

Road crashes kill 16, injure 66

STAR REPORT

At least sixteen people were killed and 60 others injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka, Manikganj, Kushtia, Chittagong, Jessore, Patuakhali, Satkhira and Gaibandha yesterday.

UNB reports: Four people were killed in separate road accidents in the city yesterday and Sunday night.

In Badda area, an unidentified man, aged about 22, was run over by a truck at about 5:00am yesterday while he was crossing the road.

Another man, aged about 55, was crushed under wheels of a minibus in front of Mohakhali Setu Bhaban at 10:30pm on Sunday.

In Gulshan area, MA Matin, 57, a resident of 46/6 Kamal Ataturk road was crushed under the wheels of a Pajero jeep near his house at 10:00pm on Sunday.

Pran Chandra Das, 33, son of Sunil Chandra Das of Pallabi area, died on the spot when a bus knocked him down on the street in Pallabi area at about 11:30pm on Sunday.

Police recovered the bodies and sent them to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Another report from Manikganj says: An unidentified man was killed and 35 others were injured when a night coach fell into a roadside ditch on Dhaka-Aricha Highway in Nayadangi area of the district early yesterday.

Witnesses said the accident

occurred at 3:30am when the driver of the bus lost control over the steering.

The injured were admitted to the district Sadar Hospital.

Our Correspondent from Kushtia adds: Four people were killed in a road accident in Kushtia yesterday.

The dead were identified as Babu, 50, and his sons Shihab, 16, Ramjan, 28 and Shukanta, 23.

The accident occurred when a Rajshahi-bound passenger bus from Kushtia hit two bi-cycles at around 8:30pm near Jugia in Palpara in Kushtia, leaving four bi-cycle riders dead on the spot.

The bodies were sent to Kushtia General Hospital Morgue for autopsy.

Police seized the bus near Bheramara.

Our CU CORRESPONDENT adds: Three people were killed and another was injured in a road accident at Maijartek area under Kamaphuli Police Station yesterday.

One of the dead was identified as Bela Chowdhury, 50, wife of Gopal Chowdhury of Patiya upazila while identity of two others could not be known immediately. The injured was identified as Shirin Akther, 33.

Sources said the accident occurred when a Cox's Bazar-bound passenger bus collided head-on with a tempo at the area at around 12:15pm.

The unidentified persons, Bela and Shirin were rushed to

Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where the on-duty doctors declared the two unidentified persons and Bela dead.

Shirin was undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Police detained the bus and tempo while the drivers managed to flee.

BSS from Jessore adds: One person was killed and 24 others were injured, two of them seriously, in a road accident in Jessore in the early hours of yesterday.

Police and hospital sources said, the accident occurred when a speeding bus hit another bus standing in front of Kesabpur College on Jessore-Satkhira road.

The victim was identified as Anisur Rahman, 25 son of Ansar Ali of village Komorpur in Kalaroa upazila.

Quoting local people police said the bus ran over Anis while he was crossing the road, leaving him dead on the spot.

Our correspondent from Gaibandha reports: One person was killed and five others sustained injuries when a speeding coach crashed them on Bogra-Dinajpur highway yesterday.

Gobindaganj police said a Ghoraghat-bound passenger coach hit one Farhad, 32, leaving him dead on the spot. The coach also knocked five pedestrians standing on the sidewalk. The five were rushed to Gobindaganj Health Complex in serious condition.

The driver and helper of the coach managed to escape.

The accident occurred at about 10:30am when a Patuakhali-bound motorcycle from Amtali upazila headquarters hit the boy when he was crossing the road at Ghatkhali area. The motorcycle fell into the roadside ditch.

Of the injured, Hashem, 40, owner of the motorcycle, was rushed to Patuakhali General Hospital where he is fighting for life.

Our Correspondent from Satkhira adds: One person was killed in a road accident when a bus ran over him in front of M/s Eureka Filling Station at Kalaroa on Satkhira-Jessore road.

The victim was identified as Anisur Rahman, 25 son of Ansar Ali of village Komorpur in Kalaroa upazila.

