## 14 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least 14 people were killed and Alam alias Arju Mia, 26, of accidents in Pabna, Khagrachhari, Chittagong, Natore and Satkhira Khagrachhari, was seriously yesterday and on Saturday.

Khagrachhari reports: At lest three the hill district. people, including a baby, was killed accident in the Koilarmuk area under Ramghor upazila in Khagrachhari yesterday.

The dead were identified as driver Mohammad Aminul Hoque. 45, Babu, 6, and other's identity

could not be known immediately. Ramghor police sources said the accident occurred at about 1:00pm when a Feni-bound passenger bus from Laxmichhari upazila turned Md Ashik, 2, son of Hamidul, Roki, upside down and fell into a roadside ditch as its driver lost his control over the steering, leaving three

dead on the spot. rushed to Ramghor Upazila Health Complex, Fatikchhari, Mirrersarai sent to Chittagong Medical College and fell into the ditch. Hospital (CMCH), sources con-

Meanwhile, one person suc-

cumbed to his injuries in CMCH.

Matiranga upazila in injured in a road accident on Our correspondent from January 8 at 10 No-Muslimpara in leaving him dead on the spot.

Our correspondent from Pabna the accident. and 30 others were injured in a road reports: At least four people including two children were killed and 15 others injured in two road accidents in the district.

Police said three passengers including two children died when a night coach skidded-off the road and fell into a roadside-ditch on Dhaka-Pabna highway in the early hours of vesterday.

16, son of Shahid Pramanik, and an unidentified man aged around 50.

Locals said the accident occurred when the Dhaka-bound coach of The injured passengers were Mahanagar Paribahan reached at Chaklka at around 1:00am.

The driver lost his control over and Feni Upazila health complex the steering when he suddenly while seriously injured five were found a barricade on the highway

> The injured were admitted to Santhia and Bera hospitals.

Meanwhile an unidentified

minor boy, 9, was killed when an The person identified as Aktarul overloaded truck ran over him on

Pabna-Nagarbari highway at 49 others injured in separate road Muslimpara village under Nandiaraon Saturday afternoon. Ouoting locals police said the Kashinathpur- bound truck

knocked him down at about 2:00pm The driver fled the scene after diately.

UNB from Chittagong adds: Two security guards were crushed under the wheels of a trolley near the toll plaza of Chittagong Port container terminal yester morning.

Police said the goods-laden trolley while coming out of the terminal ran over Ishak Brothers' security guard Ahmed Shafi, 45, and another guard M Ismail, 36, of The victims were identified as nearby Who Plaza at about

11:30am, killing them on the spot. Police sent the bodies to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

BSS from Natore adds: Three people were killed and three others injured in a road accident on Natore-Pabna highway at Garmati under Baraigram upazila in the district on Saturday.

Police said the accident

injury seriously.

The injured were rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where three died. The two of the dead were identified as Shamsul Alam, 60, of Garmati village and Jalil, 16, of the same village. Other's identity could not be known imme-

Our correspondent from Satkhira adds: A motorcycle rider was killed and a woman injured seriously in a road accident on Satkhira-Kaliganj road near Alipur check post in Sadar upazila on Saturday evening.

The deceased was identified as Amjad Hossain, 32, son of Alfaz Uddin of village Dhulihar in Sadar upazila and the injured as Jhharna Deb Nath, 28, of the same village.

Quoting local people, police said the accident took place when a motorcycle collided head on with a Satkhira-bound bus near Alipur check post, leaving the two injured seriously.

The injured were taken to Satkhira Sadar Hospital in critical condition. Later Amjad succumbed to his injuries on the way occurred when a Dhaka-bound to Khulna Medical College Hospital passenger bus hit a tempo. The while he was being shifted as his passengers of the tempo received condition deteriorated.

The Sultan Mela (fair) will be

SM Sultan Foundation, district

Khulna Divisional

Sultan Mela



Guardians wait outside the gate of a school in the port city with umbrellas yesterday since it was drizzling throughout the day.

## Myanmar poll date meaningless without Suu Kyi

AFP, Bangkok

Myanmar's unexpected announcement of a timetable for elections in 2010 could prove meaningless with Aung San Suu Kyi and other top democracy leaders locked away, analysts said yester-

The military announced late Saturday that it would hold a constitutional referendum in May to set the stage for elections in 2010, in a move that Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy

(NLD) called "surprising." first since 1990, when the NLD won a landslide victory -- even though Aung San Suu Kyi was already under house arrest. She has been confined to her home in Yangon for 12 of the last 18 years.

Analysts said the regime's announcement raised more questions than answers, especially

about what role pro-democracy forces would be allowed to play in elections in a country ruled by the according to the United Nations. military since 1962.

Myanmar at Australia's Macquarie University in Sydney, said he was sceptical elections would be meaningful because so many prodemocracy activists have been deaths.

the weakest at the moment because so many of them are all locked up, "Turnell said.

Amnesty International esti-If held, the polls would be the mates the regime holds at least 1,850 political prisoners, including about 700 arrested during the junta's deadly crackdown on antigovernment protests in September

> monks were the biggest challenge to military rule in nearly 20 years. At least 31 people were killed and

forces violent broke up the crowds, academic said.

Sean Turnell, an expert on and senior NLD members, the Myanmar, agreed. junta has also arrested top student leaders who rallied against the while so many people are in prison junta in 1988 in a far larger uprising that resulted in more than 3,000

Many leaders of that uprising prisoners. We have to insist they "The opposition movement is had been released over the last four do. years and had returned to political activism, only be thrown back into

> many democracy leaders under president. detention, it will be very difficult for oppositon groups to organise Myanmar academic, said the for elections," said Aung Naig Oo, a absence of Myanmar's most prom-Thailand-based Myanmar analyst.

The protests led by Buddhist release Aung San Suu Kyi and other polls. political prisoners to "make elections meaningful."

74 went missing when security be totally unmeaningful," the

Trevor Wilson, a former Apart from Aung San Suu Kyi Australian ambassador to "They cannot have elections

> for carrying out peaceful political activities," Wilson said. "They need to free political

> Even if Aung San Suu Kyi were released, the constitution the junta

proposes to bring to voters in May "With Aung San Suu Kyi and so would bar her from running for Win Min, a Thailand-based

inent opposition leader would Turnell said the junta should undermine the legitimacy of any "She is a true hero of people, and

excluding Aung San Suu Kyi under-"Unless they are released, it will mines the elections," Win Min said.

and other many many continuous among a real at sign

### begins in Narail tomorrow BSS, Narail The seven-day 'Sultan Mela' will begin at Sultan Mancha at Narail Government Victoria College in Narail tomorrow. held to mark the 83rd birth anniversary of renowned artist SM Sultan. administration and SM Sultan Mela Celebration Committee will jointly organise the Sultan Mela. Commissioner Md Yunusur Rahman will inaugurate the fair as the chief guest while DIG of Police of Khulna Range Md Asaduzzaman Mia and Khulna regional chief of Grameenphone Helaluddin Ahmed Chowdhury will attend the

Leaders of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal hold a joint meeting at KC Memorial Clinic at Baridhara in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 3) at the party of concentrates and an analysis and another the A

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### function as special guests. Narail Deputy Commissioner Md Abdul Kayun Sarder will chair the inaugural ceremony.

The seven-day programme included art exhibition, painting competition, sports competition, seminar on Sultan's life and cultural functions.

Primary and Mass Education Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury will attend the concluding ceremony as the chief guest on February 18.

This year's 'Sultan Padak' will be given to Abdur Sakur Shah, Director of Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka on the concluding day of the fair, sources said.

### Training course on news presentation concludes

The concluding and certificate awarding ceremony of a monthlong training course on TV news presentation, organised by Bangladesh Institute of Journalism and Electronic Media (BIJEM), was held at BIJEM conference room in the city on Saturday, says a press

The chairman of Index Group and an architect Md Mazherul Quader was present as the chief guest and distributed certificates among the participants.

He said currently news presentation is a subject of art and creativity. Through planned training, continuous practice and correct pronunciation can make an expert news presenter.

Mirza Tarequl Qader, Executive Director, BIJEM, presided over the function.

TV news presenters, journalists and phoneticians conducted the training course. A total of 39 participants from

different universities took part in

Malaysia offers to help Thai Muslims in

restive south

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

the course.

Malaysia has offered to work with Thailand's new government to aid Muslims in the restive south, which has been wracked by an insurgency for more than four years, state media reported yesterday.

Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said he looked forward to meeting his new Thai counterpart Samak Sundaravej to discuss how to help locals and restore peace to the area, which he said would benefit both countries.

"We have expressed our willingness to cooperate with Thailand to help the Muslims in the south," along the border with Malaysia, Abdullah was quoted as saying by Bernama news agency.

"I want to discuss this with the newThai prime minister. I think it is a good thing that we give attention to the situation in southern Thailand."



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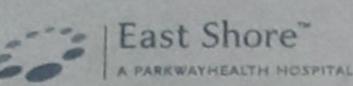




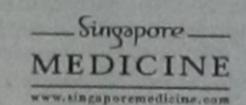








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