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Dhaka Day by Day

7 killed, 80 hurt in city bus collision

By Staff Correspondent

At least seven people were killed and nearly 100 others injured in two road accidents in Dhaka and Savar Sunday.

In a deadly road accident at Banani in the capital seven people, six of them women, were killed and around 80 injured when a minibus rammed a BRTC bus which was on wrong-side of the New Airport road near the Dhaka Gate Sunday morning.

Earlier in the morning, in another accident 20 persons, 15 of them students were injured when a passenger coach struck the Jahangirnagar University bus on the Dhaka-Aricha highway in Savar.

Of the dead, five women who were in the minibus died on the spot while another passenger a man succumbed to his injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) after admission. Another woman seriously injured in the accident died at the Combined Military Hospital later.

None of the dead could be identified immediately, reports our DMCH correspondent.

Witnesses said that the minibus hit the BRTC bus when the latter swerved to its extreme right crossing the road-divider on the New Airport Road at around 11:15 am yesterday.

The minibus bearing number Gazipur Za-04-0005 was moving to Mohakhali terminal while the other - Dhaka Metro Cha-7384 - was bound for Tongi from Dhaka.

Police suspected that the BRTC bus had suddenly changed its direction to the wrong-side following a break-failure.

However some people who witnessed the accident said that it had seemed that the bus changed its direction to reach a nearby fuel station on the opposite side of the road.

Recalling the very moment of the accident, a 60-year-old man, Abudus Sattar, attending



Wreckage of the buses which collided near Dhaka Gate at Banani in the city yesterday. —Star photo

Int'l Women's Day today

International Women's Day will be observed today (Monday) across the world by focusing on the theme: Violence Against Women, reports UNB.

To observe the day in a befitting manner in Bangladesh, the Ministry of Women's Affairs and various organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes.

In his message on the occasion, UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali called for redoubled efforts within communities and at the grassroots level, in places of education and employment to ensure that women were treated fairly and without discrimination.

The Ministry of Women's Affairs will hold a discussion meeting at Hotel Sundarban at 4 pm on the day.

Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam

Tk 62000 cr revised Fourth Plan Public sector outlay slashed, private sector raised

The National Economic Council (NEC) at a meeting yesterday approved the revised fourth five-year plan (1990-95) reducing its size to Tk 62,000 crore from the original outlay of Tk 68,930 crore, reports UNB.

The public sector outlay has been slashed to Tk 34,700 crore from Tk 41,930 crore but the private sector investment has been raised to Tk 27,300 crore from Tk 27,000 crore.

The NEC meeting chaired by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the Council's conference room also approved the recommendations

March 7 observed

The historic Seventh March, commemorating the speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on this day in 1971 at Suhrawardy Uddyan, was observed here yesterday in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

Awami League and its front organisations and a number of other socio-cultural organisations arranged elaborate programmes to observe the day.

To mark the occasion Awami League held a discussion at its central office with Party Chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Earlier in the morning, Awami League hoisted the national and party flags atop its central office and placed wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu at Bangabandhu Bhavan.

Besides, the central com-

Take fresh vow to ensure rights of women: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon all men and women around the world to take a fresh vow to ensure the fundamental human rights of the women, reports BSS.

In a message on the eve of 'International Women's Day' Begum Zia wished success of all efforts in removing the existing disparity between men and women in Bangladesh and elsewhere in the world. She said we are waiting for that happy occasion when women would live together with men enjoying equal rights in all fields.

She described this year's theme 'Human Rights: Women's Rights' as appropriate in the context of the con-

Walkouts mark JS session

By Staff Correspondent

Three separate walkouts by Awami League, Ganotantri Party and Jatiya Party marred the parliament session Saturday starting with the AL members' leaving the floor protesting, what they termed, as 'distortion' of the facts about the historic March 7, 1971 and the failure to depict the event in the government-controlled media.

'We shall not be able to take part in the proceedings of the House if we are not assured that the historic March 7 recorded speech, by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, will be played over radio and television,' Deputy

Leader of the Opposition Abudus Samad Azad said before staging the walkout.

Within seconds of the AL walkout, the lone Ganotantri Party member Suranjit Sengupta stormed out of the House after being repeatedly refused the floor by Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni.

About 15 minutes later, the Jatiya Party members walked out of the House protesting a Treasury Bench member's remark terming former President Hussain Muhammad Ershad as a 'biswa chor' (a world class thief).

The Deputy Leader of the

Govt suppressing facts of Liberation War: Hasina

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday accused the government of distorting history by suppressing facts of the Liberation War and contribution of its great heroes, reports UNB.

Addressing a discussion meeting of Awami League held at Bangabandhu Avenue marking the historic 7th March, Hasina criticised the government for ignoring the day.

On this day in 1971 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman delivered a historic speech from Suhrawardy Uddyan giving a call for non-cooperation movement and War of Liberation against the Pakistani military regime.