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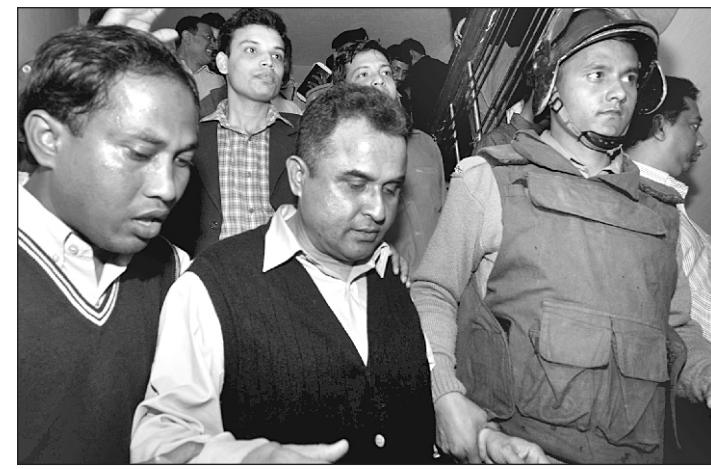
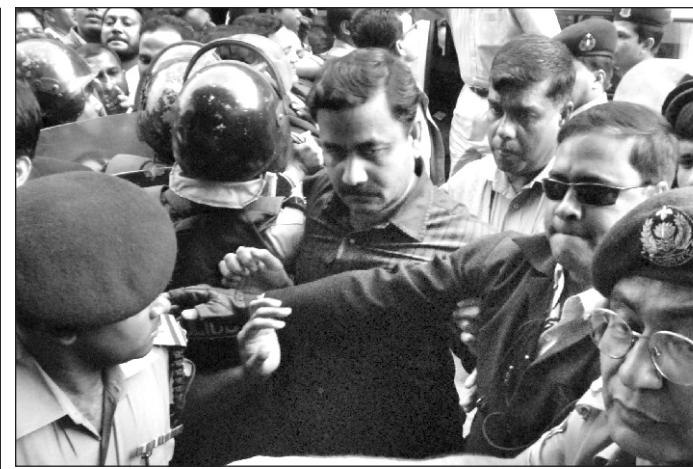


PHOTO: STAR
Police produce four people, arrested by the joint forces in the early hours of Sunday, in the CMM's Court in the city yesterday. Clockwise from top left are Sweekhasebak League General Secretary Pankaj Devnath, former lawmaker Lotus Kamal, BTB CBA leader Feroz Mia and Sweekhasebak League leader Razzak.



PHOTO: PID
Finance Adviser Dr AB Mirza Azizul Islam presides over a meeting of Advisers Committee on Economic Affairs at Secretariat in the city yesterday.

3 pedestrians injured in city cocktail blast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least three passers-by were injured in a cocktail (light home-made bomb) blast under the Second Buriganga Bridge in the city's Kotwali area.

The injured, Salahuddin, 40, Selim, 30, and Samir Chandra, 16, are undergoing treatment at Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital.

Kotwali police said a cocktail was blasted under the Buriganga Bridge near Mitford Hospital at about 12:30am.

The source of the cocktail could not be known.

BRAC UNIVERSITY Second Graduate Forum for MPH graduating class

The Brac University James P Grant School of Public Health organised the Second Graduate Forum for the MPH graduating class of 2006-07 at Sasakawa Auditorium, ICDDR,B on Saturday with Vice Chancellor Professor Jamilur Reza Chowdhury in the chair, says a press release.

The Forum was opened with a welcome address by Dean of the School of Public Health, Dr AMR Chowdhury. Professor David Sack, executive director of ICDDR,B also spoke on the occasion.

Dr Demissie Habte, international director of the School of Public Health delivered the keynote address. He stressed the importance of maintaining the School as a centre of excellence and the need to have an active staff development programme.

FH Abed presented the FH Abed Award for the best overall performance to Amit Bhandari, an international student from Nepal. Professor Jamilur Reza presented the Allan Rosenfield Award for the best overall performance to Nasima Selim, a national student.

Taliban warned to leave town as residents flee

AFP, Kabul

Afghan authorities yesterday dropped leaflets warning Taliban rebels occupying a remote town to leave or be forced out, as thousands of residents fled fearing an offensive by Nato-led troops.

Scores of Islamist Taliban fighters stormed Musa Qala in the southern province of Helmand late Thursday, overwhelming a weak police force and disbanding the town council of tribal elders.

The onslaught came about four months after British troops agreed to pull out of the district deep in Afghanistan's opium country, in a deal that was treated with scepticism by both Afghan and US officials.

"The police of the province have air-dropped some leaflets into the district that clearly stated they must leave and let the people to live in

peace," said interior ministry spokesman Zemarai Bashary.

"It was stated, 'If you don't leave yourself, the government will soon take a decision and choose an option to bring security into the district.'"

Bashary said it was not clear how many Taliban were in the area but "getting rid of them is not a big issue" with the government supported by the 35,000-strong Nato-led International Security Assistance Force (Isaf).

"We will take a decision how to bring security back there in the near future," he said.

About 1,500 families had fled following the takeover, perhaps the most significant of a series of similar occupations by the Taliban of remote areas of southern Afghanistan in recent months.

The three police officers and the two Abul Khair Group officials are behind bars in the district.



