

16 killed, 130 injured in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least 16 people, including five children, were killed and 130 injured in separate road accidents in Patuakhali, Rajshahi, Bhola, Bhairab, Sirajganj, Noakhali, Dinajpur, Joypurhat and Tangail yesterday.

Our Correspondent from Sirajganj adds, four people were killed and eight others injured in separate road accidents in Sirajganj yesterday.

Police and witnesses said three people died on the spot when a speeding coach hit a private car from behind at Konabari Simanta Bazar on the Dhaka-Bogra highway in Kamarkhanda upazila at 6:30pm.

The dead were identified as Jarima, 8, Rafikul, 10, and Ruma, 10, of Chandepur village in Kamarkhanda upazila.

The injured were taken to Sadar hospital in critical condition.

In another accident, a passer-by was crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus at Jhaol area on the Dhaka-Bogra highway in the afternoon. The dead was identified as Riaz, 35.

Police sent the bodies to hospital for autopsy.

Our Correspondent from Patuakhali reports: At least one woman was killed and over 100 were injured when a passenger bus of Dashmina-Patuakhali route fell into a roadside ditch at Baharampur area under Baufal upazila at about 4:00pm yesterday.

The unidentified woman died on the spot and the injured were sent to the hospitals in Baufal, Patuakhali and Barisal.

Of the injured, condition of over 50 was critical.

Locals and police said Patuakhali-bound bus Parjatac fall into a roadside ditch near Ayna bridge when its driver lost control.

Passengers said the bus with capacity of 70 was carrying about 150 passengers.

The agitated people set fire to the bus. BDNEWS Rajshahi correspondent reports: two persons were killed and at least 21 others injured in separate road mishaps at Charghat in Rajshahi yesterday.

A Rajshahi-bound bus from Bagha fell into a roadside ditch at about 12:00 noon at the traffic crossing area of Charghat as the driver of the bus lost his control over the steering leaving one person dead on the spot and 20 others injured.

The dead was identified as Shahjamal, son of late Desor Mridha of Helapur village under Bagha.

Of the injured, one was admitted to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

In a separate incident, a person was killed while trying to get down from a running Rajshahi-bound bus from Bagha at Mirganj in the district.

The deceased was identified as Pronab Kumar of Naranpur in Bagha.

BDNEWS from Bhola reports, two children were crushed under the wheels of a passenger bus near Ilisha Launch Ghat area in Bhola yesterday morning.

The deceased were identified as Rabbi, 8, and his cousin Fatema, 8.

Police said a speeding passenger bus crushed them under its wheels near Ilisha Launch Ghat area at about 10:00am.

The agitated people damaged the bus and put up barricade on the

road bringing the traffic movement on the road to a halt following the accident.

Another report said at least two persons were killed and several others injured yesterday morning in a road accident at Dharlain Tangail.

The dead were identified as Ratan Mia and Jamaluddin.

Locals and witnesses said the accident occurred when two passenger buses collided head-on.

The injured were rushed to Tangail General Hospital and Kumudini Hospital.

Meanwhile, one person was killed and another injured yesterday morning in a road accident on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Jagannathpur in the Bhairab municipal area.

The deceased was identified as a helper of truck.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred when a Brahmanbaria bound goods-laden truck collided with another truck and fell into a roadside ditch.

Truck driver Sazzad, 40, was rushed to Dhaka in critical condition.

BDNEWS Noakhali correspondent reports: two persons were killed in a road accident on Choumuhani-Ramganj road in Noakhali yesterday.

The dead were identified as Abdul Kalam, 27 and Md Rafiq, 30.

Sources said the accident occurred in the afternoon when a goods-laden pick-up van hit a tree after the driver of the van lost his control over the steering on Choumuhani-Ramganj road in Noakhali leaving Kalam and Rafiq dead on the spot.

Another report adds, One person was killed in a road accident in Dinajpur.

