

## Two more children die of Nipah

STAR REPORT

Two children suspected to have contracted Nipah virus died yesterday in Joypurhat in suspected infections of Nipah virus.

They are eight-year-old Touhidul Islam, son of Anwar Hossain at Dadra-Jointigram in Joypurhat sadar upazila, and six-year-old Marium, daughter of Jahangir Mondol in Sardarpara of Joypurhat.

Family members of both the victims said they had fallen sick after drinking date juice collected from the same tree.

Ali Naoro, head of children unit-3 at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, said a team of Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) on Saturday collected samples from the children to confirm the disease.

Marium was admitted to the hospital on Friday while Touhid on Saturday, reports our Rajshahi correspondent.

Quoting Joypurhat Civil Surgeon Mozammel Haque our Dinajpur correspondent said three children died in last 48 hours probably from Nipah infection.

Another child, Anik, died at Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital in Bogra on Thursday.

## ZUBAIR MURDER Another JU student held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested another student of Jahangirnagar University (JU) for his alleged involvement in the Zubair murder case.

Zahidul Hasan, a fourth year student of zoology department, was arrested from the premises of the university's administrative building.

"We arrested Zahidul on the basis of information given by three other arrestees", said Badrul Alam, officer-in-charge of Ashulia Police Station.

Earlier, the police arrested three other students in connection with the killing of Zubair Ahmed, a fourth year English department student, who was beaten to death by a group of Bangladesh Chhatra League activists on January 9.

The agitating students of the university, on the other hand, brought out a procession and held a rally demanding the publication of the report of the probe committee formed to investigate the murder within January 26.

## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Major (Retd) Monirul Islam Chandan, son of late freedom fighter Dr Nazrul Islam of Shaheed Hasan Sarak in Jamalpur, died of cardiac arrest on Friday at the age of 50.

He left behind his wife, two sons and one daughter to mourn his death.



The bus goes on a skid after ramming a CNG-run auto-rickshaw at Daulatpur of Patiya in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Conduct research on mineral extraction 7 killed in road crashes

PM urges scientists

UNB, Joypurhat

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged the country's geologists and mineral scientists to conduct extensive research on extraction and optimum utilisation of the scarce natural resources in Bangladesh.

She made the call while inaugurating the Institute of Mining, Mineralogy and Metallurgy yesterday morning.

The institute is aimed at exploring mines and mineral resources, determine reserves, extraction planning and ensuring their utilisation through proper analyses.

Hasina said the demand for electricity is increasing everyday as it is an important element for agriculture and industrial production, education, research and household work.

She said that since technology is the change maker of the 21st century, it is important to ensure best use of technology through research and reach its benefit to the common people.

"We cannot depend on others for technology. We need our own technology. We can also successfully adapt to others' technology in our own way."

She preferred giving priority to the innovation of alternative energy and energy saving equipment in an emerging economy like Bangladesh.

In the past three years, she said the government has added nearly 3,000 megawatts (MW) of electricity to the national grid.

"At present there is no crisis of electricity," Hasina said, adding that the government has been working to produce 14,773 MW of electricity by 2016.

In 2001, the Awami League government had undertaken the plan to set up the Institute of Mining, but the subsequent BNP government did not take any step about this important institution.

State Minister for Science, Information and Communication Technology Yeafesh Osman and State Minister for Law Adv Qamrul Islam were present at the function.

METRO DESK

Seven people were killed and two others injured in separate road accidents in Chittagong, Tangail, Natore and Rangpur early Saturday and yesterday.

Staff correspondent from Chittagong reports: An unidentified CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver was killed on the spot and three others were injured seriously as a Banskhali-bound bus hit the auto-rickshaw on Patiya-Anwara-Banskhali road at Daulatpur in Patiya upazila at around 11:20am yesterday.

