

# 7 killed in road accidents

**METRO DESK**  
Seven people were killed and 58 others injured in separate road accidents in Manikganj, Bagerhat and Chapainawabganj yesterday.  
UNB reports: Four people, including a woman, were killed and 25 others injured when a minibus collided with a truck and then hit a motorcycle at Uchuria on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Manikganj.  
Police said a Manikganj-bound minibus collided head-on with a truck at about 10:30am, killing four passengers and injuring 24 others.  
Later, the minibus hit a speedy motorcycle, leaving its two riders injured.  
Three of the dead were identi-

fied as Akkas Ali, 46, Kakoli Begum, 25, and Farhad, 28, but the identity of the other could not be known immediately.  
Of the injured, 11 were admitted to Adhunik Sadar Hospital and four others sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical condition.  
Deputy Commissioner of Manikganj SM Salehuddin and Police Super Sheikh Muhammad Maruf Hasan visited the spot.  
Transport movement on Dhaka-Aricha highway was disrupted for one-and-a-half hour following the accident, creating heavy traffic congestion on both the sides.  
Another report from Bagerhat adds: Two people were killed and

25 others injured when a bus fell into a roadside ditch at Ghatbila at Mollahat in Bagerhat.  
Police said the Khulna-bound bus from Barisal fell into the ditch at about 3:45pm as its driver lost control, killing two on the spot.  
One of the dead was identified as Lal Mia, 50, but the identity of the other, aged around 27, could not be known immediately.  
Of the injured, 15 were admitted to Mollahat Upazila Health Complex and Khulna Medical College Hospital. Condition of three was stated to be critical, hospital sources said.  
Our correspondent in Chapainawabganj adds: A woman was killed and eight

others, including the officer-in-charge (OC) of Gomostapur Police Station, injured in separate road accidents in the district.  
Fatema Khatun, 25, wife of Hasan Ali, was seriously injured at Sonar More at around 9:30am when a Sona Masjid-bound truck hit a motorcycle she and her husband were riding on.  
Locals rushed her to Sadar hospital where she succumbed to her injuries.  
In another accident, a pickup van of Gomostapur Police Station collided head-on with a speeding truck at around 11:30am at Palsaha on Rahanpur-Chapainawabganj road, injuring eight, including OC Hafizul Islam.  
The injured received first aid at Sadar hospital.



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed presides over a meeting of the Council of Advisers at his office in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PD



Visiting UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon calls on Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed at a suit at Hotel Sonargaon in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: ISPR

## 27TH BCS EXAMINATIONS Hunger strike continues

Neutral judicial probe demanded

**DU CORRESPONDENT**  
Unsuccessful candidates in the 2nd phase result of the 27th BCS examinations observed their hunger strike unto death programme for the second day demanding validity to the 1st phase result of the exams.  
They demanded a neutral judicial investigation with representatives from the unsuccessful candidates to inquire into the gross irregularities in the publication of the 2nd result.  
Over 100 candidates who came out successfully in the 1st phase result, but were excluded in the 2nd phase along with their parents and guardians started the strike at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city on Saturday.  
Five demonstrators fell ill and three of them took treatment from Dhaka Medical College Hospital

yesterday, said Nasir Uddin, an unsuccessful candidate.  
In the evening, a good number of candidates and their guardians were seen taking saline at the programme.  
Talking to the journalists, the candidates once again vowed that they would not leave the spot until they get an executive order from the government of providing validity to the 1st phase result.  
Nasir said, "It was nothing but an injustice to us. There was no specific allegation of conducting corruption against us. It was PSC Chairman Dr Saadat Hussain who deprived us from our democratic rights by his autocratic decision."  
"We would leave the spot after getting an assurance from the president or the chief adviser of getting back our rights," he said, adding, "Otherwise, it is better to die here

than leaving the spot with empty hands."  
Another unsuccessful candidate said those who were excluded in the 2nd phase result and whose service cadres were degraded would file cases against the PSC authorities for depriving meritorious candidates.  
The candidates said they would not accept any kind of probe into the irregularities in the 2nd phase result by the committee informed comprising the secretary of establishment ministry.  
They alleged that establishment secretary along with PSC chairman were involved in the conspiracy of publishing the 2nd phase result of the exams.  
Leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League and Jatayatabadi Chhatra Dal expressed their solidarity with the demonstrators.