Md Safikul Islam Babu, 30, son of late Mojahar Ali of Pak Paharpur Mahalla of the town, was killed in a road accident while he was on his way to Dinajpur from Dhaka early Sunday.

Meanwhile, one person was killed in a road mishap at Ghogha Batt Tala area of Sherpur upazila yesterday evening.

The dead was identified as Momin, 25, son of Abul Sheikh of Aminpur area in Sherpur.

Witnesses said that the accident happened at about 6:00pm when a bus hit him at Ghogha Batt Tala area of Sherpur upazila while he was on his way to his father-in-law's house in Mirzapur on a bicycle leaving him seriously wounded.

He succumbed to his injuries at about 8:30pm yesterday at the Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital.

BDNEWS Joypurhat correspondent adds: Abdur Rashid, 30, of Bangla Hilli was killed when a train hit him.

Police and hospital sources said the accident occurred near Joypurhat station when Parbatipur bound Barendra Express was crossing the station.

Seriously injured Rashid was rushed to the district hospital where he died.

Obituary

BDNEWS, Dhaka



Nargis Ara Chowdhury, wife of former Chittagong University Vice Chancellor Dr M Abdul Aziz, passed away due to kidney and other complicated diseases at Ibn-Sina Hospital in the capital at 12:30am Sunday night at the age of 56.

She is the younger sister of former President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury's wife Hasina Warda Chowdhury.

She left behind her two sons, one daughter, and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

She was buried at the Uttara Sector 4 graveyard after namaz-e-janaja at Baitun Noor Jame Masjid at Uttara.

Her Qulkhani will be held at the House No-37, Road No-8, Uttara Sector-11 on January 18.

Prof Salema Sultana

UNB, Dhaka

Professor Syeda Salema Sultana died of cardiac arrest at her old DOHS residence in the city yesterday morning at the age of 74.

Prof Sultana, wife of late Prof Syed Abdul Hye of Dhaka University, left behind two sons, four daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

Founder teacher of Central Women's College in the capital, Sultana was buried at the city's Banani graveyard.

The qulkhani of Prof Sultana will be held on Wednesday after Asr prayers at house no-73B, road no-6, old DOHS, Mahakhali.

Lalmon Hamid

BDNEWS, Barisal



Alhaj Lalmon Hamid, mother of State Minister for Law Barrister Shahjahan Omar, passed away due to old age ailments at the Combined

Military Hospital (CMH), Dhaka yesterday at the age of 85.

She left behind her six sons, three daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

Her body will be taken to her village home at Jhalokathi today.

Family sources said she will be buried at Barisal Muslim Graveyard.

Sufia Begum



Sufia Begum, mother of Habibur Rahman, senior assistant director of Rab and additional superintendent of police (SP), passed away due to

cardiac arrest at the Apollo Hospitals in the city on Friday at the age of 68, says a press release.

She left behind seven sons and daughters to mourn her death.

She was buried at her village in Brahmanbaria.

Kefayat Hossain



Kefayat Hossain, an organiser of Kendrio Kochi Kanchar Mela and a teacher of Shegunbagicha Government Ideal School, passed away due to cancer on January 11 at the age of 50.

He left behind his wife, two daughters and a son.

After a namaz-e-janaja at a local mosque, he was buried at the Azimpur graveyard in the city.



PHOTO: STAR

Prices of cauliflowers at retailer-level are still very high despite their arrival in abundance at the wholesale market at Shyambazar in the city.

Myanmar cattle trader dies in Teknaf

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A Myanmar national died of illness at Teknaf upazila health complex in Cox's Bazar in the early hours of yesterday.

According to sources, Myanmar cattle trader Chowang Mai, 45, came to Teknaf crossing the Naaf river to feed ul-ul-Azha. He rented a room of a hotel at Teknaf.

On Saturday night, he was suffering from severe disease. Hotel boys admitted him to Teknaf upazila health complex for treatment at midnight. The physicians declared him dead yesterday. Police sent the body to the Cox's Bazar Sadar hospital morgue for post-mortem. Now, hospital authorities are facing problem with the body.

