

8 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least eight people were killed and 25 others injured in separate road accidents in Patuakhali, Comilla, Bagerhat, Kushtia and Sylhet on Sunday and yesterday.

Our Correspondent from Patuakhali reports: One woman was killed and seven others were injured in a road accident in Patuakhali on Patuakhali-Taltali road yesterday.

The incident occurred at about 11:00am when a Patuakhali-bound passengers' bus from Taltali hit a motor van from behind. The motor van fell into a roadside ditch, leaving eight passengers injured.

Of the injured, Rehana, 40, wife of Shamsur Rahman of Churikata village under Amtali upazila, was rushed to Amtali upazila health complex where on-duty doctor declared her dead.

Other injured were released after first aid from a health complex.

UNB from Comilla adds: Three people were killed and 15 injured in

separate road accidents in Daudkandi upazila on Dhaka-Chittagong highway yesterday morning.

Police said a Comilla-bound bus from Nilphamari plunged into a roadside ditch at Taltoli at about 7:00am, leaving two dead and 15 others injured.

The deceased were identified as bus helper Saiful, 30, and passenger Abdullah, 34.

Of the injured, five were admitted to Gouripur Hospital from where they were shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Meanwhile, an unidentified old man was crushed under the wheels of a bus near the Daudkandi toll plaza on the highway at about 6:00am.

Police seized the bus but the driver managed to flee.

Another report from Bagerhat says: Two people were killed and three others injured in separate road accidents in the district on Sunday-Monday.

A young man was crushed

under the wheels of a microbus while he was crossing the road in Fakirhat upazila bus stand area yesterday.

The dead was identified as Sohrab Hossain, 26, a garment worker of Dhaka and son of Nur Mohammad of Shyamnagar village in the upazila.

In another accident, a betel-leaf trader was killed and three others were injured when a bus rammed a rickshaw-van near Doratana Bridge of the district on Sunday evening.

Samir Kumer Dey, 45, hailed from Kholisakhali village in Kochua upazila, died on the spot.

Traffic on Kushtia-Meherpur road halts for two hours following death in accident

A report from Kushtia adds: Traffic on Kushtia-Meherpur road halted for two hours yesterday following the death of a fertilizer trader in a road accident.

The dead was identified as Yasin Malitha, 45.

Sources said a sand-laden truck hit the bicycle of Yasin at

Noapara Bazar at about 9:00am, leaving him dead on the spot.

Agitated local people seized and damaged the truck. But the truck driver and helper managed to escape the public wrath.

"Local traders shut down their shops and put barricades on the road in an instant protest," says a spot account of the incident.

Police and BDR personnel rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control at 11:00am.

A report from Sylhet adds: A schoolboy was killed in a road accident in Baher area of Goainghat upazila on Sylhet-Tamabil road on Sunday.

Witnesses said Jahangir Hossain, 8, son of Sharaf Uddin of Bagher area and also a class three student, died on the spot when a Tamabil-bound speeding truck ran over him at about 1:30pm. He met the tragic end while crossing the road on the way home from school.

Outraged by the incident local people barricaded the road for over two hours. Later, police brought the situation under control.

Build political consensus to hold credible polls: JSD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) yesterday urged the caretaker government (CG) to take specific steps to build political consensus in order to hold a free, fair and credible election.

At a meeting in its central office in the city, JSD also urged the CG to ease the state of emergency to uphold basic human rights.

The leaders hailed the role of government officials, UN and international community to save the country from existing political crisis.

The leaders suggested making the voter list up-to-date, publication of correct voter list, and reformation of the Election Commission.

Presided over by JSD President Hasanul Haq Inu, the meeting was also attended by Syed Zafar Sazzad, Moinuddin Khan Badal and Nazmul Haq Prodhan.

JMB cadre held in Rajshahi

BSS, Rajshahi

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-5 in separate drives detained a cadre of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and two drug paddlers from Dinajpur and Rajshahi yesterday, Rab sources said.

Acting on a trip-off, a team of the elite force arrested JMB member Enamul Haque, 50, from Komolpur Bazar under Birol upazila in Dinajpur district.

In another drive, Rab personnel caught Rashidur Rahman, 30, and Mafuzur Rahman, 25, with 111 bottles of phensidyl syrup from a bus counter at Kazla under Matihar police station in Rajshahi city.

