

Four of a family among 10 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least ten people, including four of a family, were killed in separate road accidents across the country.

Our correspondent from Manikganj reports: Four members of a family, on way to a wedding party, were killed and one was seriously injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Aricha highway at Muljan area in Manikganj Sadar Upazila yesterday.

The victims were identified as Ayesha Begum, 45, wife of Fazal Ali, Rezia, 38, wife of Sher Ali, Moyuri, 30, wife of Farid Ali of Dhakajora village in Shibajala and Rawshan Ara, 33, wife of Khalilur Rahman of Sholdhara village in Ghor in Manikganj district.

Moyuri's husband Farid Ali said Ayesha and Rezia are his brothers' wives and Rawshan is his cousin's wife. A total of seven members of his family were going to the wedding party of his sister's son at Bhatbaur village, he said.

Sources said the accident occurred at around 1:45pm when a Dhaka bound speeding bus ran over the people while they were

walking beside the road. Ayesha was killed on the spot and Rawshan and Rezia died on way to Manikganj Sadar Hospital and Moyuri died on way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Critically injured Moyuri's six-year old daughter Rizvi was shifted to DMCH from Manikganj Sadar Hospital.

The bodies were taken to Manikganj Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Meanwhile, police seized the bus but could not arrest its driver.

A case was lodged with Manikganj Police Station in this regard.

Our correspondent in Chittagong adds: Three people were killed and four others injured in separate road accidents at Satkania.

Two of them were killed in a collision between a truck and an autorickshaw on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway near Keranihat at around 10:00pm on Tuesday.

Sources said the Chittagong-bound truck collided head-on with the autorickshaw, leaving its six passengers injured. Two of them –

Ajit Das, 55, and Abdul Haq, 32, of village Padua – died on their way to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

Four others – Sirajul Islam, Md Idris, Harunur Rashid and Md Ali – were admitted to nearby Keranihat Seba Hospital.

In another accident, an unidentified truck driver was killed in Nayakhal area near Jafar Ahmad College in Satkania early yesterday.

Sources said a Chittagong-bound bus collided head-on with a truck at around 5:00am, leaving the truck driver dead on the spot.

Our correspondent from Satkania adds: Two people were killed in two separate road accidents yesterday in the district.

The deceased were identified as Mostakim, 16, son of Abdul Alim of Kukhrali village in the town and Kawarsi Ali Moral, 70, son of late Belayet Ali of Durgapur village in Assunni upazila.

Police and witnesses said a speeding bus knocked him from the rear side and ran over him while Mohan was returning from Gangni Bazar.

Driver of the killer bus managed to escape with the bus.

seriously injured when he was returning to his village from Bakal in the town by riding a motorcycle.

He died on way to Satkhira Sadar hospital. The victim was a student of class eight in Karima high school.

In the other incident, Kawasir Ali while crossing the road, a motorcycle knocked him down in front of Brac office at Durgapur in Assunni upazila leaving him seriously injured and he died on way to Assunni hospital.

On contact, Assistant Police Super (ASP) Fazlur Rahman confirmed the incident.

A correspondent from Meherpur adds: A collage student was killed in a road accident at Gangni bus stand yesterday noon.

He was identified as Mohon, 18, of Char Gaolgram village. He was a student of second year of Gangni Degree College.

Police and witnesses said a speeding bus knocked him from the rear side and ran over him while Mohan was returning from Gangni Bazar.

Driver of the killer bus managed to escape with the bus.



PHOTO: STAR

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakha (Rajuk) bulldozes the extended part on the ground floor of Genetic Plaza at Dhanmondi in the city for the second time yesterday during a drive against illegal structures. Earlier, Rajuk demolished the same portion, but the authorities again reconstructed it.

DRIVE AGAINST ILLEGAL STRUCTURES

Some owners reconstructing demolished parts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fire Service and Civil Defence, Chittagong, filed a case accusing one Mobarak Hossain in connection with the fire that left 21 people burnt alive at a slum at Boubazar in the city on March 6.

Following the case, the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), Chittagong summoned the accused to appear before it within a month, said the sources here yesterday.

Warehouse Inspector of Fire Service and Civil Defence, Chittagong-3 Md Shafiqul Islam Bhuiyan filed the case under Agni Protirodh O Nirbapan Ayeen-2003 with the CMM court on Tuesday.

Fire service filed the case accusing Md Mobarak Hossain, the owner of a jhut godown, from where the fire originated, for violating section 4 of the ordinance.

