

Five killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

At least five people were killed and 12 others injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka and Sirajganj yesterday.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: An old woman and a minor girl were killed and six others injured in two separate road accidents in the city yesterday.

Police said Halima Khatun, 70, died on the spot.

Of the injured, three are now under treatment at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital and the rest are admitted to other hospitals.

The accident occurred when a Mirpur-bound human hauler from

Abdullahpur fell into the roadside ditch after its driver lost control over the steering in an attempt to save a rickshaw at around 10:30am.

In another road accident Sumi Akhter, 8, died on the spot at Shanirakha in Demra at 2:00pm.

She was run over by a speeding covered van while crossing the road.

Our Correspondent from Sirajganj reports: At least three people were killed and six others injured in three separate road accidents in Sirajganj yesterday.

The injured were admitted to Shahzadpur Health Complex.

Police and witnesses said, Nazrul Islam, 40, was crushed under the wheels

of a speeding truck at Bordhul area in Kamarkhanda upazila on Dhaka-Bogra highway.

An unidentified old man died on the spot when a Bogra-bound bus hit him from behind when he was crossing the road at Bhuigati in Raiganj upazila at 2:00pm.

Another accident occurred when a Hatikumrul-bound tempo turned turtle on the road at Diruba Bus Stand area on Bogra-Nagorbari Road in Shahzadpur upazila, leaving one passenger dead on the spot and six injured.

Police sent the bodies to Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy.

Bomb making materials found at JMB den in Bogra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members arrested a JMB member and recovered huge quantity of bomb making materials including detonator and bullets from Joynagar village in Sherpur upazila of the district yesterday.

Tipped off, the Rab members arrested a JMB member Saydul of the same village.

On his confessional statement, the Rab members recovered explosives, detonators, some transistors, indicator light, 2.5kg gunpowder, seven rounds of bullets, bomb making circuits and electric wire.

Rab members told newsmen that the bomb making materials were recovered from a maize field.

One killed as nor'wester lashes Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

One person was killed and several others injured as a nor'wester lashed Rajshahi city and Mohonpur and Paba upazilas last evening.

The victim was identified as Abdul Jalil, 40, of Raighati areas in Mohonpur upazila. He died as an uprooted tree fell on him during the storm that has raged for half an hour since 7:00pm.

Mamun, an injured from the same tree-fall, was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital.

Local met office told that the velocity of the nor'wester ranged at 30 nautical miles per hour.

Uprooting of trees and damage of standing crops and mud houses were reported from various other areas in and around the city.

The storm also damaged electric poles and disrupted power supply in Mohonpur.

Appeal for Help

Haider Hossain has been suffering from serious kidney ailments and his two kidneys are currently dysfunctional, says a press release.

He is now under the treatment of Dr Md Shahidul Selim and having weekly kidney dialysis which needs huge money.

Earlier, Haider took treatment at the CMCA of Velour in India with the assistance of his brothers.

He hails from MP Dangi village under Charbhadrason upazila in Faridpur district.

Being unable to bear his treatment cost, Haider has sought financial assistance from benevolent people of the society.

Contributions can be sent to Savings Account No: 34087851, Janata Bank, Topkhana Road Branch, Dhaka or he can be contacted over phones 7513282, 0188202229, 01716207685.

CAG invited to audit UN

The Court of Audit of France has invited Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Asif Ali to be associated with it in auditing the United Nations (UN) systems, says a press release.

The CAG has accordingly nominated two senior officials of the audit department to be part of the French audit teams to audit office of the UN Secretariat, New York, and headquarters of the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), Geneva, in September and November 2006 respectively.

This is a rare gesture aptly recognising the current strides achieved by CAG office in enhancing auditing capacity. Presently, France is a member of the UN Board of Audit.

Chief marketing officer of Radio Today

Aftab Mahmud Khurshid has joined Radio Today FM 89.6 as chief marketing officer and head of sales, says a press release.

Radio Today is the first-ever state-of-the-art 24 hours FM radio station in Bangladesh.

Aftab has a decade of experience in different capacities in various fields of marketing and branding.

