

Road accidents kill eight

STAR REPORT

At least eight people were killed and 13 others injured in separate road accidents in Mymensingh, Jhenidah, Lalmonirhat, Gopalganj and Sirajganj yesterday and on Thursday.

Our correspondent from Mymensingh reports: At least three people were killed and five others injured, three critically, in a road accident on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Bagan under Trishal Upazila yesterday.

The dead were identified as Sara, 7 and her father Rupa Miah, 35, and one Mohammed Ali, 50.

Police and local sources said the accident took place when a passenger bus bound for Mymensingh from Dhaka collided head-on with a tempo coming from opposite direction at Bagan, leaving Sara dead on the spot and injuring seven others.

Sara's father Rupa Miah succumbed to his injuries on the way to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) while Mohammed Ali at MMCH. Of the injured, three are undergoing treatment at MMCH.

Police recovered the bodies and sent them to MMCH morgue for autopsy.

A case was lodged in this regard.

Our Correspondent from Jhenidah adds: Two labourers of a brickfield were killed and six others injured in a road accident in Jessore yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Abdul Alim and Abul Kalam of Sharanpur village under Manirampur Upazila in Jessore.

The accident occurred a brick-laden truck turned upside down at Mat Bari Chapatala in Jessore Sadar, leaving Alim and Kalam dead on the spot and six others seriously injured.

Police and locals said the truck turned upside down at Mat Bari Chapatala when they were sitting on the brick-laden truck to unload brick. The injured were rushed to hospital. Of them, condition of Basir and Tarikul was stated to be critical.

The bodies have been sent to Jessore Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy.

A correspondent from Lalmonirhat reports: A primary school student was killed in a road accident on Lalmonirhat-Burimari highway at West Fakirpara under Hatibandha upazila yesterday.

The dead was identified as Al Amin, 8, son of Lutfar Rahaman of West Fakr Para village of Hatibandha upazila in Lalmonirhat, and a student of class

two of Fakir Para Govt Primary School.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred when a Rangpur-bound passenger bus from Patgram hit Al Amin beside the road. Police seized the bus but its driver and helper managed to escape.

A correspondent in Gopalganj reports: a speeding human hauler, locally called 'Nasiman', ran over a 12-year-old schoolgirl on the Kotlipara-Bashbaria road at Kurpala village yesterday, killing her on the spot.

Police said the vehicle knocked down Kazi Sharmin, daughter of Kazi Manjur Hossain, when she was crossing the road.

Our Correspondent in Sirajganj reports: A motorcycle rider was killed and two others were injured in a collision with a microbus on the Sirajganj-Bogra road at Shaikhol Bazar in Sadar upazila on Thursday night.

The head-on collision between the motorcycle and the Sirajganj-bound microbus took place at around 9:30pm, killing Raju, 30, on the spot, witnesses said.

The injured were taken to Sirajganj General Hospital.

The police sent the body to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

'Construct multipurpose shelters in coastal areas'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Civil society members yesterday called on the caretaker government to construct multipurpose shelters in the natural disaster-prone coastal areas so that they can be utilised for the local people throughout the year.

The government should consider the issue of multipurpose use during the construction of cyclone shelters to ensure that they can be used as primary school centre or healthcare centre or maternity clinic during the normal period, they said in a statement.

They also urged the government to consider several other issues during the construction of shelters: 1) The cyclone shelters should be set up in nearby areas so that people can reach the shelters within a short time; 2) the shelters should be accessible to all, irrespective of gender or faiths; 3) and there should be space for cattle and poultry birds.

They also called for involving local people in the planning and implementations of such projects in the coastal areas.

The signatories to the statement include Hameeda Hossain, Khushi Kabir of Nijera Kori, Prof Abul Barakat, journalist Kamal Lohani, Prof Serajul Islam Choudhury, Ajoy Roy, Justice Golam Rabbani and former adviser to the caretaker government Sultana Kamal.

Titas Gas pipeline catches fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Titas Gas pipeline caught fire in the city's Sayedabad area last night, causing disruption to gas supply in the area for about two hours.

Witnesses said the pipeline behind RK Degree College caught the fire at around 9:15pm, creating panic among the local residents.

Fire fighters with the help of Titas Gas staff put out the fire at about 11:30pm.

Police suspect that there could have been a leak in the pipeline and it caught fire from a burning cigarette.

