Identity Cards (NIDs) in Barisal began at a simple ceremony on the premises of Syeda Majidunnessa Madyamik Bidyalaya yesterday.

Barisal Divisional Commissioner Md Haroon Chowdhury inaugurated the project as the chief guest.

Deputy Commissioner Monjur-e-Elahi and Barisal City Corporation (BCC) Acting Mayor Awlad Hossain Dila, chief of Barisal Army camp Lieutenant Colonel Abu Syeed Md Ali, Registration Centre Chief Major Shawkat and Barisal Metropolitan Police Commissioner (BMPC) Sayeed Hasan Khan were present on the occasion as special guests.

Talking to BSS, the chief guest expressed the hope that the preparation of the photo-voter list and NIDs will remove all confusion about the real number of voters in each area in future.

Barisal Army Camp Chief Lieutenant Colonel Abu Syeed Md Ali said the entire Barisal City Corporation area was classified into five groups for an easy registration of the voters.

When asked, BCC Acting Mayor Awlad Hossain Dila said the rigging of votes would be stopped forever in future with introduction of this new voter registration system.

A total of 39,333 prospective voters, including 20,890 women, in six wards out of the total 30 in the BCC area would be registered through this centre.

A large number of enthusiastic men and women registered their names standing in queues from the morning.

Members of the army have been supervising the programme to prevent any possible irregularities in the registration process.



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed presides over the weekly meeting of the Council of Advisers at his office in the city yesterday.

## BRITISH CURRY AWARDS CEREMONY TODAY Promises more exciting entertainment this year

ANSAR AHMED ULLAH, from London

Once again, it is time to find out the best spice restaurants across the UK with the British Curry Awards 2007 ceremony to be held at the Grosvenor House Hotel at Park Lane, London today.

This glittering black-tie occasion will mark the third consecutive year of the Awards and will be attended by senior professionals from the spice industry, along with celebrities from TV, Radio, government ministers and ambassadors.

This year the event promises even more exciting entertainment for an expected 1100 guests with a celebrity host presenter and guests who will once again enjoy sumptuous cuisine.

This is the spice industry's premier networking event of the year and is patronised by industry leaders, food critics, key suppliers, and of course the all important nominees and winners of the British Curry Awards.

A record number of more than 18000 public nominations covering 3000-plus restaurants were received for this year's British Curry Awards which, since 2004, have been helping to raise standards of cuisine, service, ambience and presentation in the industry.

A string of well-known UK and international celebrities, MPs and diplomats will join more than 1000 leading figures from the curry, restaurant sector to see the ten best restaurants from every corner of Britain receive their awards.

The ceremony will be broadcast to 127 countries around the world. The top 100 restaurants will be

listed in the British Curry Guide which will be distributed widely.

The event will be an opportunity for the industry, which employs more than 100,000 people, to showcase itself to the fast-growing number of young Bangladeshis who are electing to go into alternative careers.

British Curry Awards Organiser Enam Ali, himself a restaurateur and publisher of the specialist trade journal Spice Business, said, "I have children of my own, and I know how difficult it is to persuade them that there's a good future for them in the restaurant business as they have so many more options open to them."

"It's important that we do something to reverse the trend, otherwise we're not going to have the people to take this industry to its next level. Already there are signs that the explosive growth of the last 20 years has petered out. Now we have to avoid going backwards," he added.

Enam said the British government's decision to make non-EU workers pass an English language test before being allowed to take jobs in the UK has made it more difficult for curry restaurant owners to fill vacancies for skilled workers by recruiting from the sub-continent.

"It seems a strange criterion to use for someone who is coming here to work as a head chef in a kitchen where no English is spoken," he said, adding, "I can understand it when we were recruiting to fill front-of-house vacancies, but not for a chef. It's much more important that they have the necessary skills to turn out first-class food than speak or write good English."

There are around 9500 British curry restaurants throughout the UK, mostly owned by Bangladeshis, as opposed to just 500 when curry was introduced commercially to this country 40 years ago.

British curry as a home-grown cuisine is now exported to worldwide. For example, Chicken Tikka Masala was created in Britain and is globally accepted as one of the world's most popular spice cuisine dishes.

Curry is the UK's favourite cuisine, with more than 25 percent of the nation, around 24 million people, consuming 'Indian' food. The curry restaurant industry is worth around £3.2 billion annually.

## Maintain communal harmony to build prosperous nation

Says Dr Kamal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain visited the pujamandaps at Manikganj Sadar upazila yesterday evening.

Speaking on the occasion, he called for maintaining communal harmony to build a happy and prosperous nation.

Dr Kamal also urged all to work for making the country free from all corruptions.

Manikganj Zila Puja Ujjapon Parishad President Rajat Subhra Ghosh Bapji and Gono Forum central leader and former MP from Manikganj-3 constituency Principal Mofizul Islam Khan Kamal were present during the visit.

## Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh



due to old age complications at the Apollo Hospital in Dhaka at the age of 71.

He left behind his wife, two sons, two daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

He was buried at Kalibari Graveyard in the town after namaz-e-janaza at Charpara Jamia Islamia Madrasa premises yesterday.

## Md Khabiruddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Khabiruddin, recently retrenched employee of the Daily Ittefaq, passed away due to a cardiac arrest on Friday night at his home at Berakhola village under Brihanmpara police station in Comilla at the age of 60, says a press release.

Khabiruddin left behind his wife and two daughters to mourn his death.

He was buried at his family graveyard.

The Daily Ittefaq (NNPP) Workers Union President Md Fazle Imam and General Secretary Md Alamgir Hossain, Ittefaq unit Chief of Dhaka Sangbadik Union Syed Shahjahan and Deputy Chief Khondoker Abul Hossain condoled his death and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

## Qulkhwani



Karmachari Jame Masjid at Khilkhet Bazar in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

He was killed in a road accident at Madhukhan in Faridpur on October 18.

Relatives, friends, colleagues and admirers are requested to attend the qulkhwani and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



## Seminar

BIAM Foundation organises a seminar on independence of judiciary for good governance. Venue: BIAM Foundation. Time: 10:00am.

## Discussion meeting

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) will hold a discussion meeting with a government delegation of Lao People's Democratic Republic. Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Time: 11:00am.

## Concert

Concord Communication Co Ltd organises a dance show and live concert. Venue: Water Kingdom. Time: 11:00am.



CityCell Chief Executive Officer Michael Seymour hands over 50 laptops, 50 finger scanners and 50 webcams for voter registration activities to Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed at Army Headquarters in the city recently.

## Manmohan rejects BJP's call to resign

BBC, Online

Indian PM Manmohan Singh has rejected calls from the main opposition party to resign after his government appeared to have shelved a nuclear deal with US.

Singh said he had not "given up hope" on the controversial deal that has been stiffly opposed by the government's communist allies.

Singh told US President George W Bush recently that he was having

difficulty implementing the deal.

It was the first clear sign India may shelve the deal. Differences between the Congress-led government and its allies over the deal has led to talk of early elections.

The Congress Party's communist allies said the deal, which would allow India access to civilian nuclear technology and fuel, gives the US leverage on India's foreign policy.

Singh told reporters that the main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) which has been demanding his resignation had no "right" to make such a demand.

"The BJP is least qualified to talk about our moral right to govern since it was in power when the holocaust in Gujarat took place," he was quoted as telling Indian newspapers.

Singh was alluding to the communal rioting in western Gujarat state in 2002 in which more than 1,000 people, mostly Muslims, lost their lives.

He also said he was still hopeful about the nuclear deal.

"I have maintained there are some difficulties. We are a coalition. We have to find a way out. I have not given up hope yet," he said.

After many weeks during which the government insisted it would press ahead with the deal, Singh's conversation with Bush on Monday pointed to the government backtracking in the face of opposition.

But, on Thursday, Singh told reporters on the sidelines of an official tour of Africa: "The process of evolving a meaningful consensus on the nuclear deal is still on."

The Congress Party and its allies are meeting again on Monday to discuss the deal.

## Afghan girl 'killed by ricocheted Nato bullet'

AFP, Kandahar

A two-year-old Afghan girl was killed when a warning shot from a Nato force soldier apparently ricocheted while more than a dozen Taliban were killed elsewhere, officials said yesterday.

Nato's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said it deeply regretted the death of the child in the southern province of Helmand on Friday.

An ISAF troop fired a single shot to stop a vehicle from coming too close to a military patrol, the force said in a statement. The bullet allegedly ricocheted and hit the child, although the incident was being investigated to establish what happened.

## Fazlur Rahman made APR Scout body member

BSS, Dhaka

M Fazlur Rahman, Chief National Commissioner of Bangladesh Scouts, has been elected member of the Asia Pacific Regional (APR) Scout Committee.

He was elected member of APR Scout Committee for the next six years by direct voting of all 24 member countries of the Asia-Pacific region during the 22nd APR Scout Conference held on October 19.

The six-day conference began in the Japanese capital Tokyo on October 18, a press release said here yesterday.

Fazlur Rahman is leading an 18-member Bangladesh Scouts team in the conference.

## WEATHER TODAY

### Rain 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 remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 33.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 21.5 degree Celsius at Rajshahi.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:27pm today and rises at 5:59am 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	22.8	78	64
Chittagong	29.5	24.7	87	83
Rajshahi	31.4	21.5	77	72
Khulna	32.0	24.0	75	88
Barisal	32.0	24.2	86	87
Sylhet	30.3	23.4	86	75
Cox's Bazar	31.8	24.0	80	83