Describing the 7th March speech of Bangabandhu as one of the rare speeches in the world, Hasina said those who are now in power had failed to

NEWS BRIEFS

PM attends iftar hosted by Jubo Dal

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday attended an iftar party hosted by Jubo Dal leaders city Mayor Mirza Abbas MP and State Minister for Forest and Environment Gayeshwar Chandra Roy. Held at Sugandha, the iftar was attended, among others, by ministers, parliament members and labour leaders, women, youth and student front organisations of BNP, reports BSS.

Faiz takes oath as PSC Chairman

Chairman of the Department of Soil Science and Dean of the Faculty of Biological Science Prof S M A Faiz yesterday took oath as Chairman of the Public Service Commission. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed conducted the oath at a simple ceremony at Supreme Court Bhavan, reports BSS.

Nafis Sadik in city

Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), arrived here yesterday afternoon on a four-day visit to Bangladesh. Immediately after arrival, she met with Planning Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan and discussed the UNFPA's role in addressing population problems in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Saifur leaves for Britain

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman left for Britain yesterday to participate in a conference on Balancing Economic Reforms with Political Stability. The conference, to be held at Wilton Park, is likely to be attended by leading academics from all over the world including present and former finance ministers of Pakistan, India and Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Sehri, Iftar Timings

Ram	Mar	Sehri	Iftar
13	8	—	6:11 pm
14	9	4:54 am	6:12 pm

Stranded Pakistanis Repatriation may restart in July

By Masud Hasan Khan

The repatriation of second batch of the stranded Pakistanis might resume in July, sources involved in the return indicated Sunday.

They said that a tentative date to re-start the repatriation was likely to be fixed at an upcoming meeting of the Rabitat Trust on March 12 at Lahore, Pakistan.

The trust was formed by the Merca-based Rabitat-Al-Alam-tan-tan-tan to fund the repatriation of an estimated 2.38 lakh Pakistani citizen stranded in Bangladesh since its independence in 1971.

The first batch of a total 325 Urdu-speaking refugees, better known as Biharis, went home on January 10.

The symbolic return followed an announcement jointly made by the Pakistan Premier Mian Nawaz Sharif and his Bangladeshi counterpart Begum Khaleda Zia during her Islamabad visit last year.

A Pakistan High Commission official said that the home-going of the rest of the refugees was expected after four months from now only after construction of the houses for the returnees in Pakistan.

Abbas Zahidi, now the Charge d'Affaires of the High Commission told The Daily Star by telephone that he could not spell out any date for restarting the airlifting because it depended on completion of construction of the houses. 'But we hope it would begin after four months from now,' he said.

'Besides, some kind of announcement on the promised repatriation may also come during the upcoming SAARC summit,' Zahidi added.

Meanwhile, with no definite

204 more Rohingyas go home

COXS BAZAR, Mar 7: Two hundred and four Rohingya refugees of 56 families went back to Myanmar today through three transit camps at Teknaf here, reports BSS.

This was the 33rd batch of refugees repatriated so far.

According to officials, UNHCR representatives and Bangladeshi officials were present at Rangikhali, Nayapara and Gummapara transit camps at the time of repatriation of the Rohingyas.

The total number of Rohingya refugees repatriated so far stands at 22,184 while there are 2,16,560 more refugees are living in different camps.

Workers' Party supports SKOP movement

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Workers' Party at a press conference Sunday called upon all progressive and democratic forces to come forward with full support for the legitimate demands of the workers and employees of the country.

The press conference addressed by its General Secretary Rashed Khan Menon also called upon the government to abandon the way of repression and false assurances and keep its commitment by fulfilling the demands of the workers and employees.

Extending his full support to the 48-hour strike programme of Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP), Menon said that the government had repeatedly breached the agreements signed with SKOP and other workers unions forcing them to go for a movement. Their movement was not illegal, rather they were playing a role of patriotism by struggling for protecting the industrial sector and the economy of the country, he observed.

Criticizing the government policies regarding agriculture, industry and labour, the WP leader said that the government did not even feel like discuss the matters with the opposition inside or outside parliament.

'It was adopting policies being directed by the World Bank and the IMF ignoring the national interest, he alleged.

The WB and the IMF — prescribed policies were destroy-

Rabbani, Hekmatyar share power Afghan peace accord signed

ISLAMABAD, Mar 7: Afghanistan's feuding leaders signed a peace accord here today to end their 12-month old fratricidal conflict that has ravaged Kabul and left thousands dead, reports AFP.

After a marathon session of talks early today the formula was signed which will extend President Burhanuddin Rabbani mandate for 18 months while bringing in his bitter rival, dissident leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, as Prime Minister.

The Afghan leaders signed the agreement at the official residence of Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

A ceasefire is to take effect immediately, according to AP.

But before the pact was signed, fighting erupted anew in the Afghan capital, Kabul, between well-armed rival factions.

