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# Seven of family among 8 killed in Natore crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Pabna*

Seven members of a family in a microbus and its driver were killed when a truck rammed the vehicle head-on on the Bonpara-Hatikumrul highway in Natore's Boraigram upazila yesterday.

The family members from Kushtia were going to visit an ailing patient in Sirajganj when the Natore-bound cement-laden truck collided with the microbus in front of a petrol pump in the Shreerampur area around 10:15am, police said.

Five people died on the spot and three others, including microbus driver Rubel Hossain, 32, were injured, said Md Ismail Hossain, officer-in-charge of Bonpara Highway Police Station.

Of the injured, another died in Boraigram Upazila Health Complex. Two others were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where they died while undergoing treatment, the OC said.

Police officials and firefighters rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies.

Police recovered the truck and microbus from the spot, but the truck driver and his helper managed to flee the scene, the OC said, adding that the law enforcers were investigating the accident.

The deceased were identified as Md Jahidul Islam, 65, his wife Sheli Begum, 60, his sister-in-law Eü Begum, 40, relatives Shima Khatun, 40, Anwara Begum Anu, 55, Anjumanara Begum, 75, and Anjumanara's sister Anna Khatun, 60 -- all from Dharmadah village of Daulatpur upazila in Kushtia.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4



The street outside the main gate of Dhaka Medical College Hospital's emergency department is obstructed by illegal street vendors. This impedes ambulance movement and often causes traffic congestion.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Make your unity against fascism more visible

Yunus tells 13 parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday urged political parties to make their unity against fascism more visible, as signs of conspiracies by defeated forces are becoming evident.

"Despite differences in opinions and competition, the unity of political parties against fascism needs to be made more visible. Otherwise, the fascist forces may see this as an opportunity," he said during a meeting with 13 political parties at the state guest house Jamuna.

The meeting took place a day after the chief adviser met with leaders of four political parties -- BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, National Citizen Party, and Islami Andolan Bangladesh -- where the parties criticised the government's failure

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1  
PHOTO ON PAGE 3

## BB asks female employees not to wear short sleeves at work

### Advises men against wearing jeans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Bank has issued a dress code for its officials and employees, suggesting female workers refrain from wearing short-sleeved and short-length dresses, and leggings while on duty.

Male workers have been asked to avoid jeans and gabardine pants.

The central bank's Human Resources Department issued the dress code in an internal memo, asking men to wear formal shirts, trousers, and shoes.

It asked female workers to wear saris or salwar-kameez with scarfs and other decent dresses of "professional colours" with formal sandals or shoes. They can also wear head scarfs and hijab of simple design, according to a decision made on July 21.

All departments have been directed to designate an officer to monitor dress code compliance.

"Failure to comply with the dress code will be considered a disciplinary offence," said the memo asking all departments in the headquarters to take necessary actions.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

## A decisive leader during 1971

Speakers say at an event commemorating Tajuddin Ahmad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tajuddin Ahmad showed true leadership by taking decisive action during one of the most uncertain moments in the nation's history 1971, said Emeritus Professor Sirajul Islam Chowdhury yesterday.

"In colonial India, he had already begun thinking about freedom and independence -- his vision of liberation was rooted in self-reliance," Chowdhury said at an event titled "Muktijuddher Onibariya Sarothi: Shotoborshe Tajuddin Ahmad" (Tajuddin Ahmad at 100: An Inevitable Companion of the Liberation War).

**"He [Tajuddin] wanted the war to be conducted by the people of this land. Though he accepted India's support, he made it clear that this was not an India-Pakistan war -- it was a Bangladesh-Pakistan war."**

Prof emeritus SIRAJUL ISLAM CHOWDHURY

The event was organised by the cultural platform Kaler Dhoni and held at the Bishwo Shahitto Kendro auditorium in the capital's Bangla Motor area.

"He wanted the war to be conducted by the people of this land. Though he accepted India's support, he made it clear that this was not an India-Pakistan war -- it was a Bangladesh-Pakistan war."

He was an idealist, yet also a realist.