The person hailed from Tougu village of Akiab province of Myanmar.

BNP to celebrate 70th birth anniversary of Zia Jan 19

UNB, Dhaka

BNP secretary general and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has called upon all the units of BNP and its front organisations to celebrate the 70th birth anniversary of the party's founder President Ziaur Rahman on January 19.

To mark the occasion, a two-day programme on January 18-19 has been chalked out centrally while a daylong programme on January 19 at district and upazila level.

In a statement, Bhuiyan urged the leaders and activists of BNP and its front organisations to make all the programmes a success.

The central programme include a discussion meeting and cultural function at Mahanagar Natyamancha on Jan. 18 and hoisting of party flag and visiting Zia's mazat to pay tributes on Jan. 19.

SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Arrest real killers of Manik Saha

Khulna journalists urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Leaders of journalist at a rally in Khulna demanded fair investigation and immediate arrest of the killers of slain journalist Manik Saha.

The rally was organised in observance of the second death anniversary of the slain journalist.

Khulna Union of Journalists (KUJ), CPB, Manik Saha Smriti Parishad, Bangladesh Chhatra Parishad (BCU) and Khulna Press Club (KPC) observed the anniversary yesterday through various programmes, including mourning procession, discussion, placing of wreaths and protest rally.

KUJ brought out a mourning procession from the press club followed by a protest rally with KUJ President Makbul Hossain Minto in the chair.

KUJ Secretary Mohammad Shahab Ali, KPC Secretary AK Huru, BFUJ Vice President Wadudur

Rahman Panna, Chief Reporter of Dainik Purbanchal Amiyo Kanti Pal, photojournalist SM Zahid Hossain, Sheikh Abu Hasan and Faruque Ahmed addressed the rally.

Speakers strongly condemned unfair investigation of Manik Saha murder case and demanded immediate arrest of real killers.

Manik Saha Smriti Parishad organised a discussion at the press club auditorium with Advocate Abdul Halim, president of the parishad, in the chair.

Speakers urged the government to investigate Manik Saha murder case and all other journalist murder cases fairly.

Nanda Saha, wife of slain journalist and her two daughters, placed wreath on the place of murder at Choto Mirzapur Road near KPC at 8:00am and recited verses from the holy Bhagawat Geeta at Shibbari temple for salvation of the departed soul.

PM's donation to Ekushe Academy Australia Inc

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Bangladesh High Commissioner Ashraf-ud-Doula handed over a donation of Tk 5.30 lakh on behalf of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to the Ekushe Academy Australia Inc for erecting an International Mother Language Monument in Sydney.

The donation was handed over at a simple ceremony. Bangladeshi community of Sydney and Canberra, academics, journalists, eminent personalities and Bangladeshi students attended the ceremony, a Foreign Ministry press release said yesterday.

The HC in his speech stressed the importance of the Ekushe February and the international dimension that had been added to it through the recognition of the United Nations.

He said PM's personal interest in erection of the monument will encourage the expatriate Bangladeshis in promoting the national image abroad.

Nirmal Paul, president of the Ekushe Academy, expressed deep gratitude to the PM for her generous donation.

Speakers at the ceremony said the donation showed her commitment towards our language and the martyrs.

They also pledged to work together to enhance the image of Bangladesh in Australia.

The Ekushe Academy, meanwhile, announced the ceremonial opening of the monument on February 21, 2006, which will be attended by senior government leaders of Australia and Bangladesh community members.

A political leader of Australia is likely to open the monument.

Momtaz Jasimuddin laid to rest

BSS, Faridpur

Begum Momtaz Jasimuddin, wife of Pali Kabi Jasimuddin, was laid to rest at the bedside of poet's grave under a Dalim tree at Ambikapur of Faridpur district after Zohr prayers yesterday.

