

10 killed, 74 injured in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least 10 people were killed and 74 others injured in separate road accidents in Faridpur, Bagerhat and Meherpur yesterday.

Our Staff Correspondent reports: A pushcart puller was killed in a road accident at Tejgaon in the city early yesterday.

The victim, Abdul Mridha, 40, was seriously injured when a truck hit his pushcart at Nabisco on Tongi Diversion Road from behind at around 4:30am.

Locals rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Police seized the truck, but its driver managed to escape.

Our S A F F CORRESPONDENT from Sylhet adds: A retired Insurance official was killed in a road accident in the city's suburb Tetli area on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway Saturday night.

The accident took place as a Dhaka-bound passenger coach from Sylhet collided head on with a private car.

Former DGM of Jibon Bima Corporation Abdul Matin Chowdhury, 62, who was on his way to Sylhet from Moulvibazar by the car died on the spot while the driver

sustained serious wounds.

The driver was admitted to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital. Matin hailed from Kotwaliupur of Golapganj upazila under Sylhet district.

The injured were admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital.

Traffic movement on Mongla-Khulna road was snarled for two hours as the angry mob put up barricade on the road protesting the accident.

Another report from Meherpur adds: Two people were killed and 40 others injured

in separate road accidents in the district yesterday.

Two people were killed and 30 others injured when a bus rammed a roadside tree in Gangni upazila at noon.

Police said the Kushtia-bound bus from Meherpur rammed the tree at Banshbaria Bazar when the driver lost his control over steering, killing helper Fakir and conductor Baba on the spot.

The injured were admitted to Meherpur General Hospital and Gangni health complex.

In another mishap, 10 passengers were injured when a bus skidded off the Meherpur-Kathuli road.

UDICHI TRAGEDY 7th anniversary programmes begin

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

A two-day programme began in Jessore yesterday to observe the 7th anniversary of Udichi tragedy.

Ten cultural activists were killed and over 100 people injured in a bomb blast at the 12th National Conference of Udichi Shilpi Gosthi at Jessore Town Hall Maidan on the fateful night of March 6, 1999.

Since then, the cultural activists of Jessore have been observing the day as the Day of Protecting Culture.

The programme of the inaugural day included poetry recitation, discussion and blood donation.

Today's programme includes mass-song and candle procession.

Meanwhile, Udichi Bomb Blast Case is still continuing even after the expiry of seven years.

Hearing of the case is being held at the court of Special Tribunal Judge Abdul Hossain Bepari.

The judgement will be announced after the hearing, said court sources.

PM addresses Dinajpur meet tomorrow

BDNEWS, Dinajpur

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will address a public meeting at Baramata Gora Shaheed ground in Dinajpur tomorrow.

Her visit in the northern district comes within 10 days of the 14-party grand rally in which leader of the opposition Sheikh Hasina addressed.

Non-govt teachers reiterate demand for salary hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE) yesterday urged the government to immediately meet their eight-point demand including 10 percent salary increase.

Their other demands include dearness allowance, festival allowance, promotions, pension facilities and adequate house rent.

"The government has so far not implemented its election pledge of increasing the salary of non-government teachers by 10 percent rather it withdrew various facilities of the teachers," said NFTE Convenor Qazi Faruq Ahmed at a press conference at its office in the city.

The government is hatching conspiracy to cancel Monthly Pay Order (MPO) facilities of five thousand teachers of 87 colleges and 72 secondary schools across the country on lame excuses, he alleged.

NFTE announced different programmes including rallies, processions, seminars, mass-contacts to press their demands.

Azizul Islam, Asadul Haque, MA Sattar and Mohammad Shahjahan were also present at the press conference.

UTPAL KILLING One arrestee confesses involvement

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Suman, arrested in connection with college student Utpal killing, confessed his involvement in the occurrence that took place at the United Nations Park in the port city on Saturday evening.

Suman, reportedly a local scoundrel, made the confessional statement under 164 before the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Moksedur Rahman yesterday afternoon.

Suman, of Ahmedpur Rahman Commissioner's Bari of city's Shulak Bahar area, said he along with his 12 other accomplices, stabbed Utpal to take revenge of stupidity of the victim reportedly did with him.

The incident ensued when Utpal smoked before Suman prompting the latter to slap him several months back, Suman was quoted as saying in the confession.

Following this Utpal instigated his friends to attack Suman several times accusing him of abduction to fuel enmity further, Suman alleged.

He also said he along with his friends attacked Utpal on that evening to teach him a good lesson when two of his friends Ibrahim and Raisul directly stabbed Utpal that lead to his death.

Utpal Barua, 18, son of Sushil Kumar Barua, was a first year student of Chittagong Metropolitan Commerce College.

Police arrested Suman on the spot when the victim's father filed a case with the Panchaish Police Station on the same evening.



PHOTO: STAR

Members of Bangladesh Garments Sramik Federation stage demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding compensation for the fire victims of Chittagong garments factory.

