



Bumper to bumper traffic tailback leading up to New Market from Dhaka City College in the capital around 2:00pm yesterday. Many city dwellers are getting their shopping done early for Eid-ul-Fitr which is due in just over three weeks.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Sajeed Wazed celebrates birthday with mom

UNB, London



Sajeed Wazed Joy, the only son of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the eldest grandson of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, celebrated his birthday with his mother here.

He cut the birthday cake at 12:01am on Thursday night in presence of all the family members.

Hasina wished her son by offering him a piece of cake.

The prime minister is now in London to attend the opening ceremony of Olympic Games.

Born to Hasina and late Dr MA Wazed Miah, a nuclear scientist, in 1971, Joy stays in the USA.

Hasina's younger sister Sheikh Rehana, Joy's wife Christina, his only daughter Sofia, and cousin Rezwana Siddique, were present during the celebrations.

15 killed, 38 hurt in road crashes

Five die in Comilla alone

METRO DESK

Fifteen people were killed and thirty-eight others injured in separate road accidents in Comilla, Brahmanbaria, Jessore, Sylhet, Chittagong, Munshiganj and Narayanganj on Thursday and yesterday.

UNB from Comilla reports, five unidentified people, including two children and a woman, were killed and four others injured in a bus-truck collision on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway at Suagazi of Comilla yesterday afternoon.

The injured were admitted to Comilla Medical College Hospital. Two of them were, later, sent to Dhaka for better treatment.

Our Brahmanbaria correspondent reports, a woman and her baby son died when a truck crushed them on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Shahbazpur in Sarail upazila yesterday, said the highway police.

They are Minu Begum, 22, and her son Shishir.

In Jessore, two youths died and another was injured as a pick-up van hit a motorcycle carrying them on Benapole-Jessore road in Laujani of Jhikargachha upazila on Thursday.

The deceased are Idris Ali, 44, and Liton Khan, 32.

The injured were admitted to Jessore Medical College Hospital.

Locals blocked the road demanding a speed breaker on the spot.

In Sylhet, Rony Ahmed, 5, son of Nurul Islam, died as a bus ran over him on Sylhet-Sunamganj highway at Hajrai in Dakshin Surma upazila yesterday.

Agitating locals vandalised around 10 vehicles and blocked the highway for one hour.

In Chittagong, three passengers were injured as a tempoo overturned at Agrabad in the city yesterday morning.

Hasu Akter, 22, Salma Begum, 22, and Monwara Begum, 26, were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

In Munshiganj, an unidentified sand worker was killed and four others were injured as a covered van overturned near Muktarpur Bridge in the sadar upazila yesterday.

The injured were admitted to a local hospital.

In Narayanganj, a woman died and 30 others were injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Tarabo Khadun in Rupganj upazila yesterday morning.

Police said a Dhaka-bound bus hit an oncoming truck. Later, another bus hit the first one from behind plunging it into a roadside ditch.

The injured were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

CTG SHRINE LOOTING Police submit charge sheet against Rab men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police submitted a charge sheet on Thursday against seven people including former commanding officer of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) Lt Col (sacked) Zulfikar Ali Majumder and former Rab officer Flight Lt Shiekh Mahmudul Hasan for their alleged involvement in looting Tk 2.07 crore from a shrine in Chittagong. Abdus Samad, inspector (investigation) of Anwara Police Station, submitted the charge sheet to Chittagong Judicial Magistrate Court.

The other accused are Rab Deputy assistant Director (DAD) Abul Bashar, Sub-Inspector Tarun Kumar Basu, and Rab's former sources Dider-ul-Alam, Anwar Miah and Manab Barua.

According to the case statement, members of Rab in plainclothes on November 4 last year entered the shrine Talsara Darbar Sharif and kept Pir Ahammed Safa Shah confined to a room at gunpoint.

They smashed open three cupboards and took away the cash that was kept there.

Four months later, driver of the shrine Idris Ali filed a robbery case with Anwara Police Station accusing 10 Rab men and two of their informants.

The others were not included in the charge sheet, as their involvement in the incident was not proved, said Samad.

Sofa was voice for the deprived

Memorial lecture told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a memorial lecture yesterday commemorated Ahmed Sofa as one of the most distinct of intellectual voices in post-liberation Bangladesh who strongly voiced the concerns of underprivileged people.

One speaker quoted Sofa, once asked to say something about himself, as saying, "My forefathers had been directly involved with agriculture. I feel proud to be a part of them. I want poor farmers and labourers to eat rice and sing in a jovial mood."

