



Clockwise from left, taking opportunity of a gridlock, a cyclist crosses over a road divider to go to the other side. Goods-laden rickshaw-vans go the wrong way on the same road. With a pillion passenger and two schoolchildren sitting in front of him, a man rides a motorbike on the road. There seems to be no stopping commuters from violating rules. The photos were taken in Chittagong's EPZ area yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## ASSAULT ON POLICE

# Case filed against attackers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) yesterday filed a case accusing 46 persons in connection with the attack on on-duty traffic police personnel in Chittagong city's New Market intersection area on Sunday noon.

Traffic Sergeant Mazharul Alam Sohag of CMP's North Division filed the case, naming six persons and 40 unidentified attackers with Kotwali Police Station.

The accused are Shibu Bhattacharia, Rasel Uddin Joy, Md Ador, Md Faisal Alam, Md Miraj, and Md Enam, said police. All of them are inhabitants of Sadarghat and adjacent areas. Of them Rasel is a third year student of political science of Govt City College while Enam is the first year student of

Economics there.

"The case was lodged under the Sections 143, 186, 332, 353, 307, 427 and 506 of Penal Code, for attacking on-duty policemen and obstruction of discharging government duty," Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mohammed Mohsin of Kotwali police Station told The Daily Star.

On Sunday noon, a group of youths attacked on-duty traffic police in the city's New Market area after police sued a biker as he rode on the wrong side of the road. The youths also tried to vandalise the traffic police box during the scuffle, but police later refrained them.

The incident comes amid the ongoing traffic week across the country, after school and college students launched a country-wide demonstration demanding

safe roads.

According to the case statement, Faisal was riding his motorbike along with Miraj on the wrong side of Kalibari-New Market road when police halted the bike and filed a case over it. Later, Miraj called his associates over phone and around 30 to 40 youths rushed to the spot shortly after, led by accused Shibu, Ador and Enam.

Gathering in front of New Market traffic box, the accused verbally abused police officials and at one point they started assaulting police, said the case statement. They manhandled constable Mamun, tore apart his uniform and tried to strangle him.

On information, a team of police from Kotwali Station rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

## 4 'JMB militants' arrested in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Counterterrorism officials on Sunday arrested four suspected members of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) in Dhaka's Abdullahpur area.

The arrestees are Mohibul Islam, 22, Mozzamel Huq alias Bilal, 34, Shamim Ahmed, 27, and Delwar Hossain, 37.

The active members of the outfit were involved in circulating their doctrine and had gathered bomb making materials in a bid to carry out anti-state activities, said Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit conducted a raid in the area and arrested them.

Two machetes, 96 detonators, 10 batteries and bomb-making equipment were seized from their possession.

A case was filed against them with Uttara West Police Station under the anti-terrorism act.

## BARAPUKURIA COAL DISAPPEARANCE

# ACC summons 32 PetroBangla officials for quizzing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) has summoned 32 officials of PetroBangla (Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation) for quizzing over the "disappearance of coal" from Barapukuria coalmine.

In two separate letters, ACC's Deputy Director and Investigation Officer Shamsul Alam has requested the Chairman of Petrobangla to take necessary steps to ensure their presence on August 16, August 28, August 29 and August 30, ACC's Public Relations Officer Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya told The Daily Star.

At a programme yesterday, ACC Chairman Iqbal Mahmood said the investigation of the case will be carried out promptly.

Responding to journalists' questions on whether the commission has found anyone's involvement in the scam, he said there is no scope to make any comment before completion of the investigation.

Earlier, the ACC issued restriction on Habib Uddin Ahmed, managing director of Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Ltd (BCMCL), and three others from leaving the country.

Around 1.42 lakh tonnes of coal, worth over Tk 227 crore, reportedly went missing from BCMCL.

According to BCMCL officials, the company produced around 1.0166 crore tonnes of coal since 2005 till June 29 this year. Of which, 66.87 lakh tonnes of coal were supplied to BPDB while 33.19 lakh tonnes of coal were sold to different companies and brick-field operators.

According to the document, around 1.48 lakh tonnes of coal should be at the yard. But the ACC team, Petrobangla officials and visiting members of BPDB found only around 3,000 tonnes of coal there.

Power generation of Barapukuria Power Plant was suspended for an indefinite period on July 22 night due to the coal crisis.

## AIRPORT ROAD ACCIDENT

# Jabal-e-Noor driver, helpers denied bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday denied bail to one of the drivers and two helpers of Jabal-e-Noor Paribahan, who were arrested and remanded in a case filed over the death of two students of Shaheed Ramiz Uddin Cantonment College on Airport Road on July 29.

The accused are driver Shohag Ali and helpers Mohammad Ripon and Enayet Hossain.

The court of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Keshob Roy Chowdhury passed the order after defence lawyers submitted two separate bail petitions.

They were produced before the court after completion of their 10-day remand period in the case.

Meanwhile, driver Jubair Hossain confessed that his reckless competition with another bus to pick passengers caused the accident that killed the two students on spot and injured nine others.

Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Nabi recorded the confession of Jubair Hossain at his chamber after DB Inspector Kazi Shariful Islam produced him before the magistrate.

After recording the confession, the magistrate sent Jubair to jail.

Earlier, another driver Masum Billah and owner of the Paribahan on separate dates also confessed to their involvement in the incident.