In the case the plaintiff alleged that the accused Mobarak set up the godown at the slum without taking any licence from fire service and did not even appear for the licence.

He also alleged that Mobarak stockpiled the sacks of jhut at the narrow entry point of the slum on the night that caused huge casualties.

Meanwhile, the three-member probe committee, formed by the fire service department, led by its Director (Operation) Major Sheikh Shahjalal, submitted their report earlier after investigating into the incident.

When contacted over phone, Deputy Director (Operation and Maintenance) of Fire Service Mijanur Rahman, who is also a member of the probe committee, refused to disclose anything about the report.

However, sources in the fire service said the probe report also accused Mobarak for the casualties in the incident.

Mobarak is now absconding. He underwent treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) after receiving burn injury during the incident, sources said.

A graduate from the University of Wisconsin at Madison in economics and journalism, David Johnson was also a poet, writer, guitarist and singer.

He left behind his wife, one son and two daughters and two granddaughters and a host of friends and admirers.

Health Adviser Dr ASM Matiur Rahman inaugurated the workshop organised by the ORBIS in association with American College of Clinical Engineering (ACCE), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, World Health Organisation (WHO) and Commission for the Advancement of Healthcare Technology Management in Asia (CAHTMA).

This is the first ever workshop organised in Bangladesh on clinical engineering for medical equipment technician, engineers and paramedics.

Dr Matiur Rahman said, "Modern healthcare is heavily dependent on technology and there is gradually increased use of technologically advanced medical equipments. But we don't have a large number of technicians/engineers to support. This is the time to look into the problem."

Prof Rabiu Husain, chair, International Agency for the

Prevention of blindness (IAPB), South East Asian Region, said, "Sophisticated instrument in healthcare are being used without proper maintenance and for that we need skilled manpower."

Prof Syed Maruf Ali, director of National Institute of Ophthalmology, and Dr Duangvadee Sungkhobol, country representative of WHO, also spoke at the inaugural ceremony while Nicholas Noyes, representative of ACCE, delivered the vote of thanks.

In the case the plaintiff alleged that the accused Mobarak set up the godown at the slum without taking any licence from fire service and did not even appear for the licence.

He also alleged that Mobarak stockpiled the sacks of jhut at the narrow entry point of the slum on the night that caused huge casualties.

Meanwhile, the three-member probe committee, formed by the fire service department, led by its Director (Operation) Major Sheikh Shahjalal, submitted their report earlier after investigating into the incident.

When contacted over phone, Deputy Director (Operation and Maintenance) of Fire Service Mijanur Rahman, who is also a member of the probe committee, refused to disclose anything about the report.

However, sources in the fire service said the probe report also accused Mobarak for the casualties in the incident.

Mobarak is now absconding. He underwent treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) after receiving burn injury during the incident, sources said.

Investigation officer Sub Inspector Abdur Rauf told The Daily Star that existence of some gas in the reservoir might have caused the explosion in it.

Saddam's mother filed an unnatural death case with Mohammadpur Police Station yesterday as he died at 12:00pm.

On February 21, a similar accident took place in East-West University building where all the six cleaners, employed to clean the water tank, died.

will be implemented soon.

Meanwhile, Rajuk yesterday demolished at least 30 structures partially in Dhanmondi road no. 8 and 27.

Two top floors of the Genetic Plaza were also demolished. The building has permission for six floors while it had constructed eight floors.

The authorities also demolished the structures under construction at the ground floor of Imperial Plaza at road no 8 for the owner was con-

structing shops in the ground floor instead of leaving the space for car parking.

Meantime, Bangladesh Railway authorities yesterday recovered one acre of its land from the illegal encroachers in Bhabra rail junction and its adjacent areas. It demolished at least 52 illegal structures of the area.

In an interview with AFP, Bruguiere recalled that the Algerian Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC) recently changed its name – under orders, it said, from Osama bin Laden – to the Al-Qaeda Organisation in the Lands of Islamic North Africa.

"What does that name mean? It emphasises allegiance to Al-Qaeda and shows a clear desire to regionalise the organisation. It is unprecedented," Bruguiere said.

"This is our major cause for concern because it is clear there is a direct threat to France. France is the priority target. We need to adapt, as we have in the past, to this new type of threat."

"All the ingredients are there. The ex-GSPC wants to incorporate all the radical movements in north Africa – the Libyan, Moroccan and Tunisian Islamic Combat Groups (GIC). There is an Islamist arc, which also has plans for the south – the Sahel," he said.

