

15 killed, 81 injured in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least 15 people were killed and 81 injured in separate road accidents in Faridpur, Mymensingh, Netrakona, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Khulna and Chittagong on Friday and Saturday.

Our Correspondent from Faridpur reports: At least 5 people were killed and 29 seriously injured in a road accident at Manikganj under Nagarkanda Police Station on Friday.

The accident occurred when driver of a Faridpur-bound passenger bus from Natore lost control over its steering on Manikganj Bridge and fell into a nearby ditch. The bus was going to Atrashi.

Two people died on the spot while three others succumbed to their injuries in Faridpur Medical College Hospital. Of the injured, condition of five are critical.

The dead were identified as Razzak, 45, Sajul, 30, Hajrat, 60, Monirul, 30 and Nazrul, 55.

A case was lodged with Nagarkanda Police Station in this connection.

Our Correspondent from Mymensingh says: At least three people, including a woman, were killed and 30 others injured in a road accident at Bailor in Trishal on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway on Friday.

Police and locals said the accident took place when a Dhaka-bound passenger bus from Mymensingh skidded off the road and fell into a roadside ditch as the driver lost control over the steering at Bailor, leaving three dead on the spot and 30 injured.

Two of the victims were identified as Parul, 36 and Nurul Haque, 42. Identity of other could not be known immediately.

Of the injured, 18 were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in critical condition. The critically injured are Parul, 40, Farida, 45, Majeda, 40, Evon, 4, Parul, 25, Rasha Mala, 50, Nazimuna, 45, Ashia, 55, Sharifa, 60, Hafeza, 55, Hanufa, 60, Marfutan Nessa 70, Khorshed, 60, Sultan, 55, Sirajul, 60, and three unidentified men aged about 60.

The bodies were sent to MMCH morgue for autopsy.

A case was lodged with Trishal Police Station in this regard.

Our Correspondent from Netrakona adds: Three people were killed and 9 others injured in a bus and a tempo collided head-on at Shamganj Bazar rail crossing on Netrakona-Mymensingh road under Purbadhala upazila in the district yesterday.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred when a Netrakona-bound passenger bus from Mymensingh and Shamganj-bound passenger tempo from Netrakona collided head-on at Shamganj rail crossing, leaving three people dead on the spot and nine others injured at about 10.30am.

One of the dead was identified as Jahangir Alam, 20, son of Joyntal Abedin of village Baragara under Netrakona Sadar upazila. The identity of two other victims could not be known immediately.

The injured were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. Of them, condition of

Falani Begum, 35, Rafiqul Islam, 10, Sumon, 8, Marjina Begum, 30, and Mina Akther, 25, are stated to be critical.

Our Correspondent from Manikganj adds: Two people were killed and 10 others injured in separate road accidents on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Manikganj on Friday.

An accident occurred at around 1:00am at Vatbaur area when a Dhaka-bound cattle-loaded truck from Chuadanga skidded off the road and fell into a roadside ditch, leaving one cattle trader dead on the spot and 10 other traders seriously injured.

The dead was identified as Shahin, 35, of Belgachhi village in Chuadanga district.

The injured were rushed to Manikganj Sadar Hospital and the body was sent to the same hospital for autopsy.

Another accident occurred near Paturia Ghat in the morning when a vehicle run over Nikhil Chandra, a carpenter of village Darikandi under Shivalaya Police Station in Manikganj, leaving him dead on the spot.

The body was sent to Manikganj Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

UNB reports: In Munshiganj, a carpenter was killed in a road accident at Sadar Bazar in Tongbari upazila on Friday.

Witnesses said Narayan Mondol, 45, son of Kartik Mondol of Kathadia village in the upazila, was critically injured when a Munshiganj-bound tempo from Tongbari hit carpenter Narayan on a bailey bridge in the morning.

Narayan was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead.

Police seized the tempo and arrested its driver Harun Sheikh, 22, and his helper Zakir, 18.

