Road accidents kill 9, injure 40

STAR REPORT

At least nine people were killed and 40 others injured in separate road accidents in Dinajpur, Faridpur,

Bagerhat and Jhenidah yesterday. UNB from Dinajpur reports: At least four people were killed and 25 others injured in a road accident at Gabura, about 5km north of the town yesterday afternoon.

The accident occurred when a bus hit three vans, turns upside fied as Dilip Shikder, 45. down and fell into a ditch, leaving three van drivers and a bus passenger dead on the spot, Fire Brigade personnel said. Identity of the dead three people dead on the spot. could not known immediately.

Survivors said a Dinajpur- ted to Faridpur Medical College bound bus from Parbatipur hit Hospital. hard three vans while trying to give

side to another vehicle and skidded hospital morgue for autopsy. off the road.

Injured passengers of the bus says: A man was run over by a were rushed to local clinics and

upazila yesterday. Dinajpur Sadar Hospital. Local sources said Salam A Faridpur report adds: Three Sheikh, 52, of Bhaga village, died on people were killed and 15 others the spot when the microbus injured when an Atrashi-bound ploughed through his bicycle and bus fell into a roadside ditch at ran over him near Bhaga Madrasa Talmar Square near Nagarkanda on atabout 9:00am. Dhaka-Barisal highway yesterday.

One of the deceased was identifor autopsy.

Our correspondent from Complex while driver Rafigul was Police said the bus plunged into the ditch as it tried to give passage killed in a road accident on to another vehicle, leaving the Kotchandpur-Jibannagar highway in Jhenidah yesterday. Ten of the injured were admit-

The bodies were taken to the

Prof M Shamsul Haque speaks at a roundtable on 'Improvement of Bangla language in the post-independence

Malaysia police fire teargas

More than 20 people were

Badawi.

More than 200 police approached who enraged the government in

"We wanted to have 200 chil- grievances of Malaysia's Indians --

shells above their heads, the AFP against minority Indians.

that he would accept the flowers.

November by leading a mass rally

protesting alleged discrimination

descendents of labourers brought

1800s -- who say they are marginal-

The protest highlighted the

period' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. BSB-Cambrian and the Amar Desh organised the event.

at flower protest

Malaysian police yesterday fired detained, police said, after sup-

teargas and water cannons to porters of Indian rights group

flowers and gathered in the capital, Merdeka or Independence Square.

alleged discrimination, before justice and an end to alleged dis-

police moved in, an AFP corre- crimination against ethnic Indians

the Indian community and on the crowd before spraying them with

people who just wanted to hand water cannons and firing tear gas

The flower protest is the latest in dren also peacefully give Abdullah

recent that have rocked the multi- and water-cannoned by police,"

said R. Thanenthiran, one of the correspondent witnessed.

in the country.

ing up for general elections on Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad and opportunities.

protests, witnesses said. Some 300 for the gathering.

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

spondent witnessed.

rally organisers.

in the latest crackdown on public

people defied a police ban and

"It is an embarrassing attack on

over flowers to the prime minister,"

The deceased was identified as passenger Rafiqul Islam, 27, son of

Md Sabur Ali of Talsar village under

Another report from Bagerhat

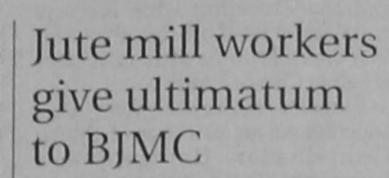
microbus at Bhaga in Rampal

Kotchandpur upazila and the injured is driver Rafiqul Islam, 32, son of Md Ahmad Ali of the same village.

Police said the accident occurred when Rafiqul Islam, 27, was driving a Nasiman, a human hauler, towards Kotchandpur instead of its driver Rafiqul Islam, 32. The human hauler turned upside down on the road as Rafigul lost his control over the steering, The body was sent to hospital leaving him seriously injured. He was rushed to Kotchandpur Health

Jhenidah adds: One person was given first aid. Passenger Rafiqul was rushed to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital as his condition deteriorated where he

succumbed to injuries. The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy.



STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Retired jute mill workers yesterday gave an ultimatum to Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) to meet their five-point demand, including payment of dues and arrears, by February 24 or face tougher agitation.

The workers of seven jute mills of Khulna-Jessore industrial belt announced their programmes during demonstrations in front of the jute mills.

Zohra Eti be brought to book.

AFP, Jerusalem

French Foreign Minister Bernard

Kouchner urged Israel to lift its

blockade of the Gaza Strip and to

freeze its policy of building settle-

ments in the West Bank, at the start

and met UN emergency relief

coordinator John Holmes before

travelling to Bethlehem in the West

president Mahmud Abbas in

Ramallah and is expected to have

talks with Israeli Prime Minister,

Ehud Olmert, Foreign Minister

Tzipi Livni and Defence Minster

"The economic and humanitar-

The University of Liberal Arts

Bangladesh (ULAB) in collabora-

programme titled 'Career Vision'

graduates to face the challenges in

the present competitive job mar-

Ehud Barak in Jerusalem today.

