

## 2 girls killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

Two girls were killed in separate road accidents in Panchagarh and Faridpur yesterday.

The victims were identified as seven-year-old Shabnur and five-year-old Dipa Goyna.

Our correspondent in Thakurgaon reports: Shabnur was killed in a road accident on Panchagarh-Tentulia highway at Jagdal Bazar under Sadar upazila in Panchagarh yesterday afternoon.

Police and witnesses said Samirul of Satmera Proddhanpara village with his daughter Shabnur was going to his sister's house by a bicycle, but a Tentulia-bound truck hit them near Jagdal bazaar at about 1:30pm, leaving the girl dead on the spot.

Following the accident, agitating people put up a barricade on Panchagarh-Tentulia highway for about an hour.

The mob removed the barricade after the police assured them that the driver would be brought to book.

Our Correspondent in Faridpur adds: Dipa Goyna was killed when a speeding microbus ran over her on Mawa-Bhanga highway at Pulia Bazar at Bhanga in Faridpur yesterday noon.

The microbus hit the girl when she was crossing the road, the police said. She died on the spot.

The police seized the microbus.

## Woman found dead in Ctg hotel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A woman was found dead at a hotel in the port city yesterday.

Police recovered the hacked body of Nur Fatema, 34, from a room of Hotel New Golden City adjoining to Olaner intersection around 2:30am.

Sources in the hotel said, Belal Hossain and Nur Fatema, from Tamalpara of Bagchipara in Natore checked in room No 210 of the hotel around 5:00pm on Thursday, identifying themselves husband and wife.

The next day around 9:00am, Belal got out of the hotel leaving Fatema in the

room and didn't return.

As the hotel authorities at night received no response from inside the room after knocking on the door several times, they called police.

The law enforcers recovered the body by breaking open the lock, said Sub-Inspector Mostafa of Pahartoli Police Station.

Mostafa said the murder might have been committed sometime on Thursday night. Police started searching Belal, who has remained absconding since the murder. A murder case was filed in this connection yesterday afternoon, said SI Mostafa.

## Obama felicitates Bangladeshis

UNB, Dhaka

US President Barack Obama has congratulated the people of Bangladesh on the 40th Independence and National Day of the country.

"I join the American people in sending my best wishes to those, abroad and here at home, that are celebrating Bangladesh Independence Day," he said in a statement in Washington on March 26.

Obama said: "39 years ago, the people of

Bangladesh earned their independence, and since then, our two nations have shared a commitment to democratic values and created an enduring friendship."

The US president said: "Here at home, those Americans who can trace their roots to Bangladesh continue to be active in all industries, and are an important part of our communities. On this Independence Day, I wish them all the best."



A wheel of a police van got stuck in a pothole near Maghbazar mosque in the city yesterday. Potholes have developed on many roads, hampering smooth movement of vehicles, but the authorities remain indifferent to the problem.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

# ADB to provide \$266m loan for gas supply

BSS, Dhaka

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is extending loans totalling \$266 million to help Bangladesh address natural gas supply constraints for its easy availability to consumers.

The ADB Board of Directors on Friday approved a \$261 million equivalent loan from its ordinary capital resources, and a further \$5 million equivalent from the concessional Asian Development Fund, for the Bangladesh Natural Gas Access Improvement Project, according to a message received yesterday.

The funds will be used to build new gas transmission and distribution pipelines to meet the growing demand, and to expand coverage to less developed areas in the country's southwest region.

The project will install compressors and metering systems to boost reliability, improve safety, and

strengthen the management of gas supply as well as demand. An investment programme to promote energy-efficient gas use will be drawn up, and training and support will be given to sector agencies, the message said.

The government has drawn up a comprehensive gas sector reform roadmap and the project is an urgent priority.

"This project will address priority supply and network constraints to ensure sustained growth in the gas sector that is critical to the country's economic development," said Priyantha Wijayatunga, energy specialist in ADB's South Asia Department.

Around 2,00,000 new households in the southwest, along with 1,400 industrial and commercial establishments, will receive gas as a result of the expanded distribution network.

As part of the project, Sundarban Gas Co Ltd - a

newly formed distribution affiliate of state-owned Petrobangla - will enter into contracts with private firms for the operation, maintenance, metering and billing of gas supplied to consumers in the southwest from 2012.

ADB's assistance also comes with conditions linked to regulatory reforms designed to encourage more private investment in the gas industry.

According to the message, Korea Eximbank will provide a loan of \$45 million for the transmission expansion phase, while the government will provide \$231 million equivalent in equity and loans, for a total project cost of \$542 million.

The state-owned Petrobangla, Gas Transmission Company Ltd, Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Ltd, Sundarban Distribution Company Ltd, and Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Ltd. are the executing agencies of the project, due to be completed in March 2015.

