

Road accidents kill 5 in 3 dists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five people, including a college teacher, were killed and four others injured in separate road accidents in Mymensingh, Jhenidah and Feni yesterday.

Of them, two were killed in Mymensingh and Jhenidah each while one was killed in Feni.

Our Mymensingh Correspondent reports: Two persons were killed and four others injured in a road accident at Mehrabri in Bhaluka upazila on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in the early hours of yesterday.

Police said, the accident took place at around 1 am when a Dhaka-bound truck from Jamalpur fell into a road side ditch amid dense fog, killing two small traders on the spot and injuring four others.

The truck was carrying vegetables.

The dead were identified as Faruk Hossain, 36, and Jamal Uddin, 50, both hailed from Jamalpur.

The injured people were given first aid. Police seized the truck, but its driver fled the scene.

Our Correspondent from Jhenidah adds: Two persons were

killed in a road mishap near Mobarakganj Sugar Mill in Kaliganj upazila yesterday afternoon.

According to police and witnesses, the victims – Ali Hossain, 28, and Subdul Ali, 30, were crushed under the wheels of a Jessore-bound speeding bus while crossing the road.

The bodies were sent to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

In Feni, a college teacher was killed in a road accident on Feni-Parashuram road yesterday, according to BSS.

Noor Mohammad, 34, a lecturer of Accounting Department of Hasanpur Shah Alam Chowdhury School and College, received serious injuries when a Parashuram-bound passenger bus hit him on the road. He was crossing the road in front of the college campus at about 11 am.

The young teacher was taken to Feni hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at noon.

Victim Noor Mohammad, son of Suruj Miah, was a resident of Banpadua village under Parashuram upazila.

A case was lodged with the local police station in this connection. Driver of the vehicle fled the scene.

Our Correspondent from Jhenidah adds: Two persons were

killed in a road mishap near Mobarakganj Sugar Mill in Kaliganj upazila yesterday afternoon.

According to police and witnesses, the victims – Ali Hossain, 28, and Subdul Ali, 30, were crushed under the wheels of a Jessore-bound speeding bus while crossing the road.

The bodies were sent to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

In Feni, a college teacher was killed in a road accident on Feni-Parashuram road yesterday, according to BSS.

Noor Mohammad, 34, a lecturer of Accounting Department of Hasanpur Shah Alam Chowdhury School and College, received serious injuries when a Parashuram-bound passenger bus hit him on the road. He was crossing the road in front of the college campus at about 11 am.

The young teacher was taken to Feni hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at noon.

Victim Noor Mohammad, son of Suruj Miah, was a resident of Banpadua village under Parashuram upazila.

A case was lodged with the local police station in this connection. Driver of the vehicle fled the scene.

Our Correspondent from Jhenidah adds: Two persons were

killed in a road mishap near Mobarakganj Sugar Mill in Kaliganj upazila yesterday afternoon.

According to police and witnesses, the victims – Ali Hossain, 28, and Subdul Ali, 30, were crushed under the wheels of a Jessore-bound speeding bus while crossing the road.

The bodies were sent to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

In Feni, a college teacher was killed in a road accident on Feni-Parashuram road yesterday, according to BSS.

Noor Mohammad, 34, a lecturer of Accounting Department of Hasanpur Shah Alam Chowdhury School and College, received serious injuries when a Parashuram-bound passenger bus hit him on the road. He was crossing the road in front of the college campus at about 11 am.

The young teacher was taken to Feni hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at noon.

Victim Noor Mohammad, son of Suruj Miah, was a resident of Banpadua village under Parashuram upazila.

A case was lodged with the local police station in this connection. Driver of the vehicle fled the scene.

Our Correspondent from Jhenidah adds: Two persons were

killed in a road mishap near Mobarakganj Sugar Mill in Kaliganj upazila yesterday afternoon.

According to police and witnesses, the victims – Ali Hossain, 28, and Subdul Ali, 30, were crushed under the wheels of a Jessore-bound speeding bus while crossing the road.

The bodies were sent to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

In Feni, a college teacher was killed in a road accident on Feni-Parashuram road yesterday, according to BSS.

Noor Mohammad, 34, a lecturer of Accounting Department of Hasanpur Shah Alam Chowdhury School and College, received serious injuries when a Parashuram-bound passenger bus hit him on the road. He was crossing the road in front of the college campus at about 11 am.

The young teacher was taken to Feni hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at noon.

