

# Road accidents kill six

UNB, Dhaka  
At least six people were killed in separate road accidents in Comilla and Jessore yesterday.  
Three people were killed and two others injured when a bus rammed into a CNG-run autorickshaw on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Sadar (south) upazila in Comilla yesterday.

Police said a Chandpur-bound bus from Dhaka hit the autorickshaw at Beltali at about 1:30pm, killing three passengers on the spot and injuring two others.  
Identity of the deceased could not be known immediately.  
The injured were admitted to Comilla Medical College Hospital.  
Another report from Jessore adds: Driver, his assistant and

helper were killed as an earth loaded truck overturned at Narikelbaria, about 25km from Jessore town yesterday.  
Quoting witnesses police said the overloaded truck fell into a hole of the dilapidated road and overturned at about 12:00noon. Driver Azizul, 35, his assistant Kokash Babu, 36, and unidentified helper perished under the earth.

# 9 outlaws get life terms in murder case

RU CORRESPONDENT  
A Rajshahi court yesterday sentenced nine outlaws to life term imprisonment in the sensational Golam Mostofa Khamaru murder case at Bagmara in Rajshahi.  
The judge of the special court, Muhammad Sajedul Karim, also fined the convicts Tk 20,000 each, in default to suffer three months more in jail.  
The five convicts who are now in jail are Fartul, Golam, Rohidul, Beled and Khaza. Four convicts who went on hiding are Shamim, Sayed Maker, Dalim and Abul Hossain.  
Earlier, three of the accused in the case were killed by Rab cross fire. They are Abdul Aziz master, Shamim and Agjar.  
According to the prosecution statement, in brief, a group of outlaws killed Golam Mostofa by sharp weapon at Talghoria Bazar under Bagmara upazila on September 9, 1998.  
Later, victim's elder brother Mamta Khamaru filed a case with Bagmara Police Station accusing 21 persons.

# Cotton bundles collapse on workers: 2 die

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail  
Two workers of a cotton mill were killed and two others seriously injured due to collapse of heavy cotton bundles on them in Gorai industrial area under Mirzapur upazila in Tangail yesterday.  
The victims were identified as Sultan Ahmed, 30, of Basudevpur village under Govindaganj upazila in Gaibandha, and Nazim Uddin, 32, of Pathhara village under the same upazila in Tangail.  
Abul Hossen, a labour leader, told The Daily Star that the accident occurred at Nahid Cotton Mills Ltd when a pile of cotton bundles (per bundle 5 mound) collapsed on the victims while they were carrying the bundles to the factory from godown No 7 at around 10:30am.  
The critically injured -- Earshad Miah and Abdul Halim -- were rushed to Kumudini Hospital at Mirzapur.  
On information, Deputy Commissioner of Tangail Makhshudur Rahman Patwari, Additional Deputy Commissioner AKM Tarikul Islam and Police Super Abdul Mannan visited the factory.  
Officer-in-Charge Zahangir Hossain of Mirzapur Police Station said they have recovered the bodies, but no case was filed so far in this regard.

# President visits ailing religious secretary

UNB, Dhaka  
President Iajuddin Ahmed visited ailing Religious Secretary Md Ataur Rahman at Bangbandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) in the city yesterday.  
The president spent sometime beside the religious secretary, who has been suffering from Hepatitis C. He was admitted to BSMMU on August 30.  
Iajuddin inquired about his health condition and wished his early recovery.

# HSTU closed to avoid violence

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur  
Hajee Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) in Dinajpur was closed yesterday in the wake of agitation of students for increase of allocation for academic tour purposes.  
HSTU source said a tense situation is prevailing on the campus since August 31 as students are agitating for increase of allocation for academic tour purposes.  
The university authorities yesterday hold a meeting and decided to close the university to avert untoward incidents 10 days ahead of the scheduled closure for the Eid and Puja.  
The university authorities urged the students to leave their dormitories by 4:00pm yesterday. But the agitated students rejected to leave the campus without realising their demand.  
At around 4:30pm police entered into the campus and forced the students to leave the dormitories.  
As a preventive measure police were deployed on the campus and the university will be remain open on October 9, sources said.

JAMUNA FERTILISER FACTORY  
Production suspended again  
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail  
Production at the Jamuna Fertiliser Factory (JFF) at Tarakandi in Jamalpur was suspended again due to technical glitches.  
The factory suspended its production at around 9:00pm on Sunday when a mechanical fault was detected at the boiler tube of its ammonia plant, JFF sources said.  
When contacted yesterday, JFF Managing Director Mir Mozaffar Hossain told The Daily Star that they are trying sincerely to repair the fault as early as possible.  
"We hope production would resume at the factory after six days," he said.  
Earlier, the factory halted its urea production on June 3 to June 6 last following detection of technical glitches on its urea plant. Production had also been halted at the factory for 11 days from July 9 to July 20 last due to repairing works on its different plants.

