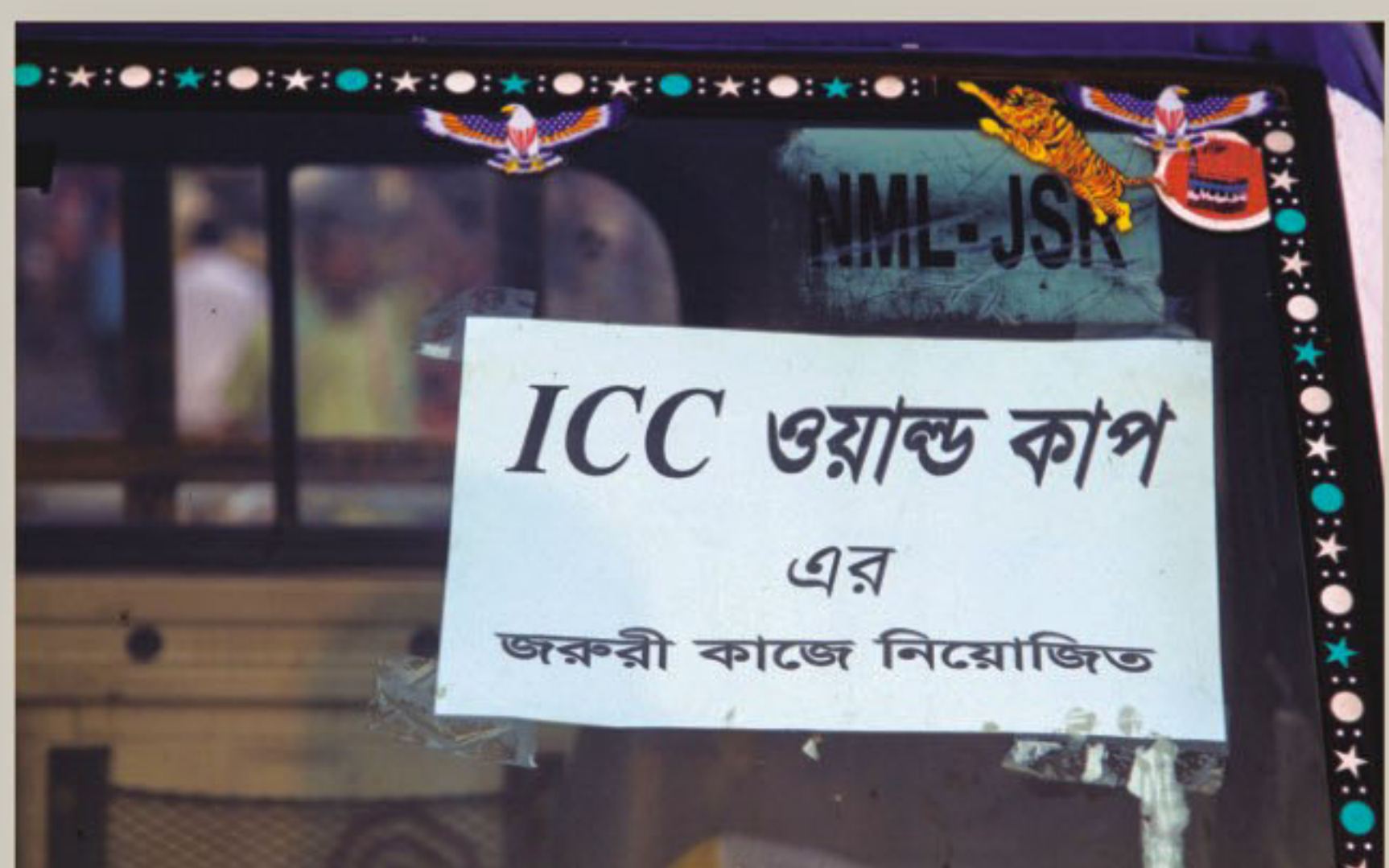


# TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Seen At Kawran Bazar Wholesale Vegetable Market.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

## 19 killed, 61 injured in road crashes

METRO DESK

Nineteen people were killed and 61 others injured in road accidents in Manikganj, Dhaka, Tangail, Barishal, Chapainawabganj and Jamalpur on Thursday night and yesterday.