Victim Noor Mohammad, son of Suruj Miah, was a resident of Banpadua village under Parashuram upazila.

A case was lodged with the local police station in this connection. Driver of the vehicle fled the scene.

Our Correspondent from Jhenidah adds: Two persons were

killed in a road mishap near Mobarakganj Sugar Mill in Kaliganj upazila yesterday afternoon.

According to police and witnesses, the victims – Ali Hossain, 28, and Subdul Ali, 30, were crushed under the wheels of a Jessore-bound speeding bus while crossing the road.

The bodies were sent to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

In Feni, a college teacher was killed in a road accident on Feni-Parashuram road yesterday, according to BSS.

Noor Mohammad, 34, a lecturer of Accounting Department of Hasanpur Shah Alam Chowdhury School and College, received serious injuries when a Parashuram-bound passenger bus hit him on the road. He was crossing the road in front of the college campus at about 11 am.

The young teacher was taken to Feni hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at noon.

Victim Noor Mohammad, son of Suruj Miah, was a resident of Banpadua village under Parashuram upazila.

A case was lodged with the local police station in this connection. Driver of the vehicle fled the scene.

Our Correspondent from Jhenidah adds: Two persons were

killed in a road mishap near Mobarakganj Sugar Mill in Kaliganj upazila yesterday afternoon.

According to police and witnesses, the victims – Ali Hossain, 28, and Subdul Ali, 30, were crushed under the wheels of a Jessore-bound speeding bus while crossing the road.

SUST students will stage demonstration on campus today

UNB, Sylhet

Students of the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) will stage a demonstration on the campus today protesting the class boycott programme by the teachers.

Sources said SUST Teachers Association has been observing the programme from December 15 to realise their three-point demand including appointment and promotion of teachers and remuneration for examination duties.

At a press conference at the Sylhet Press Club yesterday, the teachers urged the university authorities to fulfil their three-point demand. The teachers will also stage a sit-in demonstration on the campus today.

Talking to newsmen SUST VC Prof Musleh Uddin said former VC Habibur Rahman gave appointments to 63 teachers just before expiry of his tenure without getting permission from the University Grant Commission.

He said these appointments created severe budget deficit to the university.

After the incident, UGC imposed ban on appointing new teachers of the university.

He said Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman has sanctioned Tk one crore for development of the university and assured of allocating Tk one crore to meet the budget deficit.

Nasim

FROM PAGE 1

secretary - are yet to be announced.

The 26 central committee members whose names were announced yesterday are Mohammed Hanif, Mohammed Nasim, MP, Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Abu Sayeed, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Abdul Latif Siddiqui, Shudangshu Shekhar Haldar, Mohammed Hanif, Rajiuddin Ahmed Razu, MP, AKM Jahangir Hossain, MP, Monnuzan Sufian, Mirza Sultan Raza, Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury, Mosharrar Hossain, ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, Talukdar Abdul Khaleq, MP, Mostafa Rashidi Suja, Mostafa Kamal Lotus, Md. Omar Ali, Md. Rahmatullah, Habibur Rahman Mollah, Fazle Rabbi, Habibur Rahman Khan, Sharfuddin Ahmed Jhantu, Mostafizur Rahman Fizer and Khairuzzaman Liton.

Though many fresh faces were inducted in the new central working committee, some of the hopeful former student leaders failed to get into it.

Of the former student leaders who had worked in the anti-autocracy movement in 1980s, only Ashim Kumar Ukil and BM Mozammel Huq could make it to the new committee. Other hopefuls including Shahi Ahmed (currently in jail), Ahmed Hossain, SM Kamal Hossain, Shahe Alam were left out in the cold.

Yesterday's adjourned meeting of the AL presidium, though scheduled to be held at the Bangabandhu Avenue party headquarters, was shifted to Dhanmondi office at the last moment to avoid crowd.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.



A picture grabbed from Russian NTV television channel shows rescue workers at the scene of the destroyed Chechen's pro-Russian administration headquarters in Grozny yesterday after a suicide bomb attack in which at least 55 people died.

US military buildup

FROM PAGE 12

The Pentagon ordered the Navy to select and prepare two aircraft carrier battle groups and two amphibious assault groups to go to the region, defence officials said. The orders, sent in the last two days, require the Navy to have the vessels ready to sail to the seas around Iraq within 96 hours after a certain date in January, the officials said, speaking on the condition of anonymity. They did not specify that date.