The gas supply in the areas remained suspended for about two hours during the fire. However, the gas supply resumed after the repair of the pipeline, the police said.

'Local govt should receive funds from nat'l budget'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political empowerment would not be effective without economic empowerment, said the leaders and activists of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) at a workshop yesterday.

The workshop titled 'People's empowerment, parliament and local government' was held at its central office in the capital.

It was attended by CPB central leaders and activists from different districts.

The speakers said civil administration will have to be decentralised and budget for the local government will have to be allocated from the national budget.

CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan said free and fair election will not be possible without making the election free from muscle power and black money.

CPB General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim said political empowerment will not be effective ignoring the economic empowerment.

Appeal for help

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Ruhul Amin Biswas, a first-year honours student of Islamic history at Government Devendra College in Manikganj, is a kidney patient.

His two kidneys have been damaged and he is now undergoing treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital in the capital.

His father Rois Uddin Biswas of Gang Dhusuria village under Harirampur upazila is an employee of public health engineering department at Daulatpur upazila, is unable to bear the treatment cost.

So he has appealed for financial assistance from affluent people of the society to save the life of his son.

Contributions can be sent to Rois Uddin Biswas, Savings Account No 2816, Wireless Gate Branch of Agrani Bank, Manikganj.



Lawyers for Awami League President Sheikh Hasina talk to journalists after they were barred from meeting Canadian lawyer William Sloan at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday.

Trial of war criminals demanded

CU CORRESPONDENT

Recently released teachers of Dhaka and Rajshahi universities yesterday demanded immediate step to start trials of war criminals.

"This is high time to take initiatives to try the war criminals as people are united in this demand," they said.

They were speaking at a reception ceremony organised by Oikyaabaddha Nagorik Mancha at Ekushey Mela in Chittagong's DC Hill Park. Prof Anwar Hossain and Prof Moloy Bhowmik of Dhaka University and Saidur Rahman Khan of Rajshahi University were welcomed in the programme. Eminent social scientist Prof Anupam Sen presided over the ceremony.

Journalist and author Shahriar Kabir and writer and researcher Muntasir Mamun were also present.

Anwar Hossain, general secretary of Dhaka University Teachers'

Association (DUTA), termed their release a victory they earned to be on the right track and not to give in to anything wrong.

"We just stood by the students considering it our duty and we did not feel any hesitation to tell the truth," Anwar said.

He demanded release of Awami League and BNP chiefs and their trial held in a general way. He also demanded the government hand over power to people's representatives elected through a fair, free and credible election.

Moloy Bhowmik described the "mental and physical tortures" inflicted on them during the period of their demand and imprisonment.

However, he said they would forget to some extent the pain they suffered if the process of trying the war criminals starts without delay.

He said people are now united in demand for the trial of war criminals and the demand is gradually spreading everywhere including

state organs.

Former vice-chancellor of Rajshahi University Prof Saidur Rahman Khan, former pro-vice chancellor of Chittagong University Prof Abu Yusuf Alam, Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) President Shahidul Alam, Chittagong Bar Association General Secretary Mujibur Rahman Faruk and woman leader Nurjahan also spoke.

Interpol Secy Gen arrives Feb 29

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Interpol Secretary General Ronald K Noble will arrive in Dhaka on February 29 on a one-day visit.

He will visit India and Nepal before arriving here, police headquarters sources said.

During his visit here, Noble will meet Home Affairs Adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) MA Matin and home Secretary Abdul Karim.

Ex-AL lawmaker Lutfar Rahman passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Lutfar Rahman, a former Awami League lawmaker and one of the organisers of the Liberation War, passed away at LabAid Hospital in Dhaka early yesterday at the age of 81.

He had been elected a member of parliament from Gaibandha-2 constituency in 1970, 1973, 1979 and 2001.

During his long political career, Lutfar Rahman served as the vice-president of Rangpur district AL and the president of Gaibandha district AL.

He is survived by his wife, four daughters and three sons. He was buried at his family graveyard in Gaibandha after Maghrib prayers.

UNB adds: AL leaders and activists paid their last respects to the late leader when his body was brought to the AL president's office at Dhanmandi in Dhaka in the morning. A namaz-e-janaza was also held there.

