

13 killed, 71 hurt in road crashes

STAR REPORT

At least 13 people were killed and 71 injured in separate road accidents in Pabna, Sirajganj, Satkhira and Jhenidaha yesterday and on Thursday night.

A correspondent from Pabna reports: At least four fish traders were killed and 15 others injured as an overloaded truck ploughed through a fish market at Shania Bazar of Bera upazila under Pabna yesterday.

The dead were identified as Joni, 20, Mizanur, 25, Maidul, 30, of Shania village and Hari Kamal, 50, of Kashinathpur village.

Police and the locals said a Pabna-bound overloaded truck ploughed through Shania fish market at about 8:30am as its driver lost control over the steering due to the dense fog. The victims died on the spot as 15 others, including fish traders and customers, were injured. Of the injured, four were taken to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

The driver managed to escape. Our correspondent from Sirajganj reports: At least seven

people, including a health inspector, were killed and 50 others injured in separate road accidents in Sirajganj on Thursday night and yesterday.

A bus rammed a tree and turned upside down as its driver lost control over the steering while he was trying to give side to another vehicle, leaving three unidentified people dead on the spot and 20 others injured.

Police and witnesses said the accident took place near 10 No bridge on the Hatikumul-Bonpara highway at around 4:00am.

Two people were killed and five others injured in another accident at Dathiadighor area on the Bogra-Nagorbari highway when a Pabna-bound potato-laden truck skidded off the road and fell into a roadside ditch as the driver lost control over the steering.

The dead were identified as Sumon, 25, and Khalek, 30. Five others were also injured in the accident.

Nur Mohammad, a motorbike rider and also a local health inspector, died on the spot when a speeding bus hit his motorbike from behind at Hatikumul Bhengri area

at around 10:00pm on Thursday.

One Hasinur Islam died on the spot when a jeep hit his motorcycle from behind at western side of Jamuna Bridge at around 9:00pm the same day.

On the other hand, 25 more people were injured in separate road accidents at Hatikumul, Bhadraghat and Bagbati area in the district yesterday.

The injured were rushed to Sadar Hospital and local clinics in the town.

The injured said several accidents occurred due to dense fog.

Our Correspondent from Satkhira adds: A boy was killed in a road accident and five others were injured in separate road accidents in Satkhira.

The victim was identified as Nasiruddin, 16, of village South Kamarbaisa in Sadar upazila. Of the injured, condition of Shahabuddin, 25, of village Feteupur in Kaliganj upazila of Jhenidah was going to Jessore for treatment of his ailing father by a motorcycle.

The dead was identified as Akbar Ali, 55, and the injured as Abdul Alim, 25.

The accident occurred when a vehicle ran them over while Alim of Bankhirda village under Kaliganj upazila of Jhenidah was going to Jessore for treatment of his ailing father by a motorcycle.

The vehicle hit the motorcycle a Roghunathpur bus stand, leaving Akbar dead on the spot. Alim was rushed to a local clinic.

while he was standing by the side of the road in front of his house.

Meanwhile, at least five people were injured when a bus collided with a truck at Bhara shimpla intersection in Kaliganj upazila on Satkhira-Kaliganj road yesterday.

The injured were taken to Satkhira Sadar hospital from where Shahabuddin was shifted to Khulna Hospital as his condition deteriorated, hospital sources said.

Our correspondent from Jhenidaha adds: One person was killed and his son injured in a road accident on Jhenidah-Jessore highway near Roghunathpur yesterday.

The dead was identified as Akbar Ali, 55, and the injured as Abdul Alim, 25.

The accident occurred when a vehicle ran them over while Alim of Bankhirda village under Kaliganj upazila of Jhenidah was going to Jessore for treatment of his ailing father by a motorcycle.

