

11 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Eleven people were killed in separate road accidents across the country yesterday.

Our Correspondent from Manikganj reports: Three people, including a mother and her daughter, were killed in two separate road accidents on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Manikganj yesterday.

The first accident occurred at around 10:30am near Pukuria Bus Stand when a speeding bus knocked down the mother Chobi Khatun, 30, and her daughter, Rozina, 6, while they were crossing the road, killing them on the spot. The victims hailed from Ashutosh village in Pabna district.

The another accident, a speeding bus ran over a woman named Sona Banu, 55, of Borotia village at Tepra Bus Stand at around 5:00pm.

UNB adds: Four people were killed and eight others injured in separate road accidents in Chittagong yesterday.

Two people were killed and eight others injured when a Chittagong-bound bus rammed a taxicab, coming from opposite direction, on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar Road at Moulavir Dokan

Crossing in Satkania at 10:00am.

Cab driver Majnu, 40, and its passenger Jasim Uddin, 32, died on the spot. The injured persons were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

In another accident, a pedestrian was crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus while he was crossing the road at Sundarpur in Fatikchhari upazila at 8:00am.

Police said Salahuddin, 35, a resident of Purbabazar area, died on the spot. The bus has been seized, but the driver fled the scene.

In another accident, Sultan Ahmed, 45, a pedestrian, was killed when a city-bound truck hit him from behind at Kaptai Road in Chandgaon thana of the port city at 2:00pm.

Our Correspondent from Barisal adds: A tempo passenger was killed and six others were injured in a road accident on Barisal-Patuakhali highway yesterday afternoon.

The victim was identified as Matiur Rahman Talukdar, 40 while the injured were Habib Hawladar, 60, Barek Hawladar, 50, Shahid, 35, Harun Biswas, 40, Sultan Khan, 38 and Mamun

Khan, 31.

Sources said the accident occurred when a passenger bus hit a passenger tempo from behind near Gochhra Bazar of Awliapur Saw Mill area.

The injured were rushed to Barisal Shere Bangla Medical College Hospital and Bakerganj Upazila Health Complex.

The bus was seized at Lebukhali ferry ghat but the driver managed to flee away.

Our Correspondent from Satkhira reports: A 10-year-old boy was killed in a road accident yesterday on Satkhira-Jessore highway near Kukudanga village in Kaligonj.

The victim was identified as Rakib Hossain, 10, son of Faruk Hossain of Kukudanga.

Quoting local people police said a Satkhira-bound mini bus ran over the victim while he was crossing the road, leaving him dead on the spot.

On contact, Assistant Police Super (ASP) Ashiqur Rahman of Kaligonj circle confirmed the incident.

Our Correspondent from Brahmanbaria adds: A man was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Brahmanbaria highway at Tholiara village at Ashuganj in

the district on Thursday night.

The dead was identified as Abul Kasem, 65, of Tholiara village here.

Sources said a Dhaka-bound speeding truck knocked him down while he was crossing the road at around 8:30pm.

He succumbed to his injuries on his way to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital.

However, the driver and the helper managed to escape with the truck.

Our Correspondent from Patuakhali adds: A woman was killed and seven others injured in a road accident on Patuakhali-Kuakata highway in Patuakhali yesterday.

The victim was identified as Rasheda Begum, 40, wife of Sahid Hawladar of Ghatkhali area at Amtali.

She was rushed to Amtali upazila health complex where on duty doctors declared her dead at 2:00pm.

Sources said the accident occurred at about 9:00am when a Patuakhali-bound motor van lost control and plunged into a roadside ditch. The bus hit the woman before it fell into the ditch, leaving her dead on the spot.



PHOTO: STAR

Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman and cultural personality Nasiruddin Yusuf present a crest to Professor Kabir Chowdhury at a reception at the National Museum auditorium in the city yesterday marking his 85th birthday.

Western Australian Parliament members to form Bangladesh caucus

UNB, Dhaka

Members of Western Australian Parliament will form a Bangladesh Caucus of Friends with a view to contributing towards further promotion of bilateral relations between the two countries with particular focus on Western Australia.

Ray Halligan, MLC and Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs of Western Australia, said this during a meeting with Bangladesh High Commissioner M Humayun Kabir in Perth on Wednesday, according to a message received here yesterday.

Bangladesh has great potential, said Halligan recalling his trip to

Bangladesh in 1989.

He assured the Bangladesh High Commissioner that he would be happy to contribute to the process of development of the country.

In order to facilitate this, Halligan also assured that he would soon discuss the issue of forming a Bangladesh Caucus of Friends in the Western Australian Parliament comprising members from all parties represented there.