Meanwhile, one person was killed and three others were injured as a bus ran over a man into a roadside tea-stall at Battola on Khulna-Mongla road in Khulna yesterday.

The dead was identified as Goldar Hossain, 70, of Rupsha upazila.

Police said a Pirojpur-bound bus from Khulna knocked Goldar Hossain dead and then rammed into a teastall injuring three customers.

The injured -- Kamal, Alim and Fazlur Rahman -- were rushed to CSS Hospital.

BSS from Chittagong adds: One person was killed and three others injured in a road accident at Chittagong University Gate on Chittagong-Rangamati road on Friday night, police said.

The dead was identified as Mohammad Sujon, 23 of Raozan Upazila Sadar.

The accident occurred when a city-bound auto-rickshaw coming from Raozan collided head-on with a jeep coming from the opposite direction, leaving Sujon dead on the spot and three injured.

The injured were admitted to Hathazari Health Complex.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Awami Jubo League stages a demonstration at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday protesting price hike of essentials and in support of today's hartal called by 14-party opposition combine.

Absconder in Banskhal 11 murder case held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

An absconder accused of the sensational Banskhal 11 Murder Case was arrested here on Friday.

The arrestee, identified as Md Aziz, 25, son of Md Shamsul Alam of Khankhana Bad village under Banskhal upazila was accused in the sensational Banskhal 11 Murder Case and was absconding for long, police sources said.

A team of Pahartali Police Station led by Officer-in-Charge (OC) Md Alamgir Hossain raided Pahartali CDA Market area at around 6:35pm on Friday and arrested Aziz, sources added.

Mentionable, 11 people of a minority family were burnt alive at Sadhanpur of the upazila in the sensational Banskhal carnage on November 18 in 2003.

Obituary

Senior Sub-Editor of Dainik Deshbangla Nazim Uddin passed away due to a cardiac arrest yesterday morning at the age of 60, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife, two daughters, one son and a host of relatives.

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) President Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, Secretary General Abdul Jalil Bhuyian and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) President Altaf Mahmud and General Secretary Omar Farruq in separate statements expressed deep shock at the death of Nazim.

Nazim was buried at his family graveyard at Dinnadanga of Sangair Upazila under Manikganj District.

Earlier, a namaz-e-jaanaza was held in front of Deshbangla office in the city at 12:00noon, where BFUJ, DUJ leaders, journalists and officials of Deshbangla, including its Editor Dr Fedous Ahmed Koreshi attended.

Death anniversary

Today is the 5th death anniversary of former leader of Communist Party Comrade Sunil Roy, says a press release.

Sunil was one of the frontline leaders in the anti-colonial movement against the British and organiser of the war of independence.

To mark the day, Communist Party of Bangladesh will place wreaths at Narayanganj Shashan Ghat and organise a memorial.

KM Anmol

Today is the 1st death anniversary of KM Anmol, son of the founder of Dhanmondi Surjo Tarun Club KM Naumal, says a press release.

On this day last year, Anmol drowned in the sea in Cox's Bazar.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani, milad and doa mahfil will be held at four mosques at Dhanmondi (6/A, no 7, 8/A, no 22) in the city after Maghrib prayers today.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the programme.

Frame integrated energy policy

Bapa rally demands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists have demanded immediate implementation of the Phulbari agreement signed between the government and the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Electricity and Port on August 30.

They also demanded formulation of an integrated energy policy to protect the country's natural resources and criticised the proposed coal policy saying that it has been framed targeting to awarding Phulbari coalmine to Asia Energy and Barapukuria coalmine to Tata under open-pit method.

The demands came at a rally organised by Natural Resources and Environment Programme Committee of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) at Shabbagh cross-

ing in the city on Friday.

Representatives from Green Voice, Jubo Nagorik Odhakar Jole, Sheba, Nagorik Uddog, Nagorik Sanghati, Sundar Jibon, Peace, PRD, Commission for River Reforms and Training, World Peace Club also attended the rally.