In a condolence message, Acting AL President Zillur Rahman and Acting General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam expressed deep shock at the death of Lutfar Rahman.

Mohamed Abdul Mutalib

Mohamed Abdul Mutalib, a professor of English at IUBAT, passed away due to a massive cardiac arrest in Dhaka on February 17

at the age of 58, says a press release.

He was buried at his village home at Ashuganj in Brahmanbaria.

Abdul Mutalib also served in several prominent English medium schools, including Maple Leaf International School.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Friends, colleagues and well-wishers have been requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Shamsun Nahar Begum

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Shamsun Nahar Begum (Korol), assistant teacher of KM Jubilee High School and wife of Advocate Gola M Mohiuddin,

president of Awami League Manikganj district unit, died of cardiac arrest on Thursday night at the age of 52.

She left behind her husband, two daughters, one son, and one brother to mourn her death.

She was buried at Sewta graveyard in Manikganj town after her namaz-e-janaza on the premises of Government Devendra College after Juma prayers.

Her qulhwani will be held at her residence at Girls' School Road in Manikganj on Monday after Johr prayers.

Death anniversary

Today is the 31st death anniversary of freedom fighter Lt AM Ataul Haque, acting chief of Bangladesh Navy after independence,

says a press release. Ataul Haque, who joined the Royal Indian Navy in 1945, served as the acting Chief of Bangladesh Navy until April 1972.

He passed away due to a cardiac arrest on this day in 1977.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to pray for eternal peace of the departed soul.

Begum Ashrafunnesa

Today is the ninth death anniversary of Begum Ashrafunnesa, mother of Col Abu Taber Bir Uttam and Dr Anwar Hossain,

general secretary of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA), says a press release.

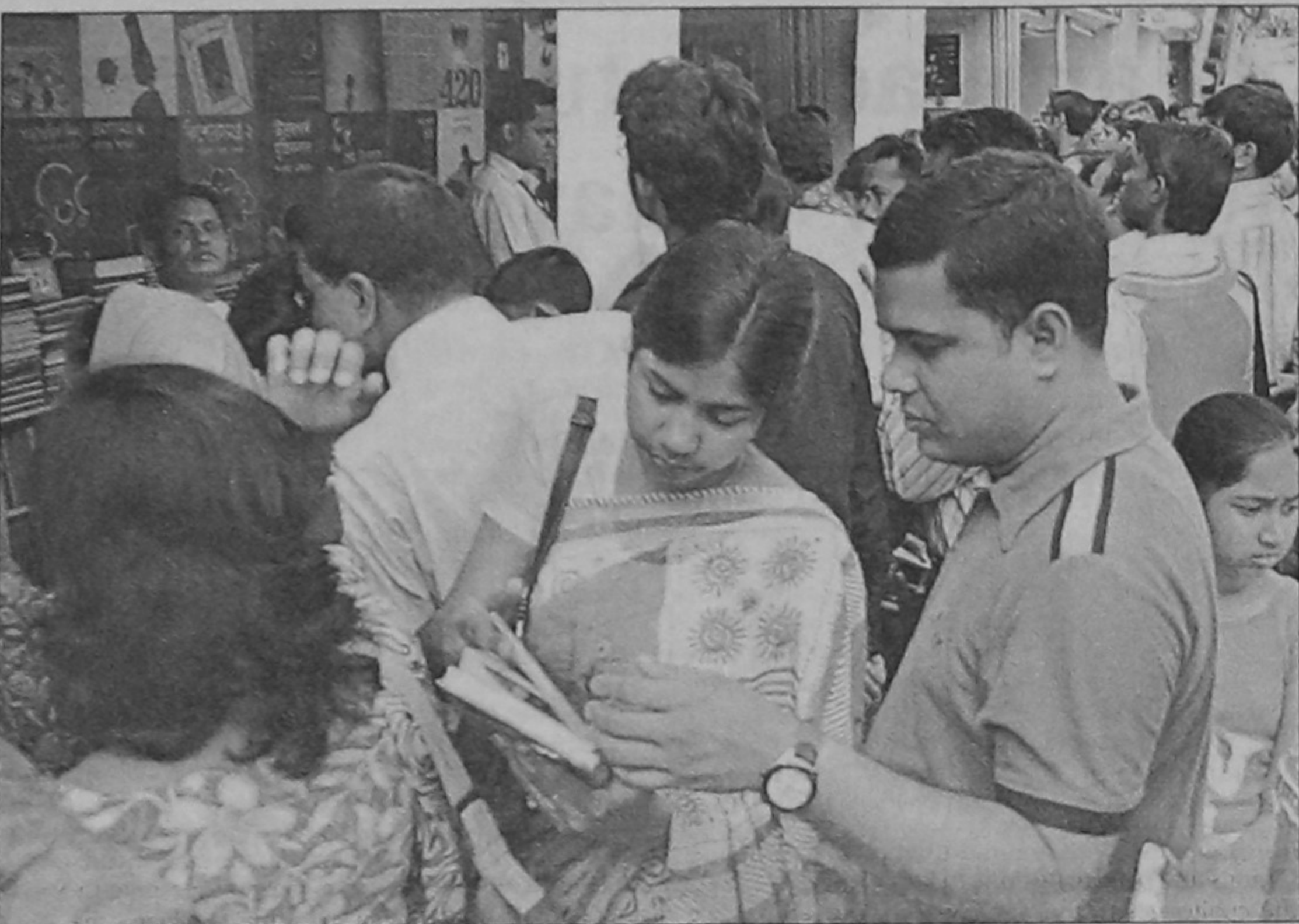
On the occasion, milad mahfils will be held at her village residence at Kajla under Shamganj in Netrakona and at her son's residence in the city.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the milad mahfil and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Debendranath Shil

