

5 killed, 15 hurt in road accidents

By Staff Correspondent

Five persons were killed and fifteen others injured in separate road accidents in Natore and Feni districts yesterday.

Our Natore Correspondent reports: Three persons died and 10 were injured in two road accidents on the Natore-Bogra highway yesterday. A bus driver and helper were killed on the spot and 10 passengers wounded when a Bogra bound bus, Agomoni Express, fell into a roadside ditch near Jamtoli at 3 pm.

Witnesses said the accident took place when a front wheel of the running bus became loose and the driver lost control of the vehicle. Driver Abul Kashem, 35, and his assistant aged 28 died on the spot. The injured persons were admitted to Shingra and Sadar hospitals.

Meanwhile, the body of one Abdul Kuddus, 25, with

serious injuries in his head was recovered from Purba Haguria area early yesterday morning. Police said Kuddus was run over by a motor vehicle.

Two cases were filed with Sadar thana.

UNB adds: A woman and her daughter were killed and five men injured when a Chittagong-bound bus collided head-on with a truck near Samity Bazar in Chhagalnaiya thana on Feni bypass yesterday morning.

Mamta Begum, 25, and Fatema Akhter Mukta, 3, wife and daughter of naval officer Mojibur Rahman, who were travelling by the bus, died on the spot as the two vehicles skidded off the road after the collision. Rahman escaped unhurt.

Police seized the bus and the truck. A case was filed with Chhagalnaiya police.

Man arrested for slaughtering wife, 4 children

From Our Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Feb 6: Bhushan Das, who slaughtered his wife and four children on Monday night at his Mannarganj village home in Doarabazar thana told police today that he did so "as desired by Bhagaban (God)".

He was arrested today. He said that he procured some sedatives on Sunday from the local market and asked his wife and four children to take it. When his wife Rani Bala Das asked, he told her that those were preventive medicines against some seasonal diseases. All the family members took the drug. When they were asleep, he slaughtered them all one after another with a sharp weapon "without any hesitation," he admitted to police.

Bhushan Das said, "I am not repentant. I have no feeling for anything in the world. I am a disciple of Guru." He was shouting "joy Guru, joy Guru" while he was being taken to the Doarabazar thana.

Bhushan Das went on hiding in a house in the village after the brutal killings. Villagers handed him over to the police.

Autopsy of the bodies were done in the Sunamaganj sadar hospital morning yesterday.

Bhushan Das was sent to the thana hajat today.

Bangabazar Probe into 2nd incident begins today

Star Report

The fire brigade inquiry committee constituted to probe the second fire incident at Bangabazar will formally start functioning from today, according to sources.

The committee headed by Anwar Hossain, Director, Planning and Development, has Atiar Rahman, Deputy Director, Ambulance and Abu Bakr, Assistant Director, Operation as its members.

A high level meeting on the Bangabazar fire held recently under the auspices of the Home Ministry also discussed ways of installing fire fighting equipment in the market premises permanently.

In this regard an underground reservoir inside the market area was also proposed. The union leaders of the markets were present at the meeting which was also attended by the officials from DCC, WASA, DESA and RAJUK.

The second fire incident on the night of January 29 at Bangabazar in the city destroyed at least 20 shops hardly two weeks after its reconstruction.

Sushmita: World Cup

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Sources said Lunetta at one point had decided to scrap the event but Italy's Half Moon company, which bagged the contract to plan the inaugural ceremony, shot down his suggestion saying it wanted Sushmita Sen in the show.

Lunetta defends his plans saying the presentation of the flags by Sushmita does not amount to stripping. "The beauty of glamour has been totally misinterpreted. It's the master of ceremonies told newspapers.

The Congress party disagreed. "What the organisers want Sushmita Sen to do is totally vulgar and we condemn it," Samar Chakraborty, a fire-brand Congress leader and vice president of one of India's most powerful trade unions, told AFP on Tuesday.

"They are making a cheap attempt to glamourise a sporting event," Chakraborty angrily added as the Communist Party of India (CPI) said it too opposed Lunetta's plans to parade Sushmita in the stadium.

"It is pathetic the way the organisers are trying to use sex... we condemn it," a CPI spokesman added.

The Communist Party of

Father indeed!

KISHOREGANJ, Feb 6: A

father today handed over his disobedient son to police after he failed to control the young son, reports UNB.

Police sources said Alhaj Mohammad Abu Taher Miah, Chairman of Kishoreganj Pourashava and a local BNP leader, had filed a complaint to the local police station urging them to arrest his son as he was beyond his control.

Khairul Bashar Mamun, a first year student of the Kishoreganj Government Gurudayal College and a leader of the college unit of the JCD, was arrested in presence of his parents from their residence at about 12:30 pm.