Rain or thunderstorms accompanied by temporary wind is likely at one or two places over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur at places over the river basins of the country during late night until early morning, Met Office said in a forecast.

It said night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Highest temperature 29.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khulna and lowest 15.6 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:48pm today and rises at 6:37am tomorrow.

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 | 27.4 | 17.5 | 78 | 77 |
| Chittagong | 19.0 | 15.8 | 94 | 88 |
| Rajshahi | 25.2 | 18.7 | 96 | 84 |
| Khulna | 29.8 | 20.0 | 96 | 71 |
| Barisal | 29.0 | 17.0 | 90 | 80 |
| Sylhet | 22.5 | 16.1 | 88 | 79 |
| Cox's Bazar | 27.0 | 19.4 | 87 | 77 |

Tk 15 LAKH BRIBING Fatullah police finally records case against three cops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Fatullah police finally recorded a case yesterday against the three police officers caught in the act of taking Tk 15 lakh bribe on January 30 and the two Abul Khair Group officials who gave them the bribe at the same police station.

Deputy Director of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) Abu Sadek filed a case on January 31 against the three policemen but their colleagues had recorded a general diary (GD) instead.

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Masud Karim told journalists yesterday that they recorded the case after getting the required permission from Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). The ACC would investigate the case, he added.

Joint forces arrested officer-in-charge of Fatullah Police Station Ashraf Ul Islam, sub-inspectors (SIs) Enamul Haq, and Siraj Al Mahmud in connection with taking bribe.

And the two Abul Khair Group officials are Mostafizur Rahman and Zakir Hossain.

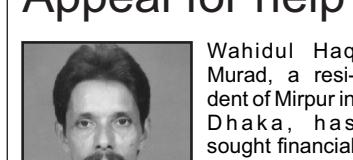
District administration on January 29 seized a huge quantity of rotten wheat, which Abul Khair Group had imported, in five cargo-vessels and at a warehouse in Aliganj.

The two high-ranking officials of Abul Khair Group went to Fatullah Police Station on January 30 and bribed the police officers so that they go easy on them while filing the case.

However, joint forces, on secret information, appeared at the station and caught them in the act. They recovered the money as well.

The three police officers and the two Abul Khair Group officials are behind bars in the district.

Appeal for help



Wahidul Haq Murad, a resident of Mirpur in Dhaka, has sought financial help for his treatment as he has been suffering from osteomyelitis, a serious infection in bone, which results in destruction of the bone, says a press release.

Murad, 46, has been suffering from the infection since he was severely injured in a road accident three years ago. The disease has diminished his ability to move.

He underwent operations several times on his legs, but his condition did not improve.

Doctors have advised him to go abroad for better treatment. Otherwise, he would lose his ability to move.

Murad, a father of two school-going girls, has already spent all his savings to bear the cost of his treatment and is now facing severe financial hardship.

He appealed to generous people to extend a helping hand so that he can live a normal life again.

Contributions can be sent to Savings Account No. 8720, Janata Bank, Section-10 Branch, Mirpur, Dhaka.

caused unnecessary and uncalled for hassle to some honest importers and traders.

They argued that a portion of the imported commodities or goods sometimes get damaged due to seepage of water or some other reasons in the ships.

On arrival of the consignments, all importers entrust the warehouse owners with the responsibility of storing and preserving the imported commodities, they added.

They said imported items of different importers are stocked together in a single warehouse without examining if there are any rotten or damaged ones.

At the same time, the honest importers can hardly know that there was item hoarded by dishonest importers in the same warehouse where their goods are being preserved for timely marketing, they added.

But during the ongoing drive, the detection of hoarded commodities or presence of some rotten/damaged items caused seizure of all goods in the warehouse, they alleged.

Referring to the misunderstanding, the Brigadier General who led the joint forces in the meeting, said, "As an ordinary consumer when I see some rotten or damaged items I am lying beside some fresh ones, I have reasons to apprehend that they are meant for adulteration."

He, however, advised the honest importers who might have fallen victims to such situation, to produce all the relevant documents before the joint forces through the Chittagong chamber to get back their seized goods, if there is any.

The Brigadier also urged the

importers to determine the quantity of damaged portion, if there is any, before sending the imported commodities to warehouse for preservation.

Seeking cooperation to make the drive a success he asked the businessmen to help identify the dishonest importers and hoarders.

He also urged the businessmen to inform the joint forces to take action against the evil practice of hoarding and ensure normal flow of supply in the market.

CCCI President Saifuzzaman Chowdhury moderated the coordination meeting where Senior Vice-president MA Latif, Vice-president Mahbub Alam, FBCCI Director Amirul Haq and Mahbub Ali also spoke.

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