

8 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least eight people were killed and 43 injured in separate road accidents in Chittagong, Joypurhat and Gaibandha yesterday and Friday night.

OUR CORRESPONDENT from Chittagong reports: Three people were killed and 25 others injured in a road accident at Raazan upazila in the district yesterday.

The victims were identified as Md Hanif, 35, son of late Bacha Mia, of Mariam Nagar under Rangunia thana, Dimpal Barua, 27, son of Jitendra Narayan Barua of Mahamuni Pahartali under Raazan and Krishna Pada Ghosh, 48.

Sources said, a Chittagong-bound bus carrying passengers from Kaptai skidded off and fell into a roadside ditch at Gaschi Nayahat area under Raazan at 8:00 am. The accident occurred when the driver lost control over the steering.

It left Dimpal and Krishna killed on the spot and 25 others injured.

Most of the injured were sent to the nearby health complex while critically injured Md Hanif succumbed to his injuries on the way to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital, sources said.

Police detained the bus while its driver managed to flee.

A case was filed with Raazan Police Station in this connection.

Meanwhile, a pedestrian was injured critically when a Dhaka-bound bus of Neptune service was trying to overtake a rickshaw on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Colonehat area under Pahartali Police Station at 8:30am.

The victim identified as Shah Alam, 60 of Sultan Member Bari of Pahartali, was undergoing treatment CMCH.

UNB adds: A Chittagong-bound bus ploughed through a rickshaw near Pahartali City Gate in the port

city at about 4:00pm killing its passenger Jishu Sarkar and injuring the puller.

Seriously injured rickshawpuller Alam, 28, was admitted to the CMCH.

Meanwhile, a school girl was run over by a speeding truck at Khorona in Patiya upazila at about 5:00pm. The dead was identified as Shamsunnahar, 14.

BDNEWS from Joypurhat adds: At least one youth was killed and 11 others were injured yesterday in a road accident near Dogachi Union Complex in Joypurhat.

The identity of the deceased was not known immediately. According to local people, the accident occurred when a bus lost control over its steering.

Police seized the bus but the driver managed to escape.

Our Correspondent from Gaibandha says: Two people

were killed and seven others sustained injuries in two separate road accidents at Gobindaganj on national highway on Friday night.

A Bogra-bound truck with passengers on board suddenly turned upside down and fell into the roadside ditch after its axle broke down leaving passenger Erajul Islam, 36, of village Binnakari in Nilphamari district dead on the spot and five others injured.

Meanwhile, one Bablu Mia, 26, was killed and two others injured when a speedy Bogra-bound bus hit them at Gobindaganj Bazar. Bablu succumbed to his injuries on the way to Rangpur Medical College Hospital. Two other injured were rushed to Gobindaganj Health Complex.

Two separate cases were filed with Gobindaganj Police Station.



Election Commission staffs distribute leaflets among the people in the city yesterday to motivate them to get enlisted in the new voter list for upcoming parliamentary election.

STAR PHOTO



Members of Bangladesh Fish Traders' Association stage a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday to press their five-point demand.

PHOTO: STAR

Tk 74.55 crore RU budget approved

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University authorities approved a Tk 74.55 crore budget for the financial year 2006-2007 on Thursday night.

RU Treasurer Abdul Jabbar Khan placed the budget at a meeting at the RU Vice Chancellor's lounge with Vice-Chancellor Altaf Hossain in the chair.

In the proposed budget, Tk 52.40 crore has been allocated for payments of teachers and other employees. The allocation is Tk 5 crore higher than the previous one.

Sources said that the university sought Tk 130.43 crore from the University Grants Commission (UGC) while the UGC granted only Tk 74.55 crore.

The UGC has directed the university authorities to earn Tk 3.25 crore from internal resources and to reduce subsidy on power, water, telephone and other sectors.

The budget allocated a limited fund for research and education related expenditure. The UGC granted only Tk 5.68 crore for education and research related activities while it was Tk 5.80 crore last year.

The UGC granted only Tk 37 lakh while the university sought Tk 1.5 crore for scientific instruments.

However, the UGC did not grant any fund for new recruitment.

The UGC did not approve regularisation of Rajshahi University School and College in the university fund, too. The University School and College authorities said that they would demonstrate as the UGC had deprived them. The university authority had been assuring them to regularise their jobs under the university budget since 1998.

Follow ideologies of Manik Miah Speakers tell a seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar at the National Press Club yesterday urged to follow the ideology of Tofazzal Hossain Manik Miah, the founder editor of the Daily Ittefaq, in order to establish a balanced and democratic society.