Chairman Abu Taher Miah in his complaint to the local magistrate informed that his son had gone beyond his control, became a drug addict and regularly stole money from his business shop. Besides, he used to keep company of bad elements, he said.

The Chairman also requested the magistrate not to grant bail to his son.

2 teenaged girls succumb to burn injuries

By Staff Correspondent

Two teenaged girls, who were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with burn injuries in separate incidents in the city early this week, died yesterday.

Aifa Begum, 14, maid of a film producer, received serious burn injuries in their residence at Bara Maghbazar while cooking Friday morning, according to the family members who rushed her to the hospital. She died at the DMCH early yesterday.

Meanwhile, one Shahera Akhter Nipa, 18, wife of Ashraf Chowdhury of Tongkhara area succumbed to her burn injuries at the DMCH at around 1:30 pm yesterday. It was alleged that Nipa tried to commit suicide by setting fire to her body Saturday morning, medical sources said.

Car damaged by mob Malaysian HC seeks govt's action

The Malaysian High Commission in Dhaka has requested the government for necessary action following the damage of the High Commissioner's car on February 1, official sources said yesterday, reports UNB.

The car was damaged by a mob in the city.

The High Commission informed the police of the incident and requested the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to take necessary action in this regard.

Manzur murder

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The charge of murdering former GOC of Chittagong cantonment Major General Abul Manzur was brought against former President Ershad and four army officers including Emdad on January 25 by M Abdus Salam, district and session judge, Dhaka.

General Manzur was killed on June 1, 1991 in Chittagong. The case was initiated nearly 14 years after the murder after an FIR was lodged with Panchlaish thana in Chittagong on 27 February last year by Barrister Abul Mansoor, elder brother of General Manzur.

According to the survey,

68 per cent of the respondents cited various negative attitudes towards the February elections, while 32 per cent of the sample expressed a positive attitude.

Respondents in the survey included workers, professionals, business men and others.

Of the respondents 48.9 per cent had an unfavourable attitude towards the involvement of the army in the coming elections while 37.3 per cent were favourable and 12.8 per cent found no problem in that regard.

Of the sample population, 41.9 per cent blamed the BNP for the absence of the Opposition while 27.2 per cent put the responsibilities on the Opposition.

According to the survey,



BNP Secretary General Abdul Salam Talukdar announcing the election manifesto at the party central office yesterday. — Star photo

BNP won't renew 25-yr treaty

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Khan were present at the press conference.

The BNP Secretary General asserted that the election to be held in 1996 will be meaningful, "but we certainly feel sorry for there will be less fight in the election in absence of major opposition parties."

He said people are not at all bothered about the hartal called by the opposition parties on the election day.

Talukdar said the BNP government had exerted all its efforts to solve the political crisis through discussion and giving maximum concessions to the opposition political parties within the ambit of the Constitution.

The Prime Minister even offered to step down 30 days ahead of the election and also agreed to take part in the election under an advisory council headed by the President if it was formed within the framework of the Constitution, he said.

But, he regretted that the opposition parties had not agreed to accept any formula. All the sincere efforts of the BNP went in vain and the opposition parties refrained from taking part in the election being held as per the Constitution.

He said the election had become a necessity to uphold the Constitution and under no circumstances the government or any citizen can violate the Constitution.

Talukdar said it is not possible to postpone the elections even by making a reference to the Supreme Court at this stage.

Talukdar told another

question is responsible for the collapse of the efforts for the understanding on the holding of elections as it failed to turn up for a meeting mediated by the US ambassador.

The opposition parties came out with certain proposals to solve the lingering crisis but at one stage they themselves backed out from these proposals, he said.

Asked whether efforts are still underway for a solution, he said the next parliament may throw some light in that direction.

"Not at all — we do not believe in rumour — you should also not believe —" was the cryptic answer to a foreign journalist, who asked him about rumours of impending emergency in the country.

The BNP Secretary General told another questioner that there is no question of granting transit through Bangladesh and facility of Chittagong port to India.

In an oblique reference to the current crisis, the manifesto said, "The parliament formed through the election can only bring necessary amendment to the Constitution."

"By boycotting and resisting the polls, one can only linger and make the problem complex, but cannot solve the programme which requires a constitutional amendment," it said.

BNP in its election manifesto announced a 36-point programme for achieving national progress and alleviating poverty.

The 36-point programme has been formulated in the light of the 19-point pro-

Dais damaged in Feni

From Page 1

vehicle at about 9:30 am. Haq, however, escaped unhurt.

In another incident some unknown miscreants hurled two crude bombs at the Telephone and Telegraph Office at Nandankhan in the city yesterday evening.

Our correspondent reported from Cox's Bazar that the mainstream opposition have called a 24-hour hartal in the district from 7 pm Tuesday to 7 pm Wednesday to protest a planned visit of Communications Minister Oit Ahmed.