"Tajuddin did not aspire to become the top leader. He never sought the limelight. He was prepared to be second, not first--and that, too,

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

## Appointment of health adviser 'biggest example of CA's nepotism'

### Says Hasnat, demands her resignation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hasnat Abdullah, the National Citizen Party's southern region chief organiser, demanded the resignation of Health Adviser Nurjahan Begum, labelling her as the "biggest example" of nepotism by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus.

"We have a health minister [adviser], do you know her?" asked Hasnat at an NCP rally in Chandpur yesterday, alleging that she was appointed under Prof Yunus quota.

"She is the biggest example of his [Prof Yunus] nepotism," Hasnat said, strongly criticising Nurjahan's role following the recent military aircraft crash at Milestone School and College in Dhaka's Uttara.

"We do not need this health adviser. Have you seen her take any action? The salary she draws is haram [not permissible]. The vehicle she uses, bought with public funds, is a betrayal of

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4



## The govt within the govt now clearly visible

Says Debapriya at roundtable on a year after July uprising

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is a government within the current interim government, economist Debapriya Bhattacharya has said.

"It is now quite clear that the formal government we see has another government within it. This is no longer a secret -- it is clearly visible," said the CPD distinguished fellow while speaking at a roundtable titled "July Uprising: Experience of One Year and the Future" yesterday.

Bangla daily Prothom Alo organised the event at the newspaper's Karwan Bazar office.

He warned that the legitimacy of the interim government now hinges on proving its political neutrality, especially given growing doubts over its ability to hold a credible election.

"We didn't bring in an interim government for seat-sharing arrangements, we wanted a genuine election where people feel safe to vote, not just on the day of polling, but also the day after."

Debapriya raised concerns about worsening inequality, especially among marginalised groups, and the failure of this government to reflect its anti-discrimination commitment in economic reforms.

Calling for a clear exit strategy, he said the head of the interim

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

**This government has gone in the opposite direction of building an equal, democratic Bangladesh.**

Prof ANU MUHAMMAD

## 1,200 sued over storming of Secretariat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have filed a case against around 1,200 unidentified individuals in connection with the violent demonstration at the Secretariat, which led to clashes between law enforcers and protesters.

The case was filed Tuesday night with Shahbagh Police Station on charges of illegal gathering, assault on law enforcers, attempted murder, vandalism of government vehicles, and an attempt to break into the Secretariat compound.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Saifuzzaman accepted the case yesterday and directed police to submit the investigation report by August 28, according to court sources.

At least 75 people were injured on Tuesday as clashes broke out at the Secretariat between law enforcers and HSC examinees, who were demonstrating for various demands, including the resignation of Education Adviser Prof CR Abrar and the education secretary.

Police and army personnel charged truncheons and fired tear gas canisters as students stormed the Secretariat complex, triggering a chase and counter-chase that lasted for over an hour. Protests also erupted in different parts of the country, with demonstrators

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5



Thick dust, kicked up by vehicles on this road, fills the air, compelling a woman to cover her face with her sari as she nearly vanishes into the haze. The photo was taken yesterday at Stand Road in Agrabad, Chattogram.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## GOPALGANJ VIOLENCE

### Two more cases filed, total accused 9,850

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Faridpur*

Two more cases were filed on Tuesday over the July 16 violence in Gopalganj, raising the total number of cases to 10 and the number of accused to 9,850.

Of the two new cases, one was filed with Tungipara Police Station by one of its sub-inspectors Monir Hossain under the Special Powers Act against 82 named individuals and 200 unidentified people, said its officer-in-charge Md Khorshed Alam.

The other case was filed with Gopalganj Sadar Police Station by Gopalganj District Jailer Tania Jaman, where 160 named people and around 1,000 other unnamed people were made accused, said its OC Mir Mohammad Sajedur Rahman.

The attack and vandalism at the district jail occurred on July 16, he said.

Earlier, police had filed eight other cases -- four of them for murder -- with Sadar, Kashiani and Kotalipara police stations over that day's violence.

Meanwhile, the police arrested 11 more individuals in 24 hours ending 12:00pm on Wednesday. With this, a total of 334 people have been arrested in connection with the violence, said police.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4