

Visitors admire paintings put on display at an exhibition titled 'Travelling over the horizon' by artist Kazi Rakib at Gallerikaya in the city yesterday. The two-week exhibition will remain open for all from 11:00am to 8:00pm everyday.

## Six killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

Six people were killed in separate road accidents across the country in the last two days.

UNB reports: Three motorcycle riders were killed when a bus rammed the two-wheeler on Dhaka-Kapasia road in Gazipur yesterday.

The dead were identified as Farook, 30, Robin, 23, and Jewel, 22. They all hailed from Rawnat in Kapasia upazila.

Police and local sources said the Kishoreganj-bound bus from Dhaka rammed the motorcycle coming from opposite direction in

Bhubonchala Muchibari area at about 11:30am, leaving two riders dead on the spot. The other victim died at the local health complex.

Our RU Correspondent adds: A schoolgirl was killed in a road accident in Vitabari area in Chapainawabganj yesterday.

The victim was identified as Mahmuda Khatun Pakhi, 8, daughter of Arshad Mia.

Police said a speeding human hauler knocked down the girl on Gomostapur-Chapainawabganj highway at Nejur crossing while she was crossing the road. She died on the spot.

The driver sped away soon after

the accident.

Meanwhile, an elderly person was killed when a minibus hit him on Puthia-Rajshahi highway on Thursday.

The dead was identified as Idrish Ali, 65, of Shibpur village at Puthia.

UNB adds: A pedestrian was killed when a speeding truck hit him on Dhaka-Bogra Highway in Sirajganj at about 11:30am.

The victim, Al Amin, 20, a resident of Ullapara upazila, died on the spot, the police said.

The accident took place near Pasila Bazar in Salanga thana.

## China imposes new visa restrictions

AFP, Hong Kong

China has imposed further curbs on visitors, just weeks after it stopped issuing multiple-entry visas, Hong Kong travel agents said yesterday, sparking concern among the business community.

"You now need a copy of your travel ticket both in and out of the country and a hotel voucher before they accept a visa application. Without that they will reject it," said Daryl Bending, a travel consultant with Concorde Travel.

"I think it will deter a lot of people from travelling to China. They will just think it is too hard."

Another agent said visitors from 33 countries -- including India, the Philippines and Indonesia -- were no longer allowed to apply for China visas in Hong Kong and would have to apply at their local Chinese embassies.

"It is becoming more and more serious, it is really out of control," said the travel agent, who did not want to be named.

She said that tourist and business visas were also now coming back later and later, leaving travellers waiting around for hours to find out whether their applications had been accepted.

A statement on the website of the Chinese Foreign Ministry in Hong Kong said that there had been a "recent drastic rise" in the number of applicants.

To spare applicants of the unnecessary trouble, for non-resident of Hong Kong, please apply for the Chinese visa at the Chinese embassy or consulate-general in his or her home country or resident country, it said.

## 'Atmosphere of intimidation' clouds Myanmar polls: UK envoy

AFP, Bangkok

A top British envoy on Myanmar said yesterday that an "atmosphere of intimidation" was clouding next month's referendum on a new constitution and urged the military-ruled country to let opposition forces take part.

Michael Williams, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown's envoy on Myanmar, said Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) party must be allowed to participate in the May 10 poll.

Williams, who was in Bangkok for discussions with Thai officials, told reporters that he hoped the vote "will have credibility and legitimacy and will allow participation and inclusion of all Myanmar's social and political forces."

"At the moment, for the UK, we are concerned there is an atmosphere of intimidation prevailing about the country," he added.

"The process falls short of what the UK would like to see," Williams said on the last leg of his four-country Asian tour.

The NLD is urging people to vote against the junta-backed charter, which activists say will simply entrench the army's role in

Myanmar, which has been ruled by the military since 1962.

At least 23 anti-charter activists were arrested on Tuesday for wearing T-shirts emblazoned with the word 'No', the NLD reported.

The party has also said that any attempts to campaign against the constitution were being suppressed.

Official NLD documents were being confiscated by authorities, they said, while local party organisers had been detained and interrogated.

The referendum will be the first balloting in military-run Myanmar since 1990, when Aung San Suu Kyi led the NLD to a landslide victory that was never recognised by the junta. She remains under house arrest.

The regime says the referendum will pave the way for multi-party elections in 2010, but activists say the constitution was drafted with no public input.

The NLD and other pro-democracy groups are calling for a "No" vote, but they have little ability to campaign effectively because the junta has outlawed speeches and leaflets about the referendum.



Four senior public relations professionals who were honoured at the 11th biennial national convention of Bangladesh Public Relations Association pose with Education and Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman and other guests at the convention held at the National Press Club in the city recently.

## Nat'l convention of BPRA held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 11th biennial national convention of Bangladesh Public Relations Association (BPRA) was held in the city recently, says a press release.

Addressing the convention as the chief guest, Education and Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman called on the public relations workers to practise public ethics alongside protecting the interests of their respective organisations.

He also called on them to play an important role in the changed scenario.

Editor of the daily Amar Desh Ataus Samad said the government should bring changes to the right to information act before enacting the law.

Four senior public relations activists Sayed Jagul Kamal, Kazi Gofran Ahmed, Fakir Alamgir and Md Jamayet Ali were also honoured with crests and certificates at the convention.

President of the National Press Club Shaukat Mahmud and General Secretary of the Samity ASM Bazlul Haq also spoke at the convention presided by the Samity President Mostafa-E-Jamil.

## Teachers demand 60pc DA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE) yesterday demanded 60 percent dearness allowance and supplying rice, flour and edible oil in ration for teachers and employees of the non-government educational institutions, says a press release.

NFTE in a meeting at its office at Farm Gate in the city also demanded introduction of structured question (SQ) system from class six.

The front leaders also demanded restarting the promotion system in 2/8 years that were stalled by the previous government. They expressed concern over the exclusion of secretarial science and managerial course from syllabus.

NFTE Chief Coordinator Principal Kazi Faruk Ahmed presided over the meeting which was addressed by Principal Md Shahjahan, Principal Asadul Haque and Md Azizul Islam.

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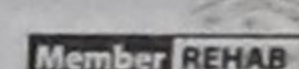
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