The 9th death anniversary of Debendranath Shil, an educationist, social worker and teacher of Shirin Haque Girls' High School will be observed today, says a press release.

The annual Shradha will be held at his village home at Mulghar under Fakirhat upazila in Bagerhat. Friends, relatives and well-wishers have been requested to attend the programme.



Visitors crowd book stalls at the Amar Ekushey Book Fair at Bangla Academy in the city yesterday.

Chehlum of Khaleda's mother held

UNB, Dinajpur

Chehlum of Begum Tayeba Majumder, mother of BNP chairperson and former prime minister Khaleda Zia, was held at her Balubari residence in the town yesterday.

On the occasion, milad mahfil was held, foods were distributed among the destitute and prayers offered at the grave of Tayeba Majumder.

Major (ret'd) Sayeed Iskander and engineer Shamim Iskander, two sons of Tayeba Majumder, were present.

'Take steps to preserve Chamari House'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ninety-one eminent personalities, including poets, litterateurs, journalists and educationists, yesterday urged the caretaker government to take necessary measures immediately to preserve the historic Chamari House, presently called 'Chameli House'.

They also placed a five-point demand, including restoring the house to its original splendour and declaring it as a heritage site.

In a statement, they said the public works department has taken a project to bring massive changes to this historic house instead of declaring it as a heritage site in accordance

with the existing law.

It is important to preserve the house in its original form considering its historical importance and architectural value, the statement said.

They demanded stopping the construction work of a six-storey building in the house compound, erecting iron fences after removing the boundary wall and reviving the old name of 'Chamari House'.

The signatories to the statement include Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Dr Ajay Roy, Justice Golam Rabbani, poet Syed Shamsul Haque, Dr Anwara Sayed Haque, Dr Shamsuzzaman Khan, Prof Hayat Mahmud, architect Rabiul Hossain, Prof Muntasir Mamun and Sayed Abul Maksud.

Wives of Tarique, Koko meet Khaleda

UNB, Dhaka

Wives of Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman Koko met their mother-in-law BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at a makeshift jail in the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban complex yesterday.

Dr Zobaida Rahman and Sharmila Rahman stayed with Khaleda for about one and a half hours from 4:00pm.

Khaleda was arrested on September 3 last year in connection with a corruption case.

Trader gunned down

UNB, Rangamati

A trader was gunned down by unidentified assailants at Baribanda Ghata in Baghaichhari upazila yesterday.

Locals said the gunman sprayed bullets on Tapan Chakma, 36, while he was selling goods at his shop at about 8:30am, killing him on the spot.

On information, police went to the spot and recovered the body of Tapan, a member of the group demanding reform of the CHT Peace Treaty.