He has a vast working track record in various national and multinational companies such as Siemens, Pride, ACI, and WB and DFID-funded BEMAP marketing projects.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia addresses a huge public meeting at the Bhuapur Ibrahim Khan School and College ground in Tangail yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Arrest of killers demanded

PROF TAHER MURDER RU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers and students of the Department of Geology and Mining of Rajshahi University (RU) took out a silent procession on the campus yesterday demanding arrest and punishment of the killers of Prof S Taher Ahmed, founding teacher of the department, who was killed on February 2.

Department chairman Prof Syed Shamsuddin Ahmed led the procession that paraded streets on the campus.

At the rally, the chairman said they would continue their protests on the campus every Saturday and Tuesday to press the administration for their demand.

The speakers said teachers, students and employees are agitating for arrest of the killers of Prof Taher and Prof Yunus, but there has been little progress in investigation into the murders and arrest of the killers.

Meanwhile, RU unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Progotishil Chhatra Jote (PCI) also took out processions and held rallies on the campus demanding trial of the killers.

BCL leaders alleged that Jamaat-Shibir leaders are trying to save Prof Taher's alleged killer Mahabub Alam Salehi.

They also criticised police for not arresting Salehi, RU Shibir president.

They threatened tougher agitation against the government if Salehi is not arrested and punished.

They also demanded proper probe into the murder and submission of the charge sheet.

Blaze in B Chy's house protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations yesterday held rally, formed human chain and brought out procession in the city protesting the arson in the house of former president AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury.

Prof Chowdhury and his family members including lawmaker son Mahi B Chowdhury narrowly escaped from the mysterious blaze at his Baridhara house on April 30 that gutted cash and valuables in three rooms.

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB), Jatiya Oikya Mancha and Bangladesh Tarikat Federation held a rally participated by hundreds of people at Muktangan.

Speakers at the rally blamed the ruling BNP cadres who has been carrying out repeated attacks on BDB since its launching for setting fire to the house of its president.

They demanded stern punishment to those who are responsible for the heinous crime.

Party workers and supporters also chanted slogans against the BNP-led four-party alliance government.

The rally was addressed by BDB Secretary General Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan, Oikya Mancha member Secretary Abdur Rouf and Bangladesh Tarikat Federation Secretary General Alhaj Zakir Hossain.

Bikalpa Chhatra Dhara formed a human chain in front of the High Court protesting the blaze.

Later they brought out a procession that marched through different city streets.

Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal Central Committee Convener Khalequzzaman expressed deep concern over the fire at Badruddoza's house.

Meanwhile, BDB will organise a press conference at its central office today.

It is expected that BDB along with Jatiya Oikya Mancha and Bangladesh Tarikat Federation will announce at the press conference a detailed programme of their proposed long march towards Rajshahi protesting the price hike of electricity, water, fertiliser, diesel and other essentials.

They also demanded removal of examination committee chairman Prof SM Lutfar Rahman for his failure to publish the results in time.

When contacted, Prof Lutfar blamed the chairman of the department, as he (chairman) does not allow him to work as examination committee chairman.

He added that he informed the matter to the VC Prof SMA Faiz.

However, the chairman of the department Prof Mohammad Abu Zafar was not available for his comment in this regard.

When contacted, Pro-VC Prof AFM Yusuf Haider told journalists that the responsibility lies with the department concerned, so the department should deal with the matter. As the students submitted a memorandum, he may look into the matter, he added.

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The third year students completed their second year course final (2003-2004 academic sessions) examinations eight months ago but their result is yet to be published.

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The first meeting of Chittagong Port Maritime Council formed last month to enhance efficiency at both Chittagong Port and under-construction New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT) was held here yesterday.

The meeting mainly focused on management and operating system of NCT and the congestion of vessels at Chittagong port.

At the meeting the congestion of vessels at Chittagong port drew flaks from the port users who proposed for making handling of bulk cargo at the nearby privately run Inland Container Depots (ICD) to ease the congestion.

The port users demanded exemption from lift-on/lift-off charges of Chittagong Port if the stuffing and un-stuffing works were done in the ICDs outside the port.

The meeting chaired by Shipping Minister Lieutenant Colonel (retd) Akbar Hossain agreed on principle to go for un-stuffing the bulk cargoes in the nearby private ICDs on condition of maintaining strong vigilances against any sort of pilferage or smuggling of the cargoes.

Shipping Secretary Md Rafiqul Islam, Chittagong Port Authority Chairman AMM Shahadat Hossain, Bangladesh Shipping Corporation Managing Director Zulfiqar Haider Chowdhury and Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Saifuzzaman Chowdhury addressed the meeting among others.