Earlier, Deputy President of the Legislative Council George Cash, MLC, also agreed with the High Commissioner that such a friendly forum would help to deepen understanding between Bangladesh and the parliamentarians in Western

Australia.

Member of Legislative Council (MLC) Sue Ellery also agreed to work for the purpose.

She appreciated the impressive developments that had taken place in Bangladesh, particularly in the areas of women empowerment, health, literacy and disaster management.

Sue Ellery was speaking at a luncheon she hosted for High Commissioner Humayun Kabir.

Several members of parliament, business leaders, government officials and Bangladesh Honorary Consul in Perth attended the lunch.

VICTIMS OF EVICTION

300 slum dwellers live under open sky in Rajshahi

RU CORRESPONDENT

Around 300 slum dwellers are now living under open sky at a newly emerged shoal of the river Padma as the government agencies evicted them after demolishing their thatched houses on the city protection embankment on Wednesday.

But some influential locals are pressing them to leave the place, they alleged.

"The land grabbers are threatening us through loud speakers to leave the shoal immediately, otherwise they will loot our belongings," said Hajera, 40, while talking to newsmen yesterday.

"We are passing our nights amidst fear of further eviction coupled by biting cold at the river

bed," she added.

The children and elderly people are the worst sufferers as they are not getting enough food and pure drinking water.

Afsar Mia, 45, told newsmen that he along with his four dependents, had been leading their lives by pulling a rickshaw.

"But during last three days I could not rent a rickshaw as I was busy in building a makeshift shelter," he said.

Hafiz, a footpath vendor, said he had been living at Sreerampur slum for last two years.

"Now I am living under the open sky with my family having only a meal a day," he added.

Zahid Ali alleged that before their eviction some people from the local administration wanted to see

their papers.

"We handed over those papers to the office of the deputy commissioner for examination, but we are yet to get back those documents," he added.

Sohrab Hossain, vice-president of Rajpara thana Jubo Dal, and Israfil, an employee of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, took Tk 1500 to Tk 2000 from each family to negotiate a settlement, the victims alleged.

Sohrab and Israfil admitted the fact and told newsmen that they took the money to bear court expenditure.

The evicted victims have urged the caretaker government for taking necessary steps for their permanent rehabilitation.

Trader shot in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gunmen shot and injured a trader at Dayaganj in the city's Jatrabari area last night.

Witnesses said a gang of four sprayed bullets on Haji Mohammad Ali Sobhan, 50, near Dayaganj Jame Mosque at around 8:30pm just after he stepped into his house after offering Isha prayers.

Sobhan received a bullet in his thigh.

Local people rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. They also managed to catch hold of Farhad, one of the attackers, and handed him over to the police.

Sources said rivals of Sobhan, general secretary of Dayaganj Bazar Committee, might have carried out the attack as he has disputes with some groups over establishing supremacy at Saydabad Bus Stand.

Student stabbed, robbed of mobile phone

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers stabbed a Stamford University student in the city's Kotwali area yesterday afternoon and snatched his mobile phone.

Sources said the victim, Nirjoy Hossain, 20, a first year BBA student of the university's Shiddheswari branch, was returning to his Ganderia residence from Gulistan by a rickshaw.

When he reached Roy Shaheb Bazar area, a gang of three intercepted the rickshaw and asked him to give money and mobile phone to them.

As Nirjoy refused to comply, the gang stabbed him in the abdomen and took away the mobile phone.

He was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Nominations for Chand Sultana Literacy Prize invited

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has invited nominations from deserving individuals and organisations for Chand Sultana Literacy Prize 2006.

For the last five years, DAM has been awarding the prize which includes Tk 30 thousand, a crest and a certificate, says a press release.

Like previous years, the prize will be awarded to an individual or an organisation for making significant contribution to the development of education materials for various age groups, conducting research on non-formal education, awareness building for prevention of cancer or HIV/AIDS, and implementation of innovative projects.

Particulars of the interested persons or organisations along with their contributions are to reach Director, Human Resource Division of Dhaka Ahsania Mission at House # 19, Road # 12, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209 on or before February 28. (Phone No 8119521-22, 9123402).

DAM initiated Chand Sultana Literacy Prize in 2001 in memory of Chand Sultana who was working there as a senior materials developer and died a premature death on April 22, 1999 after being attacked by cancer.

Chand Sultana was known as a writer for the poor and she had authored more than 50 books written mostly for the neo-literates, persons with limited literacy and children of different ages.

US to give Nepal aid despite Maoist terror tag

AFP, Kathmandu

The United States said Thursday it will continue to supply economic aid to Nepal after the Maoists join the government, even though it lists the former rebels as a terrorist group.