## Sports materials gutted at Bangabandhu Nat'l Stadium

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A devastating fire burnt sports materials and furniture at a VIP gallery of Bangabandhu National Stadium in the city yesterday.  
Fire brigade sources said the VIP Gallery No-21 caught the fire just after a football match in the stadium at around 7:15pm, causing a loss of Tk three lakh.  
Two units of firefighters fought one hour and a half to bring the blaze under control.  
Paltan police suspected that the fire might have originated from the fire of left-out cigarettes.

## RU students demand reinstatement of Baul sculptures

RU CORRESPONDENT

Cultural activists and general students under the banner of Sculpture Protection Forum staged a rally wearing black badges on the Rajshahi University campus yesterday in protest against the removal of Lalon sculptures in Dhaka.  
Earlier, they also brought out a protest procession and paraded through different streets on the campus.  
The cultural activists demanded immediate reinstatement of Baul sculptures at a roundabout near the Zia International Airport in the city.  
They demanded immediate announcement of the roundabout as 'Lalon Chatter' (Lalon Square).  
The activists called on the government to ensure free practice of art and culture in the country.  
They said through sculptures, people can know about the history, culture and heritage of a nation and they do not contradict the spirit of Islam.  
They gave examples of Muslim countries, including Iraq, Egypt and Turkey where there are many sculptures representing their history and culture, but no Islamic groups tried to demolish them.  
Culture activists also said Baul is the symbol of our traditional national culture.  
They also demanded trial of war criminals through a speedy trial tribunal and exemplary punishment to the Islamic fundamentalist groups who were involved in dismantling the sculptures.  
The speakers vowed to continue protest programme on the campus until the sculptures are replaced in their original place.  
Earlier, the students of Fine Art, Folklore and Bangla departments separately held protest rallies on the campus for the same demand.

## Eco-friendly management of medical waste stressed

BSS, Rajshahi

Speakers at a discussion in Rajshahi yesterday underlined the need for hygienic and eco-friendly management of medical waste for the sake of making the environment free from pollution.  
They also laid stress on adequate training on waste management for those involved in the clinical and diagnostic purposes to protect environment from degradation and urged both the public and private authorities concerned to adopt need-based steps in the regard.  
Referring to various harmful impact of the waste, they urged all the authorities and individuals concerned to become cautious in this regard for the sake of maintaining a sound environment.

They said environmental degradation has become a threat globally, through which all living beings are affected directly or indirectly.  
In the greater interest of founding a healthy and sound future generation, all ecological degradable must be contained, they said at the discussion organised by Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) at its Nagar Bhaban conference hall.  
Around 30 government and non-government officials and owners of the private level clinic and diagnostic centres attended the programme.  
The key target of the meeting was to create and enhance awareness among the authorities and the officials and establish a sound coordination regarding disposal of

the clinical waste in hygienic way.  
RCC Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton addressed the meeting as the chief guest with Chief Executive Officer Korban Ali in the chair.  
Deputy Director of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital Dr Golam Murtaza, Medical Waste Management Coordinator Dr Saidur Rahman, Private Medical Practitioner Dr Abdul Mannan and RCC Executive Engineer Reazat Hossain also spoke.  
Terming the medical waste as one of the problems for both the health and environment, speakers opined that importance should be given on creating and enhancing awareness among the target groups regarding disposal of the clinical waste in hygienic way.

## 3 dacoits held, firearms seized at Sudharam

A CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Sudharam police in a drive arrested three dacoits, including a woman, and seized firearms and gold ornaments from Padua village under Sadar upazila in the district yesterday, says a press release.  
The arrestees were identified as dacoit leader Belal, 28, Brishty, 22, wife of the dacoit, and Ripon, 24, from his house at the same village.  
Police seized two rifles, one light gun, nine rounds of cartridges, eight rounds of bullets of .303 gun and gold ornaments from their possession.  
Acting on a tip-off, a team of police led by Police Super Jabeedur Rahman conducted a raid on the dacoit's house.  
According to their confessions, police recovered the firearms and some ornaments after digging out the soil.  
A case was filed with Sudharam Police Station in this connection.

