

Road crashes kill nine

STAR REPORT

At least nine people were killed and around 12 injured in road accidents in four districts during the last two days, report our correspondents.

Three people, including a police officer, were killed in separate accidents in Chattogram yesterday.

In the port city, Ehsanul Haque (27), a probationary sub-inspector hailing from Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya upazila, was killed after a bus rammed into his motorbike at Mariners' Road around 11:15am, said Mohammad Mohsin, officer-in-charge (OC) of Kotwali Police Station.

In Lohagara, two bus passengers were killed and 10 injured, as the bus collided with a truck in front of Bara Awliya Degree College around 7:30am, said OC Yasir Arafat of Dohazari Highway Police Station.

The deceased are Md Shawkat (27) and Mostafizur Rahman (27), he said.

The injured were treated at the upazila health complex, he added.

In Gaibandha, madrasa teacher Md Achir Uddin (55) and his son Zabayar (14) died after their motorbike crashed into a microbus at Tarof Kamal Shiyalgar area in Gobindaganj upazila around 10am.

Quoting witnesses, Md Afzal Hossain, inspector (investigation) of Gobindaganj Police Station, said Achir was taking his son home from a madrasa when the accident occurred.

Locals rescued them immediately and took them to the upazila health complex,

where the doctor pronounced them dead, he said.

Police seized the microbus but its driver managed to flee, he added.

In Gopalganj, three family members were killed and two injured, after their rented car hit a roadside railing on Dhaka-Khulna highway in Kashiani upazila around 4am yesterday.

The deceased are Ziaur Mollah (55), Emdadul Haque (25) and Sajjad Mollah (35).

Quoting locals, OC Ataur Rahman of Bhanga Highway Police Station said Emdadul, a Singapore returnee, his father Ziaur, brother-in-law Sajjad and a friend, had rented a car from Dhaka airport to go to their home village.

The injured, including the driver, were admitted to Gopalganj General Hospital.

In Kurigram, Limon Islam (6), a child with speech impairment, was killed after a battery-run auto-rickshaw hit him at Phulbari upazila on Wednesday.

Son of Abdur Rahman of the upazila, Limon succumbed to his injuries at Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital around 10pm while undergoing treatment, said officer-in-charge Rajib Kumar Roy of Phulbari Police Station.

Police said the boy was seriously injured after being hit. Locals rescued and took him to the upazila health complex.

When his condition deteriorated, he was rushed to the Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital.



A woman quite literally creates her own path while walking through Chattogram's Naya Bazar, as she places a brick piece to step on, in order to avoid muddy water accumulated on the road. Waterlogging has been a long-standing problem in the port city, and road development work going on in the area has only added to commuters' woes. The photo was taken on Wednesday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Dealer arrested for hoarding TCB goods

OUR CORRESPONDENT, M'singh

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-14) yesterday arrested a dealer of Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) for illegally hoarding its goods.

The arrestee is Md Saidul Islam (50) from Phulbaria. Acting on a tip-off, a Rab-14 team raided Phulbaria's Aziz Oil Mills, arrested Saidul from the spot and recovered the goods.

The goods included 96 sacks of sugar (50kg per sack), 42 sacks of dal (50kg per sack) and 21,162 litres of soybean oil, said Md Tafiqul Alam, senior assistant superintendent of police and Rab-14 media officer.

During primary interrogation, Saidul said he had been storing the goods illegally for a long time to sell them in the black market, said the Rab official.

He was later handed over to Phulbaria Police Station. A case was lodged.

Healthcare sector has collapsed: Fakhru

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir has alleged that people do not have confidence in the country's health system anymore, as it has completely collapsed.

"Babu's [Shafiq Bari Babu's] death in such a way has exposed that Bangladesh's health system has completely collapsed. His illness and death have also proved that people can't be confident about the system," he said.

The BNP leader made the comment while talking to reporters after visiting the house of Swetchesabak Dal President Shafiq Bari Babu, who died on Tuesday.

Fakhru said the country's health system itself has become a problem for patients, as people do not get proper treatment and authentic diagnosis reports.

"Many asked why the country's people go abroad for treatment. People are forced to, as they can't undergo even proper diagnosis here," he observed.

Terming Babu a talented leader, Fakhru said, "We can't imagine a popular and conscious leader like Babu leave us in such a way. He had all the qualities to be a big leader."