Later he will meet Palestinian

Kouchner visited east Jerusalem

of a visit to the region yesterday.

Bank to meet officials.

launched

kets, says a press release.

train students.

plenary sessions.

Their demands include reopening of closed jute mills.

A group of workers would commit self-immolation on February 26 if the demands go unheeded, said Patkal Sangram Parishad leader Sheikh Abdur Rahman.

Meanwhile, laid-off workers of Alim Jute mills staged a demonstration in front of the main gate yesterday demanding reopening of the mill and payment of arrears.

The demonstration will continue until the reopening of the jute mill, said CBA leader Hamid Sarder.

Similar demonstrations will also take place everyday in front of all six jute mills of Khulna-Jessore industrial belt.

UP chairman arrested for VGF rice graft

UNB, Jhenidah

Thanenthiran said organisers Union Parishad chairman was decided it was unsafe for the children arrested on Friday on charges of to take part in the protest and they misappropriating VGF rice. disperse ethnic Indians clutching Hindraf turned up near Dataran were bused away from the scene.

The arrestee was identified as "We came with a gesture of Chand Ali, chairman of Police had earlier refused a permit peace and love and the Malaysian Nityanandapur Union Parishad in government did not have the cour-Sources said local people | Career Vision Indian youths dressed in saffron age to accept the roses," Hindraf attempted to gather in coloured t-shirts with the Tamil chairman P. Waythamoorthy told

informed Shailakupa Upazila Independence Square in down- words "Makkal Sakti", or People's AFP. Prime minister Abdullah had Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Mahmudul town Kuala Lumpur to protest Power, chanted slogans calling for not indicated before the protest Hossain Khan that chairman Chand Ali sold out some VGF rice in the The protest comes after the blackmarket. detention of five Hindraf leaders

The UNO visited the UP office in | tion with Jobs-ICT launched a the morning and found that three 50kg bags of rice, out of 78 bags allocated for VGF cardholders, are miss-

Later, the police arrested the chairman.

Fertility centre opens at Apollo Hospitals

Apollo Fertility Centre, equipped with all the world-class facilities to meet up the personalised demand of the infertile couples, was inaugurated at Apollo Hospitals Dhaka on Thursday, says a press release.

The centre will provide a wide range of services for the infertile couples in a caring and congenial environment.

Dr Ed L Hansen, CEO, Apollo Hospitals Dhaka, gave the welcome address in the inaugural | period. ceremony while Dr Mrinal Kumar Sarker, Consultant and programme, the students are Coordinator, OBS/Gynecology and required to complete a full career-ART, Apollo Hospitals Dhaka deliveredakey note speech.

ian situation in Gaza is especially bad. The blockade directly affects the entire economy and living conditions as well," Kouchner said in an interview with Al-Quds newspaper, published yesterday.

French FM urges Israel to

lift Gaza blockade

Students of Bangla department form a human chain on the Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding that the killers of fellow student Fatema-Tuz-

"We call for the Gaza blockade to be lifted -- there must be free movement of both people and goods," Kouchner told the main Arabic daily in the Palestinian territories.

Israel has kept Gaza under effective lockdown since last June following the territory's takeover before he leaves office in January by the Islamist movement Hamas. next year. and on January 17 it fightehed the blockade before easing it again

impoverished coastal territory. In the interview Kouchner also daily. called on Olmert and Abbas to at the relaunch of Middle East peace," he added. peace talks in the United States last November.

bers of his family, were killed in what medics and witnesses in the Gaza Strip said was an Israeli air

A military spokesman in Tel Aviv denied Israeli involvement in the

Both Israel and the Palestinians relaunched the US-sponsored peace process after a near sevenyear hiatus with the aim of reaching an agreement by the end of 2008.

President George W Bush has said he would like to see an accord

Israel must completely freeze settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, dismantle all those The Israelis say the measure is in deemed illegal, and reopen response to rockets being fired at it Palestinian institutions in east by Palestinian militants inside the Jerusalem, namely the chamber of commerce," Kouchner told the

"It cannot be said enough that respect their commitments agreed the settlements are an obstacle to

On Thursday five firms won bids from the Israeli authorities to Kouchner's arrival overnight on expand the Har Homa settlement yesterday to train and prepare its Friday came just hours after eight in east Jerusalem, which the Palestinians, including a leading Palestinians consider to be the Islamic Jihad militant and mem- capital of their future state.

College girl commits suicide jumping under train

UNB, Narsingdi

A female college student allegedly committed suicide by jumping under a train in Tan Ghorashal area of Palash upazila on Thursday.

The girl was identified as Nadira Tabassum Tumpa, 18, first year student of Ghorashal Musabin Hakim College and daughter of Syed Ashraf Uddin of Phuldir Tech

Witnesses said Tumpa jumped under the train following a heated exchange of words with her boyfriend. She died on the spot.

