

Road accident kills 8 in Khagrachhari

KHAGRACHHARI, Feb 18: Eight people were killed and four injured when a timber-laden truck tumbled into a roadside ditch at Araini in Sadar thana of the hill district today, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said the Khagrachhari-bound truck from Dinhata suddenly skidded off the Khagrachhari-Dinhata road at about 6 am.

Police said the helper of the truck who fled the scene was driving the vehicle.

Seven of the dead were identified as Hossain, 30, M. Islam, 25, Abu Sayeed, 22, Kamal Hossain, 30, Majibur Rahman, 19, Abdus Sattar, 22 and Nazimuddin, 20. All died on the spot.

The four injured were admitted to Khagrachhari Sadar Hospital.

A case was filed with Sadar thana.

In Pabna, 3 more people succumbed to their injuries of the Saturday's tragic road

accident raising the death toll to 15.

Hospital sources said driver of the night coach Momo-tazuddin, 40, and two passengers — Reza, 33, and Tofael Pramanik, 50, died today.

The accident occurred when a Rangpur-bound coach from Dhaka skidded off the Nagarbari-Bogra highway and fell 30 feet into a ditch near Punduria bridge in Sathia thana at about 10:30 pm Saturday.

A police official said 12 passengers died on the spot and 50 others were injured in the accident.

He also said that the night coach was overloaded with home-bound passengers on the occasion of holy Eid-ul-Fitr.

Meanwhile, two seriously injured — Tobarok Hossain, 20, and Mozammel Khan, 29 — were sent to Dhaka.

Another eight injured passengers were being given treatment at Bera Health Complex.

Jatiya Party leader Barrister Moudud Ahmed yesterday gave a package formula for fresh polls under an interim government to avert the current crisis.

The only option now left for resolving the crisis is that the Chief Election Commissioner should immediately cancel the elections on the ground of widespread rigging, irregularities and non-polling in many centres, Moudud told UNB.

All these phenomena, he said, have clearly frustrated the conduct of elections under Article 119 (1) (B) of the Constitution giving rise to an inherent power to the Election Commission to cancel the elections.

"There is no provision in the Constitution which debars the Election Commission from cancelling the elections in such a situation," said Moudud.

But he said, the CEC should inform the President of the situation to facilitate him to dissolve the Cabinet for initiating the constitution of a non-partisan neutral caretaker government in consultation with all the political parties.

Once a package arrangement is arrived at on the composition of the interim government and the date of fresh

Balkan leaders pledge support for Dayton pact

ROME, Feb 18: Balkan leaders, pleading full support for the Dayton peace accord, began leaving Rome today after 24 hours of tough talking aimed at settling differences crippling the Bosnian peace process, reports UNB.

It was unclear how successful the talks have been. The emergency summit was due to wind up later today with a news conference chaired by chief US peace negotiator Richard Holbrooke, the international community's high representative, Carl Bildt and Italian Foreign Minister Susanna Agnelli.

2 electrocuted in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Feb 18: Two persons were electrocuted at village Radhakrishnapur under Gaibandha Sadar thana today.

One Ashrafullah, 14, was taking bath in a electrically driven deep tubewell where he came in contact with live electric wire.

When driver Salim, 28, of the tubewell tried to save him, he was also electrocuted. They were rushed to the hospital where doctors declared them dead.

Results of 36 seats

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Zahir Uddin Swapon (BNP); Pirojpur-2 Md Nurul Islam Manzur (BNP); Tangail-4 Shah-Jahan Siraj (BNP); Jamalpur-1 A K Mainul Huq (BNP); Jamalpur-2 Md Sultan Mahmud Babu (BNP); Mymensingh-1 Afzal H Khan (BNP); Dhaka-8 Lt Gen (Retd) Mir Shawkat Ali (BNP); Dhaka-10 Maj (Retd) Abdul Mannan (BNP); Gazipur-3 A K M Fazlul Huq Milon (BNP); Narayanganj-2 Md Ataur Rahman Khan (BNP); Faridpur-2 Abdul Hossain Miah (BNP); Sylhet-2 Md Ilias Ali (BNP); Maulibazar-3 Md Saifur Rahman (BNP); Brahmanbaria-4 Miah Md Wazed (BNP); Brahmanbaria-5 Alhaj Muhammad Siddiqu Rahman; Comilla-1 M K Anwar (BNP); Comilla-2 Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain (BNP); Comilla-4 Alhaj Engineer Manjurul Ahsan Munshi (BNP); Comilla-5 Md Mojibur Rahman (BNP); Comilla-6 Abdur Rashid Khandaker (NDA); Chandpur-1 Principal Abdul Hasnat (BNP); Chandpur-2 Md Nurul Huda (BNP); Laksmipur-2 Abul Khayer Bhuyan (BNP); Chittagong-3 Mostafa Kamal Pasha (BNP); Chittagong-4 Alhaj Syed Nazibul Basha Majhbandari (BNP); Chittagong-8 Amir Khasru Mahmood Chowdhury (BNP); Chittagong-9 Abdurrahman Al-Noman (BNP); CHT-Khagrachhari A Wadud (BNP); Bhola-3 Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, Bir Bikram (BNP); Barisal-1

nounced.