## SOCIAL SAFETY NET 26 lakh tonnes of food grains to be distributed

BSS, Savar

Minister for Food and Disaster Management Dr Abdur Razzaque yesterday said the government has stepped up efforts to distribute 26 lakh tonnes more food grains under the Social Safety Network in the country.

He said 21 lakh tonnes of food grains have already been distributed among the poor under the food for work programme across the country this year.

The food minister said this while he was visiting the re-excavation of ponds and water bodies on Jahangirnagar University (JU) campus under the food for work programme.

Vice Chancellor Prof Sharif Enamul Kabir also spoke on the occasion.

## 'Attacks' on BNP men protested

DU CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday strongly protested 'attacks' on party leaders and workers during Independence Day programmes at different places in the country on Friday.

In a statement, he also expressed grave concern over the incidents and alleged that the ruling party men made the attacks as per their plan to eliminate the pro-BNP forces.

Delwar alleged that the ruling party men attacked BNP men and vandalised 15 shops belonging to them at Harinakunda in Jhenidah during the Independence Day celebration.

Local BNP leaders and workers also came under attacks by the pro-Awami League men at Baliakandi in Rajbari, Kalmakanda, Bogra, Noakhali and Kurigram the same day.

Threatening to launch a tough movement against the government, the BNP secretary general called on the government to stop such attacks on BNP men and conspiracy against the party immediately.

Delwar also demanded exemplary punishment to the people involved in the attacks.

## ALPP meets today

UNB, Dhaka

A meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) will be held at Gono Bhaban at 1:00pm today.

Awami League General Secretary LGRD Minister Syed Ashraf Islam has requested all concerned to be present at the meeting, said a press release.

## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Shamsul Huda Putul, a freedom fighter and executive editor of the evening daily 'Rajpath', died of a massive cardiac arrest at a clinic in Khulna on Friday at the age of 58.

Shamsul Huda, also a senior staff reporter of Dainik Janmabhumi, hailed from Thana Para area under Sadar upazila in Tangail.

He left behind his wife, a son, a daughter and a host of relatives and well-wishers.

He was buried at Basupara graveyard.

## Nat'l Council of people with disabilities tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 'National Council of the People with Disabilities-2010' will be held at Paltan Maidan in the city tomorrow.

The council will bring together physically challenged people from across the country and provide an opportunity for them to share their views and opinions, the organisers said at a press conference in the city yesterday.

The National Alliance of Disabled People's Organisations (NADPO) has organised the council.

The council would encourage the people with disabilities to work together for the development of the country, NADPO Secretary General Jahangir Alamsaid.

NADPO President Abdus Sattar Dulal stressed the need to ensure the participation of the people with disabilities in development activities.

## Bogra AL leader dies in factional feud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

An Awami League (AL) leader was killed and an activist critically injured in a clash between two factions of the party over sharing of gambling money here last night.

The dead was identified as Shafiq Chowdhury, 30, a member of Bogra district AL, and the injured was Mahamudunnabi Russell, 26.

Witnesses said rivals stabbed both the victims at one stage of the clash that brewed over sharing of gambling money at Bogra International Trade Fair around 11:40pm.

Shafiq succumbed to his injuries on way to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital while Russell is undergoing treatment at the hospital in a critical condition.

## Tribute paid to martyrs of liberation war

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different social and cultural organisations held various programmes in the city yesterday to pay tribute to the martyrs of the Liberation War.

At a discussion, Dhaka University teachers and students demanded immediate

trial of the war criminals.

Gobinda Dev Philosophy Research Centre organised the discussion at RC Majumder auditorium of the university to mark the death anniversary of martyred intellectual Dr Gobinda Chandra Dev.

Bangabandhu Sangkritik Jote (BSJ) observed the 'Mass Killing Day' at Ramna Kali Mandir by placing wreaths. On March 27 in 1971, the Pakistani occupation forces cracked down on the minority people.

BSJ vice president film actor Faruk, joint secretary Arun Sarkar Rana and others placed wreaths at the Kali Mandir.

Bangladesh National Museum arranged an art competition for the children on the museum premises yesterday to mark the Independence Day.

Bangladesh Minority Sangram Parishad (BMSP) formed a human chain at Muktangan in the city to observe the mass killing day and 'Razakar Hatred Day'.

Bangabandhu Research Centre held a discussion at its office at Fakirerpool to mark the Independence Day.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Urban Comprehensive Eye Care Project will provide free eye treatment for freedom fighters and their families in the city. The eye camp will be held at Segun Bagicha High School in the city today at 9:30am.

## DU classes suspended today

DU CORRESPONDENT

All classes at Dhaka University will remain suspended today on the occasion of the holy Feteha-e-Yajdaham.

However, offices will remain open as usual, says a press release.

## Death anniversary

METRO DESK

Today is the 5th death anniversary of Quazi Fazlul Haq, managing director, H A K S Industries Ltd. and a member of IUB Trustee Board, says a press release.

