

## 10 killed in road crashes

## METRO DESK

Five people were killed in separate road accidents in Gaibandha, Satkhira, Tangail and Sylhet in last two days.

Our correspondent in Gaibandha reports: Two people were killed and five others injured in a road accident at Palashbari on Rangpur-Bogra highway in Gaibandha yesterday.

The dead were identified as Tafazzal Hossain, 50, and Tara Mia, 51.

Police said the accident occurred when a speeding truck rammed a roadside tree. It also hit five bystanders.

The injured were treated at Palashbari health complex.

Police seized the truck, but

its driver and helper managed to flee.

Our correspondent in Satkhira adds: A day labourer, who was seriously injured in a road accident near Kulia Eidgah on Satkhira-Kaliganj road under Debhata upazila in Satkhira on Friday, succumbed to his injuries at Satkhira sadar hospital yesterday.

The dead was identified as Khaireul Islam, 38.

Quoting locals police said the accident occurred when a motorcycle hit the victim while he was crossing the road at around 4:00pm, leaving him seriously injured.

He was taken to Shakhipur hospital and later shifted to Satkhira sadar hospital where

he succumbed to his injuries. Our correspondent in Tangail adds: Two people were killed and 30 others injured in a road accident at Delduar upazila in Tangail yesterday.

One of the dead was identified as Kamal Hossain, 38, and other could not be known immediately.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred at around 9:45am when the driver of a Sirajganj-bound passenger bus skidded off the road and fell into a ditch on Dhaka-Tangail road at around 4:00pm, leaving him seriously injured.

The injured were treated to Mirzapur Kumudini Hospital.

Staff correspondent in Sylhet adds: Five people were killed in a road accident at Burinao on Dhaka-Sylhet road under Nabiganj upazila in Habiganj on Friday.

Police and locals said the accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound passenger bus collided head-on with a speeding truck at about 6:00pm, leaving three dead on the spot and forty others injured.

The injured were admitted to Bahubal upazila health complex and Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Two of the injured succumbed to their injuries at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.



PHOTO: STAR  
Local people recover the bodies of five members of a family killed in a head-on collision between a truck and a taxicab in front of Birulia Pump House at Pallabi Beribadh in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 16)



PHOTO: PID  
Swiss Environment Minister Moritz Leuenberger meets Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the sidelines of the UN-sponsored conference on global climate change in Geneva, Switzerland, on Friday.

## Forge people's unity to address Tipaimukh dam issue

### Experts urge govt at roundtable

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government must invite the opposition to forge a people's unity to address the issue of India's proposed Tipaimukh dam, said noted experts at a roundtable yesterday.

The opposition too must go to parliament and raise its voice on the issue, they said at the roundtable titled 'Tipaimukh Dam/ Barrage: Overall impact on Bangladesh' organised by the Centre for Human Rights (CHR) at a city hotel.

Once implemented, the proposed dam on the river Barak will devastate not only the river system of Surma, Koshi and Meghna in the northeast of Bangladesh but

also its ecology and economy, said the experts.

Former secretary M Asafuddowlah said, "The government has been silent on the issue of India's proposed Tipaimukh dam, said noted experts at a roundtable yesterday."

Naya Diganta Editor Alamgir Mohiuddin said the government should invite the opposition to forge a national movement against the proposed dam.

Former state minister for foreign affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury said the opposition must go to parliament and raise its voice against Tipaimukh project.

Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, chairman of an environmental movement Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, said they arranged an international conference on Tipaimukh issue in 2005 which was also attended by environmentalists from India, Nepal and Bhutan.

Though the then water resources minister Maj (retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed consented to inaugurate the conference, he did not turn up at last, he said.

Awami League lawmaker Abdur Razzak too, who headed a parliamentary delegation to Tipaimukh recently, has forgotten his solidarity that he expressed with the conference at that time, he said.

"Tipaimukh should not be a political issue," said Prof Ahmed, adding, "It is going to be a life and death question for Bangladeshi people."

It is unfortunate that Bangladesh has not yet been able to sufficiently clarify its official position on the proposed dam, said Barrister

Abdur Razzaq, CHR secretary general who moderated the conference.

Dr SI Khan, an environmental scientist and former UN consultant, said Bangladesh needs adequate water in the rivers to prevent intrusion of saline water, recharge groundwater table and stop desertification.

Former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Emajuddin Ahmed said Tipaimukh issue should be resolved with a regional approach under a multilateral framework of the Saarc.

Prof Asif Nazrul of Dhaka University said India's unilateral approach to Tipaimukh dam is a violation of article 9 of Ganges Water Sharing Treaty, 1996.

International conventions on biodiversity, climate change and heritage may also be applied as customary laws to address the Tipaimukh issue, he added.

M Abdur Rouf Chowdhury, FBCCI director and member of the Regulatory Reforms Commission, said the proposed dam poses security threats to water, food, economy and ecology of Bangladesh.

Former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Moniruzzaman Miah, former secretary Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury, former ambassador Masood Aziz, Editor and Publisher of the daily Amar Desh Mahmudur Rahman and Prof Mahbub Ullah of Dhaka University were amongst a host of high-profile personalities who also spoke on the occasion.

Former chief justice Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury presided over the roundtable.

### Prof Ibrahim's anniversary of death today

BSS, Dhaka

Today is the 20th death anniversary of National Professor Dr Mohammad Ibrahim, founder of the Bangladesh Diabetic Association (BDA).

The BDA and its other organisations have chalked out various programmes, marking the day.

The programmes include offering ziarat and placing wreaths at 9:00am at the grave of Dr Ibrahim at Banani Graveyard, diabetic checking free of cost from 8:00am to 11:00am at 16 points in the city, including Shahbagh (in front of National Museum), National Press Club, New Market, Lalbagh Fort, Mohammadpur Town Hall, Dharmondi Rabindra Sarobar, Karwan Bazar (adjacent to Wasa Bhaban) and Gulistan (zero point).

Heart camp from 9:00am to 4:00pm at Ibrahim Cardiac Centre at Shahbagh, question-answer session and view exchange between patients and specialised doctors at 10:00am at Bir Dem auditorium and opening of emergency department at Bir Dem.

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Prof Noman Smriti Foundation also chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day.

Relatives, students and admirers have been requested to pray for salvation of his departed soul.

Tohin Ahmed Bhuiyan

METRO DESK

Today is the 13th death anniversary of Prof Mohammed Noman, former vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, says a press release.

Having a complaint from Zakiur Rahman, manager of Amjadia Hotel, Police Super Md Humaun Kabir asked ASP Arifur Rahman Mandal of sadar circle to investigate the incident.

Sources said Iqbal Hossain, a fruit vendor of Laksmikholi village under Shahjahanpur upazila, rented a hotel room on August 29 and spent the night there.

On August 30 his sister-in-law came to the town for Eid shopping and went to the hotel to meet him.

At that time ASI Mizan along with three photojournalists of local newspaper came to the hotel and beat Iqbal alleging that he and his sister-in-law were involved in illicit affair.

Mizan and his cohorts also threatened Zakiur and demanded Tk 50,000 in toll from him.

The manager gave Mizan Tk 22,000 from the cash box.

A photojournalist on condition of anonymity admitted the fact but when Mizan was contacted over cell phone he denied the incident and said it was stage-managed.

He also claimed that the journalists had implicated him in the incident.

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