

## President performs Ziarah at Rowza Mubarak

BSS, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman performed Ziarah and offered special Munajat at the Rowza Mubarak of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) in Madina after Esha prayers on Friday.

The president and his family members offered Esha prayers at the Masjid-e-Nababi and also Nafal Namaj at Reazul Zannat in the holy city that night, according to a message received here from Saudi Arabia yesterday.

During the special Munajat, the President prayed for peace, progress and prosperity of the country as well as the Muslim Ummah.

President Zillur, now on a six-day state visit to Saudi Arabia, yesterday visited several historical sites, including the field of Uhud, Masjid-e-Kublatain and Masjid-e-Kubba in Madina.

During the visit, the president offered Fateha at Masjid-e-Kubba and in the battlefield of Uhud seeking eternal blessings for the martyrs of the war of Uhud.

Earlier on Friday, the president arrived at Madina from Makkah after performing Umrah in the holy Kaba Sharif there.

On his arrival at the Madina Airport, the President was received by the deputy governor of Madina Ibrahim Al Mazyed.

President Zillur Rahman was scheduled to leave Makkah for Jeddah yesterday afternoon. He is scheduled to return home today.

The president left for Saudi Arabia on September 22 at an invitation of Saudi King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz to attend the inaugural ceremony of newly-built King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, one of the largest universities in the world, on the outskirts of Jeddah on September 23.

## One held with 350 Yaba tablets in Cox's Bazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

The police seized 350 pieces of Yaba tablets worth about Tk 2.5 Lakh and arrested a drug peddler from a shop at Dhigur Par in the town yesterday.

Jainal Abedin, 28, son of Mohammad Ali of Dakkhin Tekpara, was arrested with the Yaba tablets wrapped in two polythene packets during a raid on the shop 'Joy Electronics' near Shadia Joy Center.

Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) M Salah Uddin said the tablets were brought from Myanmar and collected from Teknaf. Jainal was caught while selling the tablets to tourists.

A case was filed with the Cox's Bazar Sadar Police Station.

## Proper marriage registration stressed

BSS, Rajshahi

Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton has said the marriage registration must be done properly to make society free from the curse of child marriage.

He made this call while addressing as the chief guest the inaugural session of a daylong training workshop for the Muslim marriage registrars on enhancing professional skill at Razia Community Centre here yesterday morning.

Liton said the marriage registrars have a vital role to play to control the child marriage and polygamy terming those as social problems.

He urged them to follow the Shariah law and the country's rule of law accurately during discharging their professional duties and advised them to verify the birth registration certificate.

Referring to the multiple social and physical problems of child marriage including early pregnancy and other disorders relating to reproductive health, he said the marriage registrars could contribute to society in this regard.

"You should be above of all sorts of corruption and irregularities as most of you are the influential leaders of society," he added.



The Naval Academy Road in the port city of Chittagong lies in dilapidated condition, but the authorities seem indifferent.

PHOTO: STAR

## 8 killed in road crashes

METRO DESK

Eight people were killed and 20 others injured in separate road accidents across the country yesterday.

A correspondent in Comilla reports: Three people of a family were killed and two others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Karankhal in Chandina yesterday.

The dead were identified as Khorshed Alam, 32, his sister Shahana Begum, 40, and his son Mehedi Hasan, 9.

The accident occurred at about 7:00am when a microbus from Zia International Airport lost control and fell into a roadside ditch, leaving three people dead on the spot and microbus driver Abdul Hamid, 36, and helper Jewel, 20, critically injured.

The injured were rushed to Chandina Upazila Health Complex.

UNB adds: Two people, including a

minor girl, were killed and 13 others injured in a head-on collision between a bus and a microbus at Dhaleshwari First Bridge on Dhaka-Mawa highway in Keraniganj yesterday.

One of the dead was identified as Nafiza, 3, but the identity of the other could not be known immediately.

Police said the bus of DM Paribahan collided with the microbus at about 2:00pm, leaving 15 people injured.

Twelve of the injured were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the two succumbed to their injuries.

Vehicular movement on the bridge was disrupted for about two hours following the accident.

Another UNB report from Bagerhat adds: A woman was crushed under the wheels of a bus on Dhaka-Mawa highway in Madrasa Ghat area of Mollahat upazila yesterday.

The identity of the victim could not be known immediately.

Witnesses said the Dhaka-bound bus knocked her down while she was crossing the road, leaving her dead on the spot at about 10:00am.

Police seized the bus and arrested its driver Mofiz.

