

6 killed, 32 hurt in road accidents

Six people were killed and 32 others injured in road accidents in Narayanganj and Sirajganj yesterday, reports UNB.

Four people were killed and 30 injured when a truck collided head-on with a minibus near Bagbari in Arathazar thana on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway yesterday.

The Narsingdi-bound minibus from Narayanganj and the truck coming from the opposite direction plunged into a roadside ditch after the collision at about 9.30 am.

The dead were identified as Ayub Ali, 40, a primary school teacher and his son Tanzid, 10, of Rajbari district, Nasiruddin, 38, of Kumarpur and Salim, 38, driver of the minibus of Kawdipara in Narsingdi Sadar thana.

The bodies were sent to Narayanganj Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Of the injured, 8 were undergoing treatment at the Narsingdi Sadar Hospital and 10 shifted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The rest were given first aid.

Police seized both the ve-

hicles but the truck driver fled the scene immediately after the accident.

Another accident near Fatullah on the Dhaka-Narayanganj road left at least 20 people injured early yesterday.

Witnesses said the accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound bus fell into a wayside ditch after colliding with a potato laden truck.

Two cases were lodged with the Arathazar and the Fatullah Police Stations.

Meanwhile: Two people were killed and two others injured when a speeding micro bus hit a rickshaw van near Bhadrakhat in Kamarkhand thana on the Sirajganj-New Bogra Road in Sirajganj yesterday.

The van driver aged about 28 died on the spot while one of its passengers aged about 30 succumbed to his injuries on the way to the Raiganj General Hospital.

One of the injured was admitted to the Sirajganj General Hospital, police said.

Police seized the micro bus and arrested its driver.

Huda cautions against unguarded remarks

Information Minister Nazmul Huda yesterday warned that any threat to dislodge the elected government or tarnish its image in the name of agitation was a punishable offence under Section 124 (A) of the Bangladesh Penal Code, reports BSS.

If any citizen files a case in this connection the guilty persons will have to suffer life imprisonment, he said.

The minister was speaking as chief guest at a gathering of students and the public at Shahzad Bazar under Gulshan in the city.

The meeting was also addressed by Kamrul Islam MP, Amanullah Aman MP, and Chhatra Dal leaders Nazimuddin Alam, Nasiruddin Ahmed Pinto, Saiful Alam Nirob, Aliul Huq Shahin and ward commissioner Anwar Hossain.

Huda said the country has a Constitution, laws and the rule of law. State affairs were being conducted in accordance with the Constitution. Hence, as per laws of the land, nothing could be said or written against any legal government which could belittle its position before the people and turn it into an object of hatred, he added.

He said a legal and constitutional government was now running affairs of the state. The government now in power, elected for a five-year term, reflected the will of the people, demonstrated in a free and fair election held in 1991.

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Editor : Mahfuz Anam

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Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha af Ugglas speaks to the press during her news conference in Stockholm Wednesday, confirming that controversial Bangladeshi writer Taslima Nasreen arrived in Sweden and is resting at an undisclosed place.

Malaysian woman

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Foreign Currency Control Act '47 for trying to leave the country with a sizable amount of undeclared foreign exchange.

The lady, whose company has set up a joint venture with Bangladesh, was detained at ZIA when she was about to leave on a Singapore Airlines flight Tuesday night. Civil Aviation people found her in possession of nearly 20,000 US dollars and another 10,800 ringgit, the Malaysian currency.

Ong Siew Piow, of Chinese origin, claimed she had brought the money with her when she arrived a few days earlier to pay compensation to the families of certain Bangladeshi workers who had either died or suffered injuries while working for her company's projects in Malaysia.

Her company reportedly has hired a fairly large number of Bangladeshi workers.

On Wednesday, Ong Siew Piow alias Nura Shikin Ong T B Abdullah, was allowed to leave her hotel after spending nearly 20 hours at the airport.

Hospital

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said. "Administrative approval for this is already at hand."

It is expected that equipment worth about Tk two crore will arrive by the end of this month to facilitate by-pass surgery. Infrastructure for setting up the machines will be completed by September, Prof Akhteruzzaman told The Daily Star.