Of the injured, Manir Hossain, 32, son of Syed Ali of Maijpara in Banskhali upazila and Mahmud Islam, 31, son of Rafiqul Ahmed of the same upazila, succumbed to their injuries at Chittagong Medial College Hospital (CMCH).

Another injured Jamal Uddin, 20, of the upazila, was undergoing treatment at CMCH.

In another accident, Nepal Saha, 45, son of Ramesh Saha, of Sourav Colony at Chandgaon, was crushed under the wheels of a bus while he was crossing the road at around 8:00am in front of old Chandgaon

police station in the port city early yesterday.

Our Tangail correspondent says: Motorcyclist Akhlay Sarkar, 36, a trader and son of Suresh Sarkar of Hatila village in the sadar upazila, was killed instantly when a passenger bus rammed his bike on Dhaka-Tangail highway at Taratia in the sadar upazila yesterday afternoon.

Following the accident, locals torched the bus and blocked the highway, causing a tailback for one and half hours.

In Natore, a three-wheeler ran over schoolboy Jibon Hossain, 10, son of Shahidul Islam, at Pachbaria in Baraigram upazila on Saturday, leaving him injured seriously.

He was rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital and died at about 6:00am yesterday.

In Rangpur, tractor helper Abdul Kaiyum, 35, son of late Shahidul Islam of Badarganj upazila, was killed and another injured when a bus collided with the tractor in Paglarhat bridge area of Mithapukur upazila on Saturday night.

The injured tractor driver Shuvo Mian, 30, was admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.



PHOTO: BNP

Pakistan High Commissioner to Bangladesh Mian Afrasiab Mehdi Hashmi Qureshi pays a courtesy call on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office in the city yesterday.

## AUTOPSY OF MEGHNA'S BODY HC summons DMCH director

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned the director of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for not taking any step for conducting post mortem of the body of Nusrat Jahan Meghna, a student of Uttara University, as per its directive.

During hearing a writ petition, the court directed Brigadier General Mostafizur Rahman, director of DMCH, to appear before it by 10:30am today to explain the matter.

Petitioner's counsel Manzill Murshid told the court that the body of Nusrat Jahan Meghna was exhumed and then brought to DMCH morgue on January 19 as per its January 18 directives.

The DMCH authorities did not conduct the post mortem of the body in last three days, although her relatives requested its director to conduct it, he said.

Manzill said that the DMCH director did not

take any step rather advised the relatives of Meghna to approach the forensic department of the hospital for having the post mortem, which is a similar to violation of the court order.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim yesterday passed the order after hearing.

The court on January 18 responding to the writ petition directed the DMCH director to form a three-member committee to conduct further post-mortem of the body and submit report to it as early as possible.

Phulbanu, Meghna's mother, on January 17 filed the writ petition claiming that her daughter was tortured and murdered at her husband's house on January 5.

The doctors of Gazipur hospital also gave a "false" post-mortem report of Meghna, she said seeking directives from the HC to exhume Meghna's body for further examination.

## Contributions of ASK founders recalled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Paying homage to Barrister Salma Sobhan, Justice KM Sobhan and Advocate Aminul Haque, speakers yesterday at a memorial programme said that they had made great contributions to today's democracy.

The eminent personalities were the founding members of the legal aid and human rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK).

The speakers at the programme reflected on their colourful lives and heroic deeds at intervals of singing and poem recitations.

ASK organised the memorial meeting with a cultural programme at the Chhayanaud auditorium in the city yesterday evening.

They did not have greed for designations which is rare and also difficult to follow by others, they said.

Their relentless work to ensure human rights brought them fame not only in the country but also abroad, they added.

The speakers said that these individuals also led a movement against communalism and to ensure trial of war criminals.

Salma Sobhan founded ASK in 1986 to make deprived women in the country aware of their rights. She breathed her last on December 30, 2003.

Justice Sobhan, who was also one of the founding members of ASK, died on December 31, 2007 while Aminul Haque passed away on July 13 in 1995.