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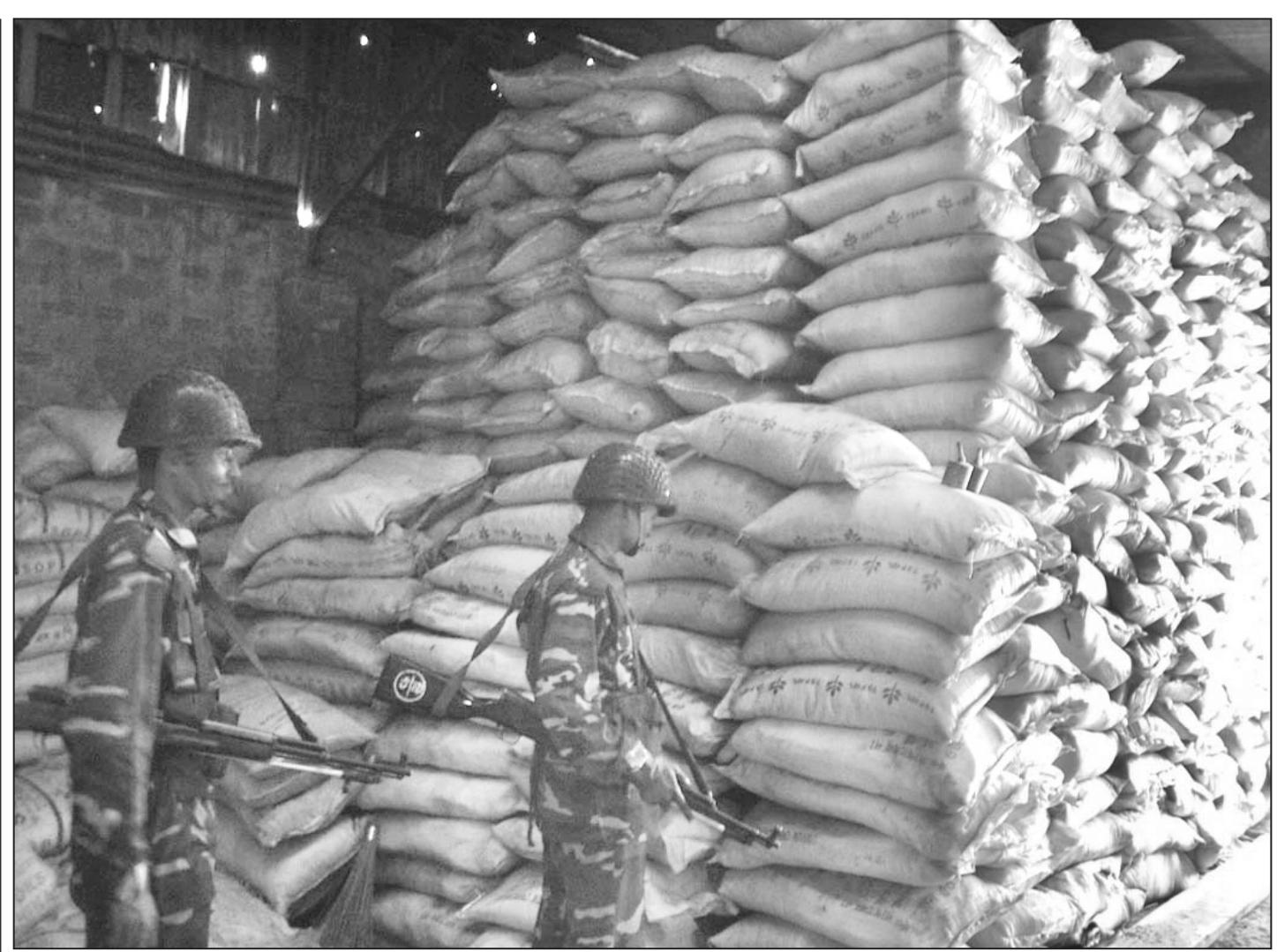


PHOTO: STAR



Ten elderly people who have been working selflessly and silently in the remote areas of the country were honoured at a ceremony at a city hotel yesterday. Unilever Bangladesh Ltd accorded the reception to them through a programme titled 'Shada Moner Manush'.

Mobile court realises Tk 5 lakh in fine in 4 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A mobile court in Chittagong in the last four days of drives until Thursday fined around Tk 5 lakh to different commercial firms for different allegations.

Sources said the mobile court during a drive at Court Hill area near Chittagong Court Building unearthed an incident of pilfering and wasting water through illegal connection in six restaurants and two other firms.

The court also arrested eight persons from the spot and fined the concerned authorities Tk 2 lakh.

During the drive, the court found that the owners of the six restaurants and two private firms were pilfering water for long using around 300 feet long illegal pipe from WASA line.

