

7 killed, 14 injured in road mishaps

By Staff Correspondent

At least seven people, two of them minor girls, were killed and 14 others injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka, Tongi and Khulna yesterday.

Our Gazipur Correspondent reports: Two people were killed and two others injured when a speeding minibus hit a rickshaw near Cheraig Ali Market in Tongi at 11.30 am Tuesday.

A pedestrian Kalai Mollah, 55, and a minor girl Nasima Akhter, 10, who was on the rickshaw died in the accident while Nasima's mother Sajeda Akhter, 30, and the rickshaw-puller Abul Hossain were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in critical condition.

Our DMCH Correspondent reports: A nine-year-old girl Yeasmin Akhter was killed as a truck ran over her at Mirpur, Section-1 in the capital yesterday.

Yeasmin was a student of class three of Mirpur Upasahar Primary School. Her body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

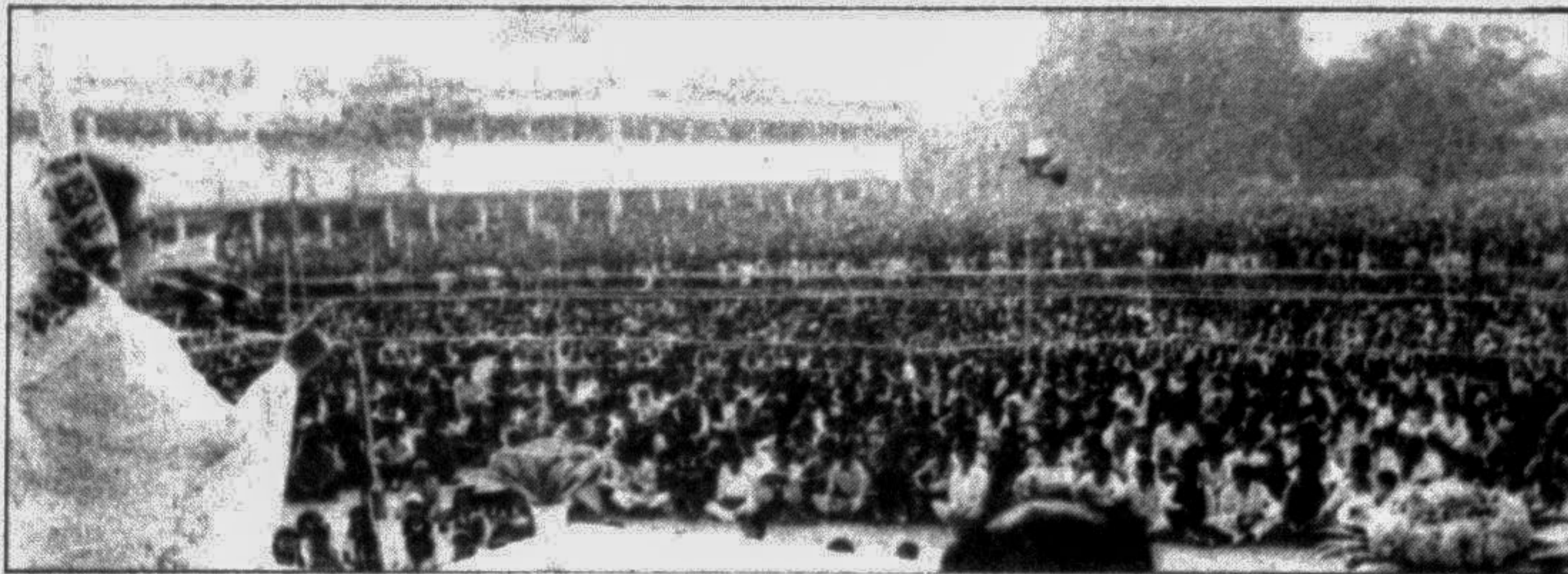
Our Staff Correspondent from Khulna reports: Three persons were killed on the spot and twelve others injured when two minibuses collided on Khulna-Bagerhat Road yesterday.

Eyewitness said two minibuses carrying supporters of two election candidates for Mongla Pourashava elections were going to Bagerhat to submit nomination papers. Both the buses were overloaded and as they were trying to overtake each other they collided at Sreeghat near Katakhal, 20 km from Bagerhat town at about 11.30 am yesterday.