During a two-day trip, the minister is scheduled to address two election projection meetings at Shahpur island in favour of the local BNP candidate, Shahjahan Chowdhury.

Our correspondent said that ahead of the minister's visit, the Opposition workers have put up barricades on the Cox's Bazar-Chittagong highway and hoisted black flags.

Oit Ahmed is also scheduled to address another public meeting at Ukhia thana headquarters today (Wednesday).

Our Sirajganj correspondent reported that five people were injured in a clash between supporters of Khe-lafat Andolan nominee Moulana Abdul Mannan and anti-election activists at Chowhal thana sadar yesterday. Mannan is contesting from Sirajganj-6 constituency.

In the same constituency, a candidate of Islami Shashantantra Andolan, Korban Ali, reportedly fled from his village home at Koizuri as anti-election activists allegedly threatened him. Korban Ali's supporters

also clashed with anti-election demonstrators at Jamirabazar in Shahajadpur thana.

The BNP has also formed "special squads" to make the Prime Minister's visit a success.

District Awami League General Secretary Abdul Latif Mirza at a press conference in the town yesterday also announced formation of "resistance squads" at each thana and also at union level to resist the Prime Minister's visit.

Our Gaibandha correspondent said that Opposition activists at Polashbari chased and foiled a meeting of BNP candidate Mokhesur Rahman from Gaibandha-3 con-

stituency. Witnesses said that the BNP candidate took shelter at the nearby police station.

In Jhenidah, a clash between election supporters and opposers near the Dak Bungalow Bazar in Sadar Thana yesterday left 10 people injured, one seriously.

Our Staff Correspondent reported from Sylhet that campaigners of BNP nominee Ilyas Ali were attacked by Opposition activists at Madarabazar area of Baniabazar.

In another incident, a car of BNP candidate from Sylhet-5 constituency, Abdul Khair Chowdhury, was damaged at Gachchhari Bazar in Kanaihat thana.

Opinion poll 65pc sees unrest after elections

By Staff Correspondent

A survey found that 65 per cent of the respondents feared that the February 15 elections will lead to political unrest and instability, while 18 per cent saw the next parliament as a transitional one which would facilitate a fully participatory election.

The findings of the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) opinion poll also revealed that 13 per cent of the respondents considered peace would be established after the elections, while two per cent demanded for new leadership.

The PPRC survey, conducted on 'Crisis Transition and Anarchy' in January, was released yesterday in a press conference held at the Jatiya Press Club. A total of 1075 voting-aged adults from Dhaka City participated in the opinion poll.

Hossain Zillur Rahman, while presenting the survey observed "from the late 80s onward, Bangladesh politics has been characterised above all by a balance of terror among the major political contenders."

Given the underlying durability of the stalemate, he found little room for solution at present. "Solution as well as political graduation can only come through compromise," he added.

According to the survey,

Moni withdraws from polls race

Nurul Islam Moni, a former MP of the ruling party, withdrew from the coming parliamentary elections, in solidarity with the current action programmes of the combined Opposition, reports UNB.

Moni, who stood independently in Patharghata constituency (Barguna-2), urged the government to stop this 'farceful election' to arrange vote under a non-party, neutral caretaker government ensuring participation of all opposition parties.

In a statement last night, he said the country was drifting towards a serious civil war centring the election. The Election Commission has imposed an undeclared martial law, said Moni.

He said BNP indulged in a 'disastrous game through the Election Commission' on the pretext of protecting the Constitution. "The Election Commission has been turned into a wing of BNP," he added.

'Missing ship not detained in Philippines'

By Staff Correspondent

The missing ship with 24 Bangladeshi crew on board was not detained in the Philippines as reported in the local press, Foreign Ministry officials said yesterday.

In a telex message sent to Foreign Ministry yesterday, the Bangladesh embassy in Manila, quoting the Philippines navy and coast guard sources, said that "No such vessel had been located in that area."

According to the telex message, the coast guard headquarters of the Philippines had sent tracer to all their stations in the Mindanao area and other parts of the country to locate M V Al Kashem but they were unable to trace the missing ship.

When contacted, Saifuddin Ahmed, a director of Foreign Ministry said over telephone last night that the news regarding M V Al Kashem published in different newspapers was 'totally speculative'.

He said if any such information regarding the missing ship was received then the Bangladesh mission would have definitely informed the foreign ministry.

"None of our foreign missions abroad which had been alerted earlier in this regard did respond with any positive news," he added.

Home minister seeks report on N'ganj incident

By Staff Correspondent

Home Minister Abdul Matin Choudhury said yesterday that he had instructed the Police Super of Narayanganj to submit a report to him on Sunday's incidents at Char Syedpur village in the district.

Asked about the incident, the Home Minister told reporters at a BNP press conference that he would be able to tell the details after he got the SP's report.

