

### DMCH staff killed in road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An employee of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) was run over by a speeding bus while crossing the road at Bangla Motor in the city yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Rafiqul Islam Sarder, 60, a class-IV employee of DMCH.

Witnesses said Rafiqul was crossing Kazi Nazrul Islam avenue near Bangla Motor point at around 12:00noon when a Shahbagh-bound bus, Shikar Paribahan, crushed him to death.

The driver tried to flee but had to stop in front of Sheraton traffic signal where the bus passengers and pedestrians caught the driver and his helper, they said.

Rafiqul's grandson Khokon told The Daily Star that his grandfather came out from his Eskaton residence to say Juma prayers at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) mosque.

Rafiqul was recently transferred to DMCH from BSMMU.

Shiblee Noman, officer in-charge (OC) of Ramna Police Station, said they arrested the driver and seized the bus.

## TRANSPLANTED AMAN IN CURRENT SEASON Production target set at 14 million tonnes

UNB, Dhaka

Despite having insufficient rain, the department of agriculture extension (DAE) eye an increased production of aman paddy in the current season with the target set at 14 million tonnes - an increase of over one million tonnes from the previous season.

According to DAE sources, some 5.45 million hectares of land would be brought under transplanted aman in the current season while 400,000 hectares under broadcast aman across the country.

Director of Agriculture Information Service (AIS) M Nazrul Islam said that of the total area under transplanted aman, some 4.20 million hectares would be brought under HYV while some 1.25 million hectares under local varieties.

He said the progress of planting aman seedlings in the current season is much

better-double that of previous year till August 10.

The AIS director said till August 10, some 2,822,841 hectares of land has been brought under aman cultivation this year, which is around 52 percent of the target. Last year, some 1,362,232 hectares were brought under aman cultivation during the period, which was 25 percent of the target.

He said though there was not much rain in the current season due to adverse impact of climate change, the farmers did not wait too long this time to plant their seedlings.

Nazrul said the DAE officials have motivated the farmers to plant the aman seedling in due time and arrange irrigation through deep and shallow tube-wells with group initiatives.

The farmers have also been advised to ensure irrigation through preserving water by digging holes and from the ring-wells.

The AIS director said more rain is essential in the future for better production of aman as there was not much rain in the last month and also in the first week of August. On August 1, there was only 5mm rain in Rajshahi and some 4mm

rain in Gaibandha. Besides, only around 1mm rain was recorded in Rangpur on August 4 while there was no rain in Sirajganj and Naogaon till August 9 and 10 respectively.

It was learnt that some 124,800 hectares of land - 123,750 hectares under HYV and 1,050 hectares under local variety - have so far been brought under aman cultivation in Bogra, which is 65 percent of the target.

In Naogaon, aman seedlings have so far been planted on 166,815 hectares of land - 160,035 hectares under HYV and 5,880 hectares under local variety, which is around 80 percent of the target.



Shattered pieces of glass lying on the road as people vandalised ten vehicles and blocked the Rampura Road for half an hour as a bus of Anabil Paribahan hit a local boy, Shabuj, inset, at Malibagh in the city, injuring him severely.



Jatiya Vokta Odhikar Mancha, a platform of National Consumer's Rights, holds a rally in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding a stop to use of toxic chemicals with colours in Iftari items.

## Call for establishing a non-communal country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called for establishing a country free from communalism in accordance with the spirit of the Liberation War, 1971.

They also called for necessary amendment to the constitution.

Samprodaikata-Jongibad Birodhi Manchya, a platform against communalism and militancy, organised the programme titled "Speech of March 7, Liberation War, Carnage of August 15 and Present Bangladesh" at the Liberation War Museum in the city.

Shamsuzzaman Khan, director general of the Bangla Academy, said 122 newspapers throughout the world during the Liberation War recognised Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as proclaimer of the

independence. There should not be any doubt about the matter, he added.

But a political party is doing politics mentioning former president Ziaur Rahman proclaimed the independence, he said adding, "That political party had indulged in terrorism and hyper communalism."

