



Dwellers of the capital return from their homes at the end of the Eid-ul-Azha vacation. The photo was taken from Sadarghat Launch Terminal yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## 8 killed, 3 hurt in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least eight people were killed while three others were injured in separate road accidents at Dhaka, Chapainawabganj, Pabna, Natore, Chittagong and Shariatpur yesterday.

A youth was killed after a bus rammed his motorcycle in front of Pallabi Police Station in the capital's Mirpur area yesterday, reports UNB.

The deceased, Qazi Masud alias Noman, 25, resided at Pallabi and hailed from Gournadi upazila of Barisal.

Police and locals said a bus of 'Super Link Paribahan' hit Noman's motorbike, leaving him injured.

He succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 1:30pm.

In Chapainawabganj, a motorcyclist was killed and two co-riders were injured when a lorry hit their motorcycle at Nayagola on Chapainawabganj-Amnura road yesterday.

The deceased was Anwar Hossain, 25, of Natunhat in Chapainawabganj town.

Another motorcyclist was killed in Pabna when a three-wheeler Nasiman hit

his motorcycle at Sujanagar upazila on Tuesday afternoon.

The deceased was Polash Hassan, 35, of the upazila's Gokulpur village.

In Natore, three people were killed when a private car fell into a roadside ditch after being hit by a truck on Banpara-Hatiquomur toll road in Gurudaspur upazila yesterday, adds UNB.

The deceased were Firoz Hossain, 38, a businessman from in Dhaka, his daughter Puspita, 2, and domestic help China, 18.

Lovely Chowdhury Ankhi, coach of national women shooting team and also wife of Firoz, was injured in the accident.

In Chittagong, a bicycle rider was left spot dead after a local bus hit him in the port city's Bandar area yesterday morning, said police.

The deceased was Nazmul Hasan, 20, of Raozan upazila of Chittagong.

In Shariatpur, a minor boy was killed instantly after he was hit by an auto-tempo while crossing road at Poitkathi Bazar in Damudya upazila yesterday, UNB reports.

The deceased was Akash, 4, son of Sudeb Babu of the upazila.

## TORTURE ON SCHOOLTEACHER HC summons Ujirpur OC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned Ujirpur Police Station's officer-in-charge and two others including a local Awami League leader before it on November 15 in connection with torture on a schoolteacher.

On October 21, a Bangla daily published a report saying that local AL leader Liton Pandey and his men attacked Anath Bandhu Halder, headmaster of Natharkandi High School at Ujirpur of Barisal, and hung a ring of shoes from his neck on October 19.

The report said Liton assaulted Anath as he did not commit irregularities to help Liton acquire a post of a clerk at the school.

In response to a writ petition submitted yesterday, the HC ordered Ujirpur Police Station's OC, Liton Pandey and Chitto Ranjan Boral, chairman of the managing committee of the school, to appear before it and explain their roles in connection with the incident of October 19.

Advocate Manzill Murshid, president of Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, submitted the writ petition.

The HC bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury and Justice Ashish Ranjan Das also issued a rule upon the government to explain in four weeks why the government's inaction to take appropriate legal action against the people responsible for assaulting the headmaster should not be declared illegal.

## 'POLITICALLY MOTIVATED' CASES Govt recommends dropping 7,500

UNB, Dhaka

The government has recommended that the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and the courts concerned drop some 7,500 "politically motivated" cases filed against leaders and activists of the ruling Awami League-led grand alliance during 2007 and 2008 under a caretaker government.

"The government formed committees in every district and a central committee in May 2009 to review the cases and after reviewing them, the committees recommended the authorities concerned to drop those cases," State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam told this news agency.

Qamrul, who is also the head of the government's central committee, said the government had asked the accused, in July of 2009, to submit applications to their respective district committees for reviewing their cases and a total of 12,000 applications were received till the central committee's last meeting, which was held on September 30 this year.

Of the cases, 350 were filed by the ACC at different times during the state of emergency, which was imposed on 1/11 of 2007 and lifted in September of 2008.

Qamrul said after scrutinising the cases, the central committee recommended the courts concerned to withdraw over 7,500 politically motivated cases filed against leaders and activists of AL-led grand alliance and opposition parties.

He said recommendations were also made to lift about four to five such cases filed against BNP leaders including some

of its central committee members.

"After reviewing the cases, we recommended lifting 7,500 politically-motivated ones filed against politicians including some BNP leaders," he claimed.

Dismissing Qamrul's claims, BNP standing committee member Barrister Moudud Ahmed alleged that the government has dropped almost all cases filed against their own people during the military-backed caretaker government of 2007-2008, but so far no cases filed against BNP and other opposition party activists have been dropped.

"The Awami League-led government is only withdrawing cases filed, including graft ones, against its own people including AL chief and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, while similar cases filed against opposition leaders and workers including Khaleda Zia and Tarique Rahman have not been dropped," the former law minister told this news agency.

