Seven killed in Savar road accidents

SAVAR, Oct 7: Seven people were killed and six others injured in separate road accidents on Dhaka-Aricha highway today, reports UNB.

A head-on collision between two trucks in front of Nabinagar Cantonment at about 12:00 noon left three people dead and four others injured.

One of the dead was identified as Alam, 23. The injured were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

In another incident, four people were killed and two others injured when two trucks collided near Nabinagar at about 4:00 am today.

Two of the dead were identified as Ashraf, 34, and Badsha, 27. The injured were rushed to Gono Sashthya Kendra and Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Separate cases were filed with Savar thana.

Prisoner found dead in court hajat toilet

BRAHMANBARIA, Oct 7: A detainee, accused in a woman repression case, committed suicide by hanging himself from a water pipe inside the toilet of the district Court Hajat this afternoon, court sources said, reports UNB.

The deceased, Abul Kalam, 38, was an inhabitant of Moniaundha village of Akhaura thana.

Kalam was today produced before the court from the district jail. He was then confined in the jail hajat along with other prisoners but was found missing at the time counting.

Later, he was found dead when police on-duty broke open the door of the toilet.

Kalam's body was brought to Sadar Hospital morgue. An unnatural death case was filed with Sadar thana.

JU JCD activist arrested

By JU Correspondent

SAVAR, Oct 7: Shawkat Ali Tutul, an activist of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Jahangir Nagar University Unit, was arrested today with a sawed-off rifle and a bullet.

Some 25 policemen including six plain-clothes securitymen surrounded Tutul in the Alberuni Hall canteen while he was having a chat with a girl friend.

Tutul, a 3rd year student of Anthropology was arrested for his alleged involvement in various terrorist activities on the campus, police said.

BNP's appeal

From Page 1

in the flood-hit areas."

"The four-day hartal would definitely affect transportation of relief materials from the capital to the flood affected northern region of the country," Bhuiyan said, adding, "I appeal to the opposition parties to withdraw the hartal at least for the sake of humanity."

Bhuiyan assigned by Prime Minister and BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia on Friday to discharge responsibilities of the party Secretary General, made the appeal while talking to a group of newsmen at his Secretariate office yesterday afternoon. BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukdar, who has been suffering from heart and lung problems, left for London Friday night for treatment.

Replying to a question, the acting Secretary General of the ruling party said, Our invitation to the Opposition camp to find out solutions to the present political impasse through dialogue is still there."

"The BNP is still ready to accept any type of interim government, without Begum Khaleda Zia at the head, for holding the next national polls, he said, adding, "What we want is a solution within the framework of the Constitution."

Kasparov

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Asked by a reporter whether he felt like simply resigning the contest, Anand replied: "I might be tempted to take you up on it." But he added: "I think I might have one more shot at him."

Playing black, Anand tried Kasparov's favourite Sicilian defence. Both players' moves were exactly the same as in their seventh game, until Kasparov made a new move with his 16th. After quiet maneuvering in the centre of the board, Kasparov offered a draw on his 20th move. Anand quickly accepted.

Processions

From Page 1

power to a caretaker government headed by the Chief Justice for holding general elections. "Pay heed to the demand of the people for democracy and peace to save the country from ruination," he added.

General Secretary of the party Zillur Rahman threatened to stage a sit-in near Prime Minister's residence if the government failed to concede to the demands of the Opposition even after the planned 96-hour hartal from October 16.

Housewife commits suicide in city

By DMCH Correspondent

A housewife reportedly committed suicide her resident at Mirpur in the city yesterday.

Kohinoor Begum, 25, wife of Khalilur Rahman of Mirpur-10, took poison following an exchange of hot words with her husband at about 11:30 am, said the family members who rushed her to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

She died within an hour, medical sources said.

Three housewives killed in Pabna

PABNA, Oct 7: Three young housewives allegedly fell victim to cruelties of their husbands within hours in the district, official sources said today, reports UNB.

Asma Khatun, 25, died at 10 am today at village Ghonapara in Santhia thana after her husband Hasen Ali beat her up as she failed to bring him a dowry of Tk 10,000, according to allegation lodged with police.

