

12 killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

Twelve people were killed in separate road accidents across the country over the last two days, report our correspondents and two news agencies.

THREE KILLED IN SEPARATE ACCIDENTS IN TANGAIL

Three people were killed in two road accidents at Nagarpur and Bhuapur upazilas yesterday, reports our Tangail correspondent.

In Nagarpur, two people were killed and one was injured when a human haulier, locally known as Nosimon, hit them at Dakkhin Ghagra area yesterday morning.

The deceased are Uzala Begum (50) and Shefali Begum (40).

Quoting locals, Mohammad Alam Chand, officer-in-charge of Nagarpur Police Station, said the goods-laden Nosimon hit the three while they were standing beside the road around 10am, leaving Uzala and Shefali dead on the spot.

Police seized the vehicle but its driver managed to flee.

In Bhuapur, a man was killed and five others were injured after a pick-up collided with a truck on Bangabandhu Bridge in the morning.

According to traffic control room of the bridge, the collision killed pick-up staffer Nazmul Alam (25) on the spot.

Vehicular movement was suspended on the bridge for about an hour after the incident, causing a 14-kilometre long tailback of several hundred vehicles at both ends.

TWO STUDENTS AMONG THREE KILLED IN KISHOREGANJ

Another road crash at Madhya Pirijpur area in Bajitpur upazila killed SSC examinee Rakib Mia (20), ninth-grader Noor-e-Alam (16), and Nayan Mia (22) around 2pm yesterday, reports our Mymensingh correspondent.

The accident occurred on the Kishoreganj-Bhairab road when a truck collided head-on with a motorbike carrying the three friends, killing all of them on the spot, said Md Abdus Sobhan, officer-in-charge of Katiadi Highway Police Station, quoting locals.

On information, police rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies, which were handed over to family members later.

Police seized the truck and arrested driver Apon Mia (36). The driver was being interrogated at the police station as of the filing of this report.

A case was lodged in this regard, police said.

TWO KILLED IN SEPARATE ACCIDENTS IN DHAKA

Two people, including a ride-sharing service driver, were killed in separate road accidents in the capital's Farmgate and Tejaon areas yesterday, reports BSS

In Farmgate, ride-sharing service provider Kamrul Hasan Foysal alias Mostafa (35) was killed after a covered-van hit his bike around 11am on Wednesday night.

Initially injured from the collision, Kamrul was sent to Dhaka Medical College

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National Professor Rafiqul Islam, chair of the Mujib Borsho celebration implementation committee, and its chief coordinator Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, handed over copies of publications marking Mujib Borsho to President M Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban yesterday.

1,650 agri officers cannot join office

SC upholds HC order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court order that issued status quo on recruitment of 1,650 deputy assistant agriculture officers on charge of irregularities in applying quota system in the appointment process.

A seven-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain passed the order, dismissing two leave to appeal petitions filed by the government, challenging the HC order.

The apex court order means that the government cannot recruit 1,650 deputy agriculture officers, Additional Attorney General Murad Reza told The Daily Star.

Following a writ petition, the HC on February 16 issued status quo on recruitment of the officers -- whose exam results were published on January 17 -- for 30 days on charge of irregularities in applying quota system in publishing the final test results.

The HC also issued a rule asking the respondents to explain why they should not be directed to conduct an inquiry into the allegations.

Secretaries to the ministries of agriculture and public administration, chairman of Bangladesh Public Service Commission and director general of Agricultural Extension Department were made respondents to the rule.

The HC came up with the order and rule following a writ petition filed by 33 candidates, who passed the written test but could not pass the recruitment tests, seeking its order on the respondents to conduct an inquiry into the allegations.

Writ petitioners' lawyer Salahuddin Dolon told The Daily Star yesterday the respondents could not recruit 1,650 candidates to the posts for 30 days from February 16, when the HC passed the status quo order.

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Ex-Bangla Academy DG Dr Ashraf critically ill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Ashraf Siddiqui, a noted poet, folklorist and former director general of Bangla Academy, is undergoing treatment at Apollo Hospitals Dhaka with respiratory problems.

Family sources said the 95-year-old has been suffering from various old age complications -- including lung problems -- for a long time. His condition has been critical for around one month.