Rashed Khan Menon, lawmaker and president of the Workers Party of Bangladesh, said the spirit of the Liberation War will be returned and the

ideal of Bangabandhu will be established if the constitution is amended.

Prof Syed Anwar Hossain of Dhaka University said the August 15 massacre in 1975 is part of the conspiracy against the country.

"Only five killers of Bangabandhu were hanged but we are yet to get the justice for the killing of four national leaders and intellectuals and the carnage of August 21 in 2004", said Prof Anwar adding

there will be recurrence of such incident if we do not try these criminals.

Prof Anwar said the Awami League went against the ideal of Bangabandhu as the party itself made coalition with a religion based political party Khelafat Majlis in 2006.

Sector Commander Maj Gen (ret'd) KM Shafiullah and Columnist Syed Abul Maksud Ahmed also spoke while convener of the platform Ajoy Roy presided over the programme.

### Bir Shrestha Matiur's anniversary of death observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) yesterday observed the 39th death anniversary of martyred Flight Lieutenant Bir Shrestha Matiur Rahman with due solemnity.

On the occasion, milad mahfil was held after Juma prayers at the central mosque of all BAF bases with special prayers seeking divine blessing for the departed soul.

Officers and members of all ranks of the BAF were present on the occasion, said a press release of Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

Earlier, Assistant Chief of Air Staff (admin) Air Vice Marshal Muhammad Enamul Barid visited the grave of Matiur Rahman at the Mirpur Martyred Intellectual Graveyard.

Matiur Rahman's wife Milee Rahman was present there.

### Death Anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the second death anniversary of Syeda Sakina Islam, former lawmaker and wife of former journalist and cultural personality late Fakhru Islam Khan, says a press release.

A milad mahfil will be held on the occasion after Asr prayers at the residence of her son Amirul Islam Khan, former director of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, at Lalmatia in the city.

### Saiful Islam Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 11th death anniversary of Saiful Islam Khan, former director of Polymers and Plastics Limited and son of former industries minister Samsul Islam Khan, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

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### 'Abductor' lynched in Ctg 2 others injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Mob beat an unidentified criminal dead and injured his two accomplices while the gang was trying to abduct a college girl at Boalkhali upazila in Chittagong on Thursday evening.

Witnesses said the armed gang of six men in two CNG-run auto rickshaws stormed a house at the upazila's West Shakhura.

They took the girl, a second-year student of Boalkhali Sirajul Islam Degree College, at gunpoint.

Later, local people chased the criminals, caught them and started beating them up when the auto rickshaws reached Shakhura Choumuhumi Bazar.

The two criminals were sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital with serious injuries.

### Worker dies falling from high wall

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A construction worker was killed and another injured in a wall collapse at Langongaon village in Sadar upazila of Panchagarh on Thursday night.

The dead was identified as Mofizuddin, 27, son of Kanu Mohammad of Balabari village in Tentulia upazila.

Police said the accident occurred at about 9:00pm at the newly-built office building of Demshimari Kazi Farms while the workers were working on the wall on its second floor.

At one stage, Mofizuddin fell into the ground from the wall on which they were working and instantly the wall also collapsed on them, leaving Mofizuddin dead on the spot.

Dipu of Langongaon village also fell from it and injured when he was trying to save his fellow Mofizuddin.

Dipu was rushed to Rangpur Medical College Hospital. An UD case was filed with Panchagarh Police Station in this connection.



The gardener of Sangsad Bhaban caught this African catfish weighing three kilograms from a manhole of its southern part.

### WEATHER

#### Change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Rangpur, Dhaka, Sylhet Chittagong and Barisal divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions in next 24 hours till 6:00 today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country. The sun sets in the city today at 6:27pm and rises tomorrow at 5:36am.

Country's highest temperature 34.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Syedpur and lowest 24.8 degrees at Sandwip and Jessore.

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	33.1	25.5	90	77
Chittagong	31.3	25.0	82	83
Rajshahi	32.8	26.0	88	94
Khulna	31.0	27.0	77	96
Barisal	31.4	26.4	88	97
Sylhet	31.2	26.1	87	88
Cox's Bazar	32.5	25.4	80	79