### 3,500 die in road crashes a year

Reveals DMP seminar STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday said over 3,500 people die and 5,000 others get injured in road accidents every year in the country. The accidents also cause a loss of over Tk 4,000 crore a year, they said.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) organised the seminar styled 'Safe roads is the right of all at Rajarbagh Police Lines auditorium in the city.

The speakers blamed the drivers for the accidents, saying that most drivers violate traffic rules as they do not have knowledge of

Presided over by Joint Commissioner (Traffic) Jasim Uddin, the seminar was attended by DMP Commissioner Naim Ahmed as the chief guest and Deputy Inspector General (DIG-Highway) Sohrab Hossain as the special guest.

Leaders of different bus companies also took part in the seminar.

DMP commissioner said the drivers do not bother the traffic rules that result in the accidents very often, adding that police would take punitive measures against those who would illegally overtake and violate the rules.

DIG-Highway said there is no agency in the country to make the driver conscious. So, the owners should take effective measures in this regard.

The speakers noted that highest number of accidents take place in Bangladesh.



Sarod maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan plays 'Tribute to Bangladesh', the piece he composed in honour of Bangladesh and played for the first time at Dhaka Club last night. Amjad Ali, who belongs to the sixth generation of Senia Bangash School of music, gave a superb performance of five memorable classical compositions on the stringed instrument.

## Govt set to hold credible polls

### Chief adviser tells Canadian envoy

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday told the new Canadian high commissioner that his government's main goal is to hold a free, fair and credible general election on December 18.

Bangladesh can take pride in completing the digitised voter list

Munaim briefed newsmen on the for over 80 million people with bilateral talks. photographs within a short span of

time, he added. Fakhruddin hoped that Canada would continue its support to The CA was talking to the newly Bangladesh for the socioappointed Canadian High economic development, particu-Commissioner Robert McDougall larly in health, education and who paid a courtesy call on him at governance sectors, saying that the latter's office in the city. Bangladesh attaches importance After the meeting, Press to its relations with the country and Secretary to CA Syed Fahim considers it as an important devel-

> opment partner. Terming Bangladesh one of the largest recipients of Canadian assistance, the CA said both the countries continued to strengthen bilateral relations over the years.

> The chief executive also thanked the Canadian government for providing transparent ballot boxes ahead of the next month's scheduled parliamentary polls.

The envoy was also briefed on the institutional reforms done by the interim government to strengthen the foundation of democracy and for transparency and better governance.

On food sector, the CA mentioned that the extraordinary role and contribution of Bangladeshi farmers who with the government. support had been able to produce bumper harvest of food grains against the backdrop of world food crisis, saying that the government is expecting bumper crop also this

The high commissioner said he was impressed with completion of voter list with photographs and the domestic response to super cyclone 'Sidr'.

He appreciated the development of new varieties of paddies by Bangladesh which, he said, was doing very well in economic indicators in spite of natural calamities and other difficulties.

He also expressed satisfaction over the utilisation of Canadian assistance in development sectors.

Cida Head Robert Beadle and Press Secretary to the chief adviser Fahim Munaim were present at the meeting.

#### **UK** additional director for Asia arrives tomorrow

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Additional Director for Asia, Philip Barton, will arrive in Dhaka tomorrow on a three-day visit.

During his visit, he will familiarise himself with the UK's wide ranging engagement with Bangladesh through the work of the British High Commission, Department for International Development (DFID) and the British Council.

Barton will also meet political figures from the major parties, senior government officials and members of the civil society.

KIBRIA MURDER CASE Hearing on

### remand prayer Nov 9

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Sylhet court yesterday deferred the date for hearing the investigation officer's prayer for remand of five Huji men in Awami League leader SAMS Kibria murder case.

Judge Shamim Mohammad Afzal of Sylhet Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal fixed November 9 as the date for the hearing.

The IO, CID's ASP Md Rafigul Islam, submitted the prayer for the remand of five people, including Harkatul Jihad (Huji) chief Mufti Abdul Hannan.

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Former finance minister SAMS Kibria and four others were killed in a grenade attack at a public meeting at Baidderbazar in Habiganj on January 27 in 2005.

### Banks to continue updating loan default info on weekly holidays

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The central bank yesterday directed all commercial banks to keep open the relevant departments between 9:00am and 1:00pm Friday and Saturday as Bangladesh Bank would update its information on defaulted loans of aspirant candidates of the parliamentary elections.

State-owned banks' head offices yesterday also asked all their branches across the country to send information on prospective election candidates' defaulted loans by November 12.