. Hearing the incident, agitated students of the college rushed to the spot and hurled bricks at the Dhaka-bound Subarna Express train from Chittagong at around 12:00 noon, leading to the disruption in train service on the route for about two hours.

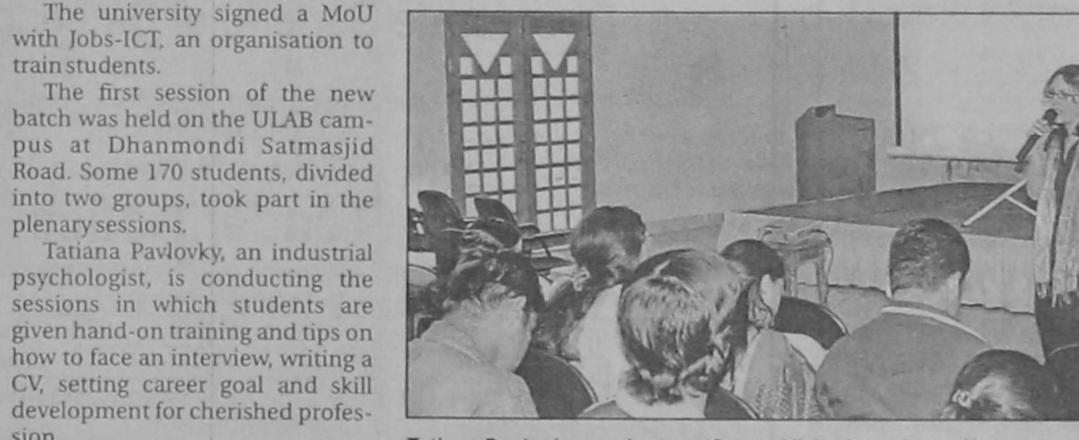
Rajshahi Metro Press Club executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Bulbul Chowdhury of Rajshahi bureau chief of the daily Jugantor and Anisuzzaman of the daily Janakantha were elected president and general secretary of Rajshahi Metropolitan Press Club on Friday.

Other elected office bearers are: Kazi Gias (Oriental News Agency) and Asaduzzaman (Amar Desh)vice-president, Abdul Jabid Apu (Samakal) and Abbas Uddin Sarkar (Weekly Dharani)- joint secretary, Kazi Shahed (Samakal)- treasurer and Azizul Islam- office secretary.

Akbarul Hasan Millat (Sonali Sangbad), Abul Kalam Azad (Samachar) and Abdullah Iqbal (Jugantor) were elected unopposed as executive committee members.



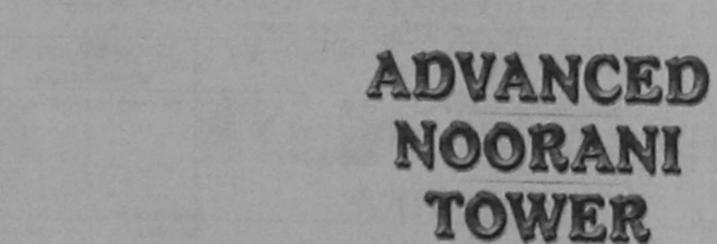
Tatiana Pavlovky conducts a 'Career Vision' session at University of Liberal The training begins at the very Arts Bangladesh in the city yesterday. first term of the four-year academic

a series of demonstrations in flowers but we were tear-gassed over by British colonial rulers in the

cultural nation, which is now gear- Thanenthiran said, referring to ised in terms of education, wealth

Apollo Fertility Centre was inaugurated at Apollo Hospitals in the city recently.

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Project to supply arsenic-free water

BSS, Rajshahi

Barind Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA) has undertaken a project to supply arsenic-free drinking water among be more dependable and will help the rural people through pipeline.

ject is to supply round-the-year potable water to every household of the rural people in targeted area, official sources said.

'Drinking water supply from irrigation deep tube-well' approved in the on August 28, 2007 is scheduled to be implemented in 25 upazilas Chapainawabganj by 2012.

In addition to the extension of condition of the villages, he added. 40 water supply installations, 750 more installations will be conneed-based water-testing equipment and chemicals under the living, Aminul said. project.

Aminul Islam told BSS that there is mentation of the project.

an acute shortage of potable water in the vast tract of Barind area during the dry season and the problem has become more acute for the last couple of years.

Besides their academic

training module during the four-

year of their stay at ULAB.

He said the supply system will eradicate the diseases caused by The main objective of the pro- shortage of potable water.

Around 15 lakh people in 750 remote villages will get safe drinking water through pipeline like the urban people, which will help The Tk 99.40 crore project titled improve general health condition of the beneficiaries.

Referring to various possible Executive Committee of National outcomes of the project, Engineer Economic Council (Ecnec) meeting Aminul said the supplied water could also be utilised for the animals and kitchen gardens along under Rajshahi, Naogaon and with homestead afforestation. It will also improve the environment

Upon successful implementation, the project will contribute a structed along with arrangement of lot to rural development through improving general standard of

He, however, said that funds are Project Director Engineer yet to be released for the imple-

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