Law Minister and son-in-law of the deceased, Moudud Ahmed, Food and Disaster Management Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, deceased's another son-in-law former secretary to the government Towfik Elahi Chowdhury, Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar MP, Deputy Commissioner Md Nasir Uddin Khan, District Judge Md Azizul Haque, leaders of various political parties, elite of the town and all sections of people of the area attended the namaz-e-janaja.

Later, wreaths on behalf of the ministers were placed on her grave. Momtaz Jasimuddin died of old age complications at Shikder Medical Hospital at Gulshan in the city on Saturday at the age of 84, an official handout said.

Qulkhani

BSS, Dhaka

Qulkhani of Mazeda Ahmed, a noted philanthropist, will be held at her 156, Santinagar residence in the city after Asr prayers today.

Mazeda, wife of former superintendent of police late Momtaz-uddin Ahmed, died on Friday at Apollo Hospitals in the city.

She left behind her four sons, five daughters, and a host of grandchildren and admirers.

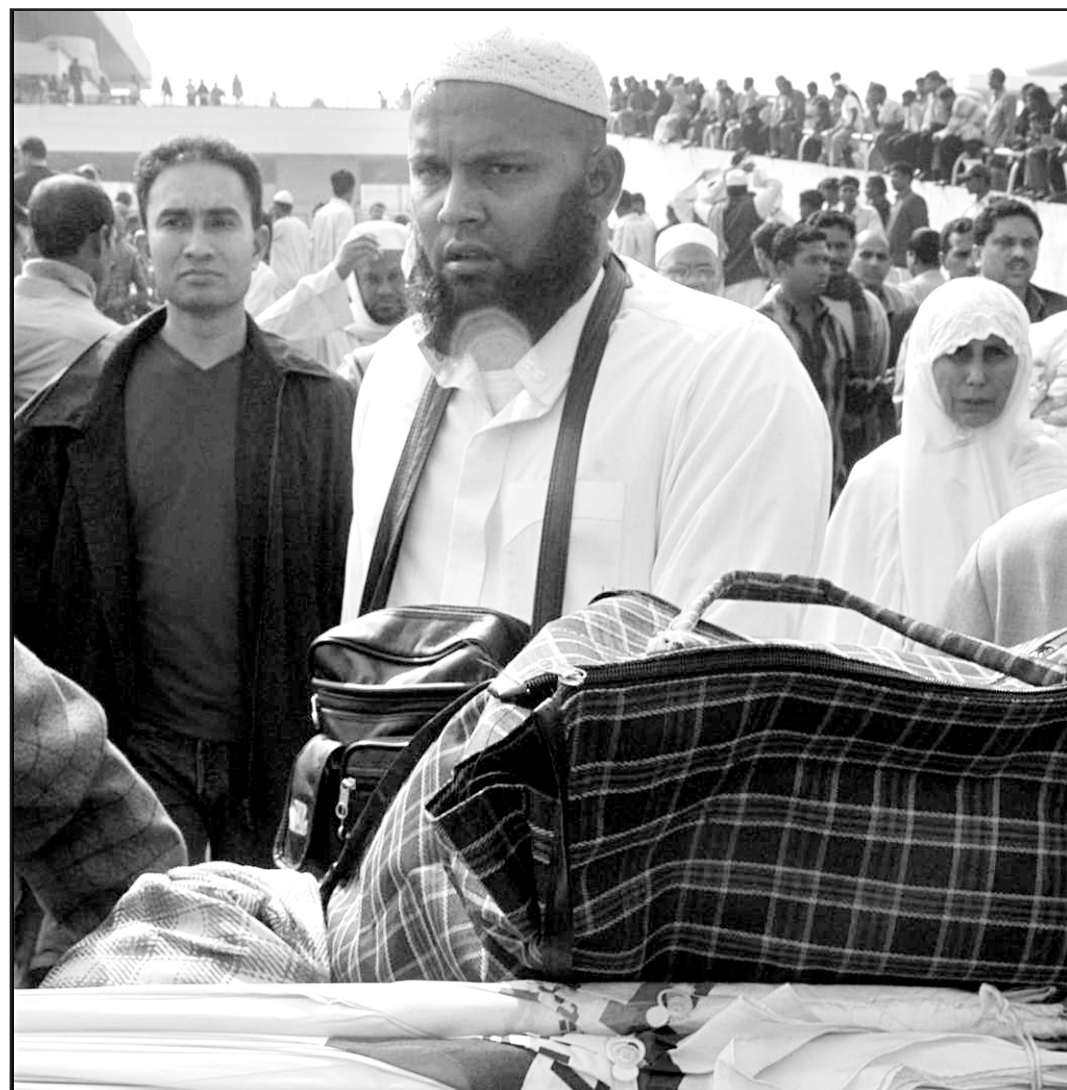


PHOTO: STAR

Hajj pilgrims have started returning home from Makkah. This photo was taken at Zia International Airport yesterday.

20 injured as villagers clash in Bhola

BDNEWS, Bhola

At least 20 people were injured in a series of clashes between the inhabitants of two villages over a trifling matter in the last two days at Kutuba village of Borhanuddin upazila in Bhola.

The police arrested four people in this connection on Saturday night after a case was filed with the Borhanuddin Police Station in this regard.

Police and local sources said clashes started between the followers of Farid of Kutuba village and the supporters of Kashem of Chhagla village over a love affair.

Later, it turned into a clash between the inhabitants of the two villages.

Drugs worth Tk 2.42 lakh seized

BDNEWS, Comilla

Detective Branch (DB) of Police seized drugs worth Tk 2.42 lakh at Bishnupur under Devidwar upazila of Comilla district yesterday.

The drugs have been smuggled from India.

Acting on a tip-off, police recovered two abandoned drug-laden vans from Guntti cross dam area at Bishnupur.

It said, 421 bottles of Phenidyl syrup, 40 bottles of Beer, 40 bottles of Whisky were seized from the vans.

