

7 killed, 50 injured in road mishaps

By DMCH Correspondent

Seven people were killed and at least 50 others injured in eight separate road accidents in Dhaka, Gazipur, Mukhtarpur and Manjganj during last two days.

One person was killed and five others were injured as a bus and an auto-rickshaw collided near Natun Bazar at Bardhara in the city Monday evening.

An auto-rickshaw passenger who died on the spot could not be identified immediately. Gulshan police said.

Of the five wounded one Shamsuddoha was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Gulshan police said that they seized both the bus (Dhaka Ja-4373) and auto-rickshaw (Dhaka Metro Th-02-2541) and arrested the bus driver Jalal.

In another road accident at Gulshan, a cart puller Shaiful Islam 40, died on the spot as a minibus ran over him in the early morning Monday.

A pedestrian Akkas Ali died Monday noon when a minibus ran over him at Gulshan near the Golap Shah Mazar.

Fatally wounded Akkas Ali was rushed to the DMCH but a doctor on duty declared him dead.

Ramna police seized the 'killer' minibus bearing number Dhaka Metro Ch-3190 but its driver escaped immediately after the accident, said police.

Bachchu Mia, a hawker, who was run over by a truck at Farm Gate late Sunday night and admitted to the DMCH succumbed to his injuries early

Monday at the hospital.

In another incident on Sunday at Mohakhali in the city a pedestrian Rafiqul Islam, 20, died when a speeding bus smashed him in the afternoon. Some people took the victim to the DMCH where doctors declared him dead.

A report from our Gazipur Correspondent said that at least one person was killed and 15 others were wounded when a speeding bus dashed against pedestrians at Gazipura at Tong Monday morning.

Witnesses said that when an unidentified youth was smashed under the wheels of a bus, its driver recklessly ran over as many as 15 other pedestrians on his way to escape.

All the 15 injured persons were admitted to the Tongi Hospital while the body of the youth was sent to the morgue in the same hospital.

When another bus on its way to Mukhtarpur from Munshiganj turned over in the road at least 30 people were wounded at around 5 am Monday.

Of the injured three, Mohammad Hassan, 45, Mohammad Alam, 28, and Nurul Islam, 55, all in critical condition, were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

A 70-year-old man Ayat Ali who fell from the door of a running bus Sunday morning and admitted to the DMCH in critical condition died at the hospital at around 1 am Monday.

JS adjourned amid uproar

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come out with adequate measures to control the situation, the Opposition added.

The Opposition also demanded that the victims of the minority communities be compensated and the damaged temples be rebuilt.

The trouble in the House began when Nurul Islam Moni of the ruling party accused the AL-led Opposition of undermining the national interest by attaching more importance on the reaction of the people in Bangladesh than the Indian action of demolishing the historic mosque.

Moni said, "The Opposition is virtually speaking against the interest of the country, the Opposition members are taking a position that goes against their father."

The Opposition members, especially ones from the AL-led Opposition, collectively demanded of the speaker to expunge the sentence. The Treasury benchers, at this stage, backed Nurul Islam Moni by thumbing their benches.

Shaikh Razzak Ali, Speaker of the House, at this point asked AL leader Tofael Ahmed, who was seeking the floor, to explain that under which rule he (the Speaker) could expunge Moni's stance. Tofael told the chair that Moni's comment had hurt the feelings of the opposition members. "Deliberation on a misdeed like attacking temples of the country by miscreants could not be termed anti-national."

Abdus Samad Azad, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, took the floor to specifically mention a particular rule under which the remark made by the ruling party MP could be expunged from the proceedings of the House.

Besides, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said, "If we term the government anti-national, the Treasury bench would definitely want expungement of the comment."

Niamatullah Sabu of the Treasury bench, at this stage, started heckling Samad Azad from his seat to which the Deputy Leader of the Opposition reacted bitterly.

Samad Azad, pointing his finger to the Treasury bench MP, started saying repeatedly, "where do you come from?" The AL led MPs joined the Deputy Leader of the opposition and the Speaker, amidst an uproar in the House, announced adjournment of the proceedings at 11-35 last night.

The discussion on the issue will resume 6 this evening.

BSS adds: BNP member Mrs Mamaching was the first to resume discussion at 9-15 pm.

She said the incident like Babri Mosque demolition in neighbouring India had an obvious impact in Bangladesh as it had hurt the sentiment of the people all over the world.

