

Road crashes kill 3

STAR REPORT

Three people, including two minor boys, were killed and 12 others injured in separate road accidents in Sirajganj, Satkhira and Brahmanbaria yesterday.

Our correspondent in Sirajganj reports: A man was killed and 12 others were injured in a road accident on Tarash-Barushah road at Digholia in Tarash in Sirajganj yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Abu Taher, 35, of Pabna district.

The injured were admitted to Tarash Upazila Health Complex and Sirajganj Sadar hospital. Of the injured, condition of six were

critical, hospital sources said. Police and witnesses said the accident occurred at around 2:00pm when a paddy-laden truck skidded off the road and fell into a roadside ditch.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Our correspondent at Satkhira adds: A minor boy was killed in a road accident on Satkhira-Kaliganj road at Kaliganj in the district yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Tanzu, 7, son of Anwar Hossain Gazi of village Kharitala at the same upazila.

The accident occurred when a

Kaliganj-bound bus lost control and hit Tanzu who was standing beside a roadside tree.

Our correspondent from Brahmanbaria adds: A minor boy was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Bariura village under Sarail upazila in the district yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Md Pasha, 7, son Md Taru Mia of Bariura village.

The accident occurred when a Sylhet-bound private car from Dhaka knocked Pasha down while he was crossing the road.

Pasha succumbed to his injuries on his way to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital.

One killed, four injured as train hits truck in Rajshahi

UNB, Rajshahi

One person was killed and four others were injured when a train hit a truck at Mohanpuradalan level crossing under Motihar Police Station in the city yesterday.

Rail communications between Rajshahi and other districts remained suspended for nearly six hours following the accident.

The dead was identified as Ketabuddin, a day labourer of Naogaon district. Police and witnesses said a Goalandhu-bound Modhumoti train from Rajshahi knocked down a goods-laden truck, which went out of order while passing the rail track at about 6:00am.

The truck got twisted and caught fire following the accident when the train engine was partially damaged.

The injured Sohel, Yasin, Namajuddin and another unidentified person were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Rail communications on the route resumed at about 12:00 noon.

Vitamin-A plus campaign begins in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The National Vitamin-A Plus Campaign-2008 began yesterday targeting administering of Vitamin-A capsules to 90,000 children and deworming tablets to 68,000 children in Khulna city.

Khulna City Corporation (KCC) Acting Mayor Moniruzzaman Moni inaugurated the campaign at Daulatpur Health Centre.

The campaign was launched through 580 centres and 77 mobile teams with active cooperation of non-governmental organisations, different law enforcing agencies and some government institutions.

Two thousand volunteers are working under supervision of KCC's health department and 24 NGOs to administer Vitamin-A capsules to one to five year old children and deworming tablets to two to five year old children in the city.

Besides, 232 mobile health workers will do the same works at bus stands, rail station, parks and footpaths in the city.

