



NOT JUST A SINGER

Kiran Chandra thinks of himself as actor too when he performs

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WIDODO SWEARS IN

Indonesia's democracy gets first president outside army and elite

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33 killed as 2 buses collide

Reckless overtaking leads to fatal accident in Natore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

In one of the country's deadliest-ever road crashes, at least 33 people were killed and scores injured in Natore yesterday.

The accident occurred around 3:30pm at Rijur Intersection on Bonpara-Hatikumrul highway when a Rajshahi-bound Keya Paribahan bus from Dhaka overtook a truck and rammed a Gurudaspur-bound local bus of Othoi Paribahan coming from the opposite direction, witnesses said.

Of the dead, 12 people were from Sidhuli village of Gurudaspur upazila alone, according to a list of victims released by Baraigram upazila administration of Natore. Most of them were returning from Natore court after attending a case proceeding there.

The two bus drivers too were reportedly killed in the head-on collision.

The Keya Paribahan bus, according to BBC Bangla, was carrying a number of admission seekers of Rajshahi University which holds undergraduate entry tests for B and E units today. However, whether any of the candidates died in the accident could not be known immediately.

Thirty-one of the bodies were handed over to their families, said Officer-in-Charge Fuad Ruhani of Bonpara Highway Police Station.

Barisal University student MS Jolly Seema, who was returning to her Gurudaspur home in the Othoi Paribahan bus, survived the accident.

She said both the buses were moving in high speed. The bus coming from Dhaka suddenly moved to the wrong side of the road and crashed into her bus.

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The river Gorai, one of the distributaries of the Ganges, has dried up under the Gorai Bridge in Kamarkhali of Magura as Farakka barrage alone has diverted around 40,000 cusec of Ganges water. Sixteen more barrages and further diversion of water will ultimately mean the death of the Ganges and its distributaries in Bangladesh.

PHOTO: FILE



Southwest may turn wasteland

India plans to build 16 more barrages on Ganges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India's decision to build 16 barrages, one in every 100 kilometres of the Ganges, would ultimately kill the river and spell disaster for ecology in Bangladesh, say green campaigners.

The Indian government plans to construct the barrages under the Ganges waterway Project to ensure three-metre navigability for plying of vessels in 1,620 kilometres of the Ganges between Allahabad and Haldia.

It has sought loan assistance from the World Bank for the project, and a team of WB experts and officials has already visited Gaighat in Patna on August 4.

Citing reports of Indian newspapers and environmental groups, Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) yesterday urged the Indian government to scrap the plan that would harm the ecology of both the nations.

Bapa made the appeal yesterday at a press conference at Dhaka Reporter's Unity in the capital.

It demanded that all structures in the transboundary rivers, shared by the two countries, are removed. It also called upon the Bangladesh government to raise the issue in the upcoming Saarc Summit in Kathmandu next month.

Bapa Secretary General Dr Abdul Matin read out a written statement. Former environment planner of United Nations Prof SI Khan and Bangladesh Environment Network Representative Mahmudur Rahman also spoke.

"The move will kill the river. It is the last nail in the coffin of the Ganges," said Matin.

Following the Farakka barrage's construction in the

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HC DIRECTIVE FOR BLANKET EBOLA SCREENING

Airport operations likely to collapse

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the government to immediately take steps to screen all incoming passengers for Ebola infection at all international ports and border areas with the help of armed forces.

The court also issued a rule asking the government to explain as to why it should not be directed to provide humanitarian aid to Ebola affected people in other countries.

Health department officials said it takes around five minutes to screen a single passenger. The screening includes a set of ques-

tions and recording the body temperature of a passenger. Screening everyone could result in chaos at the airport.

An official of an airlines said around 7,000 international passengers arrive at Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka every day and if the lone Ebola health desk set up at the airport screens all of them, the turn of the last passenger would come after 24 days.

Wishing anonymity the official also said it would be a huge mess at the airport to screen all passengers. Besides, the international passengers would think twice before

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A boy's temperature is taken using an infrared laser thermometer at the international airport in Abuja, Nigeria. The country was declared Ebola-free yesterday.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

FAKE FREEDOM FIGHTERS

8 more officials under probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission is going to probe the allegedly forged freedom fighter certificates of eight top bureaucrats.

The ACC decision follows allegations that the officials managed the certificates during the 2009-2013 tenure of the then Awami League-led grand alliance government in a bid to extend their service tenure, said sources.

The certificates of five secretaries, one additional secretary and two joint secretaries will be under scrutiny. The graft watchdog has already started collecting information about the officials.

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Mugger or enemy?

Sub-inspector shoots man; victim's family says personal conflict behind it

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

A man was shot in the legs in the capital yesterday by a police sub-inspector who has an "extramarital affair" with his wife, claimed the victim's family.

Police, however, claimed the injured is a "mugger" and they detained him during a raid and recovered an illegal firearm and three bullets from his possession.

Bullet-hit Shah Alam, 27, a private car driver in the city, was undergoing treatment at National Institute of Traumatology & Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor) yesterday evening.

At the hospital, his brother Golam Mostafa told this correspondent that Alam recently discovered his wife's "extramarital affair" with Sub-Inspector Anwar Hossain of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station.

Alam also came to know that his wife, who left him around one and half years ago, has been staying at a Keraniganj house rented by the sub-inspector, said Mostafa.

"My brother wanted his wife to come back and for this

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