

## 7-month-old among 3 killed as bus hits auto-rickshaw

STAR REPORT

Three people – including a seven-month-old baby – were killed and three others injured as a bus rammied into a CNG-run auto-rickshaw in Sirajganj's Salanga area yesterday morning.

"The accident took place on Sirajganj-Hatikumrul road near Nalka Bridge around 8:30am," said Hatikumrul Highway Police Station Officer-in-Charge Badrul Kabir.

The three auto-rickshaw passengers – Chanbanu, 50, of Ullapara upazila, Dolly Akter, 25, of Fazle Khan Road in Sirajganj town, and her seven-month-old son Nihan – died on the spot, said the OC.

OC Badrul said the auto-rickshaw was heading to Sirajganj town from Hatikumrul and the bus was coming to Hatikumrul from Sirajganj.

The injured were taken to a local hospital, the OC said, adding, "We have seized the bus but the driver and his helper fled."

## TIPU MURDER CASE Court to decide on accepting charges on June 19

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed June 19 to decide whether it will accept charges against 33 people, including at least nine leaders of different units of the ruling Awami League and its associate bodies, in the case filed over the murders of Awami Leader Jahidul Islam Tipu and Samia Afran Jamal Prity in March last year.

The magistrate summoned Tipu's wife Farhana Islam Doly, the complainant, to appear before it on the scheduled date.

Metropolitan Magistrate Rajesh Chowdhury set the date.

Md Yasin Sikder, a DB inspector, also the case's investigation officer, on June 5 submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

On March 24 last year, criminals opened fire at Tipu's car in Shahjahanpur area, leaving the AL leader and college student Prity dead.

According to the charge sheet, Suman Sikder Musa, who was flown back from Oman by DB several months after the killing, was the main coordinator of the double murder. He contacted Shamim Hossain. Later, Shamim picked his longtime friend Masum Mohammad Akash for the mission and assured him of accompanying him during the gun attack.

## War crimes accused dies

STAR REPORT

A war crimes accused died after he fell sick at Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj yesterday morning.

Nizamul Haque Mia, 76, was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital after prison guards took him to the hospital around 6:00am, said inspector Bachchu Mia, in-charge of DMCH Police Outpost.

Hailing from Gopalganj's Kashiani upazila, Nizamul was arrested from Dhaka's Bhatara area on April 10.

His body was kept at the hospital morgue for autopsy.



Every day, Nurul Islam sets off with bamboo-made traps, locally known as "chai", to catch fish. He places the traps in various ponds and lakes hoping for a good catch during low tides. After keeping some of the fish for his daily needs, Nurul sells the rest at nearby markets. This photo was taken in Barishal Sadar yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## BORO, AMAN PROCUREMENT

# Tk 40 lakh public fund embezzled by syndicate

Two food dept officials found guilty

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU

A government audit team discovered that a syndicate in Sirajganj has embezzled over Tk 40 lakh public funds, designated for procuring Boro and Aman paddy.

According to sources at the department, Md Yasin Ali, food officer of Tarash upazila, and Kawsar Rahman, former in-charge of the upazila's food depot, have been found guilty in the act. SM Saiful Islam, Sirajganj district controller of the food office, said the authorities have initiated departmental proceedings against the accused officers.

In the 2021-2022 fiscal, Tarash upazila food office aimed to procure 700 tonnes of paddy from farmers.

Of this, 474 tonnes were procured transparently, and the corresponding bills were paid to the farmers, said Saiful.

However, an additional Tk 40.5 lakh was distributed to 50 bank accounts of Janata Bank Limited, allegedly for the procurement of an additional 150 tonnes of paddy.

It was later discovered that the additional 150 tonnes were not stored in the depot, revealing the suspicious nature of the transaction, explained Saiful.

The bank's financial statement indicated that Tk 81,000 was credited

to each of the 50 accounts, with the assumption that the accounts belonged to farmers who had supplied 3 tonnes of paddy each.

The list of the 50 account holders was obtained by The Daily Star, but the verification process to confirm their authenticity is yet to be completed.

"It appeared suspicious to us when we found that a Tk 40.5 lakh bill was paid but the rice was not stored in the depot."

"Then, an internal audit was conducted between January and February this year, and the irregularities came to light. We suspect that the money was withdrawn using fake documents and bills," Saiful added.

To investigate the matter further, a three-member probe body led by Md Tanvir Rahman, Naogaon district controller of the food office, has been formed.

Contacted, Tanvir said, "We have already started investigation to identify those involved."

Meanwhile, Md Yasin Ali denied any involvement in the corruption and claimed to be a victim of conspiracy.

"A group of locally influential people and some bank officials are involved in this plot," he said.