Caretaker dies as brick falls on his head in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A caretaker died on the spot when he was hit by a brick in his head severely in the capital yesterday.

Lal Mia, 45, was working as a caretaker in an under construction building at sector 14 of Uttara.

The accident occurred when a heavy brick fell on his head from the roof of the building at 10:30am.

The body of Lal Mia was sent to Dhaka Medical College Morgue for autopsy.

Obituary



Alhaj M Wajed Ali, former senior officer of Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation, passed away in

the city's Mirpur Heart Foundation on Friday at the age of 70, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, three sons, a daughter and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

His qukhwani and a doa mahfil will be held at his house (House 33/21, Block E, Mirpur 12) in the city on January 19.

Dr Mohammed Jahangir

CU CORRESPONDENT

Renowned doctor and social worker Dr Mohammed Jahangir passed away due to a cardiac arrest at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) yesterday morning at the age of 61.

He left behind his wife, a son, two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

After a namaz-e-janaza on Haji Mohammed Mohsin College premises after Esha prayers, he was buried at city's Miskin Shah (R) Major graveyard.

Md Arif Khan



Md Arif Khan of Rasulpur in Satkhira passed away due to lung cancer yesterday at the age of 81, says a press release.

On the same day, He was buried in his family graveyard.

He left behind his one son and three daughters.

Qulkhwani

BSS, Dhaka

Qulkhwani of Haji Mohammad Nizamuddin, chairman of Interjet Group and former director of DCCI, will be held at his residence at 7/1 Goura Sundar Roy Lane, Lalbagh in the city after Asr prayers today.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the Qulkhwani and pray for peace of the departed soul.



PHOTO: STAR
Pakistan High Commissioner to Bangladesh Alamgir Babar calls on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Hawa Bhaban office in the city yesterday.

Fee hike in city schools condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) yesterday condemned the increase of admission fees in different non-government schools in the capital.

They said taking advantages of the state of emergency some non-government schools all of a sudden have increased school and admission fees.

Demanding withdrawal of all kinds of enhanced fees in the schools, BSD leaders urged the caretaker government to take

immediate measures in this respect.

Sir Salimullah's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 92nd death anniversary of Nawab Sir Khwaza Salimullah Bahadur, a pioneer of Muslim awakening in the sub-continent, will be observed today, says a press release.

The national committee to observe birth and death anniversaries of Nawab Sir Salimullah has organised elaborate programmes to mark the day.

A seminar will be held on the Ahsan Manzil premises at 2:30pm, with Prof Dr Emaz Uddin Ahmad, former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, in the chair.

Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka will be present as the chief guest and Begum Shamsunnahar Khwaza Ahsan Ullah, daughter-in-law of Sir Salimullah, as special guest.

Dr Md Alamgir, deputy keeper of Ahsan Manzil Museum, will present the keynote paper at the seminar.

Earlier in the morning, the national committee will offer feteiha at the grave of Sir Salimullah at Begum Bazar. Food will also be distributed among the destitute at noon.

DHAKA

TODAY

Discussion

A discussion on the life of Nawab Sir Khawja Salimullah Bahadur will be held to mark the Nawab's death anniversary. Venue: Ahsan Manzil Museum. Time: 2:00pm.

Photo exhibition

Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts organises a solo photo exhibition where photos of poet Shamsur Rahman taken by MA Taher will be exhibited. Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya. Time: 5:00pm.

Feature

Abul Ehsan, an internationally acclaimed Bangladeshi-born Australian scholar, will deliver a lecture on 'Events of the day of resurrection'. Venue: House 36/a, Road 118, Gulshan 1. Time: 6:30pm.



PHOTO: STAR
A large number of cows' skulls and horns pile up at Hazaribagh in the city following Eid-ul Azha. Traders collect and send them to different parts of the country to be processed for use as raw materials in producing various products.

Move to wind up dining system in JU dormitories

JU CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of Jahangirnagar University (JU) have initiated a silent move to wind up dining system from all the 11 dormitories replacing it with the gradual initiation of mess system without considering the ability of mass students to have meal at higher prices.

In a notice on January 10, the authorities of Al-Beruni Hall announced introduction of mess system at the dormitory from yesterday, the day for resumption of classes after the Eid-ul-Azha holiday, by closing the dining system in which university authorities provide meal to resident students at lower prices.