The speakers said the people of Phulbari succeeded in realising their demands by sacrificing six lives, but it is a matter of concern that the government has taken no initiative to implement the agreement.

They said a review of the proposed coal policy reveals that it is not formulated in favour of the national interest.

The policy recommends awarding the coalmines to foreign multinational companies only at six percent royalty ignoring the national com-

pany like Bapex saying that there is lack of skilled manpower and technology.

This is a self-destructive decision of the government, the speakers regretted saying that the donor agencies never want that locals become experts on coal or gas exploration and extraction.

They want to bag their interest making the people of this country victims of natural disaster, they observed.

Member Secretary of Natural Resources and Environment Programme Committee Zakir Hossain presided over the rally, which was also addressed by Bapa Executive Member Engineer Kazi Mohammad Shish and Joint Secretaries Engineer Taksim A Khan and Mihir Biswas.



PHOTO: STAR

Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon speaks at a discussion titled 'Fulbari Coal Mine Project: Mass upsurge: Experience and lesson' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right are Prof Anu Mohammad and Mujahidul Islam Selim and on his left is Haider Akbar Khan Rono.

MINIMUM WAGES RMG workers demand implementation of agreement

Bangladesh Jatiya Garment Sramik Karmachari League yesterday staged a demonstration at Mukhtangan in the city demanding immediate implementation of the tripartite agreement and a minimum wage, says a press release.

Presided over by President of the League Sirajul Islam Rony, speakers at the demonstration said already three months have passed since the pledge of a minimum wage was announced. But there is no sign of implementing the pledge.

The speakers urged the government to realise their demands to resolve the conflict between the employers and workers for the greater interest of the nation.

Jalil for formation of Asian Union

General Secretary of Bangladesh Awami League Abdul Jalil has proposed formation of a single Asian Union as leading politicians of the world's largest continent joined a conference in South Korean capital of Seoul to promote political cooperation.

"Narrow differences kept us divided barring Asians to lead the world and this is the time to forge unity to march ahead," he told the plenary session of the four-day 4th International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) that kicked off Thursday at the Lotte Hotel in central Seoul.

"Let us let the world witness the unity of the Asians through this conference of political parties," an Awami League press release quoted him as telling the session as the opening speaker.

More than 200 representatives from 58 parties in 29 Asian countries joined the four-day ICAPP meet. They included Bangladesh Awami League, Indian National Congress, Chinese Communist Party, United Russia Party, Ruck Thai Party, National Peoples Coalition of the Philippines, Democratic Labour Party of South Korea, United Malays National Organisation of Malaysia and Vietnamese Communist Party.

The Awami League general secretary particularly sought Asian countries' cooperation to uproot terrorism, describing the menace as a major threat to democracy and peace in the continent.

Awami League's international affairs secretary Syed Abul Hossain chaired the thematic committee session on the second day of the conference on Friday.

Next election to be held in free and fair manner

Jamaat tells NDI team

BSS, Dhaka

A five-member delegation of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh held a meeting with the visiting team of National Democratic Institute (NDI) at Hotel Radisson Garden in the city yesterday.

Secretary General of the party and Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mujahid led the delegation, a party press release said.

Other members of the delegation were deputy leader of Jamaat-e-Islami Parliamentary Party Moulana Delwar Hossain Saidee, assistant secretaries general of the party Muhammad Kamaruzzaman and Abdul Kader Mollah.

The NDI delegation included former US senator Thomas Daschle, former prime minister of New Zealand Mike Moore, former minister of Cambodia Mu Sochua and NDI Country Director Owen Lipart.

The Jamaat leaders discussed the ways of making the next general elections free and fair. They said three elections from 1991 to 2001, held under the caretaker government system were free and fair. The next elections will also be held in the same manner, they hoped.

The Jamaat leaders said the dialogue between the government and the opposition could not be held because of raising illogical issues by the opposition side.

