

### BMP demands justice for raped RMG worker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
 Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP), a voluntary organisation working for women, demanded exemplary punishment for the perpetrators of the 'gang-rape' of a female garment worker in a moving bus in Tangail on Friday. It also asked for protection for the victim and her family, and measures to stop repetition of such incidents, said a press release.

### Obituary

CITY DESK  
 Atahar Ali Khan, a retired government officer, died at Square Hospital in the capital on Saturday night. He was 82. He was buried in his village, Kalijira in Barisal yesterday. His youngest son Atique Anam is a senior reporter at The Daily Star.

### Shraddha

CITY DESK  
 The Shraddha of late Fultusi Saha, 90, will be held tomorrow at her residence, Saheb Bazar in Rajshahi. She died on March 20 due to old-age complications.

### Death anniversary

CITY DESK  
 Today is the 17th death anniversary of Rostom Ali, a former government health officer. He was the father of Awami League sub-committee Assistant Secretary ABM Reazul Kabir Kawsar. On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held in his Khilgaon residence.



**Bangladesh Unemployed Diploma Nurses Association and Bangladesh Basic Graduate Nurses Association block the road in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday as they protest against a police assault of nurses during their March 30 demonstration at Shahbagh. They also demanded cancellation of the Public Service Commission's (PSC's) circular to recruit 3,616 senior staff nurses and re-advertisement for hiring 13,728 nurses instead. According to the associations, 21,500 nurses remain unemployed at the moment, while there is a "huge shortage" of nurses in government hospitals.**

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## UP POLL VIOLENCE IN MADARIPUR DU students block road seeking justice for fellow's murder

DU CORRESPONDENT  
 Students of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday blocked the road in front of capital's Jatiya Press Club for half an hour demanding justice for killing of DU student Sujan Mridha, who was shot in violence during Union Parishad polls in Madaripur on Thursday. Earlier, the protesters brought out a procession on the DU campus and marched towards the press club. Ramij Ahmed, a classmate of Sujan, alleged that police tried to cover up the murder of Sujan. "Sujan went to a centre to watch voting and cast his ballot, not to snatch the ballot box at all during the polls but police opened fire on him," he claimed. They will continue movement until the cops involved in incident are punished, he said. A torch procession will be brought out on the campus at 4:00pm today in this regard, he added. Sujan, a third year student of marketing, was shot dead during a clash between the supporters of two member candidates at Dakkhin Birongol Nurani Madrasa Centre under Dhurail union in Madaripur on March 31, according to Sarwar Hossain, superintendent of police in the district. Witnesses and the family said Sujan was shot by police. The SP, however, said neither police nor Border Guard Bangladesh opened fire at the centre. He claimed that the youth was killed during a clash between two rival groups.

## FHF launches eye care services in Barisal

Funded by Standard Chartered Bank

CITY DESK

Aiming to deliver quality eye care services and build capacity of the eye units of government district hospitals, the Fred Hollows Foundation (FHF) launched its "Building Gender Equitable Eye Health Systems in Barisal Division" project on Wednesday.

The four-year project is funded by Standard Chartered Bank's programme "Seeing Is Believing (SiB)" in collaboration with International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB), said a press release.

Among others Syed Monjurul Islam, secretary to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; Prof Dr Deen Mohammed Noorul Huq, director general of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS); Prof Dr AHM Enayet Hussain, additional director general of the DGHS; Sally Anne Vincent, Charge D' Affairs, Australian High Commission; and Abrar A Anwar, CEO of Standard Chartered Bank, were present at the launching ceremony at Spectra Convention Centre in Gulshan.

## Port city transport system in need of discipline

Speakers tell views-exchange meeting; ID cards, schedule for street vendors in offing, says CCC Mayor AJM Nasir; owners group puts forward 9-point demand including a halt to harassment by police in name of requisition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Speakers yesterday at a programme in the port city put emphasis on bringing discipline to the public transport system in the city.

They were addressing a views-exchange meeting organised by the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) at its KB Abdus Sattar auditorium where representatives from transport sector, Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) and Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) were present.