Earlier, a meeting between the hall authorities and the student representatives on December 10 decided that the meal charge cannot be increased by the authorities unilaterally unless it is approved by the central authorities.

The hall authorities, however, announced the closure of dining system during the vacation fearing probable student protest.

"We can keep our dining hall open only for four to five days with the fund we have and then we shall have to close it as the authorities do not pay any subsidy in the sector," said Asit Baran Pal, acting provost of AB Hall.

The dining system at Kamal Uddin Hall was closed eight months back with the introduction of mess system fixing Tk 13 for per meal, while it was only Tk 8 under the dining system.

The dormitories run their dining system with the fund provided by the central authorities and establishment charge paid by students.

But immediately after VC Prof Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman assumed the office, the hall authorities were informed several times about the scarcity of fund and suggested respective hall authorities to hike meal charge or initiate mess system.

"We will not allow to stop dining system at the dormitories and take to street if necessary," said student leaders of different left-leaning bodies to the journalists.

When contacted, Treasurer of the university Prof Sayed Abdul Hai was not available for comments.

RMC forensic medicine deptt in shambles

RU CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The activities of forensic medicine department of Rajshahi Medical College is being hampered for want of adequate manpower, modern facilities, lack of equipments and own building.

More than 300 students of the department have been deprived of proper teaching facilities for long, sources said.

As there is no classroom in the department, teachers take their classes at their private chambers and many students are to attend classes standing on their feet.

The students alleged that there is no tutorial room, conference room and separate office rooms in the department.

Those who go there to take autopsy report also feel embarrassment as the condition of the morgue building is very deplorable.

The teachers and students apprehend that the roof of the old building is highly vulnerable to collapse.

The preparation of the autopsy report is also hampered due to interrupted water and power supply in the morgue.

The department also lacks

separate morgue for male and female bodies.

The students and teachers are reluctant to enter the room as bad odour of dead bodies always spreads in the air, they alleged.

Obinash, only sweeper, called dom locally, who helps physicians cut dead body, has been serving there without any regularisation of his job for last 20 years.

"After the death of my father Nishipada, I joined here," he said.

If Obinash expresses his reluctance to cut body, the activities at the operation section remain suspended, said the teachers and students.

Obinash is not paid a penny from the college. He leads his life depending on the tips from the relatives of the victims.

Teachers of the department alleged that they are also deprived as the college authorities do not pay them for additional duties.

Talking to newsmen, Forensic Department Head Dr Ashrafur Alam said due to shortage of manpower and other supports, the activities of the department cannot be carried out smoothly.

The only deep refrigerator in the morgue for preserving the dead bodies has been out of order for several years.

"We put forward a proposal to the health ministry for modernisation of the department, but the authorities are yet to respond to our proposal," said Dr Alam.

Doctors at the department said for its modernisation including facilities for DNA test, a project proposal of Tk 2.96 crore was submitted to the ministry concerned.

The students demanded immediate supply of modern equipments, sterilisers, autoclave, sucker, adequate jar for chemical test, separate X-ray, pathological unit DNA lab, and electrical saw for cutting dead body.

WEATHER

TODAY

Fall in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Dry weather will prevail over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may also occur over the river basins of the country during late night until early morning, said Met Office.

Moderate to severe cold wave is sweeping over Rajshahi division and the region of Srirongal and mild to moderate cold wave is sweeping over Dhaka division and the regions of Rangamati, Comilla, Sylhet and Jessore which may spread over Barisal and Khulna divisions during the next 24 hrs.

Night temperature may fall slightly over Khulna and Barisal divisions and remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country.

Highest temperature 26.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 04.6 degree Celsius at Srirongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:33pm today and rises at 6:44am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature	Humidity in in celsius		
percentage	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	24.0	09.6	52	42
Chittagong	26.3	14.1	78	78
Rajshahi	22.5	06.2	72	64
Khulna	23.5	11.8	64	73
Barisal	23.8	10.4	86	74
Sylhet	24.0	08.2	70	38
Cox's Bazar	26.5	15.5	84	67

PHOTO: STAR
French Ambassador Jacques-Andre Costilhes speaks at a press conference at a city hotel yesterday on the occasion of French fashion show 2007 to be held in Dhaka on February 9 and 10.