Ensure expats' voting right Labour leaders urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Labour leaders at a May Day discussion urged the government to ensure expatriate workers' right to vote before the next general elections.

They said the expatriate workers send a huge amount of remittance to the country through their hard work, but the government has no attention to their welfare, as they do not have voting power.

They were speaking at a discussion organised by Welfare Association of Repatriated Bangladeshi Employees (Warbe), in association with Migrant Forum in Asia, at the National Press Club on May 1.

"The Election Commission must take immediate steps to ensure expatriate's votes," said Warbe Chairman Syed Saiful Haque.

He said Bangladeshi expatriate workers are deprived of their due salaries in absence of agreements between Bangladesh and the receiving countries.

They demanded bilateral agreements on labour issues and ratification of UN Convention on migrant workers.

He also demanded repatriation of the Bangladeshi workers arrested in many countries of the world.

Bangladeshi Obhobashi Mohila Sramik Association Sheikh Roman demanded government steps to ensure security of the women migrant workers.

Bangladesher Krishak-Sramik Federation Coordinator Zahid Iqbal, Sammilita Sramik Federation President Abul Hossain, Warbe Secretary General Anisur Rahman Khan and Nahid Sultan, executive director of Shasti, an NGO, also spoke.

Management of NCT, congestion of vessels discussed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

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Jahanara Imam's anniversary of birth today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 77th birth anniversary of Jahanara Imam, a renowned writer and human rights activist.

Known as iconic Shaheed Janani (mother of martyr), she spearheaded a movement in 1992 seeking the trial of war criminals and banning communal politics in the country.

As a leading organiser Jahanara Imam single-handedly led the unprecedented movement that gained widespread popular support within a very short time.

The publication of her diary as a book named 'Ekatturer Dinguli' (Of Blood and Fire) is widely claimed as one of the best publications on the country's liberation war.

She died in 1994. To mark the occasion, the Forum for Secular Bangladesh will place wreaths at the graveyard of Jahanara Imam at Mirpur in the morning.

The forum will also hold a discussion titled 'Violation of human rights by the fundamentalist-communal alliance government' at WVA auditorium at Dhanmondi at 4:00pm.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury, president of the advisory council of the forum, will chair the meeting, said a press release.

Shahriar Kabir, acting vice-president of the forum, will deliver the address of welcome while its advisor Justice KM Sobhan, Awami League presidium member Tofail Ahmed, Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon, and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad President Hena Das will take part in the discussion.

Saarc food ministers' meet in August

BSS, Dhaka

The first Saarc food ministers' meeting is scheduled to be held in Islamabad in August.

Food and Disaster Management Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf is expected to attend the meeting, sources in the ministry of foreign affairs said here yesterday.

120 hurt in Sirajganj clashes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Sporadic clashes between two groups of people over distribution of a construction work of the pourasava left 120 people injured in two days.

Sixty of the injured were admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital and Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital while 50 others including Additional Superintendent of Police Saiful Islam and Sub-Inspector Arif were treated in Sirajganj town clinics.

Police arrested 19 people.

At least eight shops and 17 houses were damaged during the clashes. The attackers also set fire to five houses.

Two groups of people of Bhangabari

and Diardhanghora villages got locked into a three-hour long clash over distribution of a construction work of Sirajganj pourasava on Monday noon, police said. About 50 people were injured at the time.

The two groups, equipped with firearms and other weapons, engaged in further clashes yesterday. The clashes spread throughout the town, leaving some 70 more people injured.

Police charged batons and lobbed 25 rounds of teargas shells to disperse the attackers.

A tense situation is prevailing in the town. Police and Rapid Action Battalion have been deployed at important spots.

WEATHER TODAY Fall in temperature likely UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Sylhet division and at one or two places over Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Comilla and Noakhali in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said predicting slight fall in day temperature.

Highest temperature 38.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Mongla and lowest 20.5 degree Celsius at Sylhet. The sun sets in the capital at 6:28pm today and rises at 5:22am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with 5 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening)



PHOTO: STAR

Veteran journalist Kamal Lohani speaks at a roundtable on 'Press Council and Accountability of Newspapers' organised by BCDJC at National Press Club in the city yesterday to mark World Press Freedom Day.