Earlier, the EC withheld election results of 35 seats after receiving allegations from various quarters. But due to lack of adequate documentary evidence and want of effective laws in this regard the EC has been unable to cancel the results of the polls held on February 15, said a press release issued by the EC yesterday.

The PRO of the EC later corrected the release of a telephone saying relection would be held in Nilphamari-2, Rangpur-4, Kushtia-4 and Sharifpur-3 constituencies where BNP candidates Dewan Nurunnabi, Alhaj Md Rahim Uddin Bharasa, Engineer Md Shahidullah Khan and Md Nurul Huq Sikdar were earlier unsuccessfully declared elected.

The 36 candidates, who have been declared elected yesterday are as follows: Lalmonirhat-3 Md Asadul Habib Dul (BNP); Sirajganj-2 Begum Khaleda Zia (BNP); Kushtia-1 Md Ahsanul Huq Molla (BNP); Kushtia-3 Alhaj Md Sobrabi Uddin (BNP); Jhenidah-1 Alhaj Md Abdul Wahab (BNP); Deshore-1 Mohammad Mafiqul Hassan Tripti (BNP); Sathkhira-3 Prof Ali Ahammad (BNP); Bhola-3 Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, Bir Bikram (BNP); Barisal-1

NEW DELHI, Feb 18: If voted to power, Janata Dal (JD), a major component of National Front-Left Front (NLF), will reconstruct the Babri Masjid through quick disposal of cases pending before different courts.

In an interview with BSS party secretary general Ram Vilas Paswan said this at his Janpath residence here yesterday afternoon.

He said, "The Janata Dal will meet the demand for reservation of government jobs including the army, para-military and police forces for the minority communities, including the Muslims."

The Janata Dal was in power in 1977 and also in 1989 though its present position is third in the Lok Sabha with only 39 seats in the House of 544.

According to Article 65 of the Constitution, elections must be held in all the 300 seats of Parliament in order to form a cabinet. But Article 56 of the Constitution says that the incumbent government must continue until the next government is formed.



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addressing the professional groups at the Engineers Institution in the city yesterday.

Editors' call to resolve political crisis

The Bangladesh Council of Editors made a passionate call to all quarters, for and individuals to come forward to find out ways and means to resolve the present political crisis, reported BSS.

The call was given at a meeting at Hotel Purbani with president of the Council Chowdhury Mohammad Faruque in the chair.

The meeting said that though endeavours have been made to resolve the constitutional crisis through election, yet no way has been found to resolve the 'deepening political crisis.'

The meeting expressed concern at the arrest of the Treasurer of the Council and Editor of the Daily Al-Amin Al-haj Moqbul Hossain and demanded his immediate release.

It expressed concern at indiscriminate attack by various political quarters on the journalists and called upon all such quarters to show tolerance and respect to freedom of newspapers and the editorial institution.

The meeting decided to copy the Bangladesh Observer Editor Prof K M A Munim and the Daily Kalyan (Jessore) Editor Ekram-Uddowla in the executive committee of the Council.

The Dainik Ittefaq Editor Anwar Sayeed and Manju, the Dainik Inqilab Editor AMM Baabuddin, Chief Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) D P Barua, the Bangladesh Times Editor Mahbub Anam, the New Nation Editor Alamgir Mohiuddin, the Financial Express Editor Moazzem Hossain, the Dainik Samachar Editor Abdul Kasem Majumder, the Dainik Janapad Editor Syed Mesbahuddin and the Dainik Jahan Editor Habibur Rahman Sheikh attended the meeting.

Photographer Shahidul Alam stabbed, robbed

By Staff Correspondent

Dr Shahidul Alam, an eminent photographer, was stabbed and robbed of his electronic goods worth about Tk two lakh on Dhanmondi Road No 27 in the city Saturday morning.

A gang of four unidentified youths aged between 25 and 30 attacked Dr Alam, Managing Director of Drik Picture Library, and stabbed him in his right hand and leg at about 7:15 am, police said quoting the FIR.

The muggers snatched the bag in which there was a portable computer, an electronic diary and a professional still camera.

Dr Alam was returning to his house at Dhanmondi in a rickshaw from Suhrawardy Hospital where he had passed the night before with his father under treatment there.

One of the muggers armed with sharp weapons got down from their auto rickshaw and intercepted the rickshaw in which Dr Alam was travelling. All on a sudden, he started stabbing Dr Alam. By this time, his accomplices gheraoed Dr Alam.

The gang left the scene after Dr Alam gave away the bag to them. The muggers fled by the auto rickshaw, police said.

