



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina meets foreign diplomats at Gono Bhaban on Eid day.

PHOTO: PMO

# HALDA BOAT CAPSIZED 4 bodies recovered, one still missing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Divers and locals recovered four bodies from the Halda river yesterday, a day after a boat capsized in the river in East Suabil area of Fatikhkhari upazila in Chittagong.

The boat with around 20 people on board from Suabil capsized in the middle of the river around 11:30am on Friday. All the passengers, except the five, managed to swim ashore.

The four deceased were going to visit their relatives on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, said locals and family members.

On information, divers of Fire Service and Civil Defence rushed to the spot and started the rescue operation.

The deceased are Rizvi, 12, Md Riman, 18, Nurul Islam, 56, and Md Arman, 5. Another victim Riman's brother Abdur Rahim, 13, is still missing, said Assistant Sub-inspector of Bhujpur Police Station Abdul Halim.

Riman, Rahim, Nurul and Arman hailed from Korban Ali Hazi Bari of East Suabil village while Rizvi was from Tamij Uddin Munshi Bari, said Abu Taleb, chairman of Suabil Union Parishad.

Following the incident, divers with locals' help found two bodies around 9:30am and two more around 10:15am and 11:30am respectively near Nasir Muhammad Talukder Ghat at East Suabil, said Kamal Uddin Bhuiyan, deputy additional director of Chittagong Fire Service and Civil Defence.

Bhuiyan said the divers will continue the rescue operation until the recovery of Rahim.

# Road crashes kill 52 during Eid

STAR REPORT

At least 52 people were killed and 150 injured in road accidents in different districts in the last five days during Eid holidays.

Of them, two major road crashes took place in Mymensingh on July 5 that claimed eight lives and in Rangpur that claimed six lives on July 8.

With vehicular movement gaining momentum during the Eid rush, road crashes have become a common phenomenon. Talking to The Daily Star, road transport expert Prof Shamsul Hoque said, "Reckless driving, unfit vehicles, unskilled drivers and lack of enforcement of laws by authorities concerned are the main reasons for road accidents during Eid vacation."

"Besides, drivers operate vehicles for long time without proper rest during Eid rush, which is also a major cause," he said.

When attention was drawn, Road Transport and Highways Division Secretary MAN Siddique blamed reckless driving and haphazard movement of people as reasons behind road crashes.

He also emphasised on raising public awareness for reducing road accidents.

Our correspondents from different districts reported road accidents during Eid vacation.

In Mymensingh, eight people were killed when a pick-up van filled with passengers fell into a roadside ditch after being hit by a bus in Beltoli area on July 5.

The pick-up van started from Joydevepur of Gazipur in the afternoon and was heading towards Mymensingh, reports our correspondent.

Of the victims, five died on the spot, while the rest three died undergoing treatment at a hospital.

Police said the pick-up was overloaded with passengers.

In Rangpur, at least 10 people were killed in four separate accidents since July 6.

Six people, of them 5 of a family, were killed in Jigatola area of Taraganj upazila as a speeding minibus hit a crowded battery-run three-wheeler on the afternoon of July 8, reports our correspondent.

On July 7, one person died after two battery-run easy-bikes collided head on at Boldipukur village in the same upazila. On the same day, two pedestrians were killed as a motorcyclist hit them in Haraganj.

On July 6, an army personnel was killed when a speeding bus hit him at the upazila headquarter of Mithapukur.

In Dinajpur, a five-year-old girl Rupa was killed when a bus hit her at Sujalpur village

LIVES LOST DURING EID VACATION	
2016 (5 days)	52
2015 (4 days)	40
2014 (4 days)	67
2013 (4 days)	52
2012 (5 days)	42
2011 (4 days)	38
2010 (5 days)	63

*Reckless driving, unfit vehicles, unskilled drivers and lack of enforcement of laws by authorities concerned are the main reasons for road accidents ...*

SOURCE: STAR RESEARCH  
BASED ON THE DAILY STAR REPORTS

On July 8. Twenty people were also injured in the incident.

In Natore, four people were killed in three separate accidents on July 7, 8 and yesterday at Baraigram and Sadar upazila.

Of them, two were killed when their private car overturned in Rizur Moor area of Baraigram upazila on July 7.

One was killed when a bus overturned in Manikpur under the same upazila on July 8.

A school teacher was also killed when a truck ran him over in Matiapara yesterday.

In Manikganj, three people were killed in two separate accidents. Of them, two drivers were killed and 20 passengers were injured in a collision between a truck and a bus on the Dhaka-Aricha highway at Golora point early yesterday.

Besides, a biker was killed in Nabagram under Shibalay when a bus hit his motorbike on July 7.

In Comilla, four were killed in road accidents since July 5. Of them, two passengers were killed when their bus overturned in Alekharchar on July 6.

Another was killed in Daudkandi on July 5 and another one in Chaudagram yesterday.

In Narayanganj, four were killed and 10 injured when a bus and an auto-rickshaw fell into a nearby ditch after a collision on July 7.

Besides, three were killed in Chuadanga, three in Jhalakathi, two in Barisal, two in Madaripur, two in Cox's Bazar, one each in Tangail, Faridpur, Lalmonirhat and Satkhira, and two in the capital's Sanirakhra.

## NEWS IN brief

### Crude bomb blasted in Khulna jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified miscreants blasted a crude bomb inside Khulna District Jail premises last night.

The incident happened around 8:00pm near the jail hospital area, said police.

Police recovered parts of duct tape from the spot, Shafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Khulna Sadar Police Station, told The Daily Star over the phone.

The bomb was hurled to create panic, suspected the OC. He, however, could not tell whether the crude bomb was hurled from outside.

An investigation is underway, he said.