Nepal's Maoists are due to enter the government after signing a peace deal late last year ending a decade-long bloody "people's war", but no date has yet been set.

The embassy said a special licence had been granted to allow the US government to get around

rules against providing aid to terrorist organisations. The licence is valid until February 28, 2008.

"This licence enables the US Mission to meet its commitments to continue supporting the people of Nepal and the peace process," said US ambassador James Moriarty in a statement.

The Maoists remain on a US list of terrorist organisations and the ambassador in Kathmandu has frequently said the leftists continue to use intimidation, extortion and violence.

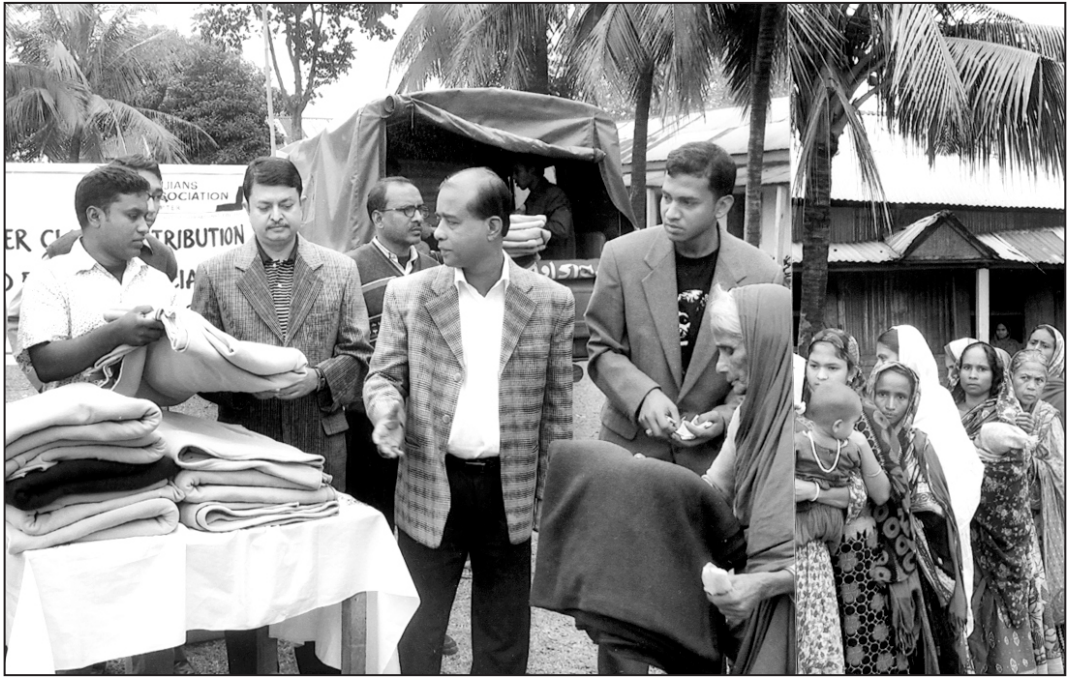
The ambassador stressed that

if the Maoists enter the cabinet without abandoning violence, "the US mission will work to ensure that Maoists ministers cannot claim credit for US assistance."

Under the peace deal, the Maoists have agreed to place their weapons and army under UN monitoring and in return have been given 83 seats in a new interim 330-seat parliament.

Aid-dependent Nepal is one of the poorest countries on the planet.

The civil war wrecked an already fragile economy and killed at least 13,000 people.



Members of Dhaka Chapter of Old Faujians' Association, an organisation of former students of Faujdahat Cadet College, distribute winter clothes among cold-affected people in Chatar Bazar area in Gazipur recently.

Ctg mayor returns home

BSS, Chittagong

Mayor of the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury returned home yesterday noon after attending a two-day international conference on refugee and immigration issues in the Netherlands.

CCC officials, political leaders and ward commissioners received the mayor at the Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport, a CCC press release said.

A total of 30 mayors from across the world joined the conference, the press release added.

Two murdered in Bogra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Sherpur police recovered two unidentified bodies yesterday morning at Mirzapur in the district.

Police sources said the bodies were found on Bogra-Dhaka highway beside a mosque.

Police suspect that the two were killed somewhere and left the bodies there.

The bodies bear injury marks.

An unnatural death case was filed with Sherpur Police Station.