Mrs Mamaching said despite provocations the people of Bangladesh stood against all conspiracies and maintained communal harmony in the wake of Babri Mosque demolition.

Speaking next, Moulana Abdus Sobhan (Jamaat) said the destruction of Babri Mosque had shaken the world conscience and the people of Bangladesh had protested against and condemned the incident.

He condemned the Narasimha Rao government for the incident and said in the name of secularism members of minority community were being repressed in India.

Moulana Sobhan said even after the killing of such a huge number of Muslims, people of Bangladesh had maintained communal harmony.

Moulana Sobhan, however, admitted that there might be a few incidents of communal disturbance in some places in Bangladesh in the wake of Babri Mosque demolition.

Allegations baseless: Dhaka

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stated that it cannot be said that there is no exception. In fact, the children employed in some areas breaking rules will not be more than 5 per cent at best, it said.

It further said although Bangladesh is basically an agricultural country, it has made considerable progress in the field of industrialisation. With the establishment of industries the demand for industrial workers has also increased.

On the other hand, the surplus manpower from the agricultural sector is coming to industrial areas in the hope of greater opportunities. The opportunity of child workers for employment in factories is significant so to say when a large number of able bodied men and women are eager to seek employment there.

According to the handout, men and women working in factories live in the nearby slums. In the family where both husband and wife work or the women who work either in a factory or other place main-

Participating in the discussion Awami League member Abul Hasan Chowdhury condemned the destruction of Babri Mosque and said it had cast a shadow on the civilisation of that country.

He said international magazine 'News Week' in a story on Babri Mosque demolition had also mentioned about communal violence in Bangladesh.

Hasan urged the government to admit truth which, he said, would embolden the moral force.

He pleaded for providing compensation to the affected members of the minority community.

The Awami League member criticised the foreign policy of the government describing it as "weak-kneed."

He said that seven people were killed in firing on the long march near the border only because of the fear of India.

He wanted to know why the Foreign Minister had failed to raise the Babri Mosque issue before SAARC and why the government had failed to assess the situation before the postponement of SAARC summit.

Participating in the discussion, Salahuddin Yusuf (AL-Khulna) demanded of the government for compensation and rehabilitation of those who fell into the wrath of communal violence on minorities in various places of the country following the demolition of Babri Mosque in India.

He urged the government to admit the losses suffered by the minorities during the communal violence in the country and observed that such occurrences would take place in the country if communal politics exists here.

Salahuddin Yusuf said over 2000 mandirs were demolished and over 3000 women of minority community were raped during the recent communal violence in various places of the country.

"If the government was at all sincere, such occurrences would have not taken place in Bangladesh centering the demolition of the Babri Mosque," he said adding that an all-party committee in Khulna did not allow such incidence in that district.

"But who will give answer as to the barbaric incidents that have taken place in other areas of the country," he asked.

The Awami League member condemned the forces who had demolished the Babri Mosque and demanded of the Indian government to reconstruct it immediately.

Another Awami League leader Kalpanaraj Chakma from Khagrachhari alleged that a Boudha Mandir in Senbhaga had been destroyed during the communal violence there following the destruction of Babri Mosque in India.

Speaking next, BNP member Mashur Rahman said it was for the first time Bangladesh had protested against an incident that took place outside its territory.

The BNP member said the opposition members had failed to perform their responsibility in maintaining communal harmony in the areas while no incident of violence had occurred in the areas belonging to Treasury bench members.

The Minister of State for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Barrister Aminul Huq condemned the demolition of the historic Babri Mosque by the Hindu fanatics in Ayodhya and said it was not an isolated incident.

Tracing the history, Barrister Huq said that the claim of the site of Babri Mosque as the birth place of God Rama was nothing but a fiction. Historians in India had also made statements that God Rama was not born in Ayodhya.

the US court pleading for stopping GSP facilities, to garment exported by Bangladesh on ground of employing child labour and ignoring the interest of garment workers.

After review by different departments of the United States the allegation of AFLCIO turned out to be untrue. As a result, the US President announced that Bangladesh has been making all-out efforts to establish the honour of its workers. Under the circumstances, the GSP facilities would continue.

The handout said that child labour is not desirable in any country including Bangladesh. The Bangladesh government looks forward to the development of all children of the world in a congenial atmosphere. Bangladesh wants that children grow up with good health and thus develop a healthy society.

The government, therefore, call upon all concerned to abide by the existing laws regarding child labour framed in accordance with the international labour standard.