### Bangladeshi kids leave for 'NuckKids' festival in Russia

BSS, Dhaka

Three Bangladeshi children left Dhaka on Friday for Russia to participate in the International Children Festival-NuckKids 2016.

They are Syed Kaysan Faraj of Dhaka, Atia Sunjeda Oishy of Rajshahi and Sharmili Noshin of Bagerhat.

The festival will take place from July 10 to August 21, where 70 children from 7 countries including Bangladesh, Russia, Turkey, Belarus, Czech Republic, Vietnam and Hungary, will take part in different cultural activities, said a release.

## Obituary

CITY DESK

Prof Dr Ata Alahi Khan, a pioneer neurosurgeon of the country, died of kidney related complication at a city hospital on Friday morning, aged 82.

He was buried in his family graveyard at Humayunpur village of Kishoreganj Friday night, said a press release.

He left behind two sons.

He was the founder of neurosurgery unit in Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Dr Alahi served as a professor of DMCH and Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College Hospital.

# Dhaka-bound passengers cram overloaded launches

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Passengers endured cramped conditions as thousands thronged the Barisal launch terminal yesterday hoping to return to the capital following the nine-day Eid-ul-Fitr holiday.

A total of 12 triple-decker launches, each having a maximum permissible capacity of around 1,200 passengers, and one steamer left for Dhaka in the afternoon with some 40,000 aboard as per transport operators.

The overcrowding may continue for two or three more days as passengers continued to arrive even though the launches were brimming, Jakir Hossain, manager, Sundarban

Navigation Company, told The Daily Star.

It has become impossible to cope with the rush even though the launches were making two rounds instead of the usual one every 24 hours, he said.

Barisal River Port Officer Mostafizur Rahaman acknowledged that the launches were overloaded, saying they were trying to tackle the rush.

Arriving at the terminal around 1:00pm only to find that there was barely any space left, Sahida Begum expressed her worry of not being able to make it to work on time at a garment factory in Dhaka which would open today.

In the spirit of brotherhood, members of two rival political camps, BNP leader Abdullah Al Noman and Awami League's Mohiuddin Chowdhury, hug each other after Eid prayers at Jamiatul Falah ground in Chittagong city.



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

## Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 25th death anniversary of Shamsuddin Mollah, an organiser of Liberation War, member of the constitution drafting committee and also a former member of the parliament.

He was the vice chairman of the Bangladesh Bar Council, and president of Purba Pakistan Sangbadik Samiti, says a press release.

Morhum Shamsuddin Mollah Srimitri Sangsad will hold various programmes in Faridpur.

## BNP chairperson

FROM PAGE 3

Bangladesh would always remain beside people of those countries, her media wing member, Sayrul Kabir Khan, told The Daily Star.

In the conference centre, Khaleda said, "Since the BDR incident that killed 57 army officers, the government has failed to check the frequent incidents of killings. Such incidents are happening one after another."

Khaleda said it was now essential to forge national unity to stop the recurring brutal incidents. "But we are witnessing the usurper and unelected government making unguarded remarks and indulging in a blame game instead of consoling the country's people and uniting them," she said.

## Tapu left many things undone

FROM PAGE 3

"We are proud of Tapu as his courage saved hundreds of lives," said Jalal Uddin Fakir, a freedom fighter of Tapu's locality.

"If Tapu and his colleagues did not face the militants, the casualties would have been higher," said Shams Uddin, another elderly man of the same area.

Tapu's body was taken to his village home on Thursday night and was buried at a village graveyard around 11:30pm on the same night with a guard of honour.

Villagers said they would remember him as a well-mannered youth.

After Juma prayers at a local mosque Friday, people in their hundreds joined a special prayer seeking eternal peace of the departed soul.

Meanwhile, Ansarul Haque, another police constable killed in Thursday's terror attack, was buried at his village home in Daulatpur in Madan upazila of Netrakona the same night, Hatem Ali, sub-inspector of Madan Police Station told The Daily Star.

## Inpatients allege

FROM PAGE 3

A staff at an operating theatre at Nitor told this correspondent that they performed surgeries for all emergency cases on time but regular ones of inpatients were delayed due to a shortage of doctors.

This correspondent found similar scenarios visiting different wards of DMCH, Nitor and Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital.

Contacted, DMCH Assistant Director (administration) Abdul Gafur said there was no problem in providing services at emergency units or for inpatients during the holidays.

He claimed that there were doctors and nurses available at all "important wards", including the emergency department. "There was no report of any major problem," he said.

The Suhrawardy hospital's director, Prof Uttam Kumar Barua, said although some of the hospital staff were on leave, services were provided unhindered. The director and a joint director of Nitor did not receive calls when contacted for comment.

The three hospitals' personnel said services were provided mostly by non-Muslim doctors, nurses or other staff as was the case during Eid vacations.

According to the nursing section of DMCH, there were some 200 non-Muslim nurses who were on duty during the vacation while the section has a total of 900 nurses.

Usually, there are over 3,000 inpatients at the hospital and there were 1,700-2,000 during the vacation.

Health ministry officials said the ministry for the first time had opened a control room to ensure emergency health services during the Eid holidays.

**ফরিদপুর ডায়াবেটিক সমিতি**  
বিলাটুলী, ফরিদপুর।  
সংগঠনী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

**পুট বিক্রয়**  
পূর্বচল সলগু সরকারী কর্মকর্তাদের আবাসন প্রকল্পের সাথেই গ্যাস-বিদ্যুতসহ এককালীন মূল্য ৩ কাঠা-৫,৭০,০০০/- (রেজিঃ সহ) ও ৫ কাঠা-৯,৫০,০০০/- (রেজিঃ সহ)।  
মুলা পরিশোধের সাথে সাথেই রেজিস্ট্রেশন।  
মোবাইলঃ ০১৯৮৮৮০২০১৫