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13 killed in 2 train crashes

Gatemen not deployed at 'unauthorised' level crossings

STAR REPORT

Thirteen people were killed and 45 others injured in two train-bus collisions in Comilla and Jessor yesterday.

Dhaka-bound Subarna Express from Chittagong collided with a Comilla-bound bus around 10:15am at a level crossing near Shashidhara Rail Station in Brahmanpara upazila, leaving eight dead and 25 others injured.

The dead were identified as Faisal Ahmed, 14, Nahid Mia, 17, and Pakhi Akhter, 11, of Brahmanpara upazila; Sabina Akhter, 13, and Sohel, 15, of Burichong upazila; Alauddin, 40, of Karimganj upazila of Kishoreganj; and Faridur Rahman, 30, and Badsha Mia, 25, of Kurigram, reported a correspondent from Comilla.

The injured were admitted to local hospitals.

Rashidul Alam, assistant station master of the railway station, said the accident occurred due to reckless driving of the bus driver.

However, no gatekeeper was posted at the level crossing, and a notice put up there reads people have to cross the rail tracks on their own responsibility.

Meanwhile, five people died and 20 others sustained injuries in a train-bus collision at Rajarhat rail crossing in sadar upazila of Jessor at about 5:00am yesterday, reports our correspondent from Benapole.

Four of the deceased were identified as Mintu Khandaker, 45, Momtaj Begum, 32, Debobrata Kumar, 25, and Al-Helal Bappi, 23.

Debobrata was a student of graphics design department of Dhaka University, confirmed one of his classmates.

Officer-in-Charge Moazzem Hossain of Jessor Kotwali Police Station said a Khulna-bound intercity train rammed a Satkhira-bound bus when it was passing the unguarded level crossing, killing five passengers of the bus on the spot.

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PHOTO: STAR



A minibus, top, at Brahmanpara in Comilla gets rammed by Subarna Express as it was going over a level crossing yesterday. Railway authorities were pretty quick to blame the accident on rash driving but the fact is the level crossing had no gatekeeper. On the same day, a couch, right, collided with a train at Rajarhat in Jessor while passing an unguarded level crossing.



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Body found stuffed in carton

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered decomposed body of a watch-factory employee stuffed inside a carton at Chawkbazar in the capital.

Police said they recovered the body of Shah Alam, 23, son of

SEE PAGE 13 COL 8

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Two Rab personnel

were also injured.

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UPHEAVAL IN MIDDLE EAST

Gaddafi faces fight of his life

Bahrain talks offer snubbed

REUTERS, Manama

Two of the Middle East's most entrenched rulers were battling to stay in power yesterday amid reports of dozens of protesters killed in Libya and an offer of talks by Bahrain's king being rebuffed.

Unrest has spread from Tunisia and Egypt to Bahrain, Libya, Yemen

and Djibouti, presenting the United States with the dilemma of maintaining stability in the oil-rich region while upholding the right to demonstrate for democratic change.

Libyan security forces killed 35 people in the eastern city of Benghazi late on Friday, Human Rights Watch cited witnesses and hospital sources as saying, in the worst violence of

Muammar Gaddafi's four decades in power.

Protests against Gaddafi's rule this week, inspired by the uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt, were met with a fierce crackdown, but restrictions on the media have made it difficult to establish the full extent of the violence.

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STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Coordinated and collaborative efforts are needed to address the common issues of protecting human rights of the South Asian countries, said Dr Mizanur Rahman, chairman of the National Human Rights Commission yesterday.

No country can feel safe without respecting human rights and

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

TALKS WITH ULFA

Manmohan

upbeat

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA,

New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh yesterday said peace talks with insurgent's group Ulfa has a "good future" and those who are issuing threat against the dialogue were not aware of "ground realities".

In a brief interaction with journalists at Jorhat in Assam state, Manmohan said his meeting with the Ulfa

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TAWFIQUE ALI

Implementation of the Jatrabari-Gulistan flyover project in the capital is making headway ahead of schedule after despite procedural and physical adversities, say project officials.

They aim at opening the facility for the public in two years from now.

As many as 14 pillars have already been

JATRABARI-GULISTAN FLYOVER

Project work goes on in good pace

built in Jatrabari and Joykali Mandir sites against the scheduled target of nine by mid-February, said Salman Obaidul Karim, managing director of Belhsa Accom and Associates Ltd (BAAL), concessionaire of the project.

"Our target is to build six more within February," he said. The ten-kilometre

ONLINE POLL

Are you satisfied with the Cricket World Cup opening ceremony?

Yes	73.1%
No	23.6%
No Comments	3.3%

TOTAL VOTES : 707

TODAY'S POLL

Do you support Khaleda Zia's not going to the ICC Cricket World Cup inauguration on ground of not being "properly" invited?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

Dreams shattered by recession

Scores of jobseekers abroad during 2008-09 return home broke

PORIMOL PALMA

Dreaming of a better future, Momin Bakkar flew to Singapore in June 2008, being completely unaware that the recession-hit economy there had nothing to offer him.

Broker Shariful Islam had promised him a job with a monthly pay of Tk 60,000 at Renown Marine Services, a shipping company, but on arrival in Singapore, Momin realised that he had landed in a big trouble from which there seemed no way out.

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STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A schoolboy, who was stampeded by a crowd celebrating Cricket World Cup Friday night near the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium in the capital's Mirpur, succumbed to his injuries yesterday.

Deceased Polash Uddin, 13, son of grocer Mohammad Nuruddin at Mirpur-12, was a class IV student of Paramount Kindergarten in city's Mirpur.

Shamim Alam, a brother-in-law of Polash,

said Polash went out from home at about 9:30pm to

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