He was also a life member of Bangladesh MBA Association and the MBA Alumni Association and the founder of Sonargaon Quazi Fazlul Haq Women's University College.

On the occasion, Quarankhwani and millad mahfil will be held. Relatives and friends are requested to attend the programme.

## Abdul Jabbar Master

METRO DESK

Today is the 12th death anniversary of Abdul Jabbar Master, a social worker of Kishoreganj, says a press release.

He is the founder of Charkawna High School at Pakundia in Kishoreganj.

All have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

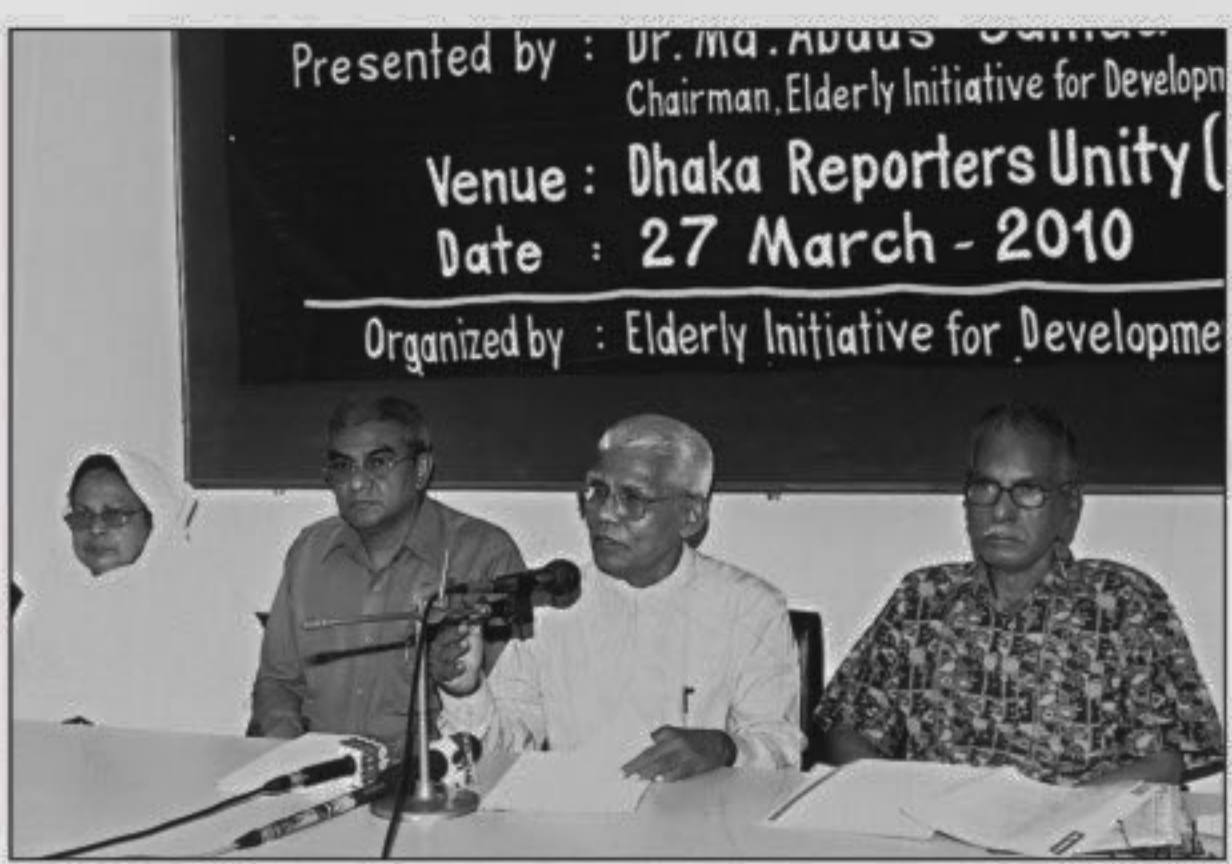


PHOTO: COURTESY

Elderly Initiative for Development (EID) Chairman Dr Abdus Samad speaks at the dissemination of a national survey report on elderly people of Bangladesh at Dhaka Reporters Unity in the city yesterday. On his left is Press Institute of Bangladesh Chairman Habibur Rahman Milon and on his right are Dr Helaluddin of East West University and Shahela Akhter, a volunteer of EID. EID organised the event.

### WEATHER TODAY

## Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Barisal, Noakhali and Comilla in next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

It also said day temperature may fall slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:13pm today and rises at 5:53am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 37.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 19.7 degrees Celsius at Sylhet.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.7	25.6	77	63
Chittagong	30.2	25.0	83	78
Rajshahi	37.2	24.0	69	57
Khulna	34.0	25.6	76	69
Barisal	33.3	25.5	76	65
Sylhet	31.0	19.7	78	65
Cox's Bazar	33.0	24.8	73	64



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks at a discussion marking the Independence Day at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city yesterday. Awami League organised the discussion. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: COURTESY