

Five killed, 58 injured in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least five people were killed and 58 others injured in separate road accidents in Gazipur, Gaibandha, Mymensingh, Patuakhali, Sylhet and Brahmanbaria yesterday and on Thursday.

Our Correspondent in Gazipur adds: A collision between two trucks on Gazipur-Tangail highway left one person dead on Thursday night.

The victim was identified as Zahidul Islam, 30, a worker who hailed from Aatogram of Bogra.

The accident took place near Kaliakoir Bazar. Police seized both the trucks.

A case has been filed with Kaliakoir police.

Our Correspondent from Gaibandha reports: One person was killed and at least 45 people were injured in separate road accidents here yesterday.

Police said a loaded trolley suddenly turned upside down and fell into a roadside ditch at Kishmam Bagchi on Gaibandha-Sadullapur road, leaving one Sohel Mia, 12, dead on the spot.

Meanwhile, a Panchagarh-bound BRTC coach from Gaibandha collided head-on with a Sunderganj-bound coach com-

ing from opposite direction due to thick fog at Dakghar on Gaibandha-Palashbari highway.

At least 45 passengers of both the vehicles sustained injuries. Of the injured, five were rushed to Rangpur Medical College Hospital in critical condition and 15 others admitted to Gaibandha Sadar Hospital.

Two separate cases were filed with Sadullapur and Palashbari police stations.

Our Correspondent from Mymensingh adds: A woman was killed and her son was injured critically in a road accident at Dhara on Mymensingh-Haluaghata highway in Haluaghata upazila here yesterday morning.

The victim was identified as Nasima Khatun, 25, wife of Md Nurul Islam of village Nagua in Phulpur upazila.

Police and locals said the accident took place when a truck crushed the rickshaw in which Nasima and her son Waliullah, 7, were going to Dhara Bus Stand in Haluaghata upazila at around 10:30am, leaving Nasima dead on the spot and her son injured critically.

Waliullah was admitted to Mymensingh Medical College

Hospital (MMCH) from where he was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for better treatment.

The body was sent to MMCH morgue for autopsy.

Our Correspondent from Patuakhali adds: One killed in a road accident on Patuakhali-Kuakata road yesterday.

The victim was identified as Nurul Haq Molla, 70, of Auliapur village under Patuakhali sadar upazila.

Witnesses said Nurul Haq crushed under the wheels of a police van of Mirzaganj Police Station when he was crossing a road at Basak Bazar area. Local people rushed him to Patuakhali General Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at about 2:00pm.

Victim's relatives assaulted Dr Musahid Uddin for his alleged negligence.

Later, a group of people led by one Badsha and beat up the victim's relatives. Victim's son Siddikur Rahman, 40, Kamal Hossain, 25, grandson Rezaul, 14, and relative Rajib, 22, were admitted to a local clinic in critical condition.

Waliullah was admitted to Mymensingh Medical College

was killed and six people were injured critically in two road accidents on Sylhet-Tamabeel road yesterday.

A middle-aged man was killed and his wife injured critically when a truck rammed a CNG-run auto-rickshaw at Chamelebagh area, leaving its passenger Rastu Miah, 45, dead on the spot and his wife Marzina, 35, injured critically.

Marzina was admitted to Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital.

In another accident, five people were injured seriously when a truck hit a human hauler at Chiknagul area at about 1:00pm.

The injured were admitted to Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital (SOMCH).

Our Correspondent from Brahmanbaria adds: Six people were injured when a tempo fell into a wayside ditch near Nasirnagar Degree College under Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila in the district on Thursday night.

The injured are tempo driver Shahjahan Mia, 35, Khaleque Mia, 35, Rareshed Mia, 22, Ramji Ali, 30, Nayon Mia, 32, and Habib Mia, 22.



PHOTO: STAR
Relatives of arrestees gather in front of the court hajat at the Judge Court in the city yesterday in search of their near and dear ones. Several hundred people were arrested in a countrywide drive ahead of grand alliance's blockade programmes on January 7 and 8.

DIESEL CRISIS IN N-REGION

People suffer as bus service disrupted

Jafar Chy quits AL to contest Jan 22 polls

Bss, Chittagong

Awami League (AL) leader Jafar Ahmad Chowdhury resigned from the party yesterday protesting the party's decision to nominate LDP Executive President Col (retd) Oli Ahmed as grand alliance candidate in Chittagong-13 and 14 constituencies.

He also announced his decision to contest the January 22 election as an independent candidate.

"I have decided to resign from all posts including primary membership of the party in a regretful mind," Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury, an industrialist and influential AL leader of South Chittagong, mentioned in his resignation letter to the party President Sheikh Hasina.

"I have finalised the letter on December 25, the last date of submission of nomination paper but did not tender it at the suggestion of some of my admirers, he told BSS over telephone, adding he was determined to contest the election from the Chittagong-13 (Chandanaish-Satkania) and Chittagong-14 (Satkania-Lohagara) constituencies as an independent candidate.

In the resignation letter, he said that he had contested in the 1986 election as an AL candidate from Chittagong-13 constituency but his victory was snatched by the then government through 'media coup.'

"I also contested as a party candidate from the same constituency in the 1991 election, but could not win as the supporters of late Khondaker Mostaque Ahmed within the party worked in favour of BNP candidate," he said.

He said I have been working for the party in Satkania-Lohagara constituency during the last 10 years with dedication to make the party's position stronger in the area as suggested by the party president Sheikh Hasina.