Asma, married to Hasen, a day labourer, four years back, used to be pressed often for the dowry committed by her poor parents during marriage.

Acid was poured into the victim's mouth to prove it as a case of suicide, police said.

Hasen Ali went into hiding after the incident. A UD case was filed with Santhia thana.

Another woman, 20-year-old Mahfuza Khatun, succumbed at 6 this morning to overnight beating at village Kadomdanga in Atghoria thana.

Her husband Mohammad Monjil allegedly tortured her for failing to bring him a bicycle from her parents as per commitment made during marriage.

Mahfuza, married a year back, was reportedly five months' pregnant. She was beaten throughout the night and thrown out of the house, according to police case.

The third victim was Anjila Khatun, 24, of village Hatail Aralia in Bera thana, who died at 10 Friday night. She had to die for denying her husband, Dayal Pramanik, permission to marry for the third time.

A case was filed with Bera thana in this connection.

One more held

From Page 1

moments after it came out of the bank branch premises at about 10:30 am Thursday.

Meanwhile, none of the four attackers could be traced until yesterday, police sources said. Detective police were interrogating the commercial assistant till last night, sources added.

PM ends visit

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which concluded today.

She first went to Bangla Bazar in Kazipur thana from Shaluavita in the district headquarters.

During her boat journey in the Jamuna and the Ismati, the Prime Minister halted at a number of places on the banks of the rivers witnessing the havoc wrought by the recurring flood and erosion by the mighty Jamuna. She distributed huge quantity of relief goods among those who stood in queues in waist-deep water.

Begum Zia assured her government's allout assistance for the victims and said that the government had undertaken all possible measures for their rehabilitation.

District officials informed the Prime Minister that about 3.86 lakh people of 78 unions in nine thanas of Sirajganj were affected by flood and erosion.

A total of 19,535 houses have been damaged completely and 1.26 lakh partly. The government has already distributed huge relief in cash and kind, housebuilding grants, rice and wheat among the affected people.

While distributing relief at Banglabazar, Shimla, Shaluaghat, Ghatpear and other places, Begum Zia said natural disaster is not new in our country. "We have to forge ahead by facing disasters with fresh vigour."

The Awami League brought out a procession in the city during hartal yesterday.
— Star photo

Sectt: Attendance up, visitors few

By Staff Correspondent

Attendance at the Secretariat was reportedly higher on the first day yesterday of the 32-hour hartal than on previous hartal days.

The atmosphere was relaxed and visitors were very few.

Many officials stayed in their offices on Friday night.

Nearly half a dozen cabinet ministers were not present in their offices yesterday as some of them had gone abroad while others were out of the city.

1 dies, 6 hurt while making bombs

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 7: One person was killed and six others were injured in bomb explosions at a house at Lalkharbagh area under Bandar thana in the district last night.

The dead was identified as Martuza, 42, a worker of Admajee Jute Mills. Of the injured Afazl, 38 and Muslim alias Shishu, 38, were sent to Dhaka for treatment.

2 minor girls drown

COMILLA, Oct 7: Two minor girls drowned in a pond nearby their house at Paschimgaon in Sadar thana today. Family sources said Nazma Akhter, 5, and Jesmin Akhter Juli, 5, inmates of one Abdullah Mansion of the area, fell and drowned when they were playing near the pond. They were buried at the family graveyard, reports UNB.

First day of hartal

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bomb in front of his residence in Dakhin Madartak.

Reports reaching Dhaka said that some 25 people were injured following clashes between ruling BNP and Awami League supporters in Chanmari area of Khulna town.

During the clash, our Khulna Correspondent reported, numerous bombs were exploded during the clashes. Police and witnesses said that the trouble spread at about 4.30 pm and continued for an hour as the activists of the two parties tried to exert their hold in the area.

In the capital, the streets remained free of all vehicles except for a number of rickshaws, which started plying mostly from afternoon.

During the day, all three opposition parties brought out small processions in the city separately. Rallies were also held at different parts of the city.