It should be mentioned here that American Federation of Labour and Congress of Industrial Organisation (AFLCIO) has filed a case with

The State Minister refuted the claim of the Indian government that the incident of the demolition of Babri Mosque was an internal matter of that country.

He condemned that 14,000 Indian security forces were standing like statues when the historic mosque was demolished.

Referring to the killing of Muslims in different parts of India particularly in Bombay, the State Minister quoted the Time magazine as reporting it was not a riot between the Hindus and Muslims but a riot between Indian police and the Muslims.

Awami League member Alhaj Syed Najibul Bashar Maizbandhari strongly protested and condemned the demolition of historic Babri Mosque by the Hindu fanatics.

In an oblique reference to Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, Maizbandhari alleged that this party was behind the damaging of the houses and property of the minority communities. He also accused that the BNP and the Jamaat members were speaking on, the issue in the same line.

The Awami League member concluded his speech saying that he himself would join a zehad (holy war) if the Babri Mosque is not rebuilt at its original site.

Advocate Dharendra Devnath Shambu (AL) strongly condemned the demolition of the Babri Mosque and demanded rebuilding of the mosque at its original site.

Gonatantrik Party leader Suranjit Sen Gupta referred to the understanding reached between BNP, Awami League, Gonatantrik Party, CPB for taking unanimous resolution in the House on the Babri Mosque demolition and said that he would not understand way BNP ever again shifted from its stand when figures like Deputy Leader of the House, Acting Chief Whip were party to it.

He strongly condemned the destruction of Babri Mosque by Hindu fundamentalists and demanded its reconstruction at its original place.

Gupta, however, expressed his surprise at the attempt by the fundamentalist group here blessed by the government to pass on the responsibility of that incident in India on the minorities of Bangladesh.

Recalling one such incident centering the same mosque during Ershad's regime when the Dhakeshwari Temple was attacked at the instance of the then government, Gupta said that the present Prime Minister Khaleda Zia visited the temple and condemned the incident.

But, this time, the Gonatantrik Party leader said, that the Prime Minister did not even acknowledge that the minorities were oppressed.

Gupta said that why an elected government could not call a spade a spade, it might be that like Premier Rao, she had also surrendered to Jamaat here, he observed.

State Minister for Communication Fazlur Rahman Potal taking part in the discussion said demolition of Babri Mosque had hurt the sentiment of world Muslims and that was why it had earned widespread condemnation from across the world.

Participating next BNP member Nurul Islam Moni said the Indian government had from behind instigated the demolition of Babri Mosque.

He said three lakh families had been affected in communal violence in India in the wake of Babri Mosque demolition.

Moni drew that attention of the Opposition members and wanted to know whether they (Opposition) could ensure protection to every house and temple of the minority community if they were in the government.

Body to form Editors' Guild

A six-member preparatory committee with The Daily Star Editor S M Ali as Convener and UNB Chief Editor Enayatulh Khan as Joint Convener has been named to form Bangladesh Editors' Guild, reports UNI.

The committee will draft a constitution for the Guild, enrol members and hold election within two months.

It was formed at a meeting of editors of newspapers and news agencies on Sunday with Chairman of Editorial Board of the Daily Ittefaq and the New Nation Barrister Mainul Hossain in the chair.

Other members of the committee are: Morning Sun Editor Anwarul Islam (Bobby), Azad Editor Z A Khan, Banglar Bani Editor Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim and Khabar Editor Mizanur Rahman Mizan.

Rao ministers

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Singh is also a former cabinet member, having held both the Commerce and External Affairs portfolios.

AK Antony, a former Chief Minister of the southern state of Kerala, was named Cabinet Minister in charge of civil supplies, formerly the responsibility of Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, PFI said.

Rajesh Pilot, formerly Minister of State for Communications, was moved to the Home Ministry and put in charge of internal security, PFI said.

He will report to Home Minister SB Chavan, who retains his post.

Satish Sharma, a former airline pilot and close aide to assassinated former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, was given independent charge of the Petroleum Ministry as Minister of State, PFI said.

He replaces B Shankaranand, who was moved to the Health Ministry.

NKP Salve, a former head of the country's Finance Commission who was also sworn in to the cabinet on Sunday, was given the Energy portfolio, PFI said.

Ghulam Nabi Azad, Cabinet Minister for Parliamentary Affairs was shifted to the Tourism and Civil Aviation Ministry, PFI said.

