

12 killed, 57 injured in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least twelve people were killed and 57 others injured in separate road accidents in Sirajganj, Narsingdi, Mymensingh, Cox's Bazar and Kishoreganj yesterday.

Our Correspondent from Sirajganj reports: At least three people were killed and 27 others injured, four of them critically, in a road accident on the Bogra-Nagorbari highway at Perkhola in Shahzadpur upazila of Sirajganj district yesterday.

The injured were admitted to Shahzadpur Health Complex and Sirajganj General Hospital. Police and witnesses said the accident took place at around 9:00am when a Pabna-bound bus from Ullapara hit a rickshaw-van from behind and both the vehicles fell into a roadside ditch as the driver of the bus lost control over the steering.

Rickshawpuller Goher Ali, 75, son of late Gani Mollah of Kamlakandha village, Abu Taleb, 35, son of Moydan Ali and Abdul Jalil, 40, son of Abul Hossain both from Jugnidaho village of Shahzadpur upazila died on the spot and 27 others were injured.

Police sent the bodies to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

UNB from Narsingdi says: Three people, including a woman, were killed as a bus rammed hit a taxicab at Kamartek in Shibpur upazila on Dhaka-Sylhet highway yesterday.

The dead were identified as Ilias Ali, 40, his wife Bina Begum, 32, and the cab driver, aged about 35.

Witnesses said the accident occurred at about 3:00pm as the Dhaka-bound bus from Brahmanbaria hit the Brahmanbaria-bound taxicab, leaving two passengers of the cab and its driver dead on the spot.

Ilias Ali, a resident of Nirkhet area of Dhaka, was going to Ghatia of Brahmanbaria along with his wife.

The bus driver managed to escape.

Police sent the bodies to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Our Correspondent from Mymensingh reports: At least three people were killed and 20 others were injured in separate road accidents at Bhaluka and Phulpur in the district yesterday.

Two people were killed and 20 others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at 8:00am at Baksatra of Bhoradusa in Bhaluka upazila.

The accident took place when a passenger bus bound for Dhaka hit

a rickshaw from behind. The bus skidded off the road and fell into a ditch, leaving two people dead on the spot and injuring 20 passengers. The dead were identified as Mofazzal Hossain, 28, of Bhoradusa and Momtaz Uddin, 25 of Purura of Bhaluka.

Of the injured, 10 were admitted to Bhaluka Upazila Health Complex and five were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH). The rest were released after first aid.

Meanwhile, an unidentified person was killed when a truck turned upside down at Taraha in Phulpur upazila at 6:00am yesterday. He died on the spot.

The bodies were sent to MMCH morgue for autopsy.

Our Correspondent from Cox's Bazar adds: Two people were killed and 10 others injured in a road accident at Chiringa on Cox's Bazar-Chittagong highway in Chakaria upazila yesterday.

The victims were identified as Altaf Hossain, 35, of Badorkhali in Chakaria and Monotos Boroya, 28, of Lama upazila.

Police and locals said the accident took place when a passenger bus bound for Badorkhali from Chakaria skidded off the road and fell into a roadside ditch when the

driver lost control over the steering, leaving two on the spot and 10 others injured.

Of the injured, six were rushed to Chakaria Upazila Health Complex while others were admitted to local clinics. The bodies were sent to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Our Correspondent from Kishoreganj adds: A man was killed in a road accident at Bhairab upazila under the district yesterday.

The dead was identified as Bacchu Mia, 40, of Baro Kanda village at Raipura Upazila in Narsingdi.

The accident occurred when a Bhairab-bound truck from Meherpur hit an auto-rickshaw at Durjoy Mor area on Dhaka-Bhairab highway, leaving auto-rickshaw passenger Bachchu Mia dead on the spot.

Locals detained truck driver Tohin, 35 and his helper Wasim, 28 and handed them over to police.

A case was filed against Tohin and Wasim with Bhairab Police Station in this connection.



Syed Manzur Elahi, former adviser to a caretaker government, speaks at the sixth expert group consultation meeting on 'Vision 2021 for Bangladesh: Goal 6: To be globally integrated and to be a regional hub' in the Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right are Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) President Latifur Rahman and Nagorik Committee 2006 Convenor Professor Rehman Sobhan and on his left are former minister Anisul Islam Mahmud and former BGMEA president Kutubuddin.

NEW PROFESSIONAL BODY FLOATED 'Vested quarter out to tarnish country's image' Says energy adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A newly formed pro-BNP professional body led by Energy Adviser Mahmudur Rahman yesterday said a vested quarter is out to tarnish the image of the country abroad by undermining the real development picture.

To brand the country as a failed state, these 'criminals' are engaged in creating frustration among people and image crisis outside the country, said a statement of Bangladesh Sammilito Peshajibi Parishad that was launched at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

Mahmudur Rahman, president of the body, said the country has made tremendous progress in different sectors, but the 'vested quarters' want to undermine the achievements of the nation. He, however, did not mention any specific name.

