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TRANSCOM ELECTRONICS

8 killed in road crashes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eight persons were killed and over 50 were injured in four road accidents in Cox's Bazar and Gopalganj in the last three days.

Five people, including two women, were killed in three accidents in Cox's Bazar while three others were killed in another road accident on the Dhaka-Khulna Highway at Kashiani of Gopalganj.

Our Cox's Bazar correspondent reports: A speedy car hit Ayesha Begum, 60, wife of Mojaher Mia, and Noor Jahan, 55, wife of Najir Ahmed--both from Lohogora of the district--yesterday on the Cox's Bazar-Chittagong Highway. The two died on the spot.

Four others--Chaman Ara Begum, 25, Lovely Akter, 15, Rekha, 8, and Akter Ahmed, 12--were critically injured in the accident and were undergoing treatment at Chittagong Medical College and Hospital (CMCH), police said.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Pvt universities exact way too high charges

Students suffer as no fee framework exists

PORIMOL PALMA

In the absence of a regulatory framework, the private universities are exacting extremely high charges, making it especially difficult for the middle and lower-middle class students to continue their studies.

North South University (NSU), the first private university of the country established in 1993, at present charges each student Tk 48,000 as tuition fee per semester for 12 credits and Tk 2,000 as lab and student activity fees. The amount is the result of two hikes--one in 1998 and then in 2003.

The university is now constructing a new campus at Baridhara for

which it is charging an extra "campus development fee" of Tk 3,500 from every student in every semester.

It takes an NSU student at least eight semesters (4 years) to complete his courses.

A number of NSU students, mostly from middle class families with limited income, complained that it has now become very hard for them to continue their studies because of these extra fees and that many of them have to share the expenses by doing part-time jobs.

The total fee for a semester at the American International University Bangladesh (AIUB) is Tk 50,750, which is Tk 44,600 at the Independent University

Bangladesh (IUB), Tk 44,000 at the Brac University and Tk 33,200 at the EastWest University.

The AIUB increased its fees from Tk 2,000 to Tk 2,100 per credit in 1998 and again to Tk 2,600 in 2001. It also increased its "miscellaneous fees" from Tk 800 to Tk 1,000 in 2001.

The East West University, however, reduced its fees from Tk 2,600 to Tk 2,000 per credit in economics and English in 2004, considering the competition.

On the other hand, Asian University of Bangladesh charges Tk 10,000-25,000 per semester, depending on the subjects and number of credits in its four-year

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Tk 6,000cr audit objections show BCIC's graft, JS body observes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday observed that the outstanding audit objections involving Tk 6,000 crore against the Bangladesh Chemical and Industries Corporation (BCIC) suggest the corporation indulges in irregularities and mismanagement.

A total of 5,748 objections have remained unresolved for years.

The parliamentary standing committee on public undertakings decided to discuss the issue at its January 2 meeting to find out the reasons for the delay in resolving those in presence of the comptroller and auditor general.

"We will find out the reasons for negligence in resolving the objections and the persons involved," Abdul Alim, chairman of the committee, told The Daily Star yesterday

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

9 JMB men held

Cops keep close watch on 'pro-Jamaat' bureaucrats

STAR REPORT

Law enforcers arrested nine suspected members of Jamaat-utl Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), including a financier of the banned Islamist militant outfit, in different parts of the country on Monday night and yesterday.

Three of the JMB suspects were arrested in Joypurhat, two in Narayanganj, and one each in Chittagong, Barisal and Tangail. The person arrested in Tangail is a JMB financier.

Meanwhile, the intelligence agencies have initiated surveillance on senior pro-Jamaat-Islami officials, including former home secretary Omar Faruque and five unnamed present secretaries, BDNEWS reports.

According to confessional statements made by the arrested

JMB members, a section of high-level officials in the administration is involved with the activities of the banned organisation.

Our staff correspondent in Chittagong reports: Cinema viewers caught JMB suspect Shahidul Islam with a knife inside a cinema hall and handed him over to police.

The Barisal police arrested suspected JMB member Hafez Enayetur Rahman when he was roaming around suspiciously in the CID Camp area on Bogra Road of the city on Monday night, adds our Barisal correspondent.

The police yesterday submitted charge sheets in two cases in connection with the August 17 serial blasts, accusing 14 in Barisal and two in Jhalakathi.

Our Tangail correspondent reports: The police are yet to arrest

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

Two robbers lynched in Munshiganj

BDNEWS, Munshiganj

Two robbers were lynched and two others arrested at Tongipara, Noadda in Munshiganj, yesterday.

The dead robbers were identified as Kahu Miah, 35 and Suman, 30.

Witnesses said, a mob intercepted a Nissan Jeep carrying the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

2 cops sued for extortion

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A rickshaw garage owner in Mirpur yesterday filed an extortion case against two policemen and their three informers with the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka.

Mohammad Abdul Goni of Chhoto Diabari in Mirpur accused

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

JCD leader, another killed in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two youths, including a Jatiyatbadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader, were gunned down while two others were bullet-hit in separate incidents in Mohakhali and Tejgaon of the city last night. Police recovered the body of another youth in Khilgaon.

The dead are Saidur Rahman, 27, assistant general secretary of JCD Titumir College unit, and Mohammad Mizan, 25, uncle of a JCD activist of Tejgaon College unit.

Saidur, an undergraduate student, was coming out of Mohakhali Wireless Gate Jame mosque after Esha prayers at about 8:00pm when some unidentified youths sprayed bullets on him and fled.

Critically injured Saidur, a resident of Cha/37/1 Mohakhali Wireless Gate, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) where the doctors declared him dead.

The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately.

In another incident, some youths fired bullets at Mizan, uncle of JCD Tejgaon College unit activist Russell, while he was talking to some JCD men on the college campus at around 8:30pm.

JCD activist Farabi Raihan of the same unit, who witnessed the incident, said some youths walked towards them and fired bullets, leaving three injured.

Mizan of Kotalipara, Gopalganj, along with two JCD activists--

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Members of Rapid Action Battalion search Paltan Maidan with sniffer dogs yesterday ahead of the ruling BNP's grand rally today.

PM opens new digital telephone exchange at Ctg

UNB, Chittagong

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday inaugurated the newly installed digital telephone exchange, which will provide connections to 83,300 subscribers, in Nandankanon in the port city.

The PM formally inaugurated

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

FOOD ADULTERATION

Drive restarts next week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A regular mobile court resumes food drives next week to check adulteration of different food items after a halt of two months.

The government formed four special mobile courts on June 14 in the wake of a series of reports carried by The Daily Star on colossal

food adulteration. The mobile courts conducted massive drives in the city eateries and food shops and fined and imprisoned a good numbers of adulterators.

The government initiative had drawn a huge public attention and praise and the drives in no time

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

WEDDING PARTY KILLING

Locals suspect involvement of minister's brother

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Locals point an accusing finger at a minister's brother for the killing of a contractor at a wedding party, but police speculate professional rivalry on the motive.

Unidentified assailants on Monday night gunned down Rajibul Islam at his brother's wedding reception and wounded four others in Motijheel.

The locals said Rajibul became a rival of the brother of a BNP minister as he had changed his godfather. The change even caused cancellation of a business contract he had earlier obtained, they added.

Investigators have also "figured out" three more points--extortion, rivalry over tenders and establishing supremacy in the area. The locals also pointed at an internal conflict in the local unit of Jubo Dal, the youth wing of ruling BNP.

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Prayer Timing		
December 21		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-25	6-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-24	5-27
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

শহীদ জিয়া অমর হোক  
স্বাধীনতার স্মরণে  
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