The Pentagon has determined that one of the carriers will be the USS George Washington. The ship just arrived home to Norfolk, Virginia, from the Persian Gulf region and has remained ready to return. The Navy has not yet decided on the second carrier, but officials said it will either be the Everett, Wash.-based USS Abraham Lincoln, which is currently in port at Perth, Australia, having just left the Persian Gulf region, or the USS Kitty Hawk, currently in port in Japan.

An aircraft carrier battle group includes six to eight surface escorts, including cruisers, destroyers, frigates and other vessels, dozens of strike and support aircraft and about 7,500 sailors. An amphibious ready group has about 2,200 Marines.

The defence officials said the amphibious assault groups have not yet been selected. Those groups

centre on a large, carrier-like vessel that can launch helicopters and carry Marines.

Already in the region is the carrier USS Constellation and the amphibious assault ship USS Nassau, and their escorts, officials said. The Nassau group carries another 2,200 Marines.

A fourth carrier group, centred on the USS Harry S. Truman, is in the Mediterranean Sea.

In addition, the US Navy hospital ship Comfort is expected to put to sea from its home port in Baltimore next week and prepare for action, military officials said Friday. It will be headed to Diego Garcia, a British island in the Indian Ocean where the United States bases numerous military aircraft, to support any potential conflict with Iraq.

The 1,000-bed floating hospital will initially sail with a crew of 61 civilian mariners and 225 Navy personnel, including enough doctors to support two operating rooms, said Marge Holz, spokeswoman for the Navy's Military Sealift Command. Hundreds more will be flown to the ship as needed, she said.

Air Force officials said units from five U.S.-based combat wings have received orders to prepare to deploy. They include F-15 fighters from Langley Air Force Base, Va.; F-15E Strike Eagles from Seymour Johnson

Air Force Base, N.C.; B-1B bombers from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D.; rescue helicopters and Predator drones from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.; and C-130 cargo planes and possibly more rescue helicopters from Moody Air Force Base, Ga.

Air tankers and transport aircraft are also expected to take part, officials said. Dozens of fighters already based in the Persian Gulf fly daily patrols over most of Iraq.

The size of the Army deployment was not clear, but it included infantry as well as support units, officials said. The Army also keeps air defence units in the region.

Last week, officials said the Army was expected to deploy troops from the 1st Armoured Division and 1st Infantry Division, both based in Germany, as well as an air mobile unit.

The main Marine Corps contingent is likely to be the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, based at Camp Pendleton, Calif. The 1st MEF's headquarters unit already has moved to Kuwait to prepare for combat operations.

A Coast Guard unit, based in Tacoma, Wash., that operates six small patrol boats has been deployed to the Persian Gulf, according to the office of Sen. Patty Murray.

Chinese leadership reshuffle set for Mar

REUTERS, Beijing

China will elect a new president, premier and parliament chief in a sweeping reshuffle of the country's leadership at the annual session of parliament next March, the official Xinhua news agency said on yesterday.

The National People's Congress will also elect the country's top judge and prosecutor at its first plenary session which convenes on March 5, Xinhua said. It did not say when the meeting would end but previous sessions lasted for about a week.

Chinese and foreign sources and analysts have said parliament would elect outgoing Vice President Hu Jintao as president in place of Jiang Zemin, who must step down after the maximum two five-year terms.

Hu, who turns 60 this month, succeeded Jiang, 76, as general secretary of the Communist Party in a generational change in the party leadership at its 16th congress in November – the first orderly succession since the Communists swept to power in 1949.

The personnel changes have been decided by the omnipotent

Communist Party and parliament is a mere rubber-stamp body.

Jiang is still calling the shots despite yielding the top party post to Hu.

Jiang has packed the party's all-powerful Politburo Standing Committee with allies and proteges. He also kept the top military post, the chairmanship of the party's Central Military Commission (CMC).

Analysts are divided over whether Jiang would remain CMC chairman only until the parliament meeting next March, for two years like his late mentor Deng Xiaoping or the full five years until the next party congress in 2007.

Jiang rose to the pinnacle of power after the army crushed student-led demonstrations for democracy in Beijing's Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989, with heavy loss of life.

Hong Kong media have said Jiang's closest ally, Zeng Qinghong, 63, would be elected vice president.

Another Jiang ally, Wu Bangguo, 61, is expected to be elected parliament chief, replacing Li Peng, who is reviled by critics for stamping out the Tiananmen protests and is retiring at 74.