In the letter, he also said, "Unfortunately my commitment to the party was not evaluated rather it was ignored by the party. Instead, they nominated LDP Executive President Oli Ahmed as Mohajote candidate in the constituencies, who was the mastermind behind the killing of Sudarshan Barua and also responsible for torturing many Awami League, Juba League and Chhatra League leaders and workers."

"I welcomed the formation of Mohajote as a party strategy but I would like to tell you with due respect that Mohajote may cause Mohajoriporoy (serious disaster) to the party in future if they do not be careful about such a dangerous person like Oli Ahmed," Chowdhury said in his letter.

10 injured in clash over cultivation of shoal in Padma

RU CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 people were injured, three of them critically, in a clash between the two groups of farmers on the outskirts of the city yesterday.

The critically injured Nurul, Asiati and Manik have been admitted to Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital.

Matiher police said the clash took place when a group of farmers led by Asiati Ali went to cultivate a newly emerged shoal in the river Padma at about noon.

Soon they were challenged by another group led by Nurul Islam.

The clash lasted for an hour leaving 10 farmers of both groups injured.

Additional police have been deployed in the area to avert any further clashes.

Leaders and activists of grand alliance stage a demonstration in Chittagong yesterday demanding resignation of President Iajuddin Ahmed as the chief adviser to the caretaker government and announcement of fresh election schedule.

Comrade Aruna Sen passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Veteran communist leader Comrade Aruna Sen, wife of late Shanti Sen and mother of Gono Sanskriti Front leader Chanchal Sen, passed away due to brain haemorrhage yesterday morning at the age of 96.

She had been undergoing treatment at National Medical College Hospital in the city.

Her dead body was taken to Raamvordopur village at Sharaiptur for cremation.

Aruna Sen was born at Palang at Sharaiptur district. Since 40's she had been working to organise the disadvantaged women for rights movement and continued till 1970's as the member of undivided communist party. She was also the President of Nari Sangram Parishad.

In her long battle against autocracy and communalism she was tortured by the then government and sentenced to jail.

Leaders of the left and progressive parties as well as the women leaders went to the hospital with wreaths to pay homage to the veteran leader.

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim, Workers' Party General Secretary Bimal Bishwas, Dilip Barua of Bangladesh Sammavayabadi Dal and Haider Anwar Khan of Gono Sanskriti Front were also present.

Workers' Party of Bangladesh (WPB) and 11-party leaders at different statements expressed deep shock at the death of Aruna Sen.

Expressing shock and sympathy for the bereaved family, Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon and General Secretary Bimal Bishwas said the nation would remember her for her contributions to generate women movement since 1940.

They also urged all to take lesson from the life of Aruna Sen and work for changing the society.

17 shops gutted in 2 districts

UNB, Dhaka

At least 17 shops were gutted in Jhalakati and Kishoreganj yesterday.

Jhalakati correspondent adds: A devastating fire gutted 10 shops at Niamoti Bazar in Bakerganj upazila in Barisal early yesterday.

Sources said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at a grocery shop at about 3:00am and soon engulfed the adjoining shops.

Four units of fire fighters from Jhalakati and Barisal city rushed to the spot and doused the blaze with the help of local people.

The affected traders claimed

that cash and valuables worth Tk 70 lakh were gutted in the fire.

Another report from Kishoreganj says: Fire burned down seven shops at Hatrapara Bazar in Karimganj upazila early yesterday.

Fire brigade sources said the blaze originating from an electric short circuit at a shop at about 1:00am and soon engulfed the adjacent shops, burning down values worth about Tk 50 lakh.

On information, fire fighters from local fire station rushed to the spot and put out the blaze after one hour of frantic efforts with the help of local people.

When contacted, Milon denied the allegation.

Meanwhile, seriously injured BNP leader and Chairman of Akonia Union Parishad Mizanur Rahman's brother Khalilur Rahman filed a case with Kochua Police Station on Thursday night accusing 12 BCL leaders for injuring his brother.

Following the case, police arrested BCL leaders and activists Shahabuddin, Mostafa, Helal and Sharif from Kochua health complex.

Arrest of former state minister demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

District Awami League President Dr Shamsul Hoque Bhuiyan has urged the local administration to arrest ex-state minister for education ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon for launching an attack on Kochua unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) President Kamal Hossain and others on Thursday.

While talking to this correspondent he said Kamal received bullet injuries in the sudden attack launched by Milon and his cadres at Kochua sadar.

The district unit of BCL took out a protest procession in the town the same night condemning Milon's attack.

When contacted, Milon denied the allegation.

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Arrest of former state minister demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

A woman was chopped to death after rape in Meherpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A woman was chopped to death after rape by miscreants in Meherpur district on Thursday night.

The victim was identified as Mabia Khatun, 36, daughter of Zobed Ali of Mujibnagar village. She was a widow.

Police said a gang of criminals stormed into the house of Zobed and picked up Mabia at gunpoint at about 9:30pm.

The gang raped the woman and chopped her into four pieces at an unknown place.

Later, they dumped the body in front of Mujibnagar BDR camp.

The BDR has confirmed the incident.

The body was sent to Meherpur General Hospital yesterday morning.

A case was filed with Mujibnagar Police Station in this connection.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:20pm today and rises at 6:43am

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

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in celsius	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	20.0	09.7	95	82
Chittagong	24.8	12.2	95	70
Rajshahi	21.2	9.4	95	75
Khulna	19.2	10.0	93	-
Barisal	19.8	9.6	100	89
Sylhet	24.8	11.0	100	82
Cox's Bazar	25.2	13.6	79	75

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