WEATHER

T O D A Y

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Light fog may occur over the river basins of the country during late night till early morning. Met Office said in a forecast.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, it added.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 30.2 degree Celsius was recorded at Chittagong and the lowest of 14.0 degrees at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:51pm today and rises at 6:35am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	27.1	17.0	76	71
Chittagong	30.2	18.0	79	71
Rajshahi	25.4	14.8	99	76
Khulna	26.5	16.8	96	80
Barisal	27.5	16.2	90	73
Sylhet	29.0	15.5	68	58
Cox's Bazar	29.3	18.2	70	65

DHAKA

T O D A Y

Book launch

The book launching ceremony of 'Shopper Bangladesh Khujie Fera' by eminent economist Dr Atiur Rahman will be held. Venue: Nazrul Mancha, Bangla Academy. Time: 5:00pm.

Workshop

Women for Women and Department of Women and Gender Studies of Dhaka University will jointly organise a workshop on 'UN Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (Cedaw)'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 9:30am.

Seminar

Centre for Advanced Research in Social Sciences of Dhaka University organises a seminar on 'Democracy and economic growth: Theoretical challenges and implementation in Bangladesh'. Venue: 401, Lecture Theatre, Dhaka University. Time: 11:00am.

Book launch

A poetry book titled 'Dui Diganta, Dui

Dhara, Dui Bondhu'

jointly collaborated by Dr Masudur Rahman Prince and Husnul Ikbal Khan Majlish (Yousuf), will be launched. Venue: WVA auditorium. Time: 5:00pm.

Corporate Bazaar

The opening ceremony of Corporate Bazaar will be held. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 11:00am.

Seminar

Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) organises a seminar titled '3rd stakeholders' meeting'. Venue: LGED Bhaban. Time: 9:30am.

Seminar

Office of the Cultural Counsellor of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, organises a seminar on 'The impact of the Islamic revolution on the solidarity and reawakening of the Muslim Ummah'. Venue: National Museum. Time: 3:00pm.

34,932 appear in DU 'Gha unit' admission test

BSS, Dhaka

The admission test of 'Gha unit' (combined group) for the first year honours course under the 2006-07 academic session of Dhaka University was held yesterday.

A total of 34,932 admission seekers, including 86 GCE students, appeared in the examination against 770 seats from 52 centres in the city, a DU press release said.

Vice-Chancellor SMA Faiz, Chairman of the University Grants Commission Prof Mohammad Asaduzzaman, Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof AFM Yusuf Haider, Treasurer Prof Syed Abul Kalam Azad and former VC Prof AK Azad Chowdhury visited the examination halls.

Ex-lawmaker Nizam Uddin passes away

Former lawmaker and veteran Awami League (AL) leader of Sherpur Nizam Uddin Ahmed passed away due to brain haemorrhage on Thursday night at the age of 80, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, five sons, a daughter and a host of relatives.

Nizam was elected lawmaker from Sherpur-1 constituency at the first National Parliament. He along with his family took part in the Liberation War directly.

After a namaz-e-janaza on Sherpur City Eidgah premises, he was buried at his family graveyard at Mandakhal.

AL Presidium member and former minister Matia Chowdhury, Sherpur district AL President Atiur Rahman, different social, political and cultural organisations expressed deep shock at the death of Nizam Uddin.

Artist Kazi Anwar

Artist Kazi Anwar passed away due to a cardiac arrest on Thursday evening at the age of 66, says a press release.

He took part in various exhibitions home and abroad. His paintings are displayed at different galleries of the world, including Delhi National Modern Art Gallery.

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

Death anniversary



Today is the 13th death anniversary of Abdul Quddus Makhan, says a press release.

Makhan was one of the leaders of Swadhin Bangla Kendrio Chhatra Sangram Parishad and was the first elected general secretary of DUCSU in 1970.

On the occasion, Jatiya Bir Abdul Quddus Makhan Smriti Parishad will place wreaths at his grave at the National Freedom Fighters and Intellectuals graveyard in the city at 9:00am.

Later a milad mahfil will be held at his house at Gulshan and home village Puniaut in Brahmanbaria to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

On this day in 1994, Makhan passed away due to liver cirrhosis at the age of 47 while undergoing treatment at Florida in the United States.

K Hasib Uddin Ahmad



Today is the 4th death anniversary of Khandokar Hasib Uddin Ahmad, Dhaka District and Sessions' Judge, says a

press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his house at Road 9-A, house 42, at Dhanmondi in the city after Maghrib prayers today.

A milad mahfil will be held at his village home at Doshpara, Daudkandi after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the milad mahfil and pray for the departed soul.

Doa mahfil



A Rahim Chowdhury, former managing director of Arab Bangladesh Bank, passed away at Apollo Hospitals in Dhaka on

February 4 at the age of 66, says a press release.

He was buried at his family graveyard at Nazir Bari in Kattali, Chittagong.

A doa mahfil will be held at his residence at Charukunja, 77 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka, after Maghrib prayers today.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.