"So, as professionals, our responsibility is to focus on the real picture of development of the nation and analyse them both at home and abroad," Mahmudur Rahman, who has been in the centre of controversy after filing defamation case against five eminent citizens recently.

He said, "It is time that we made a decision whether we would try to increase investment in the country or make projects to draw fund."

Without mentioning any name, Mahmudur Rahman said a newspaper has tarnished his image by writing about his personal matters.

"They claim themselves the initiators of the civil society, but the slang language they used defeats the tabloid magazine," he said.

He said the newly formed body would help improve the professional excellence of the professionals and make specific plans in future.

Journalists' leaders Gias Kamal Chowdhury and Ruhul Amin Gazi, Zaved Iqbal of Agriculturists Association of Bangladesh, teacher leaders M Shafiqul Islam, Principal Selim Bhuiyan and Dhaka University Professor Aminur Rahman were also present.

Zakiganj border tense

UNB, Sylhet

Tension erupted again on the troubled Zakiganj frontier as Indian BSF obstructed Bangladesh farmers from cultivating their croplands in Amalshid and Uttarkul areas yesterday.

"The Indian Border Security Force hoisted red flag warning the Bangladesh farmers not to advance towards their fields while BDR jawans protested it by using microphones of local mosques," said a report from the area.

"At one stage, the BSF downed the red flag, but opened fire in the air

at about 1:15pm. This created scare among the villagers in the area," the report said.

The BDR advised the Bangladesh farmers in the area to go to safer places. After the incident BDR remained on the alert.

On August 9, Indian BSF launched attack suddenly and started firing mortar-shell and bullets.

On Sunday, BDR and BSF reached a consensus on maintaining peaceful border at a flag meeting between the sector commanders of the two forces.

Indian govt extends Taslima Nasreen's visa by six months

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The Indian government has extended by another six months the resident visa of Bangladeshi writer Taslima Nasreen.

Nasreen, 44, who has been staying in Kolkata, had applied for extension of her visa, which was due to expire yesterday, sources in Indian home ministry said.

They said the West Bengal government had forwarded to the Centre the writer's appeal to extend her resident permit as she wanted to continue her stay in Kolkata.

Nasreen had applied for an Indian tourist visa last year. She had got an Indian visa for one year and permission to stay in Kolkata.

The West Bengal government had banned her autobiographical book 'Dwikhandito' (Split in two), but it was lifted after she won a court battle over it.

Nasreen, who has been living in exile for 12 years, had first moved to Sweden after she drew the wrath of fundamentalists in Bangladesh for her book 'Lajja' (Shame) in 1993.

Recently, she has been living in Kolkata, a city she describes as closest to her home.



Community primary teachers stage a demonstration at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday demanding nationalisation of their jobs.

Five fishermen missing as two trawlers capsized in Bay

UNB, Bagerhat

Five fishermen went missing as two trawlers with 28 fishermen on board capsized in the Bay yesterday.

The missing fishermen could not be identified immediately.

According to the survivors, the trawlers sank in the deep sea yesterday morning as they were caught by a violent storm.

Twenty-three of the fishermen were rescued by another fishing boat but the remaining five missing.

Meanwhile, coastguards and Forest Department officials rescued four other fishermen along with their trawler from the Boleshar river.

These fishermen -- Soharb Hossain, Nur Mohammad, Mofazzal Hossain and Omar Ali of Barguna district - had been missing as their boat capsized on Tuesday while fishing in the Bay.

Wife hacked to death at Chuadanga

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Wife was hacked to death on Monday night at Chandpur village under Damurhuda upazila of Chuadanga district for protesting her husband's habit of smoking.

According to police, Belly Begum was attacked with a large dagger when she requested her husband Jitu to give up smoking. At one stage of quarrel, Jitu hacked his wife.

She was rushed to Chuadanga Sadar hospital where doctors declared her dead at 1:00am.

Jitu, a grocer by profession, escaped soon after the murder.

Most Israeli Jews favour Lebanon war probe

AFP, Jerusalem

Two-thirds of Israeli Jews favour creating a commission to examine the government's handling of the war in south Lebanon, revealed two opinion polls published yesterday.

Between 67 and 69 percent of people polled said they supported a commission of inquiry, according to surveys carried respectively by the country's top dailies, Maariv and Yediot Aharonot.

According to the poll in Yediot Aharonot, only 40 percent of Israeli Jews are satisfied with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's handling of the war, compared to

77 percent just after the offensive was launched last month.

Both opinion polls were conducted on a sample of Israel's Jewish population and have a margin of error of 4.5 percent.

Olmert and the defence establishment have been accused of badly planning the land, sea and air offensive launched in Lebanon following a July 12 border attack in which the Hezbollah militia killed eight soldiers and captured two.