14-party grand rally in Barisal today

BDNEWS, Barisal

Preparation for the 14-party grand rally in Barisal in support of the combine's 23-point demand, including reforms in the caretaker government and election commission, is complete.

Leader of the Opposition and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina is expected chair the rally to be held at historic Gangabandhu Park today.

Other central leaders of 14-party Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain, Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon, JSD President Hasanul Haque Inu, Gono Azadi League President Alhaj Abdus Samad, Awami League leaders General Secretary Abdul Jalil, Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed are also scheduled to address the rally.

Spring tree fair begins in city

BSS, Dhaka

Environment and Forests Minister Tariful Islam yesterday urged all concerned, including the private nursery owners, to spearhead the current countrywide tree plantation programme a grand success for further economic and social benefits.

"Tree is inextricably linked with our everyday needs like food, cloth and residential facilities as well as medical treatment," he said while inaugurating a month-long Spring Tree Fair in the city's Kalabagan Kira Chakra playground here.

Dhaka Nursery Consortium organises the fair that displays nearly 100,000 saplings of various trees. The visitors, male and female, crowded the fair on its first day.

ATTEMPT ON JOURNO'S LIFE

Protest continues at JU

JU CORRESPONDENT

General students of Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday formed a human chain on the campus in protest against the attempt to kill JU correspondent of the Prothom Alo at Al Beruni Hall on Wednesday night.

Organised by Jahangirnagar University Journalists Association (JUJA), the human chain was formed at the foot of Amar Ekushey.

Students from different departments took part in human chain followed by a rally.

Students of Drama and Dramatics Department brought out a silent procession on the campus demanding punishment to the persons involved in the incident.

They also submitted a memorandum to the vice-chancellor protesting the incident.

Progotihsheel Chhatra Jote also brought out a procession on the campus in the evening to condemn the incident.

Meanwhile, the probe-body formed by the hall authorities to investigate the incident held its first meeting yesterday giving rise to the suspicion of university authorities' willingness to unravel the mystery.

"We are collecting information secretly to find the miscreants immediately," said Mukhlesur Rahman, investigation officer.

Away from the campus, the central committee of Bangladesh Chhatra Union yesterday condemned the incident while the journalists of Rajshahi University held a protest meeting on the campus demanding immediate probe and punishment to the perpetrators.

Workshop on Business Communication

begins Mar 10

A daylong workshop on Written Business Communication organised by Bdjobs.com Ltd, country's leading job site, begins in the city on March 10, says a press release.

The workshop will familiarise the participants with different techniques and practices that will help them sharpen their formal written skills for effective business communication.

Gopal Sehgal, CEO, Oracle Management Services, Mumbai, India, will conduct the workshop as resource person.

The workshop will be divided into four sessions covering wide range of issues needed for writing skills including fundamental of clear communication, principles of clear writing, evaluating one's writing style and report writing.

The workshop will begin at 9:00am at Bets Center at House# 55, Road# 4A, Dhanmondi in the city.

Old students of Rajshahi University stage hunger strike at Muktangan in the city yesterday protesting killing of RU professor Dr Taher by Jamat-Shibir and communal forces.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Dhaka, Khulna and Chittagong divisions in the next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature.

Highest temperature 33.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 14.8 degree Celsius at Dinajpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:04pm today and rises at 6:16am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

| City/Town | Temperature in Celsius | | Humidity in percentage | |
|-------------|---------------------------|------|---------------------------|---------|
| | Max | Min | Morning | Evening |
| Dhaka | 31.2 | 22.0 | 76 | 60 |
| Chittagong | 31.5 | 22.6 | 55 | 73 |
| Rajshahi | 32.5 | 17.5 | 80 | 45 |
| Khulna | 28.0 | 20.5 | 86 | 71 |
| Barisal | 29.5 | 20.0 | 87 | 91 |
| Sylhet | 31.0 | 18.8 | 54 | 57 |
| Cox's Bazar | 32.6 | 22.0 | 58 | 62 |

Major cities and towns yesterday recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Temperature in Celsius: Dhaka 31.2, Chittagong 31.5, Rajshahi 32.5, Khulna 28.0, Barisal 29.5, Sylhet 31.0, Cox's Bazar 32.6.

Humidity in percentage: Dhaka 60, Chittagong 73, Rajshahi 45, Khulna 71, Barisal 91, Sylhet 57, Cox's Bazar 62.

Wind speed in km/h: Dhaka 15, Chittagong 18, Rajshahi 20, Khulna 18, Barisal 22, Sylhet 20, Cox's Bazar 22.

Cloudiness: Dhaka 50, Chittagong 50, Rajshahi 50, Khulna 50, Barisal 50, Sylhet 50, Cox's Bazar 50.

Visibility in km: Dhaka 10, Chittagong 10, Rajshahi 10, Khulna 10, Barisal 10, Sylhet 10, Cox's Bazar 10.

Cloudiness: Dhaka 50, Chittagong 50, Rajshahi 50, Khulna 50, Barisal 50, Sylhet 50, Cox's Bazar 50.

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