Afforestation at BSMRAU  
METRO DESK  
A massive afforestation programme was taken to make the environment of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University (BSMRAU) campus more eco-friendly, says a press release.  
Prof Dr Lutfur Rahman Khan, vice-chancellor of the university, inaugurated the programme by planting a fruit sapling on the university pond premises on Sunday.  
The inaugural ceremony was preceded by a colourful rally on the campus.



Vehicles stuck in a gridlock on the Second Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge on the river Buriganga in the city's Nayabazar area yesterday.

# EU ministers in talks on asylum policy

AFP, Paris  
France urged EU governments yesterday to agree on a common policy for asylum seekers, saying the 27-nation bloc must offer stronger protection for political refugees.  
French Immigration Minister Brice Hortefeux, whose country holds the EU presidency, opened the two-day ministerial meeting in Paris called "building a Europe of asylum."  
Hortefeux said he hoped that a common EU asylum policy could be in place by 2010, or at the latest 2012.  
"It is the duty of the EU ... to offer better protection to political refugees," Hortefeux said.  
"Asylum cannot and will never be a modifying variable in immigration policy."  
Talks are to focus on mechanisms for helping EU asylum-seekers' frontline states and also non-EU countries such as Pakistan and Syria that have welcomed large numbers of refugees.  
Italian Interior Minister Roberto

Maroni said his country "as an outpost of the Mediterranean" was under "extraordinary pressure" to take in more asylum seekers that a common European policy could help ease.  
UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres told ministers he supported efforts to build a common asylum policy for Europe "but not at any cost."  
Guterres said fortress Europe had become a reality for so many refugees and that access as well as minimum standards for asylum-seekers must be ensured.

# President, CA greet N Korean counterparts

UNB, Dhaka  
President Iajuddin Ahmed and Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday congratulated their North Korean counterparts on the occasion of its 60th 'National Day' today.  
In a message, Iajuddin said, "I am confident that the cordial relations between our two friendly countries will grow in depth and dimension in the days ahead."  
In another message, Fakhruddin said, "It is my firm conviction that the friendly relations that so happily exist between our two countries will be widened and strengthened to the mutual benefit of our two peoples in the years to come."  
The president and chief adviser also wished good health of their counterparts and happiness and continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of North Korea.

# Lack of political will paralyzes Law Commission

FRONT PAGE 1  
Senior research officers and two translation officers, have remained vacant for the past nine months.  
The Law Commission Amendment Act 2001 made it mandatory for parliament to place a report on implementation of the Law Commission's recommendations in its first session of every year. Even that was not followed, sources said, adding that the utter disregard for the law sprang from a lack of political will.  
According to the sources, only three or four recommendations, including the Arbitration Act, were adopted during the rule of Awami League government. But the BNP-led four-party alliance government completely disregarded the recommendations while passing 185 laws during its tenure.  
An official of the commission said the Law Commission has drafted some important laws, including the Right to Information Act and the Bangladesh Citizenship Act, and the present caretaker government has accepted parts of the recommendations.  
While talking to The Daily Star, a few legal experts recently stressed the need for making the Law Commission effective through enacting a new law.  
Making the government bound to implement the Law Commission's recommendations will turn the commission effective and it can then play important role in helping modernise the laws and judicial system, they said.  
A few of them said the government should publish a white paper on the functions of the Law Commission and the resources spent for it in the last 12 years. The government should also explain why hardly any of the commission's recommendations were acted upon during this long period since a handsome amount of public money was spent for the commission in this period.  
Former vice-chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council barrister M Amir-Ul Islam said the government should empower the Law Commission by enacting a new law.  
"The Law Commission is a law oriented researching institution. A congenial environment should be created and a handsome budget should be fixed for the Law Commission for conducting research with a view to updating the laws," he said. National and international legal experts should also be appointed to make the commission effective and important, he added.  
Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) President barrister Shafique Ahmed said there is no logic of running such an almost ineffective institution like the Law Commission.  
He said there have been errors in exercising the law as the past

governments implemented very few of the commission's recommendations.  
Replying to a question, barrister Shafique said the previous governments did not consider the commission's recommendations as those were not in their favour.  
Dr Shahdeen Malik said the past governments had no plan for turning the Law Commission into an effective organisation.  
"Firstly, our governments never had any legislative policy or plan about the laws they wanted to enact in the next two or three years. Secondly, without permanent staff and absence of training and research skill for the temporary staff, the Law Commission has virtually become a retired judges' club," he said.  
"The bad practice of appointing retired elderly judges or persons was not helpful for making the commission effective. Under the Law Commission Act 1996, the government can easily appoint experts and consultants to revitalise the Law Commission," he said.  
Most of the recent laws were framed primarily to serve the ruling parties' political purposes, sources said. "But whether those served the interest of the country is something the commission should look into," they said.  
For instance, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Act

was framed under public pressure. After the ACC was formed in 2004, it could not be made effective until February 2007 because the act had been grossly flawed. To make the ACC effective, the current caretaker government had to amend the act.