## Road accidents take eight lives in two days

STAR REPORT

Even after countrywide protests and drives against reckless driving and unfit vehicles, road accidents continue to take place with eight people being killed and 16 others injured in five districts in the last two days, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Natore, bus driver Azadul Islam, 40, was killed and 10 others were injured as the vehicle and a truck collided head-on on Bonpara-Hatiquimul highway in Kanchikata area of Gurudaspur upazila yesterday.

In another incident, Sunnati Khatun, 3, daughter of Zahangir Hossain, died instantly as an auto-rickshaw ran her over while she was playing on Gurudaspur-Nazirpur road in Naribari area of Gurudaspur upazila yesterday, said police.

Meanwhile, an unidentified biker died as a bus hit his motorbike from behind on Bonpara-Hatiquimul highway in Agran area of Baraigram upazila on the same day.

In Dinajpur, cattle trader Akbar Ali, 48,

died as a speeding truck ran him over after he had accidentally fallen off a shallow engine-run three-wheeler in Chirirbandar upazila yesterday.

In another incident, Arman Ali, 25, son of Shaharul Islam from Sarail village in Panchbibi upazila, was killed as his motorbike and a battery-run auto-rickshaw collided head-on at Sarail Bazar in the upazila on Sunday night.

In Chittagong, Koli, 45, a passenger of a bus, was killed and six others were injured after the vehicle flipped over in Karer Haat area of Mirsarai upazila yesterday.

The injured were taken to Chittagong Medical College Hospital, said CMCH police.

In Faridpur, a motorbike hit Poran Sheikh, 65, and killed him instantly in Shadipur area of Sadar upazila on Sunday.

In Narayanangj, trucker Monir Hossain, 30, died in a collision between his vehicle and another truck in Sanarpura area of Siddhirganj area yesterday.

## Tractor driven by relative kills man

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A man was killed as a tractor driven by his relative hit him in Dinajpur yesterday, said police.

Afsar Ali, 40, uncle of the driver, Azizul Islam, died on the spot.

Azizul was driving his sand-laden tractor towards Moheshpur village in Birol upazila.

When he arrived in Husna village on Biral-Radhikapur road around 8:00am, the vehicle hit three people, including Afsar, in front of Rupali Bangla Jute Mill, from behind, said Hamidul Alam, the mill's general manager who said to have witnessed the incident.

Injured Shafiqul Islam, 52, and Al Amin, 20, workers of the mill, were treated at M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital.

Locals handed the driver and his helper Nayeem, 19, over to Birol police. The tractor was also seized by police.

Azizul lost control over the vehicle as its steering suddenly became loose, Officer-in-Charge ATM Golam Rasul quoted the driver as saying.

Legal actions will be taken against the driver and helper, said the OC.

## Accommodation for destitute freedom fighters and Biranganas soon

Says Liberation War Affairs Minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to facilitate accommodation for destitute freedom fighters and all Biranganas (war heroines) soon, said Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Moazzamul Huq yesterday.

"The government has allocated Tk 2,200 crore in the current fiscal year's budget for building accommodation facilities for disadvantaged freedom fighters and all war heroines, and [its] upazila-based work will be started shortly," said the minister while speaking at the launching programme of "Ethical Guideline for Recording Testimonies of Sexual Violence in 1971".

Research Initiatives Bangladesh and Durham University jointly organised the programme.

Mozammel said the government has also taken initiative to bear lifelong medical expenses of all freedom fighters from August 15.

The minister also mentioned about another government project through which a digital archive will be created, containing recordings of all freedom fighters narrating their experiences during the Liberation War.

Freedom fighters will also get Baishakhi and Victory Day allowances, the minister added.

## Seminar on improving rural lives at NSU

CITY DESK

A seminar on "Improving Rural Lives in Bangladesh: Present and Future" was held at North South University (NSU) in Dhaka on Sunday.

Monash University, Australia and NSU of Bangladesh jointly organised the seminar, says a press release.

State Minister for Information and Communication Technology Zunaid Ahmed Palak was the chief guest. University Grants Commission Chairman Prof Abdul Mannan, Australian High Commissioner Julia Niblett and NSU Board of Trustees Chairman MA Hashem attended the seminar as special guests.

Dr Asadul Islam of Monash University and Dr Kanti Ananata Nuzhat of NSU presented papers on progress in education of Bangladesh.



State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak addressing the seminar at NSU in Dhaka on Sunday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

MA Kashem, BOT member of NSU; attended the seminar chaired by Vice Chancellor Prof Atiqul Islam.

## Multi-dimensional

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keynote paper on counter terrorism activities in Bangladesh.

In his presentation, Monir said that policymakers, practitioners, researchers, civil society members and other stakeholders should continue to share their knowledge for better understanding of the causes, impacts and way out of violent extremism.

"In our country, if we look into the causes of extremism, we'll see some common reasons and misinterpretation of Islam," he said.

Monir said that youths should be given proper scope to engage in cultural activities and sports. "If they get enough time for sports and constructive activities, they would be less vulnerable to extremism."

"Interfaith dialogue is important. It must be done based on inter-communal harmony and inter-cultural discussion," former ambassador Muhammad Zamir said, adding that parents need to take better care of their children, and give them more time to protect them from the grasp of extremism.

Prof Rasheduzzaman of Dhaka University's International Relations department said that extremism is like a disease. "We need to identify the underlining causes of this disease to properly treat it."