The water collected illegally was also sold to different hotels and offices, sources said.

The court disconnected the illegal connection and seized rubber pipes and a number of drums and jars from the spot.

The court in a sudden drive at Central Plaza area at GEC Intersection on Thursday evening arrested five traders for digging illegal deep tube well and fined Tk 2 lakh and 30 thousand.

Meanwhile, the court in a drive titled "Operation Safeguard Civic Right" at city's Gol Pahar area on Thursday fined Tk 50 thousand to Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) for keeping construction materials on road occupying around 1000 square feet area of the road posing serious road congestion.

The materials were kept beside an under-construction building owned by CCC.

The court arrested the concerned CCC recruited contractor.

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Magistrate Md Munir Chowdhury conducted the drives.

Obituary

Syed Amatuz Zahra, wife of late Syed Nurul Absar of 4, Chamelbagh, Shantinagar, Dhaka passed away at a city hospital yesterday at the age of 93, says a press release.

She left behind her two sons and three daughters.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held today at Aminbagh Jam-e-Mosque after Zohr prayers.

She will be buried at Azimpur Graveyard in the city.

276 killed in January Says BHRC report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 276 people were killed across the country last month, says a report of Bangladesh Human Rights Commission (BHRC).

BHRC leaders said they are extremely anxious at the situation and urged the law enforcers and related government departments to be more responsible to bring down the killing rate to zero level.

To institutionalise the democracy and build human rights-based society, the rule of law must be established everywhere, said BHRC while preparing the survey report with the news published in 12 dailies.

Chairman of Bangladesh Institute of Human Rights (BIHR) Justice KM Sobhan has condemned the violation of human rights by the law enforcers.

According to a report of BIHR, 498 people were tortured physically by the law enforcers during the last month.

Besides, a total of 18223 people were arrested and 35 were killed.

Among them 21 were killed by Rab members.

A total of six people sustained acid burn injuries.

BIHR demanded enactment of a compensation law for the repressed.

It urged the authorities concerned to form national and local committees for surprise visit in jails, conduct training on human rights for political leaders and activists and include the issue in school curriculum.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Society For The Enforcement Of Human Rights (BSEHR) reported that after the declaration of the State of Emergency, a total of 5,235 people were arrested in joint force's drive.

Brands and Development Director of Unilever Bangladesh Naushad Karim Chowdhury said they have taken this initiative to highlight the selfless acts of these people in order to inspire and encourage others to work for the betterment of the country and its people.

Besides, a total of 225 were killed at different social violence.

Some 20 children were the victims of rape including three of gang rape.

A total of six women were also raped, of whom five were killed after rape, the BSEHR report revealed.

Bangladesh Bar Council also prepared a report on rights violation during this period.

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Fall in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderate to thick fog may occur over the river basins and light to moderate fog elsewhere over the country during mid night until morning, Met Office said.

It said night temperature may fall slightly over the country period.

Highest temperature 29.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Patuakhali and lowest 14.0 degree Celsius at Ishwardi.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:46pm today and rises at 6:38am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature	Humidity in percentage	Humidity in celsius	
Max	Min	Morning	Evening	
Dhaka	26.2	18.8	94	81
Chittagong	28.0	19.6	95	83
Rajshahi	28.0	16.0	99	84
Khulna	27.5	18.0	100	84
Barisal	28.5	19.2	92	84
Sylhet	28.0	16.8	76	77
Cox's Bazar	28.0	17.8	80	76

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Halim Mian, a passenger from Rangpur, alleged that they will have to suffer a lot after the shifting of the bus terminal from Shiroi which was near the railway station.

"Earlier, we could avail bus in case of failing to avail a train as the station was a walking distance. Now we have to count Tk 20 to 30 to avail a bus from the railway station," he added.

Abdul Zabbar, a leader of Rajshahi Transport Owners Association, said without providing security measures the authority should not have shifted the terminal at Naodapara where incidents of snatching and other crimes are rampant.

Officials of Rajshahi Development Authority (RDA) said the bus terminal was constructed involving Tk 7.16 crore.

The passenger buses of BRTC, Dhaka coaches and other inter-district buses will ply from the new terminal.

Sairul Islam, general secretary of Rajshahi Motor Sramik Union, said buses of at least 25 districts will be available here.

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