



PHOTO: COURTESY

Three compartments of this Dhaka-bound intercity train from Rajshahi derailed at Airport Rail Station in the city around 1:45pm yesterday.

## 12 killed in road crashes

METRO DESK

Twelve people were killed and 27 others injured in road accidents in Comilla, Narsingdi and Manikganj yesterday and Wednesday.

UNB from Comilla reports: Seven people, including three of a family, were killed and seven others injured in separate road accidents in Daudkandi and Chandina yesterday and Wednesday.

On Wednesday night, four people, including three of a family, died in car-truck collision on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Jinglatali in Daudkandi upazila.

The accident left the car driver Abbas Uddin, 35, and its passenger Saidul Haque, 42, dead on the spot while Saidul's wife Khaleda Akter Ruhi, 32, and their son Protik, 7, succumbed to their injuries at the Gouripur Hospital.

Police and locals said a Dhaka-bound bus collided head on with a CNG run auto-rickshaw leaving one auto-rickshaw passenger dead and five others injured on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Shahidnagar in Daudkandi yesterday.

In Chandina, a Comilla-bound truck skid-

ded off the Dhaka-Chittagong highway leaving fish trader Monjur Rahman, 35, killed on the spot at Harikhola yesterday.

An unidentified man was killed after being run over by a vehicle at Eliotganj in Daudkandi upazila.

Meanwhile: Five people were killed and 20 others injured in separate road accidents Narsingdi and Singair and Manikganj yesterday and Wednesday.

In Shibpur, a bus skidded and rammed a truck parked by Dhaka-Sylhet highway side at Itakhola Wednesday, leaving three passengers dead and 20 others hurt.

Deceased are Taslima Begum, 35, of Arahajar upazila of Narayanganj, bus helper Saiful Islam, 14, of Palash of Narsingdi, and the unidentified bus driver aged about 33.

In Manikganj, an unidentified man aged around 32 was crushed under the wheels of a bus on Dhaka-Aricha highway at Bathuli in Sadar upazila Wednesday.

In Singair, a bus ran over a minor boy leaving him dead on the spot on a road at Mulborg yesterday.

Deceased is Asadul Islam, 5, son of Ekhlas Khan of Nilombo Potti village of Singair.

## Rab to get two more units, Sahara tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday in parliament said introduction of two new units of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) is under process to expand the elite force's activities.

Replying to lawmakers' queries, the home minister informed the House that different units under 12 battalions of Rab are conducting their activities at present in a bid to combat terrorism and maintain law and order.

On monitoring the Rab's activities, Sahara said command line of the elite force is "very firm and organised". "Besides, executing magistrates have been attached with Rab. Special committees or officials of the ministries concerned also investigate much talked about incidents," she added.

On withdrawing cases against Akhter Hamid, bodyguard of former chief of Jamaat-e-Islami Golam Azam, the home minister said the district committee concerned sent recommendation notes to the central committee of the home ministry for withdrawing six cases filed against Akhter and others.

Sahara said that Akhter is accused in different cases and the central committee has primarily recommended for withdrawing only three cases.

"Initiatives have been taken to cancel the withdrawal orders in spite of the recommendation of the central committee," said the home minister.

## 10 BCL men hurt in clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists of Hazaribagh Leather Technology College were injured in a factional clash last night.

Five of the injured were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), and the rest five took treatment at different hospitals and clinics, DMCH sources said.

The injured activists admitted to DMCH are Hasan Mahmud, Firoz Khan, Ahmed Swapan, Mazedul Islam, and Md Hasan.

The clash took place around 11:00pm at a hostel of the college over internal conflicts between the two factions of BCL.

## Nooruzzaman's contribution recalled

DU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a memorial meeting yesterday observed that learning lessons from the life and works of Lt Col (ret'd) Quazi Nooruzzaman (Bir Uttam) can help build a society where people from all walks of life can enjoy equal rights.

Swadesh Chinta Sangha, an organisation of progressive people, organised the meeting at the seminar room of Public Library in the city to pay tribute to Nooruzzaman, commander of sector-7 of the War of Liberation in 1971.

They said Nooruzzaman struggled throughout his life to establish rights of general people and tried to organise various anti-fundamentalism movements.

Comrade Badaruddin Omar, Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, Comrade Khalekuzzaman, Abdul Motin Khan, Shirin Haque and Advocate Khurshid Alam were present at the meeting.

## GAS EXPLORATION PSC with US co protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations yesterday condemned the government's signing of a production-sharing contract (PSC) with the US-based oil company ConocoPhillips for oil and gas exploration from two deep-sea blocks.

They termed the contract as a betrayal to the country's people and demanded immediate cancellation of the deal.

In a written statement, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal General Secretary Khalekuzzaman called it a "black contract", as it will give 80 percent of the extracted gas to the foreign company.

This means the country would have to buy the gas from the company at a higher price, which would increase the price of power and fertiliser in the future, the statement read.

The contract does not say anything about getting the gas to mainland from the extraction point in the ocean and penalties for possible accidents, said a press release from Gonosonghoti Andolon.

Bangladesh Workers' Party leaders, in a separate press release, said it is in conflict with national interests and would not be accepted by the general people. Instead, the contract should be given to Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company (Bapex), they added.

Meanwhile, National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports organised rallies and meetings in Dhaka and elsewhere protesting signing of PSC, a press release said.

## Muggers kill bus passenger

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Snatchers in the guise of passengers killed an unidentified man, aged around 38, by hacking him inside a microbus in the city's Pallabi early yesterday.

Police said snatchers hacked the victim and left him on Pallabi embankment road around 6:45am. The victim was going to Mirpur-1 from Abdullahpur by a microbus.

Golam Zakaria, a witness and passenger of the vehicle, said he was coming from Jamalpur that morning and was waiting at Abdullahpur bus stand along with the victim to grab a ride for Mirpur.

"We boarded a white microbus bound for Mirpur-1. It had five passengers inside. After a while they brandished arms and tied up us with ropes", Zakaria said.

The snatchers took away money from Zakaria and got him down at Pallabi. Then he called a sub-inspector of Turag Police Station over the phone.

According to Zakaria, Turag police asked the microbus to stop while passing a police check post, but it did not stop.

Police chased the microbus and found it abandoned a kilometre away from the check post as the snatchers had fled.

On information from locals, police recovered the injured man lying unconscious and took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). He died around 9:15am.

Body of the victim, wearing jeans and shirt, was sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy.

## Boy found dead in water drum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a 16 month-old boy from a water drum in his house at Devidas Ghat Lane in the city yesterday morning.

The deceased Mohammad Mostakim, son of Shaon Ahmed, was sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for autopsy at 7:00am.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mohammad Ali of Chawkbazar Police Station said the boy's parents woke up in the morning and could not find Mostakim, who was sleeping with them. They later found the body inside the drum half filled with water.

However, the main entrance of the house was open throughout the night before. The autopsy will reveal the cause of death, added the OC.

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শ্যামলী	: সাইজ-১২৭০-১৪৮৫ বর্গফুট
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