Local surgeons will be trained to perform by-pass operations and for this experts will be brought from abroad.

When his attention was drawn to the water crisis at the hospital, the Director said the authorities will install new water pumps and a power generator that has already been purchased.

The NICVD Director, however, expressed the hope that the overall service at the hospital will improve soon because the Health Ministry is showing keen interest in their regard. "The Health Minister has personally shown interest in upgrading the hospital into a modern one," he said.

Taslima

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The Swedish security police said it knew where Taslima Nasreen was staying but would give no details about her security.

The Swedish government has welcomed Nasreen and Foreign Minister Margaretha af Ugglas said it was up to Nasreen to decide whether to apply for political asylum. Her tourist visa is valid for up to three months.

Taslima Nasreen has also been invited to a writers' conference next month in Norway, which has said it would consider giving her asylum.

"She is welcome to stay here for as long as she wants. But she has said that she does not want to leave her country forever," Gabi Gleichmann, Chairman of Sweden's PEN club, said in a TV interview on Thursday.

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Tungipara

From Page 1 Col 5

Addressing the people, emotion-choked but resolute Hasina called for upholding the spirit of liberation, war and consolidation of the country's independence.

Our Correspondent adds:

Terming the ruling party 'betrayals', Hasina said the BNP had failed to fulfil its pre-election pledges including repeal of the Indemnity Act.

The Act prevents the trial of the killers of Sheikh Mujib.

Bangabandhu was murdered to jeopardise the hard-won independence, she said.

Demanding immediate re-

peal of the Act, she said the BNP was patronising communal and fundamentalist elements against pro-liberation and democratic forces to divert the movement for care taker government.

South African diplomat

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highest votes in the last elections. However, three other parties that secured five per cent of the votes cast are represented in the parliament.

The entire national obsession was towards motivation in job creation and Zaayman observed that the present percentage of unemployed is in the range of 40 to 45 per cent.

The government was taking initiatives for formative action to increase employment by emphasising on the public sector.

John H Zaayman, who has an American wife, said, "Our entire diplomacy is now geared towards improving our domestic conditions. We have lost a lot of time (because of isolation) and we want to move fast, burying all the racial prejudices of the past."

Zaayman stated that the entire thrust of the Government of National Unity is towards improving the educational standard, eradication of poverty and uplift of the disadvantaged sections of society.

The focus of the government is now on a national programme termed 'Reconstruction and Development Programme' popularly called RDP.

The government of Nelson Mandela is now seriously engaged in providing housing, education, water supply, health service and job creation through the RDP.

He said that the National Unity government has done remarkably well and is about to complete its first 100 days in office shortly.

The government, which is presently functioning under an interim constitution, is a coalition of three major parties. It is a combination of Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and FW de Klerk's National Front and another party called the Inkatha Freedom Party of the

Zulus.

There are 26 ministers and deputy ministers from these three parties, the majority of them being from the ANC. A new constitution is being prepared, Zaayman said.

In a unique power-sharing arrangement, former white president FW de Klerk is the Second Deputy President while Thabo Mbeki, the former foreign affairs spokesman of the ANC, is the First Vice President.

The foreign Minister is Alfred Nzo of the ANC. Deputy Foreign Minister Aziz Pahad, of Indian origin, is also from the ANC. Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, whose Inkatha Party fought bitterly with the ANC before last April's polls, is the interior minister.

The Govt of National Unity has been formed with the three parties who secured the

DU situation

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invites following the publication of a poster by the BCL (M) Wednesday last.

Meanwhile, the employees of Dhaka University observed a day-long strike yesterday to protest the alleged assault on Bazlur Rahman, an employee of the Arts Faculty Dean office, during the August 4 violence.

All the administrative offices remained closed. However, classes in some departments were held.

The police and Detective Branch personnel were seen active on the campus yesterday.

Another official said that the Prime Minister's recent assurance to the sugar mills

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He observed that the minor-

ity white population

which comprises around 25

per cent, has accepted the

reality and the need for

consensus and unity.

We want to be a showpiece

to the world by reconciling di-

vergent groups despite their

past bitterness and differences

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gether."

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