Our correspondent from Manikganj says: Seven people, including four of a family, were killed and 35 others injured in a bus-truck collision on Dhaka-Aricha highway at Nayadingi in Satura upazila yesterday.

The dead are Momtaz Begum; her son Mosharrif Hossain; daughter Rima; sister Razia Begum; Aleya Begum; Solaeman Kabir; and Sohel Rana. All of them hailed from different villages of Dhamrai upazila in Dhaka.

Police said the accident occurred around 9:30am when a Manikganj-bound bus of Palli Sheba Paribahan collided head-on with a sand-laden truck.

Five died on the spot while another on way to Manikganj Sadar Hospital while others were admitted there.

Of the injured, eight were shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) as their condition turned critical.

Our staff correspondent in Dhaka says: Two women and a 10-month-old girl were killed and 15 others injured in two road accidents in the capital yesterday.

Police said Sokhina Begum, 30, and her daughter Snigdha died on the spot when they fell from a motorbike, driven by her husband, and were run over by a bus of Belal Paribahan around 6:00pm in Banani. Locals beat bus driver Nazir who was later sent to DMCH.

In another incident, a woman died and 15

others were injured as two buses collided head-on at Khamarbari crossing in Farmgate around 5:30pm. Sajeda, 20, died instantly.

In Tangail, six people were killed and five others injured in three road accidents yesterday.

In sadar upazila, a bus skidded into a ditch near Jamuna Bridge at Birpushia, leaving four day labourers dead on the spot and five others injured.

The deceased are Nazrul Islam, 50, of Singra upazila in Natore and Abdul Zabbar, 32, Haider Ali, 20, and Mohammad Alauddin, 25, of Govindaganj upazila in Gaibandha. The injured were admitted to Tangail General Hospital.

Meanwhile, an unidentified man and a woman were killed when a truck and a bus ran over them at Elenga in Kalihati upazila and Ashekpur in Tangail sadar upazila yesterday morning and Thursday night respectively.

In Barisal, two men were killed and another injured after a truck crashed into a roadside tree at Bamrail in Uzirpur upazila yesterday.

The deceased are Mantu Mia, 26, the truck helper, and Alamgir Hossain, 24, of Mujibnagar in Meherpur.

In Chapainawabganj, a man was crushed under the wheels of a bus at Ranihati in Shibganj upazila yesterday. The deceased is Jatun Karmokar, 38, of Horinagar village of Shibganj.

In Jamalpur, five passengers of a CNG-run auto-rickshaw were injured when a local train rammed the vehicle at Shekhervita level crossing in the town on Thursday evening. Three injured were admitted to Jamalpur General Hospital.

## NEWS IN *brief*

### Woman commits 'suicide' in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman allegedly committed suicide following a family feud at Sutrapur in the city yesterday.

Family sources said Sultana Khanom Kajol, 29, hung herself from a ceiling fan following a row with her husband.

Police arrested her husband Jummon Chowdhury, 31, employee of a travel agency, after the deceased's brother, Ziaur Rahman, filed a case with Sutrapur Police Station accusing him of provoking his sister.

The couple locked into an altercation over family issues on Thursday night when Kajol locked herself in the bedroom, Muminul Haq, Jummon's brother, told The Daily Star. Police found the body after breaking open the door around 3:00am and sent it to Mitford Hospital for autopsy.

### Female prisoner dies in jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A woman prisoner died mysteriously in Lalmonirhat district jail yesterday.

The body of Rekha Begum, 25, wife of Aminul Islam of Banvasamor village under the district was sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

Jailer Nazrul Islam claimed that the woman prisoner died of heart attack in the jail hospital at noon but the victim's family alleged that Rekha was tortured to death by the jail authorities.

Police said Rekha was caught red-handed with hemp from her residence on March 7. The executive magistrate of a mobile court sentenced her to one year in jail.

### Man jailed for reckless driving

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A court sentenced a driver to three years of imprisonment for reckless driving which left eleven young cricketers dead eight years ago at Baluchara under Bayezid Police Station.