## Political empowerment of women a must for dev

Speakers tell workshop

BSS, Rajshahi

Speakers at a workshop here yesterday called for making the womenfolk politically empowered in the greater interest of enhancing their self-confidence, which would ultimately contribute to the efforts for further progress and prosperity in the country.  
They said there is no alternative to making the women self-dependent to carry forward the nation's hopes and aspirations as they represent half of the country's total population.  
Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) and Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (Fema) jointly arranged the workshop titled 'Women's political empowerment' at the conference hall of Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI).  
Some 50 people, including political leaders, teachers, women activists and NGO representatives, took part in the workshop and gave their respective views on the issue.  
Fema local unit President Advocate Mohsin Khan and General Secretary Shahin Ahmed, BNWLA Divisional Coordinator Advocate Deel Sitara Chuni and Deputy Director Fainur Rahman spoke on

the occasion as the resource persons.  
The speakers viewed that the politically empowered women would be able to play remarkable supportive roles in the nation-building process to help alleviate poverty.  
Major political parties should take the responsibility of involving more women in politics, they added.  
Highlighting different aspects of empowerment, they said violence against women could be stopped side by side with upholding their rights through allowing them to be self-reliant in their respective fields.

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## People with mental diseases on rise: President

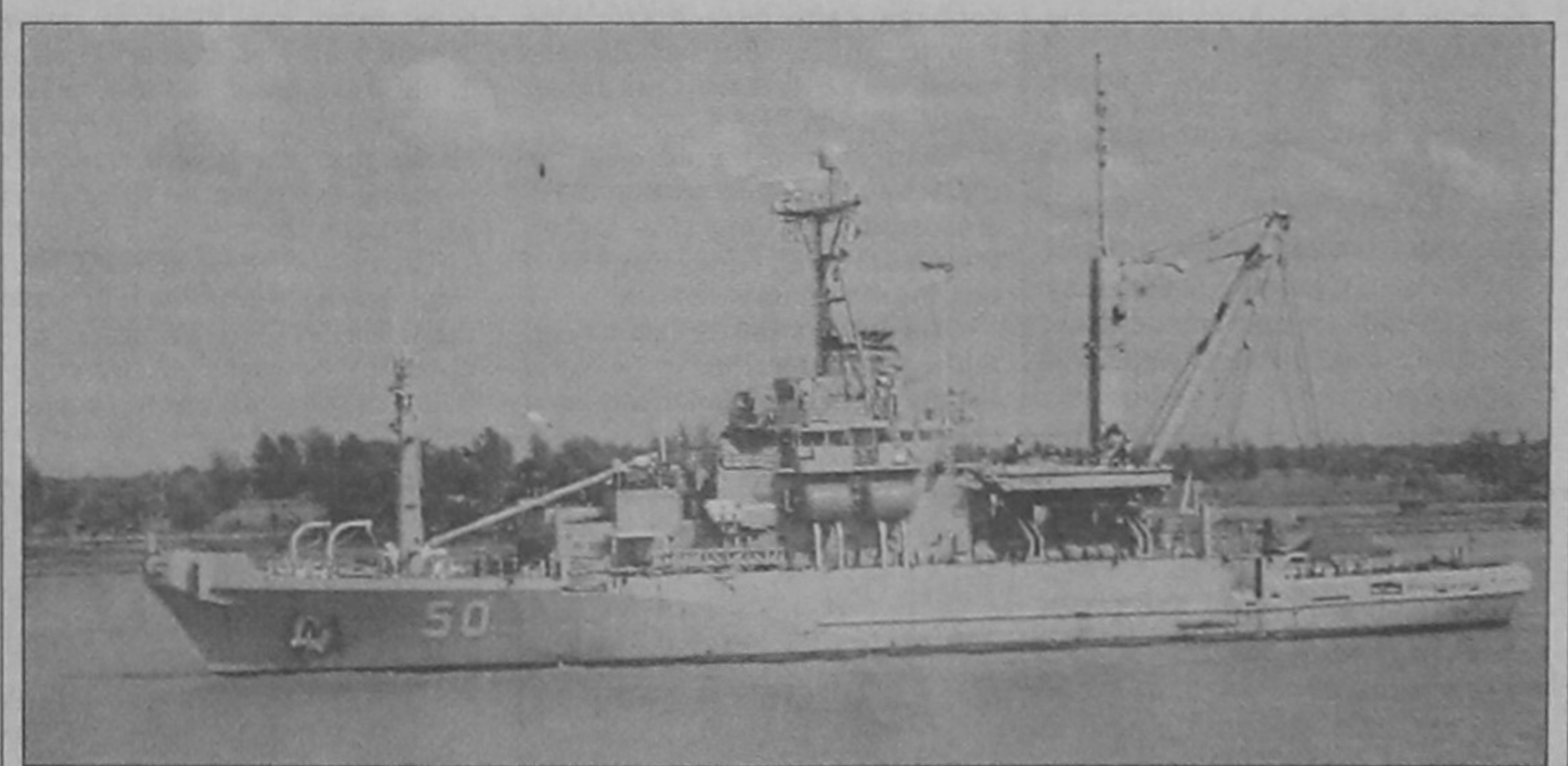
16pc adults suffering from mental illness