Bruguiere said Sunday's suicide bombing in Casablanca, which left three people wounded, "was an operation that should have taken place somewhere else. It is the visible element in a situation that is much more serious, which does not just concern Morocco."

"Arc of radical Islamism" in north Africa: French judge

AFP, Paris

Extremist groups in north Africa are being merged into an "arc of radical Islamism" under the leadership of the main Algerian Islamist organisation, France's top anti-terrorist judge Jean-Louis Bruguiere said yesterday.

In an interview with AFP, Bruguiere recalled that the Algerian Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC) recently changed its name – under orders, it said, from Osama bin Laden – to the Al-Qaeda Organisation in the Lands of Islamic North Africa.

"What does that name mean? It emphasises allegiance to Al-Qaeda and shows a clear desire to regionalise the organisation. It is unprecedented," Bruguiere said.

"This is our major cause for concern because it is clear there is a direct threat to France. France is the priority target. We need to adapt, as we have in the past, to this new type of threat."

"All the ingredients are there. The ex-GSPC wants to incorporate all the radical movements in north Africa – the Libyan, Moroccan and Tunisian Islamic Combat Groups (GIC). There is an Islamist arc, which also has plans for the south – the Sahel," he said.

Bruguiere said Sunday's suicide bombing in Casablanca, which left three people wounded, "was an operation that should have taken place somewhere else. It is the visible element in a situation that is much more serious, which does not just concern Morocco."

HIV prevention programme in Jessore, Gazipur jails soon

A pilot programme will be launched soon in Jessore Central Jail and Gazipur District Jail to address HIV prevention among incarcerated substance users as per a plan of action prepared in a training workshop, says a press release.

It was disclosed at the certificate awarding ceremony of a five-day national training programme held at Biam auditorium in the city yesterday.

Dr Suruchi Panth, who attended the training programme as a resource person, said UNODC is assisting India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bhutan and Bangladesh in taking up various programmes for HIV prevention in the jails.

The ceremony was presided over by Sahana Sharmin, senior assistant secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs. Among others Dr Joydev Sarangani, UNODC representative and prison expert, Shafiqul Islam, director, Programmes of Dhaka Ahsan Mission, Abu Taleb, deputy director of Department of Narcotics Control and Iqbal Masud, senior programme officer of Dhaka Ahsan Mission, spoke on the occasion.

The training workshop was attended by a total of 25 participants, including three Senior Assistant Secretaries of Ministry of Home Affairs, three Assistant Directors of Department of Narcotics Control, eight officers of Dhaka, Jessore and Gazipur Jails, two officers from Bangladesh Police and representatives of Care-Bangladesh, CRIA, Apon, Baraka and ICDDR,B.



Dr ASM Matiur Rahman, civil surgeon, Dhaka Central Jail, receives his certificate from UNODC Representative Dr Shuruchi Panth at the concluding session of the National Training Programme to address HIV Prevention amongst Incarcerated Substance Users in the city yesterday.

Justice Karim to hold office in absence of Chief Justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A domestic help, who received burn injury in a fire originated in water reservoir, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

Mohammadpur police said Saddam Hossain, 15, domestic help of Shamsuddin, a resident of Azam Road in Mohammadpur, went into the water reservoir on March 10 to look whether there was any problem.

There was no light inside and as soon as Saddam tried to light a candle with a match, a fire broke out in the reservoir and Saddam received burn injuries.

Investigation officer Sub Inspector Abdur Rauf told The Daily Star that existence of some gas in the reservoir might have caused the explosion in it.

Saddam's mother filed an unnatural death case with Mohammadpur Police Station yesterday as he died at 12:00pm.

On February 21, a similar accident took place in East-West University building where all the six cleaners, employed to clean the water tank, died.

The president yesterday gave charge of the office of the chief justice to the senior most judge of the Appellate Division, Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim, in absence of Chief Justice Mohammad Ruhul Amin from March 22 to March 27 or until he takes his office.

The president bestowed the charge as per his jurisdiction under article 97 of the constitution, an official handout said yesterday.

The 2nd National Conference of Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 9:30am.

The 2nd National Conference of Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 9:30am.

The 2nd National Conference of Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 9:30am.

The 2nd National Conference of Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 9:30am.

The 2nd National Conference of Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 9:30am.

The 2nd National Conference of Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 9:30am.

The 2nd National Conference of Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 9:30am.

The 2nd National Conference of Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 9:30am.

The 2nd National Conference of Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 9:30am.

The 2nd National Conference of Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 9:30am.

The 2nd National Conference of Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 9:30am.

The 2nd National Conference of Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 9:30am.

The 2