Golam Mustafa, 30, Ranjit Majumdar, 24, and Soharab Hussain, 40, all from Mongla thana fell from the roof of the buses and were run over by them.

All three died on the spot. Of the injured, four were admitted to Khulna General Hospital and others to Fakirhat Health Complex and Bagerhat Hospital.

The damaged buses were seized by the police.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting in Chapainawabganj stadium yesterday. — PID photo

Afghan factions in Pakistan ordered to close offices

PESHAWAR, Jan 5: Pakistan today told all Afghan factions to close their offices and ordered unregistered humanitarian groups run by foreigners to close their offices in the region, which served as a base and sanctuary for the Afghan resistance.

The 14-year anti-communist Jihad, or holy war, backed by Western and Muslim countries, especially affluent Arab states, forced more than three million Afghans to flee to Pakistan.

The war ended in April last year when the Mujahideen took control of Kabul but inter-factional fighting in the capital has continued.

The Pakistani government, in deciding to expel Arabs who found a haven here after fighting as volunteers in Afghanistan, is seeking to distance itself from its brand of Islamic fundamentalism, diplomats say.

The conservative government of premier Nawaz Sharif, who no longer enjoys the support of the main fundamentalist Jamaat-I-Islami party, has nothing to lose and is now free to go after foreign fundamentalists, they say.

Thousands of North Africans, Saudis and other Arabs took up arms alongside the Afghan Mujahideen during the war against the Soviet intervention, only to be cast aside by their wartime allies after the fall of Soviet-backed communist government last April.

Some 10,000 wound up in Pakistan, with most living in the northwestern city of Peshawar, near the Afghan border, usually without papers.

"The Jihad is over but they have not gone home and they cause huge problems for us," a Pakistani official confided.

The Pakistani government, accused of allowing fundamentalism and terrorism to breed on its soil, has been under strong pressure by several Arab countries including especially Tunisia, Algeria and Egypt to resolve the situation, diplomats say.

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PM: Work together

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day-long tour of two northern districts, Begum Zia later went to Naogaon where she inaugurated the new Collectorate building.

She unveiled the plaque and planted a christmas sapling on the premises of the new building.

The Prime Minister also addressed another huge public meeting at the A-Team ground in Naogaon town. She urged people to work hard to build up an ideal nation.

Begum Zia said peace and discipline are the pre-requisites for development and called upon the people to help maintain congenial atmosphere.

The Prime Minister asked the local leaders to ensure that the farmers get the government-fixed minimum price of Tk 210 for every maund of paddy.

The rally was also addressed by the State Ministers for Finance, Law and Justice, Rajshahi City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, Ahaj Sham-suddin Ahmed MP, Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui MP and BNP's candidate for Municipal Corporation Chairman Jalal Ahmed.

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The Midnight File

Crude oil spill off Scotland coast

SUMBURGH (Scotland), Jan 5: An oil tanker carrying 84,500 tonnes of crude oil hit rocks in the Shetland Isles today and began leaking oil in heavy seas, coastguards said. "It is a horrendous scene," a coastguard duty officer said. "Thick black oil is pouring out. There is very bad weather," reports Reuter.

Iraq moves missiles to areas bordering 'no fly zone'

WASHINGTON, Jan 5: The Baghdad government has moved anti-aircraft missiles to areas bordering the no-fly zone established in southern Iraq to protect Shites Muslims, a Pentagon official said Monday, reports AFP.

India, China sign trade protocol

BEIJING, Jan 5: India and China today entered into a trade protocol, agreeing to open more points on the border for trade, expand the scope of commodities to be traded and encourage investments in each other's countries, reports PTL.

Refrain from visiting Malaysia without visa'

The Malaysian government has introduced visa system from January 1 this year for Bangladeshi citizens bound for that country, according to an official source here yesterday, reports BSS.

The government has, therefore, advised all concerned persons to refrain from going to Malaysia without obtaining visa from the local Malaysian embassy.

The Malaysian government has fixed visa fees at 20 (Twenty) Malaysian dollars for Bangladeshi citizens.

Jamaat

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The party demanded exemplary punishment to those responsible for the incident as well as adequate compensation for families of the victims.

It resented the Indian government's decision allowing Hindus to worship at the site of Babri Mosque and demanded that Muslims be permitted to offer prayers there.

Foggy weather

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Director of the Dhaka Met office told The Daily Star.