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed on Saturday said the number of people suffering from various mental diseases is on the rise in Bangladesh for socio-economic reasons like poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition, unemployment and tension.  
"About 16 percent adult population of Bangladesh is suffering from various mental diseases," he said urging all concerned, including government and non-government organisations, to come up to address the mental health problem for the sake of the nation.  
He was addressing the inaugural function of the 4th Saarc Psychiatric Federation Conference and 4th International Conference on Psychiatry at Sonargaon Hotel.  
"I believe building mass awareness about mental health would definitely reduce the magnitude of this problem," the president told the

function.  
Organised by Bangladesh Association of Psychiatrists (BAP), the function was addressed, among others, by BAP President Prof Mohammad Abdus Sobhan, General Secretary Prof Dr AH Mohammad Firoz, Saarc Psychiatrists Federation President Prof PC Shashi and World Psychiatrists Federation Zonal Representative President Dr E Mohandas.  
Mental health is an important element and integral part of sound health system that plays significant role in normal functioning of human life, he said and adding, "Mental disorders create tremendous sufferings among individuals, families and society as well."  
President Iajuddin said the government has taken the mental health issue with great importance and established the 'National Institute of Mental Health'.  
Terming the theme of this confer-

ence "Mental health in South East Asia - Challenges and strategies" as a timely response, the president said the conference would usher in a horizon to address the mental health problem in Bangladesh as well as South East Asia.  
"I believe, with the spirit of Saarc, that the Psychiatric Federation has ample opportunities to contribute to the people on mental health in this region," President Iajuddin said and hoped the bonds of friendship and fraternity among the people of this region would be further strengthened through this conference.  
He said this international conference on mental health would provide an excellent opportunity to exchange views and experiences among the participants from home and abroad.  
"I am sure, scientific discussions and deliberations in this conference would help take necessary steps in developing mental health in Bangladesh and South East Asia."



The USA rescue ship USNS Safeguard arrives in Chittagong yesterday on a six-day goodwill visit.

PHOTO: ISPR

## Ctg EC office starts massive work

BSS, Chittagong

District Election Commission Office (DECO) in Chittagong started massive preparatory work as per directives of the Election Commission ahead of December 18 national election to make the polls smooth and transparent.  
Officials said major preparatory work includes selection of polling centres and fixing of booth numbers, selection of field level election conducting officials and formation of centre-wise panels, allocation and process to send ballot boxes and field level inspection of the states of different political parties relating to their registration.  
District Election Commission Officer-4 Mohammad Dulal Talukder, who is also in-charge of DECO-1, 2 and 3 told BSS that the office in cooperation with field level administration has been working relentlessly to make sure all the phase-wise necessary preparations before the ensuing election.  
He said they have prepared a list of 3,073 polling centres with 7,590 booths in 14 upazilas of the district

and Chittagong City Corporation areas covering 15 constituencies of Chittagong and the primary list to be sent soon to the EC secretariat for approval.  
There were 1,750 polling centres for last parliamentary election in 2001 in the district and city areas.  
The DECO has prepared the list of polling centres and booths for 14 upazilas and the CCC areas based on the data from upazila and thana level as per guidelines from the Election Commission office in Dhaka.  
Sources said as per new voter enrollment, the number of voters in the district and city areas is 43,88,616, of them 21,85,464 are male and the remaining 22,03,152 are female while previously the total number of voters was 48,61,170, of them 26,18,463 were male and 22,42,707 were female.  
Dulal said they have already received required number of transparent ballot boxes and those would be sent to concerned upazila level officials after formal announcement of election schedule.