Fakhru said Babu left his wife and two children in such a condition that they have no place to take shelter.

"I urge all of our party leaders and activists to extend their helping hand to Babu's family."

The BNP leader came to Babu's rented house in the capital's Eskaton and talked to Babu's wife and children.

Clinker-laden lighter vessel capsizes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CIG

A lighter vessel carrying 1,500 tonnes of cement clinker capsized near Hatiya channel after colliding with another vessel yesterday.

All 13 crew of the vessel, MV Tasneha-5, were rescued by a trawler.

After loading imported cement clinkers from a mother vessel at outer anchorage of Chattogram port, Tanesha was heading for Narayanganj, said Md Salim, deputy director (DD) of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority.

The accident occurred when it collided with MV Nilgiri, heading from the same direction, and crack developed at the bottom of Tasneha-5. Its master and managed to take it around half a kilometre away from the channel when it sank.

US committed

FROM PAGE 3

trafficking is a global threat necessitating global response.

Earl R Miller said fight against the crime requires joint collaboration from government, civil society activists and international organisations.

The fight must involve training law enforcement officials, bringing trafficking in persons (TIP) cases to court, building strong community networks, protecting survivors, and enhancing cooperation between countries to investigate trafficking networks, he added.

The US envoy said Bangladesh's establishing of seven anti-human trafficking tribunals is a "huge step forward" to fight the crime.

On Bangladesh's upgrade from "Tier 2 Watch List" to "Tier 2" in the US State Department's TIP Report 2020, he congratulated all those who fought tirelessly to pursue accountability for traffickers and freedom for the victims.

However, he said the struggle continues, calling upon Bangladesh government to fulfill recommendations made in the TIP report.

The ambassador mentioned four specific recommendations for immediate government actions.

To this end, he mentioned that he and his colleague Ambassador-at-Large John Richmond wrote an op-ed published in The Daily Star on June 26, emphasising the four recommendations.

The US envoy also lauded Bangladesh's effort to fulfill the objectives of the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, known as the "Palermo Protocol."

Six Eid

FROM PAGE 3

before the Eid prayers and not rolling out carpets on the floors.

The devotees have been asked to bring prayer mats from home. They must wear masks inside mosques and avoid using prayer mats and caps stored there.

Children, elderly people, people with physical ailment, and those involved in taking care of the sick will not be allowed to attend the Eid prayers.

Besides, the devotees were requested to shun handshaking and hugging after the prayers which has been a common practice during Eid throughout the world.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs urged imams and managing committees of mosques to ensure proper implementation of the directives.

ACC asks BB

FROM PAGE 3

"While enquiring, we noticed that they [Faruk and his brothers] are trying to transfer their money. That's why we've asked Bangladesh Bank to freeze all of their accounts," said Meraz to the correspondent.

Specifying an FDR worth Tk 9 crore belonging to Faruk with Prime Bank's Ibrahimpur Branch, ACC asked BFIU to freeze it.

Earlier this month, Director General of Health Services black listed 14 medical equipment supplying farms. Ahmed Enterprise and Anik Traders are among the 14 black listed suppliers.

In 2019, the High Court (HC) ordered ACC to enquire into gross anomalies in the procurement of medical equipment for Faridpur Medical College Hospital (FMCH).

Record shows, in September 2014, M/S Anik Traders, owned by Sazzad and Mamun, was awarded a tender for the procurement of medical equipment for ICU of FMCH.

Anik Traders supplied FMCH the required machines and equipment on December 9 and December 20 of the same year, according to the FIR.

The trader then submitted a bill of Tk 10 crore. This was, however, rejected by the DGHS at the last minute for being "inflated".

MS Anik Traders in June 2017 moved a petition with the High Court against the DGHS for withholding the payment.

After scrutinising the documents submitted by DGHS and Anik Traders, the HC bench found gross anomalies and directed the ACC to launch an investigation.

Traders

FROM PAGE 3

He said he made Tk 40,000 profit after selling the bulls.

"I was hoping to make more profit and I had to work hard to rear them. But given the situation, I am not complaining. Hopefully, I will make more profit next year."

However, not all traders were as optimistic as Rafiqul. Mohammad Shanto, who reared three bulls for around seven months targeting Eid, said he could sell only one as of yesterday. "I sold the bull for Tk 51,500, that too at minimal profit."