This is called "radiation fog" which disappears at mid-day. He said that because of the foggy weather, temperature rose slightly over the country during the past several days.

He said that the present foggy weather may be followed by a cold wave but it was too early to ascertain the date.

The Met official said that the only cold wave of the current season swept the country in mid-December when mercury fell to 7.4 degrees Celsius at Ishurdi.

Tuesday's lowest temperature was also recorded at Ishurdi at 12 degrees Celsius, while the temperature in Dhaka on the day was 14.6 degrees, Met office said.

Tea producers

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reports say, the country in its 156 gardens produced 41.20 million kgs of tea in the 10 months from Jan to Oct 92, up from 38.49 million kgs during the same period in 91. The tea production has been targeted at 46 million kgs in 1992 as against 45 million kgs in 1991.

Facing an aggravated situation in the world markets Bangladesh tea producers and traders, meanwhile, stream-lined out for providing credit-line to CIS countries to buy tea from here but their proposal is yet to see the light of the day. So as an alternative, they turned their eyes to home market and media campaign to increase internal consumption, sources said.

A tea trader jokingly said "the son of the soil" last of all returned home finding no base in abroad."

M A Siddiqui, Marketing Manager of a leading tea company, said finding a very dull export market his organisation had given emphasis on home market to provide support and protection to the tea gardens and industries.

"At much lower price we have exported tea this time, even at a loss between Tk 4 to Tk 7 per kg," Siddiqui said.

"If such a trend continues at least for two years most of the tea gardens of the country may undoubtedly turn into pasture lands," he opined.

A senior official of James Finlay, another leading tea company, said, "We have launched the home market campaign through packet teas as a part of our diversified strategy for survival and we are getting good response".

Official sources said, country's home consumption in the 5 months from July to Nov this year, rose to 8 million kgs from 7.5 million kgs in the corresponding period of 91-92.

JUTA observes token strike today

SAVAR, Jan 5: Jahan-girnagar University Teachers Association will observe a token strike today (Wednesday) to protest violent activities of some unruly students, reports UNB.

A group of students forced into the examination halls and ousted the examinees, tore question papers, confined the teachers on duty and fired in the air on January 3, said a JUTA press release today.

The strike was decided Tuesday in an emergency meeting of JUTA with its President Prof Mustahidur Rahman in the chair. It condemned the breach of discipline and demanded exemplary punishment of the students involved in the January 3 incident.

Montu-backed BCL observes founding day

By DU Correspondent

In celebration of the 45th founding anniversary of the Chhatra League, the Montu-backed BCL (M-I) arranged discussion and cultural function on the Dhaka University campus yesterday morning.

The Chhatra League was founded on January 4, 1948.

Addressing the discussion as the chief guest Mostafa Mohsin Mantu called the students to be united in materialising the students' demands.

He also criticised the government for not realising the 10-point charter of demands of the students community.

The discussion held in front of the Arts Building of the DU was also addressed among others by the BCL(M-I), leaders Masum Ahmed, Mizanur Rahman Azad, Syed Kamrul Hossain.

AL observes Bangabandhu's homecoming day Jan 10

Awami League will observe the Homecoming Day of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on January 10, reports UNB.

On this day in 1972, country's independence leader and founding President Sheikh Mujib returned to independent Bangladesh amidst a tumultuous reception from captivity in Pakistan.

In observance of the day, Awami League will hold a public meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue at 3 pm. Party President Sheikh Hasina will address the meeting.

General Secretary Zillur Rahman, in a statement, yesterday asked all the party units to observe the day.

Jhenidah Keshab Chandra College closed sine die

JHENIDAH, Jan 5: The Government Keshab Chandra College was closed sine die today after a student group ransacked the principal's office demanding shifting of the date for college union election, reports UNB.

Witnesses said activists of Chhatra Oikya, a conglomerate of some student organisations, attacked the Principal's office and assaulted two teachers as the college authorities declined to defer the election date.

I killed, many hurt as labourers clash in Khulna

From Our Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Jan 5: One person was killed and several others were injured when two rival groups of labourers clashed for four hours near Boyra CSO godown here early today.

The victim was identified as Habib, 27.

Police and local sources said a group reportedly led by Nazem Sardar and the other led by Dalim clashed over the possession of an area from 1.30 am to five am in the morning.

Both the groups used lethal weapons and exploded hand bombs during the overnight fighting.