All businesses, shops and educational institutions in the city remained closed. Attendance at the government offices including the Secretariat remained 'less than normal'

The Station Master of Kamalapur Railway Station said that all scheduled passenger trains left Dhaka on time yesterday and the arrivals also took place without any incident.

"A total of 17 trains left the station for different destinations so far today and six have arrived as scheduled," he said at around 4 pm yesterday.

An attendant at the Biman flight operation cell said that the first flights between Dhaka-Jessore and Dhaka-Sylhet and the last flight between Dhaka-Chittagong had to be cancelled due to the hartal. And the first flight to Chittagong was delayed by six hours. An international flight of Indian Airlines was reportedly cancelled due to hartal.

At the civil courts in the old part of the city, the attendance fell by at least 40 per cent, according to some lawyers there. The court building which is usually crowded at any working day was seen almost deserted.

Almost all launches and steamers carried on with their normal services from the Sadarghat terminal. An official there said that the number of passengers was, however, relatively low.

The capital's inter-district bus terminals at Gabtoli, Siadabad, Mahakhali and Fulbaria remained totally inactive during the hartal. No buses left the terminals or arrived from outside there.

Riot police and BDR were seen at different strategic points of the capital city.

Out Staff Correspondent from Chittagong said that hartal passed off without any incidents and all businesses and shops closed down. Loading and unloading at the port were not carried out during the hartal. Delivery of goods to and from the port remained suspended.

Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat held separate rallies at different parts of the port city.

Our Correspondent in Barisal and Sylhet also reported that the first day of 32-hour hartal passed off peacefully in these two divisional towns.

Train communications between Dhaka city and other parts of the country remained normal yesterday as the hartal was enforced only in five divisional headaquarters.
— Star photo

Time for PM's letter

From Page 1

before the elections opens up a possibility of discussing *the nature and shape of the government during those 30 days.*

The opposition wants neutral people to be in power, just prior to, and during the elections. The government wants that any solution arrived at, must be within the framework of the constitution. These points, as we had said on another occasion, are the NON-NEGOTIABLES of the two sides. PM's letter must reflect this reality, and be directed at moving forward, and not rehashing well known and hackneyed positions. Unless the above reality is reflected in the PM's letter, it will end up being rejected by the opposition, and we will be back to square one.

Since the situation is very delicate, and both sides are full of suspicion of one another, we suggest that secret discussions take place on the very draft of the PM's letter. Let one person from each side, who enjoys the leader's confidence, meet secretly and work out an acceptable draft. This will get us off to a good start.

Once the initial breakthrough is made, then discussions can be held at two levels. First the authorised negotiators can work out the details, and finally the two leaders can meet to seal it at a summit level.

In addition to the complexity of the issues, the question of 'saving-face' is also making a solution extremely difficult. BNP genuinely feels that the moment it agrees to a caretaker concept, the opposition will declare it to be its victory, and present it to the people as total capitulation of the ruling party. This, BNP feels, will seriously affect the party's image and the morale of its workers, culminating in the poor show in the elections. *This feeling of BNP, the opposition should not ignore.* Negotiations are doomed to failure if a negotiating partner is made to feel as a loser, or has the fear of being identified as such in the public mind. In negotiations, the psychological aspect, and the "face" aspect are just as important as the contending issues.

For the sake of the country, a free and fair election, peace, and for the survival of democracy, both sides will have to agree to present the negotiated settlement as VICTORY OF BOTH SIDES, and not as victory of one and the capitulation of the other. In fact the fundamental spirit of negotiations is that both sides win, and none loses. It has to be a WIN-WIN situation, and not a WIN-LOSE one. Such an agreement, or understanding, may appear unrealistic. Yet we have to try. For, what is the alternative? Only more strife, chaos and bitterness jeopardising our very future.