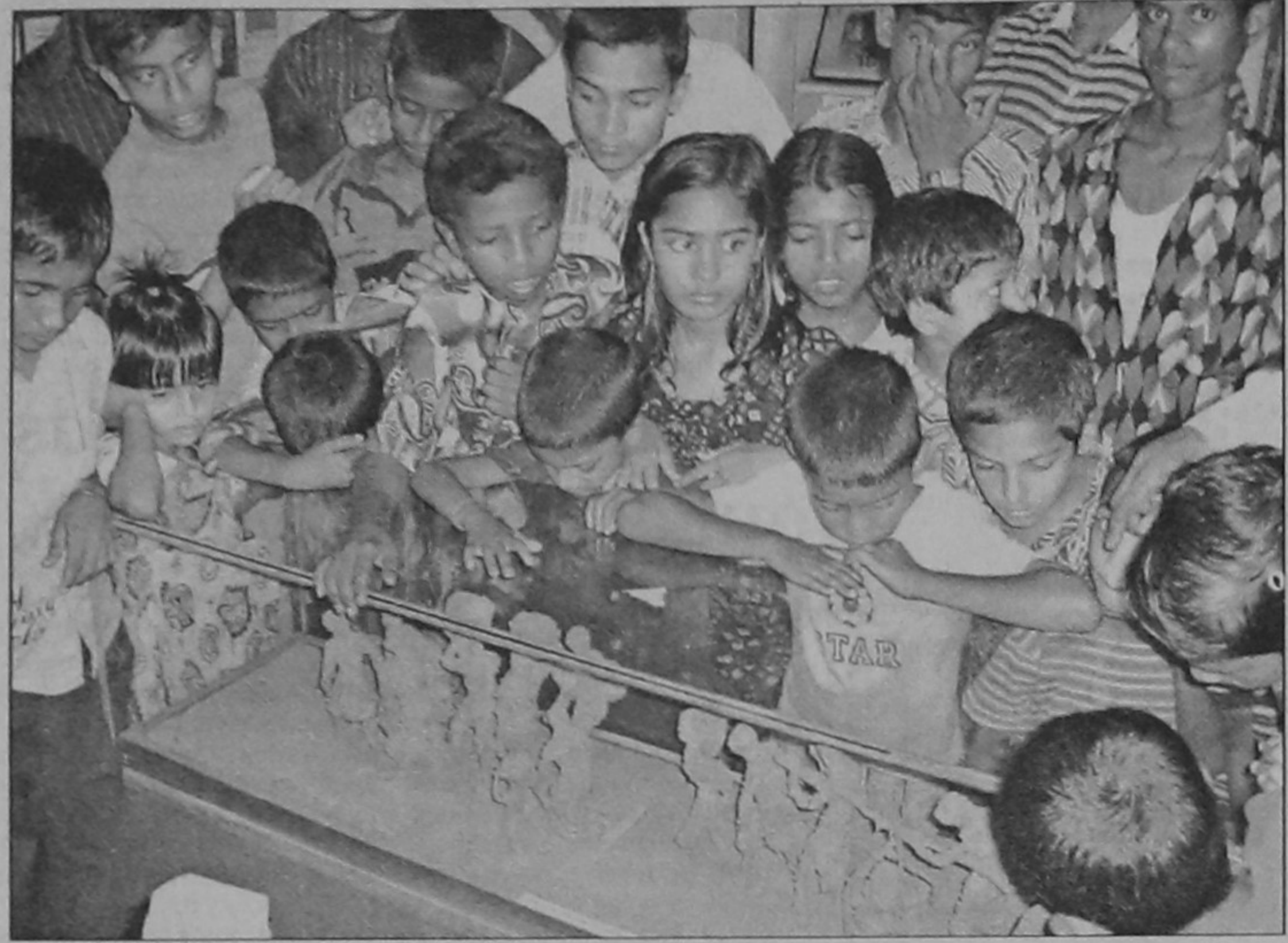


PHOTO: STAR

Underprivileged children visit the Liberation War Museum in the city on Friday as part of their educational programme. Bhumika Swashta Sikkha Unnayan Foundation, a non-government organisation, organised the programme.

SIDR-AFFECTED DISTRICTS 398 cyclone shelters to be constructed

UNB, Barisal

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) will start construction work of 398 cyclone shelters in 12 Sidr-hit districts in August at a cost of Tk 571 crore.

According to Barisal divisional LGED office, a total of 77 shelters will be built in Barisal, 67 in Barguna, 10 in Bhola, 70 in Patuakhali, 54 in Pirojpur, 24 in Madaripur, 31 in Shariatpur, 12 in Chandpur, 40 in Bagerhat, six in Gopalganj, two in Khulna and five in Satkhira districts.

LGED Additional Chief Engineer Nurul Islam said 11 donor agencies will provide funds for the project, which will be completed by next two years.

Besides this project, some other cyclone shelters will also be constructed with the financial assistance of World Bank and Japan.

Superintending Engineer of

Barisal LGED Hemayet Hossain said these shelters will also help in expanding mass literacy, primary education as well as development of socio-economic condition of the local people.

JU summer vacation begins today

BSS, Savar

The month-long summer vacation of Jahangirnagar University (JU) will begin today.

Offices of the university will remain closed from May 17 to 23, a JU press release said yesterday.

However, examinations will be held as per schedule during this period, the release added.

Sarkozy slams Myanmar junta

AFP, Paris

French President Nicolas Sarkozy yesterday denounced the Myanmar regime as "utterly reprehensible" for blocking vital food aid to victims of last weekend's cyclone.

Speaking in the Luxembourg gardens in Paris during a ceremony to commemorate the abolition of slavery, Sarkozy slammed "an utterly reprehensible regime which is preventing the unloading of foodstuffs" in a country "ravaged by nature."



PHOTO: STAR

A group of people under the banner of Bangladesh Sachetan Nagorik Samaj form a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding distribution of relief in Myanmar before referendum in that country. Plainclothes police seized its banner at one stage.



PHOTO: STAR

Students from EDIS (opposition team) of South Korea, right, and NLS of Bangalore (government team), left, take part in the 15th All Asian Inter-Varsity Debate Championship 2008 at North South University in the city yesterday.

Sri Lanka banks on defectors to beat Tamil Tigers

AFP, Trincomalee

K Nanthakopan is a marked man, being roughly the political equivalent of top Al-Qaeda member who has defected to Washington.