Expressing concern over the continuous repression on journalists, they remarked that freedom of the press is yet to be established.

Manik Miah Research Academy organised the seminar titled 'Newspaper and Manik Miah in our War of Liberation', to observe the 37th death anniversary of Manik Miah.

In his welcome speech, Advisor to the Academy Mir Moshtak Ahmed Robi said that Manik Miah always struggled for a balanced and democratic society.

Termining Manik Miah as the 'renaissance person' in the history of newspaper, poet Al Mujahidi, literary editor of the Daily Ittefaq said, "He created the stream of consciousness in the trend of journalism," and that "Without his contribution the country could never think of independence."

Mujahidi criticised some newspapers for not having the right to have trade union, which was Manik's journalistic philosophy. Presenting the keynote speech, Delwar Hasan, director of the academy said, the mass oriented role of the Daily Ittefaq became obvious during the movement in 1969.

"Manik Miah strived against 'establishment' for the independence of the East Bengal, democracy, and freedom of press," Delwar said.

Dr Sharif Uddin Ahmed, director of the Department of National Archives and Library, and Syed Tashraf Ali, editor of the weekly Robbar also spoke on the occasion chaired by Obaed-ul-Haque, former editor of the Bangladesh Observer.

13TH FM MEET IN KUALA LUMPUR ON JULY 28

Bangladesh set to get ARF membership

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh is poised to be officially admitted into the prestigious ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) at its 13th Foreign Ministers' meeting in Kuala Lumpur on July 28.

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan will lead a Bangladesh delegation to the meeting, marking the country's accession to the ASEAN-plus forum that has roped in most of world's big powers.

The 12th meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum held in Vietnam in July last year welcomed and agreed to ASEAN's consensus on admission of Bangladesh as the 26th participant in the ARF.

The ARF came into being in 1994 drawing together 25 countries that have a bearing on security of the Asia-Pacific region.

It comprises the 10 ASEAN member-states--Brunei, Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, 10 ASEAN dialogue partners--Australia, Canada, China, the EU, India, Japan, New Zealand, ROK, Russia and the United States--one ASEAN observer (PNG) as well as the DPRK, Mongolia and Pakistan. East Timor was admitted into the ARF in 2005.

In a region with little history of security cooperation, the ASEAN

Regional Forum is the principal forum for security dialogue in Asia. "The ARF complements the various bilateral alliances and dialogues which underpin the region's security architecture," says the statement of its objectives.

The ARF is premised on the idea - drawn from the ASEAN experience - that a process of dialogue can produce qualitative improvements in political relationships.

It provides a setting in which members can discuss current regional security issues and develop cooperative measures to enhance peace and security in the region.

Train derails in Lalmonirhat, 10 injured

UNB, Lalmonirhat

Three compartments of a local passenger train derailed in between Burimari and Patgram stations yesterday, leaving 10 people injured.

The compartments of the down train no 452, heading towards Lalmonirhat from Burimari, veered off the track in the morning.

Five of the injured Jaiil Mia, 45, Saimuddin, 50, Rahima, 30, Jamaluddin, 48, and Mariam, 5, were admitted to Patgram upazila health complex.

Most of the passengers got injured as they jumped off the train after the derailment, railway sources said.

The rescue operation started in the afternoon, they further added.

WORLD CUP FOOTBALL Uninterrupted power supply demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Diehard supporters of Brazil and Germany have warned authorities of Western Zone Power Distribution Company Limited (WZPDCL) of a dire consequences in case of power failure during semi-final and final matches of World Cup Football Tournament.

The warning came from two separate processions brought out in the city on Friday midnight.

One of the processions was brought out to celebrate the victory of Germany against Argentina in the quarterfinal.

When contacted, a high official of WZPDCL told this correspondent that he cannot guarantee uninterrupted supply of electricity due to unavoidable reasons.

A total of 318 megawatt electricity was supplied in 21 districts of Khulna and Barisal divisions including greater Faridpur on Friday.

The total demand of 21 districts per day is 529 megawatt, he said, adding, this situation will persist in the days to come.

KMP Commissioner Khan Saeed Hasan said his forces are fully alert against any sort of unwanted situation likely to occur due to loadshedding of electricity. Troubleshooters will be dealt with severely, he warned.