The 23rd installation ceremony of Inner Wheel Club of Dhaka North was held at Gulshan Club in the city recently. Sitting from left are National Representative Nur Ayesha Chaklader, President Ireen Parveen Jinnah and Dist Chairman Prof Shamsun Nahar Masud and standing from left are executive board members Mohsena Reza, Khairun Nahar, Zeenat Rahim, Salma Huq and Humayra Ali.

## Career Opportunity

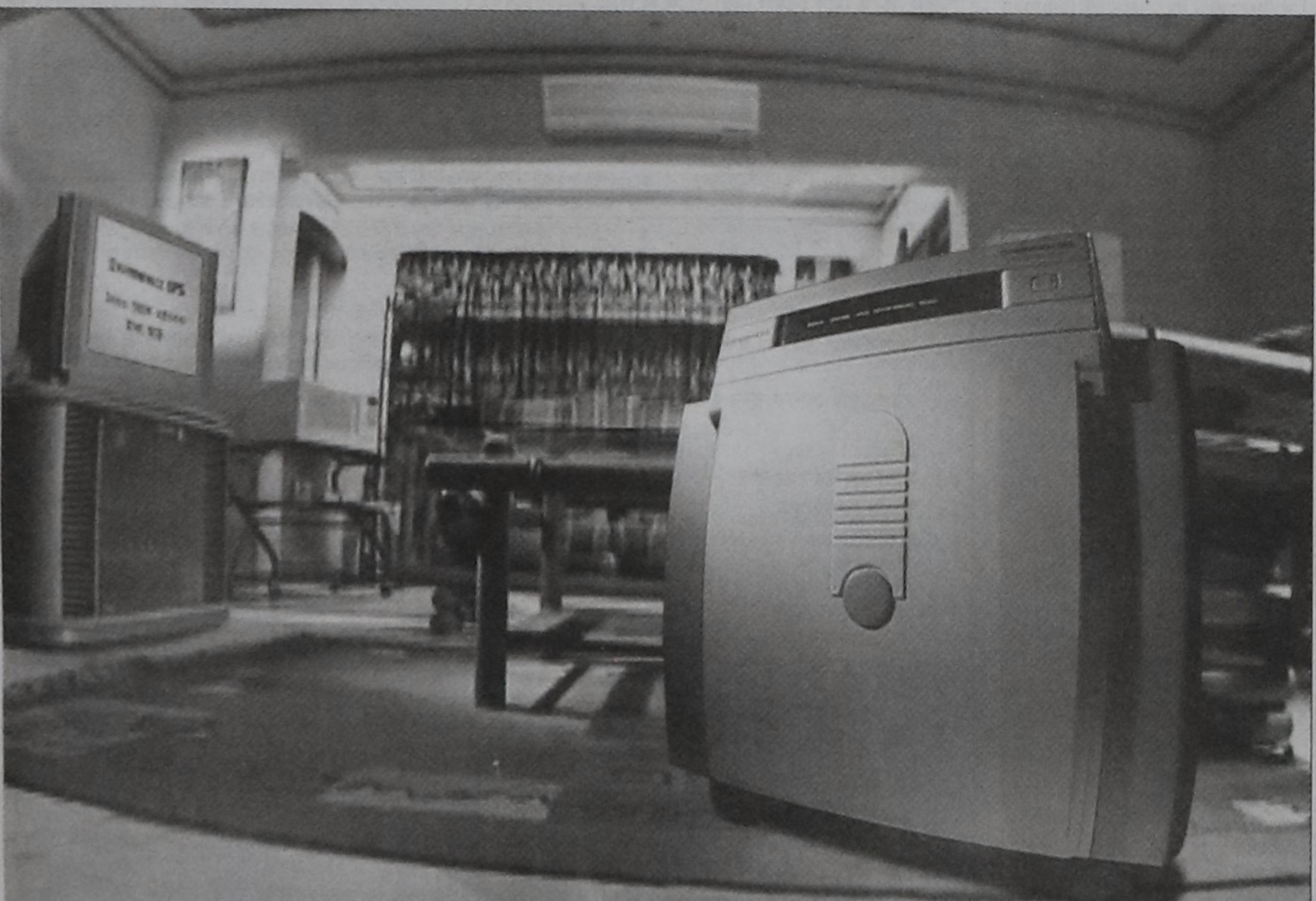
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