Our correspondent in Jhenidah adds: A man was killed in a road accident on Jhenidah-Magura highway yesterday.

The victim was identified as Shahjahan Ali, 45, a night guard of Maulanabad Secondary School.

The accident took place when a speeding truck knocked him down while he was crossing the road.

BSS adds: A student of Titumir College was killed and five others were injured in a road accident at Savar yesterday.

The accident occurred when a passenger bus and a private car collided near Amin Bazar Bridge.

The dead was identified as Mizan, son of Ranju Miah.

## Jubo Dal leader held for snatching accused from police

BSS, Rangamati

Police arrested the Dighinala unit secretary of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal for snatching away an arrested accused from a police outpost at Merung under Dighinala upazila in Khagrachhari on Friday, police sources said yesterday.

Police of Merung outpost picked up Jamal Hussein, 30, nephew of the secretary of Dighinala upazila unit of Jubo Dal, Abdul Member, for using an unregistered motorcycle since long and brought him to the outpost along with the bike.

Hearing the news, Abdul Member along with others gheraoed the post immediately after the incident and snatched away the accused with the bike, said sources in police.

Police arrested Abdul Member after filing a case with Dighinala police on Friday.

Police produced Abdul before a court in Khagrachhari yesterday which sent him to jail custody.

## 'Govt working to establish non-communal country'

BSS, Habiganj

Social Welfare Minister Enamul Haq Mostafa Shahid yesterday said the present government is working to materialise the dream of Bangabandhu to establish Bangladesh as a non-communal country.

Now an environment is being created in the country where the followers of all religions can live in harmony, he said while visiting different Puja mandaps at Madhabpur upazila in Habiganj.

During the visit, he gave away donations from government funds to the Puja mandaps.

The minister first visited the Puja mandap at Durgapur and then went to Baksai, Nayapara, Boikuntha, Jagadishpur, Teliapara, Surma Puja Mandir and Surma Tea Garden Puja Mandap.

## 2 smugglers arrested in Jessore

UNB, Benapole

Members of the Bangladesh Rifles arrested two alleged smugglers at Chhoto Achra village yesterday while they were smuggling cigarettes and motor parts out of the country.

Acting on a tip-off, a BDR team conducted a drive at the village in the morning and arrested Amirul and Abu Bakr, residents of Bhaber village, as they were smuggling the Bangladeshi products worth about Tk 15 lakh.

A case was filed with Benapole Port Police Station in this connection.

## Return to JS Speaker urges BNP

A CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Speaker Abdul Hamid has urged the main opposition party BNP to return to parliament to contribute to the development of the country.

"If the BNP lawmakers return to the House I will ensure that the government will listen to their words," he said at a civic reception accorded to him at Kishoreganj stadium yesterday evening.

"I am helpless. I can do

nothing if the opposition party does not join the parliament session. So I urge the BNP again to come to parliament," said the Speaker.

Presided over by Prof Rafiqur Rahman Chowdhury, the civic reception was also addressed by Advocate Majibul Huq Chunnun MP, Advocate MA Afzal, acting general secretary, and Advocate Zinnatul Islam, organising secretary, of Kishoreganj district Awami League.

## One killed as villagers clash in Narail

A CORRESPONDENT, Narail

One man was killed and 40 others were injured in separate clashes between villagers at Noagram and Mohammadpur village under Kalia upazila in Narail yesterday.

The dead was identified as Ilias Sheikh, 55, of Joypur village under Kalia upazila.

Police and locals said supporters of Sikdar and Sheikh group of Mohammadpur village engaged in clash over previous enmity on Friday

afternoon, which left Ilias and nine others seriously injured.

Locals rushed them to Kalia Health Complex and later were shifted to Khulna Medical College Hospital where Ilias succumbed to his injuries yesterday.

In another clash between Mondol and Sheikh groups, at least 30 people were injured at Noagram village.

The injured were treated at Narail Sadar Hospital and Kalia Upazila Health Complex. A case was filed in this connection.



Commonwealth Secretary General Kamalesh Sharma calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on Friday.

PHOTO: PID

## AL, BNP clash in Faridpur: 10 hurt

UNB, Faridpur

Ten people were injured in a clash between Awami League and BNP activists at Bajitpur at Boalmari in the district yesterday.

Witnesses said the trouble started when the supporters of Awami League leader Anwar Hossain Member attacked Akram Mollah, a supporter of BNP leader Shahjahan Sheikh, at about 9:00am.

As the news spread around, BNP men attacked AL workers, triggering a clash.