"Instead of lifting cases filed against opposition activists during the caretaker government, the government is filing fresh cases against opposition politicians including Khaleda and her sons Tarique and Arafat Rahman Koko to suppress the voice of the opposition," Moudud went on to say.

Refuting Moudud's allegation, Qamrul said a number of cases filed, during the last caretaker government, against BNP men have been withdrawn following recommendations made by the committee.

He said recommendations were made to withdraw the cases but it is up to the courts concerned to determine the fate of the cases pending with them.

## Three die as train hits auto-rickshaw

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Three persons were killed and five others left critically injured after a train hit an auto-rickshaw they were travelling on at Sukandighee level crossing at Kaliganj upazila in Lalmonirhat yesterday.

The deceased are Motaleb Hossain, 38, and Sultan Miah, 55, of the upazila's Dulali and Tusvandar villages respectively; and Abu Bakkor, 42, of Aditmari upazila's Komlabari village.

Two of the victims, who were injured critically, were sent to Rangpur Medical

College Hospital while the others to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital.

Local people blamed the absence of a gate and gateman at the level crossing for the accident.

Three months ago, a rickshaw puller was killed after his rickshaw was hit by a train on the spot. Two months before eight persons travelling in a human hauler were injured in a similar incident, they said.

The local people urged Bangladesh Railway to provide a gate and a gateman on the spot as soon as possible to avoid further accidents.

### Death anniversary

#### METRO DESK

Today is the 13th death anniversary of writer, educationalist and philosopher Prof Dewan Mohammad Azraf.

He was the grandson of poet Hasan Raja.

Azraf wrote a total of 65 books on literature and philosophy and was the chairperson of the Philosophy Association of Bangladesh.

In 1993, he was selected as a national professor for his contribution to Bangla society, culture and philosophy.

A discussion on his life and works will be held at Maghbazar New Circular Road at 4:00pm tomorrow.

Shordar Alauddin Ahmed

#### METRO DESK

Today is the 40th death anniversary of Shordar Alauddin Ahmed, renowned singer of Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendro.

A mild mahfil will also be held today after Maghrib prayers at the artist's house in Block F 4/9 Joint Quarter, Mohammadpur, Dhaka.

A children's art competition and a musical programme will be organised by Sargam Lalikala Academy at Swiss Bird School in Shyamoli tomorrow to mark the occasion.

## WOMAN CANED IN ARBITRATION HC summons Kachua OC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned the officer-in-charge (OC) of Bagerhat's Kachua Police Station and four others on November 8 in connection with a village arbitration where a woman was caned.

The court also issued a rule upon the government to explain in four weeks why its inaction to take legal steps against the torturers should not be declared illegal.

The daily Ittefaq published a report on October 20, stating that UP Chairman Monjur and some others imposed a fatwa (religious edict) on Nilufar, a housewife, for allegedly having an extra marital affair and caned her 40 times.

Nilufar and her husband and children were later forced to leave the village, said the report.

The summons by the HC bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury and Justice Ashish Ranjan Das came following a writ petition by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh.

The OC, Md Monjur; Kachua upazila's Moghia Union Parishad (UP) chairman; two UP members, Md Dulal and Shefali; and watchman Shreebas are to appear and explain their role in connection with the incident.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurates the use of Radio Frequency Identification Tags and Retro-Reflective Number Plates in vehicles at a ceremony in the Prime Minister's Office in the capital yesterday.

## BANGLA SPELLING Govt makes Bangla Academy standard mandatory

UNB, Dhaka

The government made mandatory the use of standard Bangla spelling as approved by Bangla Academy in government activities.

The Cabinet Division issued a circular yesterday stating that different spellings were being used while writing Bangla in different ministries, divisions, directorates, organisations and offices.

It also recommended that all of the aforementioned collect sufficient dictionaries published by Bangla Academy.

## Construction worker, domestic help die falling from buildings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A domestic help and a construction worker died after falling from buildings in the capital's Chawkbazar and Mirpur areas yesterday.

In Chawkbazar, domestic worker Nargis Aktar, 15, died after falling from the third floor of a building at Nand Kumar Dattalane.

Bashir Ahmed, sub-inspector of Chawkbazar Police Station, said Noor Muhammad's daughter Nargis had been working at the

building for four years.

"The building's lift has not been installed yet and she fell through the shaft from the third floor at about 1:00pm," he said.

"We are investigating the incident to determine whether she fell or someone pushed her down," said the SI.

Abdul Khalek, security guard of the building, rushed her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared her dead at about 4:00pm.

Sikdar Shamim Hossain, officer-in-charge of Rupnagar Police Station, said they were investigating into the incident.

Harun, 30, died after falling from the third floor of an under-construction building in Mirpur sector-6 of the capital.

The victim's co-worker Shahidul Islam said, "Harun fell down while carrying bamboos at about 4:00pm."

He was rushed to DMCH where doctors declared him dead at about 4:45pm.

Sikdar Shamim Hossain, officer-in-charge of Rupnagar Police Station, said they were investigating into the incident.

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