

Road crashes kill 10

CITY DESK
 Ten people were killed and eleven others injured in separate road accidents across the country yesterday.
 Our staff correspondent reports, a 15-year-old street hawk, Uzzol, died when a local bus ran him over at Bijoy Sarani intersection in the capital.
 Police arrested the driver.
 Our Mymensingh correspondent reports, two persons were killed and four others injured when a truck rammed the CNG-run auto-rickshaw carrying them at Bonkua village in Bhaluka upazila.
 The dead were Abdul Karim, 21, of Tangail, the auto-rickshaw driver, and its passenger Selim Miah, 22, of Sagardighi. The injured four of a family are undergoing treatment at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.
 Our Gazipur correspondent adds, two persons died when a train rammed a vegetable laden shallow engine-run three-wheeler when it was crossing rail tracks at Daripara near Arikhola Railway Station in Kaliganj upazila, despite the bar was down yesterday.
 The victims are Md Russel Mia, 22, the three-wheeler driver, and Rahim Uddin Gazi, 35, a vegetable vendor, of Narsingdi.
 Our Khulna correspondent adds, an auto-rickshaw driver, Kamal Hossain, 45, Rupsha upazila, died when a bus of Satabdi Paribahan hit him at Power House Intersection in Khulna city.
 A Comilla correspondent adds, an unidentified person was killed and five others were injured as bus of Eagle Paribahan collided head-on with a pick-up van at Chiowra in Chaudhagram upazila.
 Meanwhile, an unidentified woman, around 35, was killed and two children were injured when a tractor hit the CNG-run auto-rickshaw carrying them at Barella at Debidwar upazila.
 In another accident, Faruk Ahmed, 13, son of Sultan Ahmed, died when a bus rammed his bicycle at Chhoygoria in Chandina upazila.
 A Sherpur correspondent adds, Rumana Hamid, 25, of Jamaplur, died after the motorbike she was on collided head-on with a locally assembled three-wheeler, Bhothbhoi, at Bakchar Kantipara in Shreebordi upazila.



Bangladesh Unemployed Diploma Nurses' Association organises a press conference and rally at the Central Shaheed Minar premises in the capital yesterday demanding extension of the age limit for appointment of senior nurses to 36 years and as per their batch, knowledge and seniority.
 PHOTO: STAR

Sramik League man hurt in Jamaat-Shibir attack dies

A CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira
 A Sramik League leader, who was injured in a Jamaat-Shibir attack during the recent Jamaat-enforced 48-hour hartal in Debhata upazila of Satkhira, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.
 Sheikh Alamgir Hossain, 48, son of Sheikh Delwar Hossain of Parulia Sheikhpara of the upazila, was vice president of Debhata unit.
 Protesting the death, locals blocked Satkhira-Kaliganj highway for three hours from 8:00am.
 Police said Jamaat-Shibir activists hacked Alamgir with a sharp weapon in Goranbaria area while walking along Satkhira-Kaliganj highway on Tuesday.
 He was transferred to the DMCH after treating at local hospitals.
 Our staff correspondent, quoting Dhaka Medical College morgue sources, said the body bore injury marks in the head and left hand.

1971 ideals must be defended

Sylhet citizens' rally told
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet
 Speakers at a citizens' rally in Sylhet city yesterday said the ideals of the Liberation War should be defended at any cost, and none should dare to hurt the spirit.
 The country's women have made the national economy vibrant but Hefajat-e-Islam wants to take them backwards, said Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman.
 "If we want to ensure the rule of law, all should stand up unitedly against the backdated ideas of Hefajat," he told the programme in Sylhet district administration auditorium.
 "We want to see Bangladesh as a welfare state and a secular country to uphold the spirit of the hard-earned independence."
 "Bangladesh Rukhey Darao", a Dhaka-based platform of civil society members, organised the division-level rally with a five-point demand, including banning of Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir, accelerating the trial of war criminals, resisting communal violence, and thwarting any move to make Bangladesh a Taliban-style state.
 The platform's Sylhet chapter convener Prof Abdul Aziz, also vice-chancellor of Metropolitan University of Sylhet, chaired the rally.
 Laying importance on accelerating the war crimes trial, Anisuzzaman, one of the 33 conveners of the platform, said Jamaat had employed lobbyists at home and abroad, including Europe and America, to foil the process of the trial. He called upon all to join the forum's national conference in the capital in September.
 Former adviser to a caretaker government Sultana Kamal gave her reactions to the observations of Human Rights Watch, a US-based rights body, about the war crimes verdict against former Jamaat chief Ghulam Azam. She said, "We don't need to go much to justify the misdeeds of Jamaat and its leaders during 1971."
 Liberation War Museum trustee Sarwar Ali and Dhaka University's Prof MM Akash also spoke. Sylhet Press Club President Ahmed Nur read out the demands.

CURRENT POLITICAL CRISIS

BNP leader fears civil war if not solved soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The country may plunge into a civil war if the present political crisis centring restoration of the caretaker government system is not resolved within the next two or three months, BNP standing committee member Lt Gen (ret'd) Mahbubur Rahman said yesterday.
 "A severe political crisis is going on in the country. The only way to resolve it is holding dialogue between the two rival camps—Awami League and BNP," Rahman, also an ex-army chief told a discussion at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.
 United Democratic Front organised it, demanding release of the leaders of different political parties.
 Separately, senior BNP leader Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday claimed that the government wanted to stay in power by force through not holding the next parliamentary polls.
 "But their [government] daydream of staying in power won't come true, as 90 percent of the country's people support BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's movement on the caretaker government system," he told a discussion of Doctors Association of Bangladesh at Jatiya Press Club.
 The pro-BNP body organised it demanding release of Daily Amar Desh acting editor Mahmudur Rahman and Odhikar Secretary Adilur Rahman Khan.
 Mosharraf, also a BNP standing committee member, claimed that the government was planning to hand over power to a third force after creating anarchy in the country. "But consequences of such thinking will not bring good for you [government]," he added.

Teenager 'shot himself dead' in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 A teenager allegedly shot himself dead with a pistol yesterday in his residence in the capital's Wari.
 Amir Siraj, was a class-X student.
 Hearing a gunshot, his parents rushed to his room and found him bleeding around 1:45am and took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.
 Wari police recovered the pistol and a note that shed light on his frustration over his mother's second marriage from the room.
 However, police is still clueless about how the 15-year-old boy managed the unlicensed pistol.
 The body was sent to the hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Take decision on sending Bali home

Indian Supreme Court asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The Supreme Court of India yesterday directed the central government of India to take a decision regarding sending Shukharanjan Bali, a witness in the war crimes case against Jamaat leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee, back to Bangladesh.
 The apex court of India has given full freedom to the Indian government to take decision about Bali who sought political asylum in India on August 12, reports BBC Bangla.
 Bali earlier pleaded with an Indian court to not send him back to Bangladesh after he finished serving time for entering India illegally.
 According to his family and lawyers, he may face harassment in Bangladesh if he returns.
 Kolkata High Court recently dismissed Bali's plea for asylum, as neither Bali nor his family could provide any proof in support of his claim.
 The verdict said Bali can be sent back to Bangladesh any day after August 20.
 "Such fear was just an assumption," the High Court of Kolkata observed.
 Bali, who was originally a prosecution witness but according to the defence later agreed to testify for Sayedee, went missing from the International Crimes Tribunal premises in Dhaka on November 5 last year.
 Indian Border Security Force (BSF) arrested him in Shwarupnagar area of Uttar Chhabish Pargana on December 23 last year for trespassing.

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