Ashraf Siddiqui obtained his PhD degree from Indiana University, US. He made significant contribution to documentation and research on folk culture.

Dr Ashraf is famous for his poem "Taleb Master". He received Bangla Academy Award in 1964 and Ekushey Padak in 1988. He is also an Unesco award recipient.

He had been Bangla Academy DG from 1976 to 1983.

His family requested all to pray for him.

GRANTING BAIL TO RAPE ACCUSED SC summons Dhaka tribunal judge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday summoned the judge of Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Daman Tribunal-7 of Dhaka, directing her to appear before it on April 2 for granting bail to an accused in a rape case despite this court's stay order on the bail.

Mosammat Begum Kamrun Nahar, judge of the tribunal, has been asked to appear before the apex court at 9am on the day to explain why she granted bail to Aslam Shikder, a former programme producer of private television channel ATN Bangla in the case.

The apex court also scrapped the bail order of Aslam Shikder and ordered him to surrender to the trial court concerned in two weeks.

A seven-member bench of the SC's Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain passed the order after hearing a petition filed by the state.

Earlier in the day, the SC called for case documents from the tribunal, and found that the court had stayed a High Court order that granted bail to Aslam, Deputy Attorney General Bishwajit Debnath told The Daily Star.

Court sources said a case was filed with Hatirjheel Police

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Shawkat Jamil's death anniv today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the eighth death anniversary of Shawkat Jamil Khan, who served as a senior photojournalist of The Daily Star.

On this day in 2012, he passed away at the age of 56.

His family requested all to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

In 1985, Shawkat Jamil started his career at the daily Khabor. He joined The Daily Star in 2005 and worked there until his death.

He left behind his wife and a son.

BEGUM ROKEYA UNIVERSITY, RANGPUR Students demand better facilities

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Students of Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur city formed a human chain yesterday, to press home their 7-point demand, centring university fees and facilities.

The hour-long programme was held in Parker Mor area (in front of the university) around 10am by General Student Rights Protection Council, a student body of the university.

Their demands include reduction of admission form fee and price of cafeteria food; building dormitories, a teacher-student centre auditorium and a gymnasium. Students also demanded that the VC remains present on campus and talented teachers are recruited through fair process.

Alamgir Kabir, president of the student body, claimed that the university has not provided proper educational environment since its founding.

Students also threatened to launch a more aggressive movement if their demands are not met within a week.

Mentionable, they had made these demands previously, but the university did not take any action in this regard.

Contacted, Abu Hena Mustafa Kamal, registrar of the university, said they have taken the students' demands into account. "We'll look into their demands," he added.

Gonoforum names central advisory body

Subrata, Montu, Abu Sayeed excluded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gonoforum yesterday announced its 71-member central advisory committee, excluding two of its founding leaders Subrata Chowdhury and Mostafa Mohsin Montu.

Dr Kamal Hossain remains president of the new committee, while Reza Kibria was made general secretary, according to a press release sent by the political party yesterday.

Subrata Chowdhury was the executive president of the previous committee. Abu Sayeed, another

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Man sent to jail over killing of ex-wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A Mymensingh court sent a man to jail yesterday, hours after he had been arrested in a case filed for killing his former wife.

Police said they arrested Abdul Matin -- hailing from Kumarghata village of the district's Bhaluka upazila -- near Trishal area in Mymensingh on Wednesday evening.

A weapon that is believed to be used in the murder was also seized from his possession, said Officer-in-Charge of Bhaluka Police Station Mohammad Mainuddin.

On March 1, police recovered the body of Hena Akter (45), who was later married to one Rafiqul Islam, at Kumarghata. Her throat was slit, said police.

Hena, a mother of three children, went to visit her elder daughter's house in the village on February 29. After having dinner, she went to bed. As the family members did not find her in the morning, they started searching for her. At one stage, they noticed the body inside a bush near the house and informed police.

After interrogation, law enforcers produced Matin, a farmer, before Chief Judicial Magistrate Court in the afternoon and the court sent him to jail after recording his statement under section-164, said the OC.



Infrastructure conglomerate Summit Group yesterday presented five thermal scanners to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for measuring body temperature of passengers at international airports. Vice Chairperson of Summit Group of Companies Md Latif Khan handed over the scanners to Health Minister Zahid Maleque at the conference room of the ministry.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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