Defence deal

FROM PAGE 1

meal defence cooperation involving various ministries and departments.

The minister categorically said that there was neither conflict nor clash of interests in the accord.

Asked if Bangladesh considers signing of SOFA (Status of Forces Agreement) earlier proposed by the United States, he said this government did not get any such request.

About Bangladesh-India relationship, Morshed said Dhaka unilaterally continued its policy of cooperation with New Delhi although it was impeded at times. "India has now realised the need for cooperation," he said, referring to the planned meetings of some joint groups of the two countries in different sectors.

"It's an economic compulsion, not political for which the two closest neighbours should pursue the policy of cooperation," he said. "By and large, India has realised it now."

In an oblique reference to recent comments by India against Bangladesh, the minister said, "Political statements don't always reflect the reality. We don't know if those utterances were made to

resolve their internal problems."

He also reiterated Bangladesh's commitment to work together with other neighbours including Myanmar.

Earlier, the minister described other aspects of the prime minister's China visit, which he said would also expand economic cooperation.

When queried, the minister, who accompanied Khaleda to China, said efforts would be made to form a growth quadrangle encompassing the Chinese province of Yunnan, Myanmar, seven northeastern states of India and Bangladesh under the Kunming Initiative.

He said a direct air link between Yunnan and Dhaka or Chittagong would be established "soon" to have a greater access to the Chinese market. A road link between Kunming, the capital of China's nearest province to Bangladesh, and Dhaka is also "under active consideration".

Under the economic and technical cooperation, Bangladesh and China would interact more to remove trade imbalance, now heavily tilted towards China, he said.

Hasina thanks govt of S Leone for making Bangla official language

UNB, Dhaka

Opposition leader and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday thanked the government of Sierra Leone for declaring Bangla as one of the official languages.

"Certainly, Bangalee nation feels proud of this," she said in a message yesterday.

The former prime minister said the 21st February was declared as the International Mother Language Day by the United Nations for the initiative of Awami League government.

"This international recognition created a scope for Bangla to attain more prestige and dignity," she added.

Hasina said participation of the Bangladesh armed forces in the UN peacekeeping mission has helped earn fame for the country and brighten its image abroad.

She congratulated the members of the armed forces working for rebuilding Sierra Leone, the war-ravaged African country.

Sandwip polls

FROM PAGE 12

could exercise their franchise freely. Besides, army personnel will assist the law-enforcing agencies.

The meeting asked the law-enforcing agencies to take stern action against the violators of election rules and arrangements to protect the life and property of the voters before and after the election.

The election of the Sandwip Pourasava will be held on January 7, 2003. Ten candidates are running for chairman while 54 are vying for the posts of commissioner.

The total number of voters of the Sandwip Pourasava are 26,759 including 13,657 female voters.

Hadith bldg

FROM PAGE 12

the foundation mosque, was missing since the incident. They also said an influential BNP leader in league with the local police was behind the occupation of the building which occurred in the presence of Dr. Asadullah Al Galib, a local leader of Ahle Hadith Foundation, Bangladesh. Galib was recently dismissed from his post of director of the foundation.

Principal Majibur Rahman, member secretary of the foundation, told journalists yesterday evening that a case will be filed soon in this regard.

Tarajuddin murder

FROM PAGE 12

influenced by some unknown political people, submitted the chargesheet against Dipu and the two others to harass them politically though no witness was found to prove any allegation against them.

He also said that he was "forced" to give his signature in a naraji petition and vokalatanma prepared by "police-appointed" lawyers to include the names of Dipu and the two others though those were dropped from an earlier chargesheet submitted on July 9 last year.

After submission of that naraji petition, the court on April 22 ordered further investigation into the murder without hearing his statement, the complainant said in his affidavit.

Of the accused, Dipu Chowdhury and 21 others are now in jail custody while Khorshed is still at large.

Advocate Shamsud Ahmed Nilu moved the petition on behalf of the complainant.

Emperor Akihito has prostate cancer: Report

AFP, Tokyo

Doctors have discovered cancer cells in Japanese Emperor Akihito's prostate following a medical checkup, the news agency Jiji Press reported yesterday.

Akihito, who turned 69 last Monday, was hospitalised for one night for the checkup at the Imperial Household Agency hospital on his birthday and Tuesday.

Graft case

FROM PAGE 12

Bazar and contractor Shahabuddin. The case was filed with the Cox's Bazar Sadar Police Station yesterday.