The injured persons were admitted to different clinics of the city.

A case was lodged with Khalishpur thana in this connection.

Police firing on long-marchers condemned

Former President Khandkar Mushtaque Ahmed and 10 other political leaders have condemned police firing on peaceful long march that left five people dead on Monday, reports UNB.

In a joint statement yesterday (Tuesday) they called upon the nation to build up movement against the calculated attack on the marchers.

They also called upon all patriotic and nationalist forces to unite for resisting aggression against the country by the expansionist forces.

The statement was issued by Kamal Pasha Doza in the name of Khandkar Mushtaque Ahmed (Jatiya Oikya Front), ASM Solaiman (Krishak Sramik Party), Anwar Zahid (National Democratic Party), Col (Rtd) Abdur Rashid (Freedom Party), Ataul Haq Khan (Muslim League Oikya Prokria), Farman Ullah Khan (Islamic Party), Strajul Haq Gora (Muslim Jatyatabadi Dal), Noor Mohammad Kazi (NAP Bhashani), Kazi Awlad Hossain (Biplabi Muslim League), Khandkar Golam Murtaza (National Democratic Party) and Sheikh Mohiuddin Ahmed (Straj Sikdar Parishad).

They demanded immediate reconstruction of the Babri Mosque at its original site and ensure rights of Muslims to say their prayer there.

The leaders expressed sympathy with the members of the bereaved families and prayed for peace of the souls.

Body to probe Jessore incident

The government yesterday constituted a one-member inquiry committee with Khulna divisional commissioner Abdul Mukhtar Chowdhury to probe Monday's incident in Jessore in which five people were killed as police fired on a Ayodhya-bound marchers, reports UNB.

An official handout said the committee will submit its report alongwith recommendations to the Home Ministry within 30 days.

The committee has been given the powers to call any file or documents in the interest of the investigation. It can also ask for help from any person.

Deputy Commissioner of Jessore will provide secretarial assistance to the committee.



Long March Action Committee brought out a procession yesterday in the city protesting police firing on the marchers in Jessore Monday. — Star photo



JSD (Inu) procession in the city yesterday demanding punishment to those responsible for Chittagong firing and rampage. — Star photo

Blasts mark Chittagong hartal

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outbreak of violence. Reliable sources said that measures had been taken to tame the Navy personnel involved in the Halishahar incidents, instead of going into any quick departmental action.

Meanwhile, adequate measures were yet to be taken by the authorities to rehabilitate the affected people at Halishahar. Only Chittagong City Corporation distributed some relief goods and cash among few of the affected people.

UNB adds: The all-party unity held gayebana janaza at the Laidighi Maidan in the afternoon.

The janaza was followed by a rally, presided over by Awami League leader Ishaq Mia. It was addressed, among others, by Awami League Secretary ABM Mahiuddin Chowdhury, district President of Workers Party Saradindu Dastidar, President of Jatiya Janata Party Shaikh Asad and city Secretary of JSD (Inu) Solaiman Khan.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Federation enforced blockade of road traffic between Saltgola crossing and Patenga industrial area for an indefinite period, demanding compensation for the transport victims.

Truck driver Nurul Afsar was killed and several others were injured during the violence. Some 42 trucks were also damaged and 3 set afire, the federation leaders said.

Production in the heavy and light industries, including the EPZ, Cement Klinker Factory, Steel Mill, Eastern Refinery, was completely disrupted, as a result of the road blockade.

City Corporation began distribution of relief materials among 391 families seriously affected by the violence.

City Mayor Mir Mohammad Nasraddin, Amir Khashru Mahmud Chowdhury, MP, and Rosy Kabir, MP, distributed about 1,000 blankets, 36 bags of rice, 18 bags of pulses, 200 pieces of lungi, 200 pieces of saree among the victims. Tk 1,000 and a cooking set were also given to each family.

Hundreds of destituted people have still been living in the open because of destruction of their houses.

উৎপাদনমুখী ঋণ প্রদানে
রূপালী ব্যাংক
অগ্রণী ভূমিকা রাখছে

ব্যাংকিং কর্মকাণ্ডে রূপালী ব্যাংক
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দেশের অর্থনৈতিক কর্মকাণ্ডে রূপালী ব্যাংক
আপনার বিশ্বস্ত সহযোগী

রূপালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
উত্তম সেবার নিচয়তা।

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