Ahmed Sofa Rastroshobha along with Centre for Asian Art and Culture organised the 10th Ahmed Sofa Memorial Lecture at the business studies conference hall in Dhaka University.

Institute of Modern Language Director Prof Monsur Musa delivered the lecture, "Linguist Munier Choudhury".

Prof Monsur said linguist Munier dealt with the question over mother language in a very pragmatic manner while describing it through political discourses.

He also described Prof Munier's charismatic pedagogy as a renowned teacher.

Earlier, the audience stood up observing a minute's silence in honour of recently deceased litterateur Humayun Ahmed and later Prof Monsur read out a tributary précis Humayun wrote on Ahmed Sofa.

Prof Salimullah Khan stated that Ahmed Sofa was the last legendary litterateur of Bangalee Muslim legatee after Mir Mosharraf Hossain and Kazi Nazrul Islam.

Mohammed Nurul Islam, Prof Piash Karim, poet Shams Al Momin, Aminul Islam Bhuiyan and Abu Sayeed Khan also delivered commemorative speeches at the programme.

KERANIGANJ MURDER Sand lifters' gang leader arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A leader of a sand lifters' gang was arrested from the capital yesterday in connection with killing a landowner of Keraniganj.

Rab officials said they arrested Md Selim, 35, from Ramna.

On July 24, Almas Hossain, 65, was killed as the gang opened fire when he [Almas] along with relatives tried to resist lifting of sands from his land on the bank at Dhaleshwari River. Three others were injured in the incident.

During interrogation, Selim admitted the killing.

'Bangladesh, China to strengthen military ties'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

China and Bangladesh will forge closer military ties in the upcoming years, said a Chinese embassy release.

"The upcoming years will witness a growing number of high level exchange visits, training programmes, defence procurement and security cooperation such as counter-terrorism, anti-piracy and disaster relief," it read.

China is a reliable and affordable source of weapons and equipments for Bangladesh, the release said.

On Thursday, the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka hosted a grand reception marking 85th founding anniversary of the People's Liberation Army of China at Radisson Hotel. Chinese envoy in Dhaka, Li Jun, welcomed the guests at Utshab Hall.

Russian envoy Alexander A Nikolaev and Bhutanese envoy Dasho Bap Kesang, lawmakers were among the guests.

BOMB BLAST THREAT 2 held in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested two men from Paris Road at Pallabi in the capital early yesterday on charge of extortion. The arrestees are Foyez Aktar, 24, and Babul Hawladar alias Ratul, 25.

On July 18, a miscreant demanded Tk 10 lakh to Harun-ur-Rashid, a resident of the area, over phone.

The miscreant also planted a bomb at the residence of Harun to blow it up.

LINKING YOUNG MINDS TOGETHER

COMING OUT TOMORROW

LINKING YOUNG MINDS

This week Star Campus, a weekly publication of The Daily Star, has some amazing articles for readers! The Spotlight this week, is on how students have iftaar on campuses with friends! Get to know what they prefer to have for iftaar and from where. Our bi-weekly columnist of Extra Credit, writes about the loss the nation suffered as Writer Humayun Ahmed passed away. There will be a fun article on a young shakha craftsman from Shakhari Bazar. This week's Star Chat is with Dancer Prothoma Bhattacharjee, who shares her dreams. So grab a copy of the Star Campus as it hits the country tomorrow, Sunday! As always, have a good read!

Now punish war criminals: Sajeda

UNB, Dhaka

No more soliciting was needed for the punishment of some "war criminals" and the nation had seen enough of the trials, said Deputy Leader of the House Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury yesterday.

"It has been long...and so much engagement with the law will not produce anything. One or two of the war criminals should be punished without delay, anyhow," she said.

Sajeda was addressing a discussion marking Awami Swechchasebak League's 19th founding anniversary in the capital's Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh.

"There is no need to spend time through trials as the allegations against some war criminals are undisputed," she said, adding that the prolongation of the trials had frustrated people.

Speaking on the occasion, AL Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif slammed BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir for accusing the government of corruption over the Padma bridge project.

"Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir made pointless remarks by claiming that the resignation of Syed Abul Hossain from the cabinet proves the corruption allegations," said Hanif.

"Syed Abul Hossain resigned for the sake of the country...he loves the country," he said, adding that the World Bank's allegation was generated over "mis-understandings".

"The AL government will start the bridge's construction during its tenure and we hope it will be built with World Bank's financial assistance," he said.

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