

13 killed, 71 hurt in road crashes

STAR REPORT

At least 13 people were killed and 71 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 Hatikumrul-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 Hatikumrul Bhengri area

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

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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 Hatikumrul Bhengri area

at around 10.00pm on Thursday.

One Hasinur Islam died on the spot when a jeep hit his motorbike 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 Hatikumrul, Bhadrachhat and Baghati 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 Fatepur in Kaliganj upazila and Abdul Gafoor, 40, of Magura town are stated to be critical, hospital sources said.

Quoting local people police said Nasir died on the spot when a mechanised trolley ran over him

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 shimla intersection in Kaligonj upazila on Satkhira-Kaligonj 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.

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



PHOTO: STAR

Members of the joint forces raid nine more fertiliser warehouses at Majhirghat in Chittagong yesterday.



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 five 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.

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.


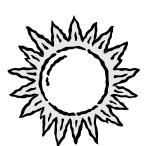
It urged the authorities concerned to form national and local committees for surprise visit in jails, conduct training on human rights for political leaders and activists and include the issue in school curriculum.

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.

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.



WEATHER TODAY

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		
	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

SHADA MONER MANUSH 10 elderly people honoured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

They have been working selflessly and silently throughout their life in remote areas of the country but never received any recognition.

The awards given by Unilever Bangladesh Ltd finally put the spotlight on them yesterday evening.

A total of 10 elderly people were honoured at a reception in the city in recognition of their contribution to society.

Through a programme titled 'Shada Moner Manush' (man of benevolent soul), Unilever Bangladesh took the initiative to find out the people who are working selflessly to transform society.

Each of the 10 people was awarded a gold medal, crest, and cheque for Tk one lakh at the reception ceremony.

The awardees are Abdul Malek Hawlader, teacher in Madaripur; Binapani Sarkar, a social worker in Joypurhat; Abdul Mazid, founder of a physically challenged children care centre, Honufa Begum, founder of a orphanage in Jessore; Dr Shamsuddin, founder of a orphanage in Rajshahi; Sufia Ahmed, founder of a free child treatment centre in Rajshahi; Sri Kanu Dutta, a social worker in Feni; Mokhesur Rahman, a teacher in Comilla; Ziaul Haq, founder of a big library in Chapainawabganj who is a curd seller by profession, and Harun-or-Rashid, a teacher in Dinajpur.

Although it is difficult to find out such selfless and benevolent people, there are many who have been working silently for the welfare of the society even without getting any cooperation, speakers at the ceremony said.

Industries Adviser Geeti Ara Safiya Chowdhury, former adviser to the caretaker government Dr Akbar Ali Khan, eminent artist Mostafa Mondollar, singer Kalim Sharafi, Prof Abdulah Abu Sayeed, Syed Manzoorul Islam and former lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor were present at the programme.

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.

Police arrested two of the group while others managed to flee. The arrestees are Amzad, driver of the chief commandant of Railway Security Force, and his bodyguard Rabiul.

Immediately after the incident, the Railway authorities suspended the arrested security men.

New bus terminal starts operation in Rajshahi

RU CORRESPONDENT

The newly constructed central bus terminal started its operation at Naodapara in Rajshahi city on Thursday.

On the first day, a small number of inter-district buses and passengers gathered at the terminal, around five kilometres north of previous terminal at Shiroll.

Many passengers expressed their unhappiness as the new terminal is located at a remote area of the city where police box, water and other facilities are not available.

Halim Mian, a passenger from Rangpur, alleged that they will have to suffer a lot after the shifting of the bus terminal from Shiroll 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.

Drunken Rly security men rough up cops in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Drunken railway security men roughed up several policemen of Boalia Police Station yesterday.

A patrol team of the police station found six railway security men creating nuisance in an open space near Rajshahi Old Rail Station and asked them to stop drinking liquor.

In reply, the security men swooped on the cops and attempted to snatch a rifle and wireless set from them. Sub-Inspector Yamul Islam, injured in the attack, was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Police arrested two of the group while others managed to flee. The arrestees are Amzad, driver of the chief commandant of Railway Security Force, and his bodyguard Rabiul.

Immediately after the incident, the Railway authorities suspended the arrested security men.

100 illegal firearms seized in a month Says Democracywatch report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcement agencies seized 100 illegal firearms while a total of 1, 25, 466 legal arms were deposited across the country from December 15 to January 15, reports Democracywatch.

Police, Rapid Action Battalion and Bangladesh Rifles also recovered 197 rounds of bullet, 96 hand grenades, 11 cocktails and huge amount of explosives during the period.

Most of the firearms were recovered from Chittagong which included 39 firearms, 16 hand grenades and 116 rounds of bullets.