As we have said earlier, time has come for both sides to be realistic. Let us stop pretending; on the government side, that everything is normal, and that the opposition's demand has no public support; and on the opposition side that this government can be changed in any way other than an election. Let us also stop pretending that we have lots of time at hand, and that government is doing a good job, or that hartals are being observed 'spontaneously.' The reality, as we understand it, is that an anger of unfathomable intensity is building up in the people, in whose mind *both the government and the opposition stand equally guilty of endangering democracy.*

2 killed as BNP rivals clash in Kushtia

KUSHTIA, Oct 7: A fierce gunbattle between two rival groups of the ruling BNP in Mirpur thana of the district on Friday left two people dead and 15 others injured, reports UNB.

Local people identified the dead as Mahbub, 27, and Raju 25, but the feuding activists concealed the bodies.

Police, however, confirmed the death of Mahbub, but could not recover the body.

Witnesses said the clash between the two groups — led by Sardar and Munshi — started at about 10 am in Naoda Khadumpur area following a dispute over dissolving the district unit of the BNP.

Two killed in Jhenidah clash

By Staff Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Oct 7: Two youths died on the spot and 15 others were injured in a clash among the members of a club at Gokulnagar village in Moheshpur thana this evening.

The dead were identified as Khaza Moinuddin, 28, and Motaleb, 13, of the village. The bodies were sent to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital for autopsy while the injured released after first aid.

The clash started from a dispute over collection of subscription for the Gokulnagar Purbopara youth club.

None was arrested so far.

JCD-BCL clash in Sherpur

SHERPUR, Oct 7: Police used batons and tear gas shells to disperse rioting workers of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Chhatra League (BCL) who fought in the town tonight over the alleged kidnapping of a school girl, reports UNB.

Rival groups equipped with hockey sticks and lethal weapons clashed for nearly two hours from 8:00 pm. Police fired about 10 rounds of tear gas to disperse the angry workers of the JCD and the BCL.

During the clash some shops were ransacked allegedly by the JCD activists at Raghunathpur Bazar and Munshibazar. Two policemen including ASP (circle) Sanaullah Bhuiyan were injured with brickbats.

The clash started when the JCD workers assaulted GS Shaheen and AGS Maruf of Sherpur Govt College students' union on the college campus this noon. Angry JCD activists also damaged the students union office.

The Midnight File

Afghan truce likely soon

KABUL, Oct 7: United Nations envoy Mahmoud Mestriri said here today there was a possibility of a temporary ceasefire soon among the three main warring Afghan factions reports AFP.

Bangladeshi writer wins C'wealth prize

HARARE, Oct 7: British writer Louis de Bernieres has won the 10,000 pound (15,500 dollars) Commonwealth Writers' Prize for the best book of 1995, judges announced in Harare today, reports AFP.

The best first book prize of 3,000 pounds was won by Australia-based Bangladeshi writer Adib Khan for his novel "Seasonal Adjustments", published by Allen and Unwin.

A panel of judges from throughout the Commonwealth praised de Bernieres book" Captain Corelli's Mandolin", set on an occupied Greek island during the Second World War, for its "energy, humanity and humour."

De Bernieres' novel, published by Secker and Warburg, beat shortlisted contenders by JM Coetzee — " The Master of St Petersburg" and VS Naipul — " A Way in the World."

In Adib Khan's novel — Seasonal Adjustments — the narrative moves between Khan's native land and his adopted country, exploring dislocation and reconciliation between people and cultures.

"Khan has provided a Muslim voice to Australia's growing multicultural literature," said the judges.

"In what is believed to be the first work of fiction to emerge from the Bangladesh war of independence, his novel will resonate with the growing numbers of migrants and refugees now struggling to adapt to new cultures without denying their own."

Agri loans

From Page 1

equally shared by the government and banks, the sources said.

The 1991 waiver on farm loan upto Tk 5,000 cost the banks and the exchequer more than Tk 2,500 crore.

Waiving the agri-loan upto Tk 5,000 was an election commitment of the BNP that triggered criticism among different quarters, particularly the academicians who argued such general waiver could encourage willful default.

Flood

From Page 1

drowned in flood water at Kushbari village under the thana.

Another UNB report from Naogaon said that 5 persons drowned in Naogaon yesterday.