On the other hand, DECO also has selected the names of election conducting officials numbering around 42 thousand and was now preparing centre-wise panel from the listed persons.  
Short-term orientation programme for the selected officials on electoral rules and procedures will be started after approvals of the selection by the EC headquarters.  
The number of upazila wise polling centres and booths are as follows: Mirsharai-centres-93, booths-557, Sitakunda-centres-82, booths-557, Fatikchhari-centres-131, booths-665, Hathazari-centres-132, booths-802, Raozan-centres-86, booths-506, Rangunia-centres-92, booths-475, Boalkhali-centres-70, booths-328, Ariyacentres-98, booths-623, Anowara-centres-89, booths-701, Chandanais-centres-104, booths-566, Shatkania-centres-70, booths-361, Lohagara-centres-58, booths-425, Banshkhali-centres-105, booths-646, Sandwip-centres-180, booths-378, and city-centres-1783, booths-16599.

## CU teachers concerned over president's presence at convocation

CU CORRESPONDENT

Pragatishil Shikkhak Samaj, a forum of progressive teachers at Chittagong University, has expressed its profound concern over the presence of President Iajuddin Ahmed who is scheduled to chair the 3rd convocation of the university on Wednesday.  
They expressed their resentment following a general meeting of the forum yesterday at Cuta with Prof Dr Hasanuzzaman in the chair.  
Prof Hossain Kabir, standing committee member of the forum, told The Daily Star last night that the forum expressed its resentment following the president's 'unconstitutional and unethical' role during the political changeover in 2006.  
"Members of the forum termed the president's presence in the upcoming convocation 'unacceptable'," he added.  
Around 50 teachers, including Prof Gazi Saleh Uddin, Prof Mohammad Alauddin, Prof Arun Kumar Dev and Prof Md Abul Hossain, took part in the meeting.

## Two held with 7 firearms in Bagerhat

UNB, Bagerhat

Police arrested two arms traders along with seven firearms and arms making equipment at Mulghar village in Fakirhat upazila yesterday.  
According to the statement of Masud, who was arrested earlier, Fakirhat and Mollahat police jointly raided the house of alleged firearms trader Rabiul Hawlader and arrested him and his accomplice Zohurul Ali, 28, along with the firearms.  
Ershadul Kabir, Officer-in-charge of Fakirhat Police Station, said they arrested Masud on Thursday and as per his statement, they conducted the drive and arrested the two traders along with the firearms.  
On interrogation, Rabiul and Zohurul said they sell the firearms to Masud.  
A case was filed with the Fakirhat Police Station in this connection.

## USA rescue ship arrives in Chittagong

UNB, Chittagong

The USA rescue ship USNS Safeguard arrived here yesterday on a six-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh.  
The visiting ship, commanded by Captain Enadshan, has a complement of nine officers and 42 sailors of different ranks.  
During her visit to Bangladesh, the rescue team of US ship will participate in special joint exercise with Bangladesh Navy rescue team on rescue operation in Bay of Bengal.  
Commanding Officer of US ship will pay courtesy call on Commodore Commanding Chittagong, Commodore Commanding BN Flotilla and Commodore Superintendent BN Dockyard.  
The visiting ship personnel will participate in a friendly basketball competition with Bangladesh Navy personnel.  
Besides, Officers and sailors of the US ship will visit different places in Chittagong and distribute texts among the students of Islamia Sukani Primary School at Halishahar.  
Earlier, the visiting ship was welcomed by a Bangladesh Naval Ship 'Shaibal' after arrival within the territorial limits at sea following naval tradition.  
The US rescue Ship USNS Safeguard is expected to leave Bangladesh on Friday.



Advocate Tanbir Ul Islam Siddiqui speaks at a discussion titled 'Road to the White House: US Presidential elections 2008' at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right are Prof Imtiaz Ahmed and Jone F Danilowicz and on his left is Sabrin M Rahman.

PHOTO: STAR