Shanto arrived at Kachukhet cattle market three days back. "The first two days were very frustrating for me as I kept on waiting for buyers to show up. Hopefully, tomorrow [today] being the last day before Eid, more people will come and purchase animals."

A total of 18 cattle markets have been set up in the capital this year,

which is 10 less than last year.

Md Azmal, a trader from Jhenidha who brought 10 cattle to Dhupkhola cattle market, said, "Eighty percent traders in our area did not bring their bulls to the market fearing loss as they heard most people will not sacrifice animals due to financial crisis or coronavirus."

PRICES STILL HIGH Even though the number of buyers and cattle are both significantly lower this year, prices of animals seem to have gone up, complained city dwellers.

They said the capacity of purchasing sacrificial animals is less this year as many have lost their jobs or faced huge losses in their businesses due to the pandemic.

This newspaper also caught up with Shamshul Islam Khan -- who had initially decided not to sacrifice any animal this year for

Eid, but apparently changed his mind afterwards -- at the cattle market in Kachukhet yesterday morning.

He bought a bull for Tk 60,000, which he thought was at least Tk 10,000 more compared to the one he bought last year.

Md Ridoy, who purchased a bull for Tk 70,000, echoed him.

Many also said they are sacrificing animals by splitting the cost. "I did not get bonus this year... I am sacrificing a bull along with my neighbours this year," said Md Shajahan, a private job holder.

TRADERS WORRIED With Eid just a day away, many traders are beginning to worry as they were yet to sell their livestock.

"I brought 25 bulls from Faridpur two days back at Sadeque Hossain Khoka cattle market but could not sell any of them yet," said Mohammad Jony Sheikh.

Monsur Ali, a trader at Aftab

Nagar cattle market, said, "I have a loan of Tk 5 lakh, which I'll have to pay by selling the bulls. If I don't get a good price from the market, I will have to sell those to meat traders after Eid."

Though production of cattle in the country this year is satisfactory, it's reflection was not seen in the markets. Traders now fear if the situation persists, they may have to drop prices drastically so that they could at least sell their cattle and make some money.

Dr Abdul Zabbar Shikdar, director general of the Department of Livestock, told The Daily Star that this year, 1.19 crore cattle have been reared targeting Eid, exceeding last year's demand by 10 lakh.

But the challenge was selling cattle at different markets while maintaining physical distance and following health guidelines, he said.

ARMS CASE

Charges pressed against Shahed

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Within nine working days, detectives yesterday pressed charges against Regent Group Chairman Mohammad Shahed in an arms case.

Md Sairul Islam, inspector of Detective Branch (DB) of police and also the case's investigation officer (IO), submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka, showing 13 people as prosecution witnesses. This was first time DB pressed charges against Shahed since his arrest on July 15. On July 26, Shahed was shown arrested in the case after the IO submitted a petition.

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ন্যাশনাল ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর চেয়ারম্যান ও বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা জনাব জয়নুল হক সিকদার ২০১৫ সালে তার অধীনে 'দামিন্ত্র মুক্তি' স্বপ্ন প্রকল্প ন্যাশনাল ব্যাংকে চালু করেন। এর আওতায় রাজশাহী ও মহম্মদসিংহে সহ সেশের কয়েকটি রেলস্টেশন মাদুরের সাক্ষরী হবার লক্ষ্যে বিনা জামানতে ৫% সরল সুদে ঋণ প্রদান করা হয়। সে সময় ব্যাংকসমূহে সাধারণ ঋণ সুদের হার ছিল ১৪ থেকে ১৫%। মাদনীত প্রকল্পমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনার নির্দেশে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক বর্তমানে ব্যাংকসমূহকে সর্বোচ্চ ৯% হারে সুদ প্রদানের সীমা নির্ধারণ করে দেয়।

ন্যাশনাল ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর ৪০৯তম বোর্ড সভায় ব্যাংকের পরিচালক রিক হক সিকদার জানান যে, "দামিন্ত্র মুক্তি প্রকল্পের আওতায় যে সকল মাদুরকে ঋণ প্রদান করা হয়েছে তাদের ঋণ ফেরতের হার ৯৮%। বাংলাদেশে বেসরকারি ব্যাংকসমূহের মধ্যে ইসলামী ব্যাংকের পর ন্যাশনাল ব্যাংকে কর্তব্য বাধ্য শিখা সর্বোচ্চ ফলে আমদানের জন্য এই জাতীয় প্রকল্প অত্যন্ত জটিল এবং সেশের মাদুরের জন্য কল্যাণকর, বিশেষ করে এই করোনা মহামারীরতে যখন দামিন্ত্র মাদুর সবচেয়ে কঠোর আছে।"