A case under section 394 has been filed with Dhanmondi thana in this connection, police said.

PM : All issues

From Page 1

invited the Opposition to discuss how the country would be run during the interim period. "But they didn't come forward."

About the formation of her new government, she said it would be done soon, without giving a specific date.

To a question about the opposition claim that the BNP government became illegal after this election, she said the opposition had been bringing such allegation since 1994. "They are confusing legal as illegal and illegal as legal. We don't know what they mean by what."

To a question on the 9-point guidelines spelt out by Awami League president Sheikh Hasina and her call for the President to take over, Begum Zia retorted: Does the opposition leader want to restore presidential system of government?

She said there is a constitutional government in the country which will be run at the directives of the Prime Minister under the present parliamentary system.

Asked if she plans to punish the opposition for resorting to violence as she had said in a pre-election promise, Begum Zia said those who are causing suffering to the people and indulging in illegal acts would be dealt with according to law of the land.

When asked to comment on the question that the main problem of the country's politics was the conflict of the two leaders, the Prime Minister said: We have no personal conflict. We have differences in politics. If there was no political differences, we could do the same party and same politics, she added.

Information Minister M Shamsul Islam was present at the press conference.

The Midnight File

Security alerts to US, British nationals in Bahrain

MANAMA, Feb 18: The US and British embassies in Bahrain today issued fresh security alerts to their nationals on the Gulf island, plagued by a campaign of political unrest that has included bombs at luxury hotels. "We've slightly toughened our message," a US embassy spokesman said. The British embassy also revised its warning, reports Reuter.

US likely to delay arms delivery to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Feb 18: The United States is likely to delay delivery of military equipment worth 368 million dollars to Pakistan because of controversy over the alleged transfer of nuclear weapons-related material by China, a Pakistani official said today, reports AFP.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Asef Ahmed Ali said "we have not been told officially, but as a result of the controversy there might be a delay."

Ali said during a news conference on return from talks in Washington that both Pakistan and China had denied US

intelligence reports that Beijing sold Islamabad, 5,000 magnet rings used in enriching uranium.

Despite the denials a controversy may be linked to internal US politics, he claimed, expressing the hope that the US administration and Congress would not "fall into a trap meant to isolate China and harm relations with Pakistan."

Ali stressed that the release of the military hardware after the recent passage by the US Congress of the Brown Amendment was a "moral and legislative obligation."

The amendment grants a one-time relaxation in restrictions imposed by the US in 1990 under the Pressler anti-proliferation law against Pakistan.

Radio officer of Panamanian ship stabbed at Mongla

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Feb 18: Radio officer of Panamanian ocean going ship 'MV Huayoung' was seriously stabbed during an armed robbery on board the vessel at 3:45 am yesterday. He was rushed to a clinic at Mongla in a critical condition.

Police said, the armed dacoits looted at gun point the personal belongings of the sailor, 115 metre long mooring rope and some spare parts all worth over Tk two lakh.

The vessel which anchored at Mongla Port recently has been waiting for loading.

PM: Opposition

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and claimed that none from the ruling party was involved in such activities.

Begum Zia also contradicted newspaper reports on the turnout of voters, saying: "The press reports were mainly based on polling in parts of the capital only."

Blaming the only parts of Dhaka city, the BNP chief claimed that press reports did not reflect the "massive turnout" of voters outside the capital.

"In parts of Dhaka and places outside it, democracy-loving people turned up in large numbers to vote despite Opposition threats and resistance."

"Had the journalists from home and abroad visited those areas, a different scene would have appeared on the newspaper pages", she added.

Begum Zia also criticised newsmen for writing "imaginary stories sitting in Dhaka". Had the newsmen maintained a minimum journalistic ethics they would not have reported in such a way. Such press reports had misguided the people", she said.

Bangladesh Bank Motijheel Office Dhaka

Tender for the 30/90/180 days Govt, Treasury Bill

Tenders for the 30/90/180 day Govt, Treasury Bill will be received on 25/2/96. The intending Tenderers should submit their Tenders in the prescribed form which can be had from the General Manager, Bangladesh Bank, Motijheel office, Dhaka.

The completed tender should be placed in separate sealed cover superscribed "Tender for 30/90/180 days Govt Treasury Bill" and should be deposited in the Box exclusively kept for the purpose in the chamber of General Manager, Bangladesh Bank, Motijheel office, Dhaka before 12:00 Noon on 25/2/96. The results of the auction would be announced on 26/2/96. Successful bidders would be required to make payment of cost price latest by 12:00 Noon on 27/2/96.

Individuals, business firms, companies & corporate bodies, Banks and financial Institutions residing/engaged in business in Bangladesh are eligible for participation in the auction.

PR&PB-48/96-277
No-10
D-196

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Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Medialogue Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90, Kakruli, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 5, Dhamrai, Dist: Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500093-4, Commercial: 500091. Fax No: 86-2-863035. GPO Box No: 3267, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.