



# COUNTRY'S LONGEST FLYOVER

(Clockwise from left) A nighttime view of the illuminated 12-kilometre Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover, the longest in the country, opened by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for public use on October 11.

It spans across a portion of the capital from Dhaka-Chittagong highway (Kutubkhali) to Nimtoli through Jatrabari, Sayedabad, Kaptanbazar and Gulistan and aims at easing the perennial traffic congestion and facilitate connectivity of 32 southeastern districts,

Chittagong and Mongla ports and the proposed Padma bridge with the capital.

One of the seven toll collecting plazas of the Tk2,300 crore flyover, built absolutely on private finance by Orion Infrastructure Limited, a concern of local business conglomerate Orion Group, on Build Own Operate Transfer basis and to be handed over to the government after a 24-year concession period.

A view of the flyover from Jatrabari.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Obituary

CITY DESK



Khondokar Golam Mohiuddin, former additional inspector general of police, died of a cardiac arrest at Ibrahim Cardiac Center in the capital on Sunday. He was 89.

He left behind his wife, and three sons.

He was buried at Azimpur Boro Taira Shareef graveyard yesterday following his namaz-e-janaza at Eskaton Garden Colony Masjid after Zohr prayers.

All have been requested to pray for the departed soul.

## Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The qulkhwani of writer, teacher and singer Supriya Bari will be held after Asr prayers at House 7, Road 17, Block C, Banani today.

Her children Sona and Shampa Bari and her husband Shamsul Bari request friends and relatives to join in prayers for their departed soul. She had passed away on Saturday.

Born in Barisal district of the then undivided India, Supriya grew up in Kolkata and moved to the US in the mid 1960s.

She had taught at the University of Minnesota in the US and was known for her songs and fearless voice against the US support for Pakistan in 1971.

## Death anniversary

CITY DESK



The fifth death anniversary of former ambassador Maj Gen Quazi Golam Dastgir, KAAO, psc will be observed in his residence in the capital on October 17 after Asr prayers.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to join in the prayers at House No-36 (new), Road No-11 (new) in Dhanmondi.

## 'Ogyan Party' terror increases in holiday season

ZYMA ISLAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

With Eid-ul-Azha knocking on the door, wallets are usually heavier with bonuses at work and money from livestock trading in the cattle markets across the capital.

This has led to a surge in the activities of the gangs which sedate their victims before mugging them clean.

At least 100 people have been attacked by these gangs known as "Ogyan Party" in the last five days, many of them being cattle traders.

No less than 21 such victims were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday alone. Sources said 20 such patients were brought to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital in the

last five days.

The gangs have been making the victims unconscious by gagging them with chloroform-soaked cloth, or by mixing sedatives and such substances in their food or drink.

Cattle traders Rasel, 25, Abdur Rahman, 35, Abdul Khaleque, 36, Billal Hossain, 26, Aslam, 40, and Shamim, 35, currently taking treatment in DMCH, were attacked in a cattle market in Merul Badda.

The six, hailing from Pabna, had brought a herd of 22 cows to Dhaka. They ate dinner cooked in the market Saturday night, and fell unconscious soon afterwards. Fortunately, they were taken to DMCH before they could be robbed.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Dhaka in holiday mood

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka's major thoroughfares are nearly empty now, one of the first signs that a holiday season has begun, as a large section of its residents are going to their village homes to congregate in celebration of Durga Puja and Eid-ul-Azha.

This year, Muslims and Hindus are enjoying an extended four-day holiday with yesterday being declared a holiday for Durga Puja and three days from today for Eid.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Durga puja ends in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The five-day celebration of Durga Puja, the greatest religious festival of Hindu community, ended in Chittagong city yesterday with solemn immersion of goddess Durga in the Bay and the Karnaphuli river.

Thousands of jubilant devotees joined truck processions carrying idols of Durga and later gathered at the Patenga beach, the largest immersion point of the city, for immersion of the idols.

Idols from 263 Puja mandaps were immersed at different points of the city while idols from around

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

## AL activist hacked to death in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Unknown assailants hacked to death a cousin and assistant of local Awami League lawmaker Kazi Abdul Wadud Dara at his rented room in Puthia upazila yesterday, allegedly over political rivalry.

Aminul Islam Royal, 29, an AL activist and son of Wajed Sheikh of Biraldaha village, died in Rajshahi Medical College Hospital around 8:00am, about six hours after the attack, said Abu Obaida Khan, officer-in-charge of Puthia Police Station.

The assailants hacked his throat, neck and chopped off his left wrist, said doctors who performed a surgery on the victim for four hours before he died.

Aminul came under the attack around 2:00am at his rented room of the one-story house owned by one Yakub Ali.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## AL, BNP both gear up for polls related activities in Sylhet

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Sylhet city unit BNP-led 18 party opposition alliance and division unit Awami League are set to sit for separate discussions on forming committees, the former to resist, what they claim, a "one-sided" parliamentary election and the latter to hold the election peacefully.

Sylhet city unit BNP President MA Haque told

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## LOW RAWHIDE PRICE Sylhet traders fear smuggling

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Rawhide traders of Sylhet region are fearing smuggling of the item though Tripura and Assam borders as tanners have announced a low price for rawhide this year.

Md Shahin Ahmed, president of Shahjalal Chamra Bayboshayi Bohumukhi Samabaya Samity, yesterday said the possibility of smuggling rawhide is very high if the borders are not well protected.

Rawhide of about 1 lakh cows and 70,000 goats would be available this year in Sylhet, he said, adding that last year the samity collected about 85,000 pieces of cowhide.

Shahin fears this year they will not be able to collect as much as a group of seasonal traders will exploit the low price of rawhides.

He said traders will procure rawhide from households at an even lower price.

"Besides, the market is controlled by some big shots in the capital and we are dependent on them," Shahin told The Daily Star.

Bangladesh Finished Leather, Leathergoods and Footwear Exporters' Association, Bangladesh Tanners Association (BTA) and Bangladesh Hide and Skin Merchants Association (BHSMA) jointly announced that they would buy per square feet of salted cowhide for Tk 85-95 in Dhaka and Tk 75-80 elsewhere.

Meanwhile, law enforcing agencies have assured strong monitoring of the border areas to prevent smuggling.

Maj Debashish Narayan Paul, additional director of BCB Battalion-5, told The Daily Star

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

## Road crashes kill eight

CITY DESK

Eight people were killed and 63 others injured in road accidents in the country yesterday.

Our Manikganj correspondent reports, two passengers were killed and 22 others injured when a Paturia-bound bus of NN Paribahan fell into a roadside ditch near Paturia Ferry Ghat at Arpara in Shivalaya upazila yesterday.

The dead were Wahab Pramanik, 25, of Goalunda upazila, and Nahar, 22, of Rajbari district.

Of the injured 18 were admitted to Uthuly Health Complex while the others took first aid.

Our Mymensingh correspondent adds, 20 people were injured when a Mymensingh-bound bus fell into a roadside ditch at Baghrapara on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Bhaluka upazila yesterday.

The injured are undergoing treatment at different local hospitals including Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

Our Bogra correspondent adds, a person was killed and five others injured when Rangpur-bound bus, Agamony Paribahan, veered out of control and hit them on Bogra-Dhaka highway in Shajahanpur upazila in Bogra yesterday.

Deceased Shadhan Chandra, 43, of Nandigram upazila, was a vegetable trader.

Agitated locals vandalised the bus.

Our Gaibandha correspondent adds, a woman was killed

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

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