They said the present opposition party won the elections in 1996 held under the caretaker government system. So, there is no reason for raising question about the system, they opined.



PHOTO: STAR

Field level employees of the health department continue their hunger strike at Mukhtangan in the city for the second day yesterday to press their five-point demand.

DHAKA TODAY

WEATHER TODAY

Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

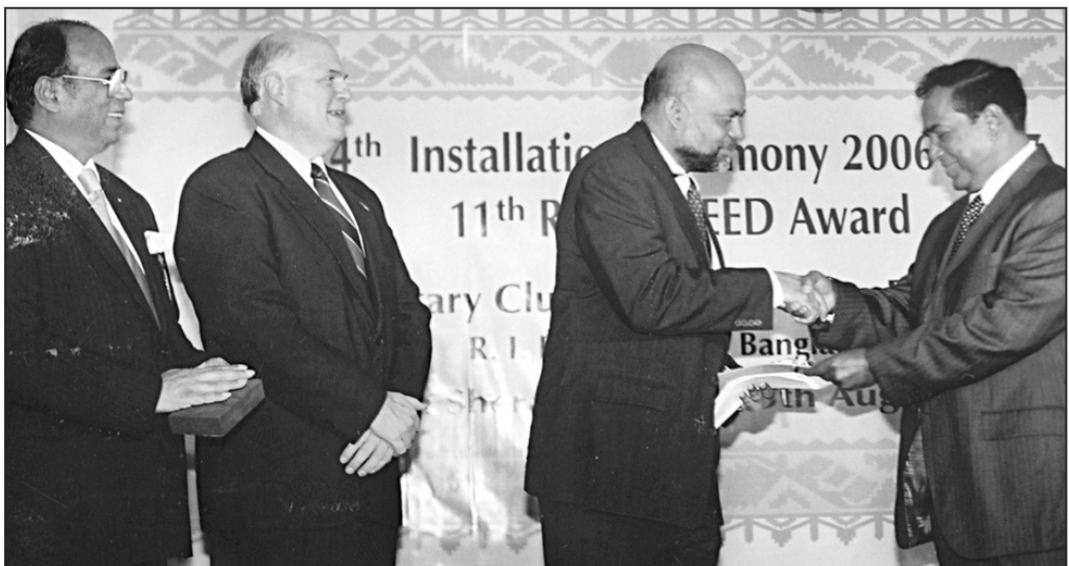
Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 23.8 degree Celsius at Rangpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:08pm today and rises at 5:43am 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	32.3	25.6	83	83
Chittagong	33.5	26.2	76	81
Rajshahi	32.8	25.8	85	80
Khulna	34.5	24.0	89	80
Barisal	33.5	27.0	81	86
Sylhet	32.8	24.4	89	79
Cox's Bazar	32.0	26.0	100	78



Iqbal Quadir of MIT Boston, USA, receives the Rotary SEED Award 2006 from Commerce Minister Hafizuddin Ahmad at a ceremony at the Spectra Convention Centre in the city recently while Gene V George, charge d'affaires (a.i.) of the US Embassy, and M Aminuzzaman Bhuiyan, governor of Rotary International District 3280, look on. Quadir received the award worth Tk 1,50,000 for his innovative idea of 'Connecting Rural Bangladesh', and thereby revolutionising mobile telephony in the country.

Seminar

Save the Children Sweden-Denmark and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters' Association (BKMEA) jointly organise a seminar on the project 'Corporate social responsibility and child labour'. Venue: Ballroom, Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Time: 10:30am.

Award giving ceremony

The award giving ceremony of Brac University and Brac Bank 2nd National Business Case Competition (NBCC) will be held. Venue: Spectra Convention Centre. Time: 7:30pm.

Film festival

The inaugural ceremony of a film screening programme, organised by Children's Film Society, Bangladesh will be held. Venue: German Cultural Centre. Time: 5:00pm.

Customer night

DHL Express Bangladesh organises Customer Night 2006. Venue: Bashundhara City. Time: 7:00pm.