## SAYEDEE, QUADER MOLLAH Petitions rejected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal yesterday rejected the petitions filed by Jamaat-e-Islami leaders Delawar Hossain Sayedee and Abdul Quader Mollah seeking investigation reports on their alleged crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War.

Providing the reports, containing details about the witnesses, might put the witnesses at risk, said the order passed by the three-judge tribunal headed by its Chairman Justice Md Nizamul Huq.

Sayedee and Quader Mollah, now in jail, submitted the two separate petitions on January 17 and 10 to the tribunal, which has already accepted the formal charges against them.

In the petitions, the duo said the investigation reports were not with the copies of the formal charges and other documents they received from the prosecution.

Without the reports, they cannot properly defend themselves and will be deprived of justice, they said.

After hearing the petitions, the tribunal, on January 15 and 19, fixed yesterday's date to pass order.

Tajul Islam and Mizanul Islam argued for Sayedee and Quader Mollah and prosecutors Syed Haider Ali and Mohammad Ali opposed the petitions.

Deposition and cross-examination of prosecution witnesses are going on against Sayedee while hearing on charge framing against Quader Mollah is scheduled for January 29.

## Bangladesh military contingent awarded in South Sudan

BSS, Dhaka

Force Comd, UNMISS, Maj Gen Moses Obi awarded "Force Commander's Unit Citation" to Bangladesh Military Police (BANMP/6) as a recognition of its outstanding professional competence in South Sudan, an official release said yesterday.

The Bangladesh Military Police Contingent was inducted into the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) in November 2010 and was deployed within all the sectors of the mission.

With the liquidation of UNMIS in July 2011 after the expiration of its mandate and the birth of a new mission in the Republic of South Sudan, the BANMP was relocated to Juba, the release said.

In spite of the transitional phase of the mission, UNMIS liquidation and the setting up of a new mission in South Sudan, the contingent settled down quickly and commenced the execution of its task diligently.

With the adoption of UNSC Resolution 1996 (2011) by the Security Council, establishing the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS), in line with the independence of South Sudan on July 9, 2011, BANMP/6 was one of the contingents that formed part of the UNMISS force at inception.

The contingent was entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining UN laws and order, and military discipline.

It also ensured a high standard of traffic discipline throughout its tour of duty by checking 9705 vehicles, 6060 vehicle documents and displaying exemplary investigation ability in handling of all types of crimes, accidents and incidents involving UN military personnel and assets.

This indicated the high level of professionalism of the unit.

Additionally, BANMP/6 successfully provided a number of VIPs close protection and VIP escorts to the dignitaries, including UN Secretary General in 2010 and 2011.

For their professional competence in discharging their duties under challenging circumstances, on January 9, 2012 force commander, UNMISS, Maj Gen Moses Obi awarded "Force Commander's Unit Citation" to BANMP/6.

It is indeed a matter of great honour and pride for the Bangladesh army. This unearthing of the incident has glorified the image of the Bangladesh army as well as Bangladesh as a whole before the international community, the release added.

**DHAKA TODAY**

**Workshop**  
Brac will organise a workshop; Venue: Brac Centre Inn; Time: 10:00am.

**Procession**  
Bangladesh Diploma Bekar Nurses Association will organise a procession; Venue: from Central Shaheed Minar premises; Time: 11:00am.

**Workshop**  
Centre for Women and Children Studies will organise a workshop; Venue: Biam Foundation, Moghbar; Time: 9:30am.

**Meeting**  
Naripokkho will hold a meeting; Venue: MIS auditorium, Health Department, Mohakhali; Time: 3:30pm.

**Workshop**  
Bangladesh Jatiya Mahila Ainjibi Samity will organise a workshop; Venue: TK Bhaban, Karwan Bazar; Time: 3:00pm.

**Workshop**  
University Grants Commission of Bangladesh will hold a workshop; Venue: Ruposhi Bangla Hotel; Time: 6:00pm.