HM Fazlul Bari of the Metropolitan Magistrate's Court passed the order on Thursday in absence of Abul Kalam, the accused driver of a human hauler and also fined him Tk 10,000 or six months more of imprisonment.

Earlier, on January 31, 2003 a three-wheeler 'tempo' carrying eleven young cricketers was heading for Fatehabad High School for a match when a speeding human hauler crashed headlong with it killing the cricketers on the spot. Later a case was filed.

## Vehicle Signs

THE other day I was bicycling when a microbus in the traffic jam caught my eye. I could read its sign from behind: "On Emergency Export Duty." Good, I thought, they are helping the economy. When I pulled alongside and absent-mindedly looked in, I was startled to see several children in school uniform. "Good God!" a voice said in my head, "are we now exporting our schoolchildren?"

That thought lasted only an instant until I remembered that around here vehicle signs are a dime a dozen.

When I was growing up, only doctors announced their profession on their vehicles (with a red cross on the rear windshield.) Since doctors made house calls then, presumably this sign helped them reach the patient's home quickly.

Things have changed. Today our doctors are so much in demand that it might be hazardous for them to announce their profession like this. Instead, many others now advertise their work by signs on their vehicle.

Thus, an airline's microbus says "Emergency Airport Service" while a hotel bus claims "Emergency Foreign Guest Duty." Do these proclamations really help them do a better job? And why are they all Emergency, by the way? Do we have any job or duty in this country that is non-emergency?

There are the government departments which display their office proudly. Everyone from "Legal Counsel to Foreign Ministry" to "Emergency Electric Service" to "At the Service of Judge Court" to "Oboshor Shubidha Board" announce their affiliation. But why should I care? It's not like I can run

to them at a traffic signal and get that much-needed signature I've been chasing for weeks!

Then I saw a rickshaw cautioning me it was a "Slow Moving Vehicle." No kidding.

But some of the truly powerful carry no sign while some obscure offices and duties carry a long sign describing their duties. This is confusing. Perhaps we need a more emphatic set of signs to clear the confusion, each with its own subtext:

"I Am Important" (and you unimportant people should know your place which is behind me.)

"I Do Important Things" (by gum, my business is more important than your business.)

"New Teenage Driver" (oops, I hope you did not recognise me and my bad road manners, Uncle.)

"Don't Mess With Me" (pay heed, other drivers, or I'll see you in court.)

"Don't Mess With Me Part II" (traffic police take note if you don't want a transfer to Pirojpur.)

"I Am Really Not That Important, But You Don't Know That" (fooled you, didn't I?)

"I Provide a Service That Helps the Nation" (like shuttling the boss's children to school!)

Sorry, but signs like "I grow rice" or "I teach schoolchildren" or "I run a small business feeding a dozen families" will never make the list of important people signs. By the way, I have not seen a "Newspaper Columnist" sign. Perhaps it is time to start one, but where to fit it on my bicycle?

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Bangladesh Chhatra League activists man-handle Grameen Bank staff and foil their human chain in front of BM College in Barisal yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

### Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mazhar Uddin Khan, former director general of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation and father of Rabindra sangeet singer Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya, passed away at a city hospital on Thursday at the age of 84.

He will be buried at Banani graveyard on Sunday.

### Sheikh Rowshan Ali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Sheikh Rowshan Ali, former chief medical officer of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, died of old-age complications at his Pallabi residence yesterday morning at the age of 79.

### BCL foils GB human chain

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Cadres of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student front of ruling Awami League, attacked and foiled a human chain of Grameen Bank in Barisal city yesterday.

Witnesses said Grameen Bank employees and stakeholders assembled in front of BM College to hold the programme protesting removal of their managing director, Prof Yunus.

Suddenly a group of BCL cadres attacked them, snatching banner, manhandling, and chasing the participants.

The Grameen Bank staff, however, held the programme in front of their office at C&B road area of the city.

## Congratulations



We congratulate Mr. Muzibur Rahman, Managing Director, "Smart Jeans Ltd." Chittagong, who was selected as CIP (2010).



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