Yasin admitted that he had not thoroughly scrutinised all the documents to confirm the authenticity

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## VANDALISING MURALS, CLASH 24 Jubo Dal, Chhatra Dal activists held, over 500 sued in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested 24 leaders and activists of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal in Chattogram city early yesterday, over a clash with Chhatra League men and vandalising the glass murals of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on Wednesday evening.

The arrest was made after police and a BCL activist of Chattogram Government College unit filed two cases against 138 leaders and activists and 400 unnamed persons on Wednesday night.

Sub-Inspector Imarnus Sazzad filed a case with Kotwali Police Station accusing 78 persons of vandalising the murals while college student Shafayet Hossen Raju lodged the other with Chawakbazar Police Station accusing 60 leaders and activists of attacking BCL men from a procession.

The murals were vandalised in the port city's Jamal Khan area following the clash in front of Chattogram Government College during a rally in port city's Kazir Dewri area on Wednesday evening.

However, no senior leaders of BNP, Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal were not included in the FIRs, said police. Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, Swechasebak Dal and Jubo Dal of Chattogram organised the rally titled "Youth rally for saving country" demanding restoration of voting rights of youths and an election-time neutral government.

Shafayet, a 4th-year student of Chattogram College,

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## Ensure equal inheritance for all women

Speakers tell event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lack of equal rights in inheritance creates an undemocratic environment dominated by men, teaches women to view themselves as burdens, and causes adolescents of that family to manifest similar behaviour afterwards, stressed speakers at a seminar yesterday.

They made the remarks at "Democratic and Secular Values in Establishing Gender Equality and Co-Citizenship", a seminar jointly organised by Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha and Centre for Peace and Justice (CPJ) and Peace Cafe, Brac University, at the university's auditorium in the capital's Mohakhali.

Prof Dr ASM Anwarullah Bhuiyan of Jahangirnagar University's Philosophy Department, said, "Men and women are expected to play varying social and cultural roles defined by their gender identity. Identifying and accepting one's true identity is necessary as every member of the society has the duty to practice and promote equality -- a phenomenon we have been sidelining for centuries."

"It's high time we realise this and work to develop the lives of the ones we have left behind," he added.

"Democracy is defined by the state's accountability and transparency, not just voting rights. It can only be practiced when the society is able to hold onto democratic values," said Shaharar Sadat, director (academic and legal empowerment) of CPJ.

"As citizens, we are entitled to civil rights defined by the country's constitution," said Dr Seuty Sabur, associate professor at department of economics and social sciences, Brac University.

"It is necessary for us to realise our rights and act upon them. Only then can equality be achieved," she added.

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## CULTURE OF PEACE UN adopts Bangladesh's resolution

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted Bangladesh's flagship resolution on the "Culture of Peace" on Wednesday.

While introducing the resolution, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN in New York Ambassador Muhammad Abdul Muhith highlighted the continued relevance of culture of peace in today's world is characterised by complex challenges and boundless opportunities.

The resolution was first adopted on 13 September 1999, during the first tenure of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The recent High-Level Forum, which was held on 06 September 2022, focused on transformative role of culture of peace to ensure justice, equality, and inclusion for advancing peacebuilding.

This year, the resolution centred on collective efforts to address global risks and challenges with the UN playing a central role. It underscored the importance of strengthening preventive diplomacy, dialogue and healthy debates at all levels.

This year's resolution has been cosponsored by more than 100 countries.

Meanwhile, the UNGA adopted by consensus a draft resolution piloted by India to establish a memorial wall in the UN headquarters to honour peacekeepers who laid down their lives on the line of duty, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

## Improve quality of research President urges universities

BSS, Dhaka

President Mohammed Shahabuddin yesterday asked university authorities to ensure the quality of research at educational institutions.

The president said this when a four-member delegation of Dhaka University led by its Vice-Chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman paid a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban.

The president, also chancellor of DU, advised universities to focus more on research activities to explore time-befitting knowledge and keep pace with the competitive world.

President Shahabuddin said, "The incumbent government's continuity and political stability have contributed positively to this regard."

Later, VC of North South University Prof Atiqul Islam paid a courtesy call on the president.

## NARAYANGANJ FIRE Fourth family member dies

STAR REPORT

Another person, who was injured in a fire caused from a charger fan in Narayanganj's Fatullah on June 9, died at a city hospital yesterday morning.

Four of the five, all of the same family, injured in the fire have died so far. Tutul Mondal, 25, breathed his last around 9:15am while undergoing treatment at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery.

He suffered 60 percent burns, said Inspector Bachchu Mia, in-charge of hospital police outpost. The other deceased are Tutul's mother Bulbuli Begum, 40, father Abdus Salam Mondal, 55, and sister Sonia Akter. Sonia's daughter Mehejabin, 7, is fighting for life with 35 percent burns.



Three rows of illegally parked CNG-run auto-rickshaws take up a significant portion of this road at Court Point of Sylhet city, resulting in long tailbacks in the area. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR