

Road mishaps kill 7 in Feni

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

At least seven people were killed and five others injured in two separate road accidents in Feni yesterday, police and hospital sources said.

The first accident occurred near Lemna Bridge on Dhaka-Chittagong highway when a Chittagong-bound truck from Comilla overturned and fell into a roadside ditch at about 6:00 in the morning. Five of the six labourers travelling in the truck died on the spot.

The identity of the victims could not be known. The bodies were sent to hospital for autopsy.

In another accident, a speeding bus hit a tempo at Temohoni on Feni-Majdee road at about 12:30 pm, leaving tempo driver Dulal, 35, dead on the spot and five passengers injured.

One of the injured, identified as Belal, 25, of village Sampur, succumbed to his injuries on way to hospital while the rest were admitted to different clinics at Feni.

Two separate cases were lodged with Feni sadar thana.

Housewife murdered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife was murdered in the city in the small hours of yesterday, as she failed to bring money from her father, which her husband asked for.

The incident occurred nine months after their marriage. Mohammad Shahid, a tempo driver, killed his wife Khohinoor Begum, 18, at East Shewrapara, Kafrul, said police and hospital sources.

The police said she might have been strangled, basing their suspicion on the marks of bruises in the throat.

Shahid beat up his three-month pregnant wife at his Amtala residence, following an altercation with her.

When neighbours came to her rescue hearing screams he stopped beating, but again beat her in the small hours, the hospital sources quoted the victim's relatives as saying.

In the morning, the neighbours found her lying unconscious on the bed. Kafrul police, being informed, recovered the body at 9:00am, and sent it to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Sources said Shahid borrowed money from his friend. Asked to pay back by the friend, he pressed his wife to bring money from her father on Sunday. But her failure angered her husband.

Selim, her elder brother, filed a murder case with Kafrul Police Station.

Shahid has been absconding since the incident.

Ideal School polls Court orders to maintain status quo till Oct 10

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Fourth Assistant Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday directed chairman and member-secretary of Ideal School and College, Motijheel, Dhaka to maintain status quo till October 10 regarding election of its managing committee, scheduled for today.

Judge Syed Kamal Hossain (in-charge) passed the order following a civil suit for postponement of the election.

In the suit, Deputy Commissioner, Dhaka and principal of Ideal School and College were made defendants.

In his plaint, A S M Farhad Uddin, a voter of the election, alleged that the former managing committee at a meeting on July 9 decided to hold the election on October 6. But the defendants called a meeting on August 19 and announced a fresh date for holding the election on September 26, violating rules and regulations of the former committee.

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina (inset) acknowledges applause from the crowd minutes before addressing an election meeting in Munshiganj yesterday.

Take immediate action against terrorists for fair polls: Hasina

NAZMUL ASHRAF, Comilla

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has demanded of the caretaker government and the Election Commission to take immediate action against the terrorists upsetting the congenial election atmosphere.

The AL chief observed that the BNP-Jamaat-e-Islami axis was unleashing a reign of terror across the country to subvert the election, sensing an election debacle.

She was speaking at huge election rallies totalling fifteen on the first day of her two-day election tour of six south-eastern districts yesterday. She addressed campaign rallies in Munshiganj, Comilla and Brahmanbaria. Hasina is scheduled to attend similar programmes in Moulvibazar, Habiganj and Sylhet today.

People in their thousands turned up at the meetings braving scorching sun and rain. They carried colourful replicas of boat, the AL

election symbol, banners, festoons and portraits of Hasina and her slain father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The designated venues aside, crammed audience spread over the surrounding areas. All the roads leading to the meeting venues were overcrowded and euphoric people including women and children came out of their houses.

A large number of people lined up on the roads she passed through just to have a glimpse of the immediate-past prime minister. Hasina reached remote areas like Langolkot and Chandina crossing narrow village roads. She embarked upon a hectic election visit to ten designated places in Comilla, two in Brahmanbaria and one in Munshiganj.

Speaking at the rallies, Hasina stressed most on having an atmosphere conducive to holding a free, fair and peaceful election, as her party would definitely emerge

victorious in such a balloting.

Welcoming the deployment of army, she hoped that the armed forces along with the law-enforcers would adopt appropriate steps to act against the trouble-mongers and check the rising incidents of violence.

"We want a peaceful atmosphere so that the voters can exercise their franchise safely. Because the victory is ours." She alleged that terrorists of the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami were killing and attacking the AL workers and warning the voters especially those belonging to the minority groups in many areas. She advised the victims of the on-going terrorism and repression to seek redress from the army and members of the law-enforcement agencies.

However, the AL leader regretted that the authorities were not acting against those who bombed an AL rally in Bagerhat, killing nine people

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Students of Jahangirnagar University brought out a black-flag procession in the city yesterday to press their 7-point demand.

Students demand Cancel certificates of all rapists at JU

JU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Jahangirnagar University (JU) under the banner of Students' Unity for Resistance to Rapists (SURR) brought out a black-flag procession in the city yesterday to press home their seven-point demands.

The SURR demands are: Cancellation of studentships and certificates of all rapists and removal of the JU vice-chancellor, cancellation of readmission of Anis,

an alleged rapist, introduction of anti-sexual act, formation of complaint cell, withdrawal of expulsion order on and the judicial case against seven SURR leaders, and of show-cause notices served on another 25 and trial of attackers.

The procession brought out from the Madhu's canteen at Dhaka University in the morning ended in front of the National Press Club where the SURR held a rally later.

Addressing the rally, the SURR leaders condemned the JU authorities' punitive actions against SURR leaders and activists who scaled up agitation against terrorism and anti-social activities on the campus.

"Besides punitive actions against SURR activists, the authorities are turning the campus into a safe sanctuary for the rapists and other anti-social elements," SURR leader Farooq Wasif said.

Another SURR leader Afsana Ayub Anney alleged that JU VC Prof. Abdul Bayes published write-ups full of false information about the campus situation and the ongoing movement.

The leaders urged the caretaker government to take initiatives to meet their demands and restore peaceful academic atmosphere on

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Peres-Arafat meeting today

AFP, Jerusalem

After weeks of uncertainty, Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon yesterday announced that crucial peace talks would start within 24 hours between his dovish foreign minister, Shimon Peres, and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Sharon confirmed the much-delayed meeting would go ahead today in a phone conversation with British counterpart Tony Blair, a Downing Street spokesman said.

Blair was trying to smooth out a diplomatic spat after his foreign secretary Jack Straw ruffled Israeli feathers with remarks linking the US terror attacks to the situation in "Palestine".

The right-wing Israeli premier finally bowed to huge international pressure to allow the talks to go ahead, clearing the way for US efforts to form a worldwide coalition against terrorism which will include key Arab states.

Sharon had demanded 48 hours of absolute calm before allowing the meeting, a condition which, according to Israeli army statements, will go unfulfilled after the military reported a number overnight attacks by Palestinian militants.



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia (inset) addresses an election rally at the Muradnagar High School playground in Comilla yesterday.

Khaleda urges people not to elect black money holders

REZAUL KARIM, from Companyganj in Comilla

Khaleda Zia yesterday urged people not to vote for black-money holders and give a befitting reply to terrorism and corruption of the Awami League through ballot in the October 1 general election.

The BNP chairperson also accused AL leaders of amassing money by plundering public and private property and through kick-backs in defence deals such as purchase of MiG-29 and frigate.

"Now they are spending the black money in a bid to win the election," she claimed while addressing a series of election meetings at different constituencies of Comilla and Brahmanbaria yesterday.

People in the tens of thousands, a sizeable portion of them women, gathered at the meeting venues from far and wide, chanting slogans and brandishing sheaves of paddy. Thousands also lined up on both

sides of the road as the BNP chief went from Brahmanbaria to Kashba to Muradnagar to Devidar to Burichang.

While seeking vote for BNP candidate Shah Mofazzal Hossain Kaikobad in the Comilla-3 constituency at an election meeting at Muradnagar DR Government High School, Khaleda alleged that the AL had intensified terrorist acts in a motive to foil the election.

"They (AL) have killed hundreds of opposition leaders and activists while in power and are still continuing with their killing spree," she said. "People want to know how many more lives does she (Sheikh Hasina) want, how much more blood does she want to shed."

Khaleda also warned that the BNP-led four-party alliance would take account of every drop of blood and try the killers, if elected. "No killer would go unpunished."

The former prime minister urged people not to take the black money from the AL candidate for the con-

stituency, Yussuf Abdullah Harun, without directly naming him. "Black money is haram (forbidden) for each and every Muslim."

She added that the BNP would send all those, who had amassed black money in the five years of AL rule, to jail.

The BNP chairperson blamed the AL for masterminding the recent spate of violent incidents and bomb blasts. "They (AL) are staging these to disrupt the pre-election atmosphere and foil the election, as they know that they will be defeated in the polls."

At the Kashba T Ali Degree College playground meeting, she said that her party could win two-thirds majority in the October 1 general election.

"It is now clear that prestige of women, independence and sovereignty of the country, life and property of people are not safe in the

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Lord Peter Shore dead

AP, London

The former Labour Cabinet minister Lord Shore of Stepney died Monday in a London hospital. He was 77.

Lord Shore was admitted to St. Thomas' Hospital on July 12 after collapsing in the House of Lords. A hospital spokesman said he 'died peacefully' after a short illness.

As Peter Shore, he held ministerial positions under former Prime Ministers Harold Wilson and James Callaghan, heading departments such as Economic Affairs, Trade and Environment, before being made a life peer in 1997, which entitled him to sit in the House of Lords.

In recent years he has been a fierce critic of the European Union, and a passionate campaigner against closer ties with Europe.

"He made a huge contribution towards modernising the economy of the country and tackling urban deprivation," said Prime Minister Tony Blair Monday as he paid tribute to Shore as a "great servant" of the Labour Party.

"Peter was a man of immense integrity with strong convictions. He was a great parliamentarian, a great patriot and a true servant of his constituents."

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Kazi Zafar granted bail

BSS, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday granted bail to former prime minister and Jatiya Party (N-F) leader Kazi Zafar Ahmed who had been convicted by a court of Khulna in a corruption case.

A vacation bench comprising Justice M A Aziz and Justice Sikder Moqbul Haque also granted an appeal for hearing, which was earlier submitted by Zafar's lawyers.

Kazi Zafar was convicted by the Special Divisional Court in Khulna on November 2, 1999 for misappropriation of government foodgrains for developing a cancer hospital in Khulna.

Terrorist Jashim, two accomplices arrested in Ctg

BSS, Chittagong

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) arrested notorious terrorist Jashim along with his two accomplices from city's Chandanpura area yesterday.

Police said, Jashim, once a JCD cadre, was wanted in half a dozen cases including murder and robbery.

Others arrested are Alamgir, 28, and Tipu Kumer Ghosh, 22.

Police said, they abducted Nazer Ahmed Juwel, a second year student of Government City College, on Sunday and demanded Tk one lakh for his release. They released Jewel after taking some of his nude pictures.

According to information of Juwel, Kotwali police arrested the criminals from a house at Chandanpura yesterday afternoon.

Meanwhile, CMP recovered 18 cocktails, firearms and arrested 54 others on various charges from different parts of the city yesterday.