Rigging won't be tolerated, CEC warns

By Staff Correspondent

The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) yesterday called upon all officials concerned to complete the electoral process at every centre with total neutrality and fairness.

Justice A K M Sadeque was addressing a hurriedly arranged meeting of district commissioners, superintendents of police under Dhaka division, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) sector commanders, and representatives of the armed forces stationed at different parts of the country.

"We will not tolerate any vote rigging or any other anomalies during the election," the CEC told the officials warning that stern action would be taken in case of any irregularity.

Clinton

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had other business dealings with the McDougals, face trial March 4 on conspiracy and fraud charges.

Reuter adds: The private attorney for President Bill Clinton on Monday night said he was reviewing a federal subpoena ordering the President to testify in a Whitewater criminal trial, and that Clinton would cooperate.

"We have received... (the) order and we will review it carefully," said Avi Kendall, the President's personal attorney. "The President's intention is to cooperate in an appropriate fashion."

Clinton's testimony would not be without precedent. President Jefferson testified in writing in the trial of political leader Aaron Burr. President Ford testified by videotape in the trial of his attempted assassin and President Carter testified by videotape in the trial of financier Robert Vesco.

Two former presidents, Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan, also testified in criminal trials — Nixon in person in the Watergate cover-up trial and Reagan by videotape

The Midnight File

Serbs suspend contacts with Muslim-Croat authorities

BELGRADE, Feb 6: Bosnian Serb leaders said today they had suspended contacts with Muslim-Croat authorities and would no longer attend meetings on federation territory until captured Serb officers were released, reports Reuter.

15 more killed in Afghan war

ISLAMABAD, Feb 6: Fifteen people were killed and several wounded by rockets fired by rebels into the Afghan capital Kabul, official Kabul Radio said today, reports Reuter.

5 cultural bodies to boycott radio, TV Feb 14-16

Five cultural bodies including Sammlita Sangkritik Jote yesterday expressed solidarity with the decision of the Radio Television Artists Council to boycott the radio-TV programmes for three days from February 14, reports UNB.

In a joint statement, they called on the newscasters and artists to make the boycott programme a success to register their protest against the February 15 'one-party' election.

The signatories to the statement include Fayed Ahmed and Golam Quddus of Sammlita Sangkritik Jote, Nasiruddin Yusuf and Debrashudh Dvsnath of Group Theatre Federation, Asaduzzaman Nur and Hasan Arif of Aritturi Samannoy Parishad, Syed Shamsul Haq and Mohon Raihan of Jatiya Kabla Parishad, and Saiful Islam Mahmud and Jahangir Hossain of Pathnatok Parishad.

Gha' unit admission test will be held on March 15, 'Kha' unit on March 21, 'Ka' unit on March 22 and 'Ka' unit on March 29.

Soldier killed by Shantibahini

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 6: A soldier was killed this afternoon when Shantibahini launched a sniper attack on a security patrol in Sikupara of Kaokali thana under Rangamati district, official sources said.

The soldier was a 'Nalk' in the Army. With his death, the number of persons killed so far by the armed insurgents violating the ceasefire has risen to six.

500 huts gutted

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thana after visiting the spot said, most of the affected houses were made of bamboos on the bank of the river, around ten feet below the ground level of the city.

The homeless people were seen ranning helter skelter and trying to save their household goods. It was also reported that a section of unscrupulous people became active in looting valuables and utilities from the affected area, witnesses added.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police arrested an alleged hijacker Md Wadud alias Jiban and his accomplice Md Kashem alias Sagar and recovered two gold chains and two wrist watches.

Admission at DU Application forms available from today

Application forms for admission into first-year honours classes under four units of the Dhaka University will be distributed from today, reports UNB.

The admission test in 'Ka', 'Kha', 'Ga' and 'Gha' units will begin on March 15 under the newly introduced MCQ (multiple-choice question) system.

The forms will be given till March 7 for Tk 150 each. The forms of 'Ka' unit will be available at Agrani Bank at Curzon Hall, 'Kha' and 'Gha' units at TSC Janata Bank, and 'Ga' unit at Soanli Bank at the university administrative building.

Gha' unit admission test will be held on March 15, 'Kha' unit on March 21, 'Ka' unit on March 22 and 'Ka' unit on March 29.

Exams postponed

By DU Correspondent

"All course system examinations of third year Honours, 1994 and Masters final, 1993 of Dhaka University scheduled to be held from February 9 to 15 have been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances, says a DU press release.

Fresh dates for the postponed examinations will be announced soon.

The Masters Degree final examination of Mathematics tenth paper, scheduled for February 14, has also been postponed.

Fake army captain arrested

One hundred and seven people, including a 'fake army captain,' were arrested on various charges in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Acting on a tip-off, Demra thana police raided a house at RK Mission Road and arrested a 'fake captain' Maki-bul Hossain attired in army uniform. His two accomplices were also held, says a police press release.

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Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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