Commercial banks already sent information on loan-defaulter candidates, as of October 2008, to the Credit Information Bureau (CIB) of Bangladesh Bank. The CIB will remain open Friday and Saturday so that it can correct errors in that information and enquire about any inadequacy in information provided by the commercial banks.

The Bangladesh Bank directed commercial banks to recheck for inadvertent mistakes and errors.

However, the state-owned banks asked its branches to provide loan-defaulters' details, who could be candidates in the upcoming

parliamentary or upazila elections. The state-owned banks also asked its branches to send a bank certification on possible candidates even if they are not loan defaulters.

Bank branches will send particulars of candidates to the head office by November 14 if they find any defaulters among the candidates who will submit their nomination papers by November 13, the last day

for filing nomination papers. The state-owned banks also asked its branches to place their objections before the returning offices concerned, when there are grounds to do so, about any candidate at any constituency even if it is outside of the banks' location concerned.

The branch managers or regional officers concerned will be held responsible if they fail to place such objections timely.

As per the Representation of the People Order (RPO), defaulters with loans rescheduled 15 days before submission of nomination papers can contest the elections. The utility bill defaulters have to follow the same procedure if they intend to participate in the elections.

Many possible candidates failed to reschedule their defaulted loans and utility bills within the stipulated time and some of them are now still trying to reschedule their loans and bills, bank sources said.

The Election Commission (EC) earlier sent a list of around 9,000 prospective candidates of the upcoming parliamentary election to the state-owned banks and utility service providers to identify loan defaulters among them.

#### Five injured in bomb attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five construction workers were injured as unidentified hoodlums exploded a bomb at Kaptan Bazar in the capital yesterday.

The injured -- Nasim Patwari, 22, Shakil Patwari, 22, Emran Tafadar, 17, Polash Sardar, 14 and Monir Bepari, 16, -- were rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH).

Sutrapur police said a bomb exploded at an under-construction market of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) at around 10:45am when the workers were working on its first floor.

### 'Nominate more women candidates'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Samajik Protirodh Committee, a coalition of 41 organisations, yesterday urged the political parties to nominate more women candidates in the upcoming elec-

In a statement, the committee also demanded implementation of the election pledges and steps to ensure security of women dur-

ing the polling. It also urged them not to nominate war criminals and black money holders.

The statement said that although half of the population of the country is women, their representation in parliament is not significant.

"We want every political party to play a significant role for the advancement of women," it added.

Signatories to the statement include Ayesha Khanam of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Nilufar Banu of Women for Women, Selina Khaleque of Bangladesh Mahila Samity, Shirin Akhter of Karmojibi Nari, Maleka Banu of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and Tahmina Yasmin of Brac.

### AL nomination seeker falls victim to Agyan Party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An Awami League nomination seeker fell victim to a gang of Agyan Party at Gulistan in the city yesterday on his way back to Shiddhirganj in Narayanganj.

Identified as Abdur Rouf Mollah, 54, the victim was returning to his residence after buying a nomination form for Shariatpur-1 constituency.

Korban Ali, a relation of Mollah, told The Daily Star that he bought the nomination form from the party office at Bangabandhu Avenue at around 10:00am. But he remained missing since 3:30pm.

He also said that he, being informed of the incident, rushed to the spot and took Mollah to Dhaka\_ Medical College Hospital at around 6:00pm in an unconscious state.

**Mobile Cars** 



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina waves at supporters on her way to Sudha Sadan from the airport in Dhaka yesterday after her arrival from the USA.



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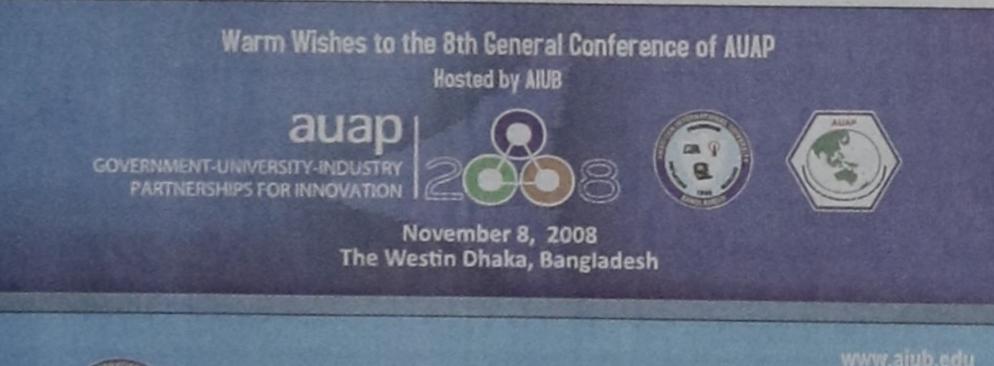
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