A chase and counter chase took place during the melee that left nine people injured from both sides.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

The law-enforcers also picked up 10 people from the scene.

Two of the injured -- Shefali Begum, 36, and Kawsar Mollah, 45, -- were admitted to the Upazila Health Complex.

Earlier, on Friday, 15 people were injured in a clash between the activists of Awami League and BNP in the same village over establishing supremacy in the area.

Fifteen houses were also vandalised during the clash.

**10 INJURED IN NATORE**

Another report from Natore adds: Ten people were injured in a clash between two groups of Awami League activists at Bhagabasantapur village in Singra upazila on Friday night.

Locals said supporters of local AL leaders - Jakir Hossain and Sultan Ahmed - had been at loggerhead for long over establishing supremacy in the village.

## Bapa demands punishment to dishonest food sellers in Khulna

BSS, Khulna

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) yesterday staged a sit-in demonstration near picture palace crossing in Khulna city demanding exemplary punishment to the dishonest food sellers in the district.

Speakers at the programme said Formalin, Carbide Ethan, Ethanol, Saccharine and low qualities Caustic Soda were used in seasonal fruits for ripening them and freshness. The farmers always unconsciously use chemical fertiliser in the seasonal crops and fish for raising production which was very harmful for human bodies.

Bapa Khulna unit coordinator Adviser Firoz Ahmed presided over the programme. Gazi Shahidullah, Principal Jafar Imam, Principal Mazharul Hannan, Sheikh Abdul Aziz, Sarder Ruhin Hossain Prince, Abdullah Hossain Bacchu, Manjurul Alam, Kudrat-e-Khuda, Prof Sheikh Sadi Bhuiyan, Tapon Roy and Dr SK Saha attended the programme.



Paribesh Bachao Andolon, Citizens' Rights Movement and Nirapad Development Foundation stage a demonstration at Shahbagh in the city yesterday to mark the World Car-free Day 2009.

PHOTO: STAR

## Climate groups dismayed by G20's lack of interest

AFP, Pittsburgh

Climate change campaigners expressed dismay on Friday after the leaders of the world's most important economies failed to earmark funds to pay for a deal to cut carbon emissions.

States are due to hold a global summit -- billed as the last chance to halt global warming -- in Copenhagen in December in order to agree on ambitious new targets for cutting the production of greenhouse gases.

Emerging economies, led by a skeptical India, have insisted that they can not sign up to such a deal unless the rich-world nations whose industry caused the problem pay billions to finance their transfer to new clean technologies.

Campaigners had hoped that under the chairmanship of US President Barack Obama the Group of 20 summit might agree to set aside 150 billion dollars to pay for this work and

convince emerging economies to sign the deal.

The final summit statement agreed by the leaders, however, was fairly vague.

"We will spare no effort to reach agreement in Copenhagen through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations," it said, without going into specifics of how the funding gap might be met.

Hopes that the world's leading powers would get behind measures to help poorer countries fight climate change were raised in July in L'Aquila, Italy, when G8 leaders sent their finance ministers to seek sources of cash.

On Friday, however, the broader G20 group promised simply to "intensify our efforts" and sent the ministers back to do some more research.

"We welcome the work of the finance ministers and direct them to report back at their next meeting with a

range of possible options for climate change financing," the final statement said.

"This was not a breakthrough on the climate issue... but over lunch we had a very open discussion that we need to take responsibility as leaders," said Sweden's Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt, who chairs the European Union.

Reinfeldt promised the leaders would seek to meet again within two weeks to make another stab at resolving the issue, but pressure groups were outraged, singling out Obama and Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel for scorn.

"This is a crisis of leadership. The rich-country G20 leaders -- especially Merkel and Obama -- set themselves a deadline for a climate finance proposal, and then slept right through it," said Ben Wikler of Avaaz.

"Until the US, EU and Japanese leaders wake up and put together a serious climate

finance plan, there will be a 150 billion dollar pothole on the road to Copenhagen," he told reporters in Pittsburgh for the summit.

Max Lawson, senior policy adviser for the aid agency Oxfam, said: "With 72 days to Copenhagen rich countries have once again refused to put up the funds needed to deliver the deal in Copenhagen."

The G20 did endorse an Obama-inspired plan to reduce government subsidies on fossil fuels, a move welcomed by campaigners, but no one was pretending the leaders made progress towards a Copenhagen deal.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said the summit only took up global warming in broad terms and that he simply didn't know whether there would be a new deal to be signed in Denmark to replace the Kyoto protocol.

"I'm not an astrologer," Singh told a news conference dismissively.