Bodies of three girls recovered in city

UNB, Dhaka

Bodies of three girls were recovered in the city yesterday afternoon, police sources said.

Sutrapur police sources said the body of an unidentified girl, about 11, was recovered from in front of a shop at 7/2, Ultinganj Lane in Farashganj at about 3:40pm.

They suspected that the girl might have been poisoned.

Shyampur police recovered the body of a missing domestic help Nurjahan, 17, from Jurain Main Road crossing at about 3:30pm.

Her employer Ali Ahmed said Nurjahan went missing on Saturday evening from his house at Purba Jurain.

Shyampur police suspected that the girl was kidnapped and killed after she was violated.

In another incident, a teenaged girl of Suritola in the city allegedly committed suicide early yesterday being unable to bear her kidney pain.

Family sources said Smriti, 18,

Janaza



Namaz-e-janaza and qulkhani of Brigadier General (Retd) Iftekharul Bashar will be held after the arrival of his son from abroad, says a press release.

Date and place will be intimated later.

Iftekharul Bashar passed away on Friday.

daughter of Panna, died by hanging herself with a ceiling fan at about 3:00am.

Later, Kotwali police recovered the body from the girl's bedroom at about 4:00pm.

The bodies were sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital (SSMCH) morgue for autopsy.

Tributes paid to Babul Akhter

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a condolence meeting paid rich tributes to the newscaster of Swadhin Bangla Beter Kendro and veteran freedom fighter Babul Akhter who died on Saturday at his Munshiganj village home.

Organised by Biswa Kobita Parishad, the condolence meeting was held at its office with Jahangir Alam in the chair.

Sector Commander Col (Retd) Kazi Nuruzzaman, veteran freedom fighters Dr Nazim Uddin Ahmed, Sports Organiser Mostafa Allama Parishad General Secretary Tahmina Quraishi and poet Rokeya Yusuf took part in the discussion.

The speakers said during the War of Liberation Babul Akhter's voice inspired the freedom fighters and independence loving people of the country.

The meeting expressed deep shock at the death of Babul Akhter and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.