WEATHER TODAY No change in temperature likely UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places during the period, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Country's highest temperature 37.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 24.0 degree Celsius at Khepura.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:30pm today and rises at 5:35am tomorrow.

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

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening)

Three gold smugglers held in Khulna

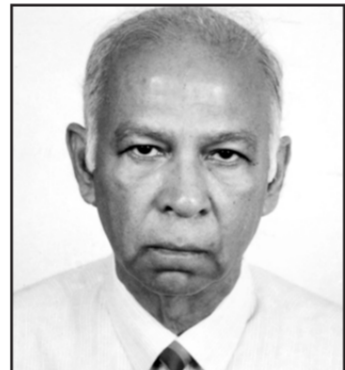
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police arrested three gold smugglers yesterday from city's Hotel Rose Garden at Cemetery Road and recovered five gold bars each weighing two tolas.

The arrestees were identified as Sultan Ahmed, 55 of Shyampur upazila of Dhaka, Ziaur Rahman, 30 of Munshiganj district and Ripon Sarker, 32 of Demra.

Police said the arrestees are members of an organised gang of gold smugglers.

They are being interrogated for further information, police said.



Obituary

Capt Ahadul Ameen, a former member of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh and director of Bangladesh Biman, passed away on August 15, says a press release.

His khulwani will be held at his Uttara residence after Asr prayers tomorrow (Friday).

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the khulwani and pray for eternal peace of the departed soul.

Abdur Rashid Mridha Abdur Rashid Mridha, a freedom fighter and former worker of the daily Ittefaq, passed away due to a cardiac arrest on August 11 at the age of 80.

He is survived by his wife, three daughters, grandchildren and a host of admirers.

His first namaj-e-janaza was held at the Gausul Alam Jameh Mosque near his Doulotpur, Narayanganj residence. On the same day, at Baherpur village of Babuganj thana, Barisal the second janaza was held.

Later, he was buried at the family graveyard with state honour.

Md Mohiuddin Khan

Md Mohiuddin Khan, a noted businessman, died of brain stroke on August 12 at the age of 79, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, four sons, three daughters, grandchildren and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

To pray for salvation of the departed soul, a milad mahfil will be held tomorrow after Juma prayers at his village home at Modonpur, Netrokona.

Friends, relatives and admirers are requested to attend the programme.

President hosts reception to Hindu community

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed and his wife Professor Anwara Begum yesterday hosted a reception to the members of the Hindu community at Bangabhaban on the occasion of Janmashtami.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharef Hossain Shajahan, State Minister for Water Resources Advocate Goutam Chakraborty, political and religious leaders, judges, diplomats, including the High Commissioner of India and Charge d'Affaires of Nepal in Bangladesh, professors of universities and medical colleges, representatives of international organisations, freedom fighters, national award recipients, high officials, lawyers, doctors, journalists, artists, leaders and members of the Hindu Religious Welfare Trust, businessmen and other professionals attended the reception.

The President and his wife welcomed the guests, exchanged pleasantries and wished them a happy and prosperous future.

Religious Secretary Muhammad Ataur Rahman, Military Secretary to the President Major General Md Aminul Karim, Secretary to the President AFM Solaiman Chowdhury, Press Secretary to the president M Mukhlesur Rahman Chowdhury and other senior officials were also present on the occasion.



Workers' Party of Bangladesh stages a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding fresh investigation into the attack on Rashed Khan Menon. Miscreants launched an attack on Menon on August 17, 1992.

Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khobir Uddin, a second year student of Dhaka University, has sought financial assistance from affluent people for treatment to restore his hearing.

He had an operation at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital, but his hearing did not improve much. Last year, doctors at a Chennai hospital advised him to have cochlear implant surgery, which involves about Tk 8 lakh.

But the student of political science could not afford such an expensive treatment. His hearing capacity is diminishing day by day, adversely affecting his studies.

Khobir, son of freedom fighter Moksed Ali, now appeals to generous people to extend a helping hand to restore his hearing so that he can continue his studies.

Contributions can be sent to Mohammad Khobir Uddin, Account No. - 34090923, Janata Bank, Dhaka University Branch.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 2nd death anniversary of Ferdousi Begum, mother of Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, minister for Food and Disaster Management Ministry, says a press release.

She was the wife of noted politician in the sub-continent Yusuf Ali Chowdhury Mohon Mia and an ancestor of Haji Shariatullah.

On the occasion, Ferdousi Begum Memorial Committee will organise a discussion, milad and doa mahfil at Banani DOHS Community Hall after Asr prayers today. Besides, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at Moyz Monzil Jame Mosque adjacent to her own house at Faridpur.

Chehlum

Chehlum of Monjur-e-Alam, son of Kazi Mazharul, former motowalli of Dr Golam Rahman Estate, will be held after Juma prayers tomorrow at his residence at 40 Rankin Street, Wari, says a press release.