Eleven firearms, 80 hand grenades and 29 rounds of bullet were recovered from the capital.

Besides, nine firearms and 21 rounds of bullet were recovered from Rajshahi, eight firearms, 11 cocktails and 23 rounds of bullet from Khulna, one firearm and eight rounds of bullet from Barisal and four firearms from Sylhet during this time.

Welcoming the drive, Executive Director of Democracywatch Taley Rahman said it should continue to hold a peaceful and acceptable parliamentary election.

Assam Congress leader shot

AFP, Guwahati

A leader of the ruling Congress party was shot dead Thursday by rebels in northeast India, the fifth politician slain in attacks on the party in restive Assam state in two weeks, officials said.

Abdul Basar, a 53-year-old Congress politician, was shot dead in a village about 280km east of Assam's main city Guwahati, police said.

"Two cycle-borne militants shot at Basar from close range with automatic weapons, killing him on the spot," A. Das, a senior police official, told AFP by telephone.



PHOTO: STAR

People wait in a long queue stretching from Bangla Academy to TSC roundabout on Dhaka University campus to visit the Ekushey Book Fair yesterday, the weekly holiday.

Viva-voce for senior planners Feb 13

Bss, Dhaka

Viva-voce for the candidates for the post of the senior planner of the City Development Directorate under the Housing and Public Works Ministry will be held at 10:30am on February 13 at the PSC Bhaban.

According to the press release of the Bangladesh Public Service Commission (PSC), admit cards have already been sent to their respective addresses. In case of failure to receive those, the candidates may collect duplicate admit cards on February 12 from Unit-1 of the commission secretariat, the release added.



DHAKA TODAY

Workshop

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) organises a workshop on 'Ensuring women's right within Islamic framework'. Venue: Brac Centre Inn. Time: 9:30am.

View exchange

Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BNWLA) organises a view exchange on 'Role of the army in strengthening democracy and democratic system'. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 2:30pm.

Memorial meeting

Sammlita Sangskritik Jole will hold a memorial meeting for prominent cultural activist and journalist Waheedul Haq. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 3:30pm.

Discussion

National Forum of Organisations Working With the Disabled (NFOWD) will hold a discussion to mark its 16th founding anniversary. Venue: CRP-Mirpur auditorium. Time: 4:00pm.

Dialogue

Nagorik Sanghati will hold a national dialogue on 'Reflections of media people and the civil society in development of Haor region'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

Rotary Dhaka Central

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30pm.

Housewife murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Abody of a housewife was recovered from Deotala village under Kaliganj upazila in Gazipur yesterday morning.

Jhama Akhter, 24, has been missing since Thursday night and her body was recovered from a cowshed of neighbour Billal.

Primary investigation proved that some one strangled Jhama.

Sources said Jhama got married five years ago and following a wrangle with her husband she was divorced six days ago and had been staying with her parents at Deotala village.

On the very day, she went to the neighbour's house to get back the money she lent and did not return home.

Jhama's father Abu Taher filed a case with Kaliganj Police Station in this regard.

KHAGRACHHARI HOSPITAL FIRE Property worth about Tk10 lakh gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Property worth about Tk10 lakh was gutted in a fire at Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital yesterday.

Fire service sources said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at about 12:20pm and damaged four cabins, one lab and Health and Family Planning office.

On information, fire fighters rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze at around 1:00pm, the sources said.

Khagrachhari District Council Chairman Monindra Lal Tripura and Additional Police Superintendent Tareq Ahamad visited the hospital.

Workshop on TV reporting for children held

A two-day workshop on 'Television reporting' for children and juveniles was held in the city recently, says a press release.

A total of 20 children took part in the workshop organised by the Children's Television Foundation of Bangladesh (CTFB) in association with Unicef.

The CTFB had also organised a three-month computer course and two-day training on script writing techniques for the 20 children.

Hindus burn train in UP

REUTERS, Lucknow

Three coaches of a train were set ablaze in Uttar Pradesh on Thursday by right-wing Hindus demanding the release of their leader, but no one was hurt as the few passengers on board jumped to safety, officials said.

The attack, in Mohammadabad town, 350 km east of Lucknow, the state capital, comes in the wake of Hindu-Muslim clashes in the nearby district of Gorakhpur where two people were killed earlier this week.

A senior railway official, who declined to be identified, told Reuters a group of people chanting pro-Hindu slogans burnt the coaches of a train travelling from Mumbai to Gorakhpur.

"The train was stopped and passengers jumped out of the affected coaches," he said. "Two coaches were completely gutted."

Most passengers had disembarked at earlier stations.