Belayet Hossain Belal, secretary general of Chittagong Metropolitan Paribahan Malik Group, put forward a nine-point demand including a halt to plying of vehicles without route permits and harassment of drivers and owners by police in the name of requisition, taking steps against hawkers creating hindrance to vehicular movement by setting up shops on the streets, making BRTA free from brokers, and bringing its activities under

CCIV surveillance by the CCC.

While addressing the programme as chief guest, CCC Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin assured the transport representatives of meeting their demands within his jurisdiction and of holding discussions with other authorities concerned to meet the rest of the demands.

"Vehicles without route permits should not be allowed to ply since they create disorder in the transport sector," said the mayor, adding that the way hawkers were doing business encroaching upon streets cannot continue any longer as it was largely responsible for traffic congestion.

"All the hawkers in the city will be listed and provided with identification cards. They will run their businesses at specific hours in the designated spaces," added Nasir.

Masud ul Hasan, deputy commissioner (traffic-north) of CMP, and Mohammad Shahidullah, deputy director of BRTA's Chittagong Divisional Office, were also present.

## Reckless driving kills HSC examinee in Lalmonirhat

Three others die in Chandpur, Bogra

CITY DESK

Reckless driving killed an HSC examinee on Kurigram-Rangpur road in Khedabagh area of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila yesterday.

Sujata Begum, 19, of Khedabagh village was killed when a bus hit her while she was crossing the road in the morning. A student of Barabari College, she was going to her examination centre.

In Chandpur Sadar, freedom fighter Momtaz Uddins Bhuiya, 70, of Raipur Bazar area was killed when a CNG-run auto-rickshaw carrying him collided head-on with a three-wheeler on Chandpur-Raipur road in Bagdi on Saturday.

Two members of a family were also injured in the incident.

In Bogra, a couple was killed and seven others were injured when a truck and a CNG-run auto-rickshaw collided head-on on the Bogra-Dhaka highway in Jamunapara area of Sherpur upazila yesterday.

The deceased were Thandu Mia, 42, and his wife Anjila Begum, 35 of Kellaposhi village.

In Patuakhali, M Altaf Hossain, 60 of Sabujbagh area was killed when a truck hit his motorcycle in Bashak Bazar area on Saturday.

He was an engineer of the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED).

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 General Manager

## Barisal river gypsies still

FROM PAGE 3  
 In monsoon swelling rivers send them drifting across the waterways, and when the monsoon ends, they return to coastal areas to live in tarpaulin tents on their boats.

Hajera said, "We want some land so that we can live there with our families."

Contacted, Bahauddin Ahamed, chairman of Tungbaria union parishad (UP) of Sadar upazila, said, "We do not know where they live...they are not registered with this UP. So how can we help them out?"

Eliasur Rahman, upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Barisal Sadar upazila, said, "Rehabilitating and keeping a record of these people is kind of difficult since they are constantly plying far and wide in the rivers. Hence they remain counted out of development initiatives, being excluded from the benefits."

Whatever the impediments to ameliorating their conditions, what is astonishing as well as appalling is that such deprivation continues even in the present day despite a wealth of development organisations, both government and non-government, dedicated to promoting equality and human rights and protecting underprivileged people against discrimination.

## Last two phases were carnival

FROM PAGE 3  
 Elections to 621 UPs are slated for April 23 in the third phase, 743 on May 7 in the fourth and around 1,400 more in two other phases till June.

"We have told the CEC that we want to continue participating in the polls till the last phase...we want to see what happens till the end," said Menon, also the civil aviation and tourism minister.

"The situation is so bad and the candidates are facing so much trouble that we had to come to the commission (with complaints). Witnessing the last two phases of the polls, it appears that a carnival of occupation is going on," he said. The party, a component of the ruling Awami League-led alliance, requested the CEC to exercise its powers to hold the upcoming polls in a free and fair manner, he said.

A delegation member told The Daily Star that the CEC assured that the situation would improve.

**TODAY MARKS THE 20TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF**  
**Late Salahuddin Ahmad**  
 (May 6, 1926-April 4, 1996)

Your memory has not dimmed, your presence felt evermore.....May Allah (SW) grant you Jannatul Ferdous and rest your soul in eternal peace.

We humbly request all our relatives, friends and acquaintances to remember late Salahuddin Ahmad in their prayers.

**Wife, children and grandchildren**

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