Flood project

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and development of environment.

Besides the Water Development Board, Dhaka WASA and Dhaka City Corporation had been engaged in completing the project.

The Minister pointed out a feasibility study on the Greater Dhaka Flood Protection Project covering the eastern region of the metropolis had been formulated by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) last year. Arrangements are being for the procurement of loan for implementing the project, Ituq said.

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2). The technical & financial proposals should be submitted separately as under the "Two Envelope system". The basic qualifications of A.E. Firm required for applying for the project are shown as hereunder:

a) The Architectural and Engineering Consulting Firm shall require a minimum of 7 years experience.

b) The A.E. Firm must have familiarity with hospital planning, design, construction supervision and project management and monitoring services for aided projects.

3). Applications must be submitted stating the following information:

a) Name, Full Address and Telephone number of the Organisation.

b) List of Partners/Directors of the firm with qualification.

c) List and Curriculum Vitae of full time Qualified Architects, Engineers, Technical personnel and Key staffs.

d) List and value of building projects completed, with contract award and completion dates.

e) List of design and testing equipments.

f) List and value of projects in hand, also with contract award.

g) Bank reference.

Architectural and Engineering Consulting Firm having back-up service from overseas associates having experience in hospital projects shall be given preference.

The envelope should be marked "PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONSULTANT" and must reach the following address by 1st March, 1993.

The authority reserves the right to reject any or all applications without assigning any reason whatsoever.

SECRETARY Continental Hospital Ltd. "Pacific Center" 14, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka-1212.

Editor : S. M. Ali Executive Editor : Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 82 Motiuhel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at The Sangbad Ltd., 36 Purana Paltan, Dhaka. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11; Road No. 3; Dhanmondi R.A., Dhaka 1205. PABX: 500092-4. Advertisement: 500091-2. (Direct) Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257. GRAM. DAILY STAR DHAKA.

The Midnight File

Russia calls for new UNSC meet to talk Iraq issue

MOSCOW, Jan 18: Russia, hinting at its unceasing over increasing Western military action against Iraq, called today for a new meeting of the United Nations Security Council. A Foreign Ministry statement repeated the Russian leadership's view that Iraq, by flouting UN resolutions on the Gulf, had provoked the crisis in which its civilians had been killed. But it did not specifically endorse Sunday's cruise missile attacks and today's new air strikes by the United States and its allies on Iraqi targets and appeared to imply concern they might exceed their UN mandate, reports Reuters.

AI worried over torture of journalists in Pakistan

LONDON, Jan 18: Amnesty International said Monday it has received reports that Pakistani police tortured or mistreated at least 12 journalists and scores of government opponents during demonstrations in November and December. The London-based human rights said in a statement it was also worried that several hundred people, whom it regards as prisoners of conscience, were still in custody after being picked up during recent mass arrests, reports AP.

Delhi firm

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to revive the seventh SAARC summit twice postponed following Ayodhya development in India.

Premadasa and Rao agreed that their governments will keep in close touch on the question of fixing new dates for the Dhaka summit, an Indian External Affairs Ministry press release said.

They also expressed satisfaction on the present state of friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries.

Diarrhoea

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In five thanas of Barguna, 24 persons died today increasing the death figure to a total of 148 while 831 were attacked in this period. Ten more people died in five thanas of Patuakhali raising the death toll to 33. Another 92 people were attacked with the disease in the district today.

One death was reported today from Jhalkathi district where the death toll stands at 24. In four thanas of the district, 191 persons were attacked with the disease in a day.

According to concerned sources, 203 medical teams are working in the affected areas, but the number of doctors in the teams is not adequate.

Biswa Ijtema

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Nuruddin Khan, Naval Chief Rear Admiral Mohaiminul Islam, and Air Chief Air Vice Marshal Alaf Hossain took part in the munajaat, which began at 11-15am and continued till 12-10 pm.

A serious traffic jam clogged the Dhaka -Mymensingh Highway from Banani in Dhaka to Cherag Ali Market in Tongi.

A total of 10 people died of diarrhoea and other illness while another 500 people took medicine from the field hospitals during the three-day Ijtema. Police arrested 30 pick pockets from the Ijtema area.

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- Applications in sealed cover are invited for appointment of Architectural and Engineering Consulting Firm (A.E. Firm) to provide Architectural and Engineering services for project management, monitoring and supervision of construction of a hospital of international standard in the Metropolitan city of Dhaka.
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