The Flood Forecasting Centre, however, said yesterday that the flood situation may start improving in Sirajganj and Bogra districts tomorrow.

A bulletin issued by the Centre said the Ganges and the Brahmaputra continued to fall at all points while rivers in the Meghna and south eastern hill basins recorded rise at some points and fall at some other points.

The bulletin said all the rivers in the Brahmaputra and the Ganges basins are likely to fall at all points but the Jamuna, which recorded further fall by 6 cm at Naogaon, will flow 3 cm above the danger mark there.

100 killed

From Page 1

some tents for people whose homes were destroyed. Some also planned to sleep in cracked schools and government buildings that withstood the quake.

Hundreds of residents from surrounding villages, hearing rumours of a flood in a nearby volcanic crater, also fled to Sungaipenuh, said Ngatimin, the municipal worker. He uses only one name.

In a statement, Jambi Gov Abdulrahman Sajuti said medicine and food have been rushed to Sungaipenuh and other affected areas.

Immigrants

From Page 1

about a Bangladeshi, who was deported, instead of being extradited for trial.

Mustafa Emam Murshed, 31, had been charged with raping a 15-year-old girl, driving under the influence of alcohol vehicular assault and driving with a revoked licence in Davidson County.

According to press reports, Murshed was held in Florida but federal immigration officials in Louisiana deported him 10 days before receiving extradition papers from Tennessee.

Federal prosecutors have, however, said Murshed will be prosecuted if he ever returns to the US.

সাম্প্রতিক বন্যায় আক্রান্ত রোপা আমনের পুনর্বাসনে কৃষক ভাইদের করণীয়

সেপ্টেম্বর–অক্টোবর মাসে পাহাড়ী ঢল ও প্রচন্ড বৃষ্টিপাতে রাজশাহী এবং রংপুর অঞ্চলে ব্যাপক রোপা আমন ও আগাম রবি ফসল আক্রান্ত হয়েছে। ইতিমধ্যে কোন কোন এলাকা থেকে পানি নামতে শুরু করেছে। এ সব এলাকার রোপা আমন ফসলকে সজীব করার জন্য প্রয়োজন সঠিক পরিচর্যা। তাই সার্বিক পরিস্থিতির দিকে লক্ষ্য রেখে নিম্নলিখিত ব্যবস্থাদি দ্রুত বাস্তবায়নের জন্য চাষী ভাইদের অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

- *বন্যার পানি নেমে যাওয়ার পরপরই আক্রান্ত জমি থেকে আবর্জনা, খরকুটা, শেওলা ও কচুরীপানা পরিষ্কার করুন।*
- *বন্যার পানি নেমে গেলে, বন্যার আঘাতে নাজুক আমন ফসলের জীবণীশক্তি বৃদ্ধির জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় ইউরিয়া এবং পটাশ সার উপরি–প্রয়োগ করুন এবং ভালভাবে মাটির সাথে মিশিয়ে দিন।*
- *বিলম্বে পানি নামার কারণে আমন ফসল সম্পূর্ণরূপে বিনষ্ট হলে বিনাচাষে ভুট্টার আবাদ করুন।*
- *একই অবস্থায় বিনাচাষে আলু, সরিষা (টরি–৭ ও কল্যাণীয়া জাত) আবাদ করে আগাম ফসল সংগ্রহ করতে পারেন।*
- *অক্টোবর মাসের শেষার্ধে পানি সরে গেলে দো–আঁশ ও এঁটেল দো–আঁশ মাটিতে কাদা অবস্থায় ছিটিয়ে গমের আবাদ করতে পারেন। এতে আগাম গম বোনা যায়, উৎপাদন খরচ কম পড়ে এবং হালের বলদের সাশ্রয় হবে।*
- *বন্যায় সম্পূর্ণরূপে বিনষ্ট রোপা আমন জমিতে আগাম রবি ফসল আবাদ করে বন্যার ক্ষয়ক্ষতি পুষিয়ে নিতে পারেন।*

এ বিষয়ে স্থানীয় কৃষি সম্প্রসারণ কর্মীর পরামর্শ নিন।

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