Qulkhwani

BSS, Dhaka

Qulkhwani of Advocate MA Salam Talukder will be held at his residence at House No. 1, Road No. 27, Block-J at Banani in the city after Asr prayers today.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the qulkhwani. Advocate Salam Talukder, president of Bangladesh Tax Lawyers' Association, passed away due to a cardiac arrest on June 23 at the age of 65.

Doa mahfil for Birshrestha Maturi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A doa mahfil for Birshrestha Flight Lieutenant Shaheed Maturi Rahman was held at the Falcon Hall of Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) in the city after Maghrib prayers on Friday.

Family members of Birshrestha Maturi Rahman organised the programme.

A large number of people, including members of the three services, attended the doa-mahfil.

They prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul of the Bir Shrestha.

Among others, Ministers MK Anwar, Shahjahan Siraj, Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, Prof Rezaul Karim, Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, former Minister ABM Ghulam Mostafa, Lt Gen (Retd) Atiqur Rahman, Air Chief AVM Ghulam Azam, AVM (Retd) and former Minister AK Khandkar, Workers Party leader Rashed Khan Menon, PSO Major General Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, and Secretary of the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs Abu Solaiman Chowdhury and other high civil and military officials attended the function.

Khorshed Alam, eldest brother of the Birshrestha narrated how they repatriated from Karachi Masror Base.

State minister for Liberation War Affairs Prof Rezaul Karim described under what circumstances they had to work almost seventy days for repatriation of the mortal remains of Birshrestha.

He thanked Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for her initiative, the members of three services, particularly the BAF for all the assistance they extended and meticulous arrangements made for reception up to burial of the remains of Birshrestha.

Death anniversary

BSS, Dhaka



Today is the fifth death anniversary of Dr Shibtosh Roy, internationally renowned arsenic expert and researcher.

Dhaka Community Hospital (DCH) will organise a discussion, essay competition and other programmes today to mark his death anniversary.

WEATHER TODAY

Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong and Barisal divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet and Khulna divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places over Chittagong and Barisal divisions, said Met Office in a forecast. It said that day temperature may rise slightly over the country.

Highest temperature 37.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 25.2 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 5:15am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	35.6	27.4	59	61
Chittagong	33.6	27.2	72	72
Rajshahi	36.4	28.1	65	84
Khulna	34.4	27.8	68	74
Barisal	33.5	27.6	70	80
Sylhet	37.0	27.7	66	50
Cox's Bazar	31.8	26.0	75	77



Kazi Faruk speaks at a press conference organised by National Front of Teachers and Employees at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Mahfuz Ullah IUCN national committee chair



Mahfuz Ullah, an environmentalist and secretary general of the Centre for Sustainable Development (CSD), has been re-elected chairperson of the Bangladesh National Committee of IUCN unopposed for a two-year term, says a press release.

The National Committee has a membership of 18 leading non-governmental organisations of the country. Mahfuz Ullah is also a columnist and a TV personality.

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion
Bangladesh Society for Manabadhikar Research and Survey will hold a discussion on 'Role of the Civil Society for establishing human rights'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11:00am.

Publication ceremony
The publication ceremony of a children's rhyme book will be held. Venue: Bashundhara City. Time: 5:00pm

I might be killed any time

Talukder Khaleque tells journo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

cell phones for the last few days for not contesting from Bagerhat 3 constituency in the next parliamentary elections.

I do politics for people and so the people and above all Allah Almighty will save my life, the former state minister said.

Dr Serajul joins Eastern University

The AL lawmaker said he was asked by home ministry to apply in writing to get police for his personal security both for his residence and during his movement outside. Why should I apply in writing when lawmakers of Jamaat and BNP were never asked to do so, he added.

The AL leader alleged that extremists have again raised their heads in Khulna with a mission to kill opposition party leaders as assigned by their godfathers in the ruling BNP-Jamaat alliance. We will go for a movement shortly against rise of criminals and their godfathers, he said.

President of Khulna district AL Harun-ar-Rashid and secretary of city AL Mizanur Rahman also addressed the press conference. The AL leader expressed his determination not to be cowed by any amount of threat being given by unidentified callers over his land and

cell phones for the last few days for not contesting from Bagerhat 3 constituency in the next parliamentary elections.

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Dr Serajul joins Eastern University

Dr Serajul Bhuiyan, professor and director of mass communications and journalism at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, USA has joined Eastern University as a visiting professor of business for summer session, says a press release.

He earned a Ph.D in mass communications from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and an MBA from Texas A&M University and a MSc in Agri Extension and Communications from Bangladesh.

Dr Bhuiyan is taking human resources management classes at MBA and BBA levels at Eastern University.