The 38-year-old is part of a group of Tamil Tiger rebels who in 2004 split away from the movement to set up a splinter group, helping the ethnic Sinhalese-dominated government win control over the island's east last year.

On Saturday he is standing in provincial council elections as an ally of Colombo's hawkish government, almost certainly viewed by his former comrades as a traitor who should die.

"I'm not scared. If I was, I wouldn't be in politics," Nanthakopan told AFP in his heavily guarded office in Trincomalee, a strategic harbour surrounded by pristine beaches and one of the biggest towns in the east.

"The magnitude of the threat against us is enormous," he said with a smile, providing some clue as to why the rebel who led the defection, Colonel Karuna, fled to Britain.

Nanthakopan and his fellow ex-rebels have now rebranded themselves as the Tamil Makkal Viduthalaipuligal (TMVP), or Tamil People's Liberation Tigers, and are hoping to win the polls -- the first in the eastern province for 20 years.

The government of President Mahinda Rajapakse is banking on a TMVP victory as a way of putting in place a Tamil loyalist as a provincial chief and proving it is willing to allow some limited devolution for Tamils.

This, in theory, would ideologically undercut the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) -- who want nothing less than a separate state -- and provide a boost for the

escalating military campaign to kick the guerrillas out of the north as well.

Rajapakse pulled out of a Norwegian-brokered ceasefire with the LTTE in January, and has promised to defeat the rebels before they are out.

"If we win this election, there will be a Tamil chief minister in the east. It is a good starting point for the Tamil people," Nanthakopan said. "We have to trust the government."

But the TMVP and its new leader, another defector who goes by the nom de guerre of Pillaiyan, still appear to have a long way to go to prove they have truly embraced the mainstream democratic process.

Many of its cadre in the tense eastern region still openly carry guns -- even though they live under army protection as well -- and human rights activists accuse them of kidnapping children to use as fighters.

Rights groups are also demanding that Colonel Karuna, who was arrested and jailed on immigration charges after trying to enter Britain using a false name, be put on trial there for war crimes committed during Sri Lanka's decades-old ethnic war.

The British High Commission (embassy) said Friday that Karuna has been released and transferred to an immigration detention centre in Britain.



Prof Najma Siddiqi receives Begum Rokeya Shining Personality Award 2007 at Dhaka Ladies Club recently. Narikantha Foundation organised the award giving ceremony where Air Vice Marshal (ret) AK Khondakar, former army chief Lt Gen (ret) M Harun-Ar-Rashid, Prof Najma Chowdhury, eminent writer Selina Hossain, First Secretary of European Commission Charles Whiteley and Executive Director of Narikantha Foundation Farhana Reza were present.

ALLEGED SEXUAL HARASSMENT DU teacher's removal Demanded

DU CORRESPONDENT

A group of students at Dhaka University (DU) yesterday staged a demonstration on the campus demanding removal of a teacher of Psychology Department for allegedly sexually harassing a female student of the same department.

Students under the banner of 'general students' took out a procession that paraded different streets on the campus and held a rally at the foot of Aparajevo Bangla at noon to press home their demand.

However, leaders of several left-leaning student organisations and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of Awami League, alleged that activists of Chhatra Mukti, student wing of the 'Hijab Tahreef', a controversial Islamist group, held the demonstration programmes.

Sources said no sooner had the agitating students attended the main entrance of arts building, a group of BCL activists chased them. Following BCL's chasing, agitating students ran through different corridors of the building and entered the girls' common rooms.

DU Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof AFM Yusuf Haider said, "We have got the complaint and now it is under the hand of the vice chancellor (VC). He will take a decision on the issue after returning in the country."

Mentionable, DU VC Prof SMA Faiz is now in a visit to the United States.

Caritas' support for poor families in Bandarban

BSS, Chittagong

Caritas, a non-government development organisation, has distributed over 24 metric tonnes of rice and around 9,000 kgs of various categories of seeds among 805 poor families at three upazila in Bandarban recently.

Each of the farmer families under Thanchi, Aikadam and Roangchari upazila, who suffered substantial agricultural losses due to rat attack and floods in the last season, was given 30kg rice, 10kg paddy seeds, 1kg maize seeds and 100 grams each of sweet pumpkin and chilly seeds as food and agriculture rehabilitation aid, a press release said.

The organisation will distribute more such assistance among another 195 families of different hilly areas this month.

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Individual Counseling: Conducted by K. M. Mazharul Islam, Operations Manager, Bangladesh Liaison Office, London Metropolitan University.

Programme Schedule:

Dhaka
Open day: 16th May 2008, 10.30 am - 5.30 pm
(For individual counseling appointment required)
Venue: Bangladesh Liaison office, London Metropolitan University

For further information and appointments:
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