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PHILIPS

10 killed, 37 injured in road accidents

By Staff Correspondent

At least ten people were killed and 37 others injured in separate road accidents in Mymensingh and Gaibandha yesterday and the day before.

Of them, six people were killed and 30 injured in truck-jeep collision in Mymensingh and four people were killed and seven injured in two separate road accidents in Gaibandha.

Our Correspondent from Mymensingh reports: Six people were killed and 30 others injured, 11 of them seriously, in a road accident at Digharkanda under sadar thana on Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway yesterday.

Police and witnesses said, the accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound truck with day labourers on board collided head-on with a Mymensingh-bound jeep belonging to CARE at Digharkanda at about 11:30 am.

The driver of the truck lost control over the vehicle and fell into a roadside ditch killing six people on the spot and injuring 30 others.

Of the dead, five were identified as Saidul, 14, Emdadul, 13, Shahjahan, 15, Saiful, 25, and Asadul, 25. The other person could not be identified till filing of this report.

The injured were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

UNB adds: Four people were killed and seven others injured in two separate road accidents in Gabindaganj thana of Gaibandha district on Wednesday.

Nasir Bahini

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a 'bullet-proof jacket' and is planning to stay here and continue the acts of terrorism. Nasir has the blessings of some influential political leaders and people in the police administration, according to sources.

As police keeps constant watch on the movement of Nasir, the ring leader also reportedly has paid some sources in police, sources said.

As a result, police, despite series of drives five months ago, could not arrest Nasir even after rewarding a reward of Tk 50 thousand on his whereabouts.

A large contingent of police on Monday night raided a residential hotel at Chawkbazar on receipt of information that Nasir and his gang members were staying there. But police failed to round them up as they left the place well before police reached the spot.

Police said Nasir is wanted in more than 20 criminal cases. Nasir reportedly has accumulated a huge amount of money by illegal toll collection, ransom from affluent people and business tycoons and other means, sources informed.

Indian polls

From page 1

Gill said last month the parliamentary polls would cost India around 205 million dollars.

The Hindu nationalists, tipped to emerge as the largest party from the polls, responded by predicting they would win hands down.

"We are confident of winning a comfortable majority, a spokesman for the rightwing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) said.

An estimated 60 per cent turnout is expected.

He said hundreds of thousands of police and paramilitary forces would provide security, moving from one area to another during polling.

Gill urged political parties to field clean, ideal candidates and to shun those with a criminal past.

Today's announcement came as each bloc, faced with the likelihood of a hung parliament, struggled to reach pre-poll alliance.

The political scenario was electrified three days ago when Sonia Gandhi, the widow of former assassinated prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, announced she would campaign for the beleaguered Congress (I) Party.

Based on the ministry statement, the Bangladesh Bank sent inspectors to four branches of Agrani Bank, one of IFIC and another of Janata Bank.

The findings were amazing.

Twenty businesses were found to have been owned by Fazlur Rahman. Agrani branches in Tanbazar and R K Das Road in Narayanganj at that time, were his early partners.

Fazlur Rahman does not

have anything to do with Agrani's R K Das Road branch in Narayanganj at the moment. But Messrs. Narayanganj Enterprise, which according to central bank inspectors is owned by his elder brother Prof. Rezaul Karim, a BNP MP, does. The bank's Board was found to have approved a Tk 5.27 lakh loan write-off proposal.

The IFIC bank proved better for Fazlur Rahman.

There were four accounts for three of his companies. Loans remained unadjusted and got changed into different categories. And at least twice, the interests were written off first, Tk 75 lakh in February 1993 and then again Tk 1.40 crore in October 1995. The exercise yielded an extremely favourable repayment schedule for the rest. He defaulted again.

However, his another deal with IFIC — which was shifted from the bank's Motijheel

branch to one in Narayanganj — was found "regular".

In one of the early instances of his getting undue favours from the banking system, on January 15, 1984, he had Agrani's Tanbazar branch write off Tk 26.36 lakh in interests. His business with the branch continued and resulted in another interests write-off four years later — this time Tk 1.27 crore. The Board was indeed generous to him, as reflected in its memo.

Similarly, the bank's principal branch in Dhaka was being extremely nice to him. For defaulting loans originating in early 1989, he was rather awarded for the second time on October 1995. In two phases, he made the bank agree to forget some Tk 36 lakh in interests due to him. He was still unhappy, and was asking for more.

Fazlur Rahman does not

have anything to do with Agrani's R K Das Road branch in Narayanganj at the moment.

His style with Janata was a bit different. He was defaulting and getting the loans — to the tune of Tk 6.4 crore, or who knows how to find the actual figure — rescheduled. Application for a third rescheduling was filed in October 1996. The central bank inquiry said it all amounted to benefiting from loan write-offs "in an indirect way".

He would open LCs with banks, cancel them, and then wouldn't accept the bank's charging him the fees. Sonali Bank responded to his plea one (Tk 4.45 lakh), an instance he used to try a similar favour from Janata unsuccessfully (Tk 9.30 lakh).

While the inspectors wondered how he could manage, his associates in business lobbied for him, on several occasions, to retain him as director of

the bank.

He seems important, but is he right?

More than a year ago, the finance ministry said that Fazlur Rahman, despite being a big defaulter, had been made director of the three government-controlled banks and borrowed money from Agrani, Janata and IFIC banks, and had big sums of interests written off "in a manner that violated all rules and regulations".

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