DHAKA TODAY Roundtable Watchdog Bangladesh and Breeder's Association jointly organise a seminar on bird flu. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 2:00pm. Discussion Dhaka Press Club, Bangladesh organises a discussion and reception on the occasion of International Mother Language Day. Venue: Public Library auditorium. Time: 3:30pm. Seminar A seminar will be held on language, dominance and state. Venue: RC Majumdar auditorium, DU. Time: 3:00pm. Discussion Bangladesh Labour Party organises a discussion on the spirit of Ekushey. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:30am. Roundtable Save the Environment Movement organises roundtable on the importance of public toilet to protect environment and public health. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11:00am. Reminiscence meeting Selim Al Din Memorial Council organises a reminiscence meeting on playwright Selim Al Din. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am. Concert Mind's eye media communication organises a concert. Venue: Rabindra Sarobar Mancha. Time: 3:00pm. Rotary Dhaka Central The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30pm.



An autorickshaw was badly damaged when a speeding bus hit it at Shahbagh in the city yesterday. Popular writer and Deputy Editor of the Prothom Alo Anisul Huq, who was travelling in the three-wheeler, was injured in the accident.

Jatka seized in Narayanganj, Chandpur

FROM PAGE 16

Department has imposed a ban on netting all species of fish during the breeding season from March 1 to April 30 at three points, reports our Patuakhali correspondent.

The areas where fishing will be prohibited are Char Rustam point in Tetulia river of Galachipa upazila, a 90-km-area stretching from Elisha to Char Pail point in the Meghna River of Bhola and a 100-km-area stretching from Veduria in Bhola to Shatnal in Chandpur.

The fisheries department selected the three points stretching over an area of 290 kilometres as those are vital for breeding of fish.

Different species of fish would lay eggs at these points during the period, said District Fish Survey Officer Md Faruq Hossain.

"We are trying to motivate the

fishermen not to catch fish during the breeding season," he said.

Coastguard members will patrol the areas to make sure that nobody catches fish there, he added.

A two-month-long ban on fishing has also been slapped from March 1 to April 30 in different areas in the southern region of the country, reports our Barisal correspondent.

Barisal fishery office sources said the fishermen would not be allowed to catch fish in a 100-km area from Shatnol to Char Alexander in Meghna and Padma rivers, a 90-km-area from Madanpur Char to Shahabazpur in Meghna and Ilisha rivers, a 100-km area from Vedunia to Char Rustam in Bishkhali and Tetulia rivers and a 50-km-area from Kalapara to Charmanik.

sincere efforts of Bangladesh Olympic Association and Bengal Olympic Association of West Bengal, the function was told.

President of Bangladesh Olympic Association and President of South Asia Olympic Council Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed and Bengal Olympic Association, West Bengal, President Paresh Nath Mukherjee also spoke at the inaugural function.

General Moeen in his speech said the games will further strengthen the bond of friendship between Bangladesh and India.

"Such efforts to improve ties between the two neighbours will continue," he said.

At the outset of inauguration of the event, four paratroopers of Bangladesh army, carrying national flag of Bangladesh, national flag of India, flag of Bangladesh Olympic Association and the flag of Indo-Bangladesh Bangla Games, descended on the stadium ground one after another.

The paratroopers carried the national flags of Bangladesh and India as they paraded round the field at the beginning of the inauguration.

Secretary general of the Olympic Council of Asia Raja Randhir Singh was present at the function.

Advisers, Special Assistants to the chief adviser, the Indian high commissioner in Dhaka, sports personalities and sport officials of both the countries, noted personalities of various professions and enthusiastic viewers were also present at the function.

The Bangabandhu National Stadium ground was decorated with colorful flags and festoons as well as national flags of Bangladesh and India.

The participating players and athletes of the two countries staged a march past and gave salute to the chief adviser. The CA took salute from the march past.

Later, an impressive cultural programme was staged. The chief adviser witnessed the cultural show for sometime.

Source said as part of a plan a 340-kilometre-area covering Ilisha, Meghna, Tetulia, Bishkhali and Padma rivers running through Barisal, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna, Munshiganj, Chandpur and Laxmipur would be declared as fish sanctuary.

Leaflets are being distributed among fishermen and fish traders in the areas to give them necessary information about the ban on fishing.

The government will provide special grants and alternative employment opportunities to the affected fishermen.

However, Md Yusuf Ali, organising secretary of district fishermen association, said monthly grant of Tk 200-300 for each fisherman is too small. The affected fishermen need to be provided with alternative employment, he added.