এর ক্ষেত্রে ব্যাংকের চেয়ারম্যান ও বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা জনাব জয়নুল হক সিকদার এই প্রকল্পের আওতা বাড়িয়ে সরাসরে চালু করার নির্দেশনা প্রদান করেন এবং এই প্রকল্পে সুদের হার কমিয়ে ৩.৫% নির্ধারণ করে দেন। এই সিদ্ধান্তের ফলে এই করোনা মহামারীরকালে ন্যাশনাল ব্যাংকের এমন মানবিক প্রকল্প অনন্য উদাহরণ হয়ে থাকবে।

National Bank Limited

PUBALI BANK LIMITED
REGISTERED OFFICE
26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh

Disclosure relating to un-audited Half-Yearly (Q2) Financial information

This is for kind information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of Pubali Bank Limited in its 1246th Meeting held on Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at 4:00 PM in the Board Room of the Bank's Head Office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka has approved the un-audited Half-Yearly (Q2) Financial Statements of the Bank period ended on June 30, 2020 and disclosed the following key financial indicators of the Bank:

| Particulars | As on 30 June 2020 | | As on 30 June 2019 | |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| | Taka (Solo) | Taka (Consolidated) | Taka (Solo) | Taka (Consolidated) |
| Operating Profit | 3,956,500,939 | 3,992,523,528 | 5,184,550,145 | 5,400,834,855 |
| Net Profit after Tax | 1,463,060,502 | 1,475,623,520 | 2,034,206,045 | 2,222,769,373 |
| Net Asset Value (NAV) | 30,370,192,934 | 30,232,149,749 | 28,412,090,627 | 28,430,419,484 |
| NAV Per Share | 29.53 | 29.40 | 27.63 | 27.65 |
| Earnings Per Share (EPS) | 1.42 | 1.44 | 1.98 | 2.16 |
| Net Operating Cash Flows Per Share (NOCFPS) | (1.88) | (2.37) | 3.38 | 3.53 |

The details of the published un-audited Half-Yearly (Q2) Financial Statements period ended on June 30, 2020 are also available in the website of the Bank at www.pubalibangla.com.

By order of the Board
sd/-
Zahid Ahsan
General Manager &
Company Secretary

Dated: Dhaka
July 28, 2020

No export

FROM PAGE 3

providing financial aid, to compensate for losses caused by coronavirus in the fisheries and livestock sector.

"Our government will stand beside all small farmers and commercial entrepreneurs by providing them financial incentives, during this pandemic," he said.

When he was asked about repealing of the Digital Security Act, Minister Rezaul Karim said, "It is uncomfortable

for me if the mainstream journalists are harmed by this law."

"We want people to exercise free, fair and constructive criticism without harassing anybody illogically," he said.

Criticism must be constructive for development of the country, the minister further said. He, however, did not say about cancellation of the controversial law.

At the programme, as part of the

prime minister's financial assistance, the minister handed over a cheque for Tk 10,000 to 200 journalists each from four districts of Barishal division.

Journalist leaders from Barishal, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur and Barguna were present on the occasion. Sheikh Mamunur Rashid, member of the executive committee of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, among others, addressed.

Fire breaks out at CNG station

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

Fire gutted a CNG filling station at Burichang on Dhaka-Chattogram highway yesterday, injuring two workers of the station.

Due to the explosion and subsequent fire, movement on the highway was restricted for an hour. Four units of fire brigade brought the blaze under control in one-and-a-half hours.

Jashim Uddin, assistant director of Cumilla Fire Brigade said 12 fire service vehicles were deployed to douse the blaze.

World Health Organization
Bangladesh

VACANCY NOTICE

World Health Organization (WHO) invites applications from the interested and eligible candidates for the following position under Special Service Agreement:

- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Consultant, NO-B

For further details on the terms of reference and deadline for applications, please visit our website:
<https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/employment>

Qualified female candidates are highly encouraged to apply

WHO has a smoke-free environment and does not recruit smokers or other tobacco users.