After talking throughout the night Saturday, the leaders of all 10 Muslim groups that helped overthrow the Communist regime last April accepted the pact.

The Afghan leaders also agreed to form an election commission and hold a grand council within eight months to draft a constitution. The agreement envisions general elections in 1994.

Since the ouster of the Soviet-backed Communists, a violent power struggle between rebel factions has killed an estimated 5,000 people and wounded thousands more. Thousands of rockets have



Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of Hizbe Islami Mujahideen faction of Afghanistan (left) and interim president Prof Burhanuddin Rabbani signing a peace accord in Islamabad Sunday. — Star TV photo

Diarrhoea claims 7 more lives

Seven more people died of diarrhoea which attacked some 1,438 people in 13 districts, Diarrhoea Control Room sources said yesterday, reports UNB.

With reports of the seven deaths, the toll rose to 958.

Of the latest death figure, two came from Patuakhali, one from Jhalakhati, three from Barisal, and one from Kishoreganj.

The district-wise break-up of those attacked by diarrhoea: Barguna—64, Pirojpur—43, Bagerhat—62, Patuakhali—111, Khulna—72, Jhalakati—95, Bhola—211, Barisal—64, Narayanganj—72, Gopalganj—23, Kishoreganj—45, Netrokona—38 and Dhaka—538.

Criminal case filed against Mizan, Milon

A criminal case was filed yesterday against senior Vice President of Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Choudhury and the party's International Affairs Secretary Nurul Islam Milon for carrying 'objectionable papers and documents' in their briefcases while leaving for Saudi Arabia, reports UNB.

Assistant Commissioner of Police, Uttara, Ruhul Amin filed the case against the JP leaders.

Milan was arrested from Zia International Airport in this connection on February 10 and has been placed under 30 days detention.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Shahiduddin Ahmed ordered to send the case record to Cantonment police for submitting report after enquiring into the matter.

Talks on Bosnia stalled: EC debates tighter ban today

BRUSSELS, Mar 7: European Community Foreign Ministers are to debate a tightening of trade sanctions against Serbia here on Monday, diplomats said as peace talks on Yugoslavia were suspended, reports AFP, Reuter.

One EC diplomat said Germany was particularly eager to move towards the total isolation of Serbia, and wanted action instead of wordy declarations.

The EC's executive European Commission is also expected to give details of an international conference to discuss a report on mass rapes in Bosnia-Herzegovina prepared by a recent EC mission to Bosnia and Croatia.

The mission, headed by Dame Anne Warburton of Britain, estimated that 20,000 women and children, mainly Muslims, had been raped in the Bosnian conflict, and said that mass rape appeared to be a deliberate terror weapon by Serbia.

But a senior British official said he did not expect EC decisions on tightening the net of isolation around Serbia until it became clear whether the UNEC peace talks on Bosnia had failed.

One diplomat said Monday's debate, part of a

monthly EC foreign ministerial meeting, would be a difficult attempt to balance the desirable against the possible.

On Friday US President Bill Clinton said the United States

and its allies were preparing to tighten sanctions.

The EC has also been indicating a growing willingness to use greater force to protect its aid convoys to Bosnia and ensure that aid gets punched

past Serbian militia into besieged Muslim communities.

EC Foreign Affairs Commissioner Hans Van Den Broek said last week that armed intervention might be

necessary in the former Yugoslavia if non-military pressure cannot stop the fighting there.

One senior diplomat added that the chances of some kind of Western military interven-

tion, particularly to enforce a settlement of the Bosnian conflict, was rising steeply up the probability scale.

The Muslim enclave of Cerka in eastern Bosnia has fallen to Serbian forces and all its inhabitants have fled. UN Forces commander in Bosnia-Herzegovina Philippe Morillon said Saturday.

Speaking on his return to Sarajevo from the enclave, General Morillon said that Cerka had been a big village but was absolutely empty now.

Reuter from UN adds: International peace talks to end the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina on Saturday were

suspended without a settlement but with strong signs an agreement might be forthcoming.

Bosnia's Muslim president Alija Izetbegovic said he was leaving New York and would return to the United States later in the week with the intention of moving the discussions forward to a successful conclusion.

'Progress has and continues to be made,' he said in a statement following several days of intensive talks with mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord David Owen.

Owen said it was 'perfectly

5 children die after taking paracetamol syrup in Pabna

PABNA, Mar 7: Five children died in Pabna after they took banned paracetamol syrup during the last three days, hospital sources said, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Mithu (2), daughter of Hamid Javed of Shalgaria, Tuli (1), daughter of Naser Mia of Radhanagar, Litu (2), son of Abdul Latif of Singa, Abir (2), son of Totamia of Ishardi para and Nubi (1), son of Keramat Mohallah of Raghbarpur in Pabna town. All of them died in Pabna General Hospital.