

Two killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

Two people were killed and 20 others injured in road accidents at Tangail and Khulna in the last two days.

Our Correspondent in Tangail reports: A collision between a bus and a truck left one person dead and 20 others injured on Dhaka-Tangail highway at Mirzapur yesterday.

Police and witnesses said a Kurigram-bound bus from Dhaka collided head-on with a Dhaka-bound sand-laden truck in Kumarjani area at around 1:15pm. A passenger of the bus died on the spot. His identity could not be known immediately.

Local people rushed the injured number to Mirzapur Kumudini Hospital. Police took the body to Mirzapur Police Station.

The busy Dhaka-Tangail highway remained blocked for about an hour because of the accident.

UNB adds: A man was crushed under the wheels of a minibus on Khulna-Satkira road at Golna in Dumuria on Thursday night.

Sources said Atiar Rahman, 45, was crossing the road when the minibus bound for Satkira ran over him.

Doctors declared him dead when he was rushed to Khulna Medical College Hospital.

Robbers stab businessman to death

UNB, Narsingdi

Robbers stabbed a businessman to death and injured his wife seriously while committing a robbery at a house in Narsingdi in the early hours of yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Jamaluddin, 50.

Police said a gang of robbers numbering about 12 entered Jamal's house by breaking the window grills at Gankulpara village under Belabo upazila at 2:00am.

As Jamal and his wife Jyotsna Begum tried to resist, the gang stabbed them indiscriminately, leaving both of them seriously injured.

The robbers then looted val-

ables including gold ornaments worth about Tk 1 lakh and left the house safely.

Hearing their cry for help, locals rushed in and sent them to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital where Jamal died at 9:00am.

In another incident, at least 15 people, including eight Madrasa students, were injured in an attack by local musclemen at Bajhibari village under Manohardi upazila over the construction of a boundary wall of a mosque yesterday.

Police said the hired goons of one Based, owner of a piece of land adjacent to the mosque, attacked the mosque and nearby madrasa as the mosque authorities had planned to build a boundary wall.

Inadequate gas supplies forced these plants to remain almost inoperative for nearly two months. "In view of the improved situation, the total power generation is expected to be as high as 3,370 mw this evening," PDB's Public Relations Director Bazlul Haque told BSS.

According to the PDB estimates, the current peak hour demand for power is 3,900 mw while, until last week, the deficit was estimated as high as 1,100 mw at times because of the closure of plants for routine rehabilitation, forced outage or disruption in gas supplies.

PDB officials said out of nearly 100 units in 26 government and private sector plants some 20 are closed due to routine maintenance or technical troubles but they are expecting eight of them to resume operation by June this year.

At the BDR-BSF Director General meeting in New Delhi early this month, the Bangladesh side conveyed its concern and sought action from the Indian authorities against the smuggling of firearms and drugs.

The Indian side assured that necessary action would be taken in this regard.

336 smuggled firearms, over one lakh bullets seized in two years

UNB, Dhaka

Huge illegal weapons and drugs continue to be smuggled into the country from neighbouring India as statistics show that Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized 336 firearms, including rifles, revolvers and pistols, and 108,740 bullets in last two years.

Illegal firearms are usually smuggled into the country through Sylhet and Rajshahi frontiers, a senior BDR official said.

Although the number of smuggled firearms was less in 2006 than in the previous year, the number of smuggled bullets was more last year than in 2005.

In 2005, BDR seized 192 firearms and 44,979 rounds of bullet, while in 2006, they seized 144 firearms and 63,761 bullets.

Of the seized firearms, 51 were rifles, 36 revolvers and 88 pistols.

Apart from firearms and ammunition, a huge quantum of drugs, including contraband phenisidyl was also being smuggled into the country from India.

Some 500,000 bottles of phenisidyl and 60,000 litres of liquor were seized in last two years.

Death anniversary

Today is the 48th death anniversary of Shirumonnesa Shiru Begum, mother of Waheed Marud, a poet and banker, says a press release.

On the occasion, a mild and doa mahfil will be held at Bhashantek Minar Mosque after Asr prayers and took away the goods and money.

Anwara police said none was arrested in this connection as of last evening.

'Full-scale production in two plants improves power supply'

Bss, Dhaka

Resumption of full-scale production in two state-run power plants with adequate gas supply has improved the electricity generation scenario, said a Power Development Board (PDB) press release yesterday.

It said the 180 mw capacity first unit of Raujan Power Station and the 80 mw Tongi Power Station resumed their full capacity production from early hours of Friday and Wednesday respectively, getting supplies from the newly launched Bibiana gas field.

Inadequate gas supplies forced these plants to remain almost inoperative for nearly two months. "In view of the improved situation, the total power generation is expected to be as high as 3,370 mw this evening," PDB's Public Relations Director Bazlul Haque told BSS.

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Huge medicine, cash looted in Ctg

Bss, Chittagong

Unidentified robbers looted huge quantity of medicine and Tk 35,000 in cash from a pharmacy in Anwara sadar upazila of the district on Thursday night.

Police quoting local people yesterday said the robbers stormed into the Jyotsna Pharmacy owned by Mridul Dutta at midnight by breaking its collapsible door and took away the goods and money.

Anwara police said none was arrested in this connection as of last evening.



Holiday market at Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital draws a large number of buyers yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

President, CA greet Irish President, PM

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Chief Adviser Fakhrudin Ahmed have greeted the Irish president and the prime minister on the occasion of the National Day of that country.

In his messages to President Mary McAleese of Ireland, President Iajuddin expressed his firm belief that the existing friendly relations between the two countries would be further developed in the coming years.

He also wished her good health and happiness and continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly Irish people.

In another message to Irish PM Bertie Ahern TD, Chief Adviser Fakhrudin expressed his firm conviction that the existing bond of friendship between the two countries would be further flourished in the years ahead.

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The BDR official said the youth community in the country is alarmingly getting addicted due to easy availability of drugs mainly through smuggling.

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Robber killed in police firing

Bss, Feni

A robber was killed when a team of patrol police opened fire on a gang of robbers committing robbery at Tultuli Bazar area on Feni-Maizdi highway on Thursday night.

Sources said that as the policemen challenged a gang of 10-12 robbers who were committing robbery by putting up barricade on the highway, the robbers attacked them.

Police opened fire in self-defence, leaving one unidentified robber dead on the spot. Others members of the gang fled the scene, leaving behind the body.

Police recovered one chapati, two mobile phones and Tk 4,000 from the spot, the sources added.

Ex-JCD leader gets 10 years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A Rangpur court on Thursday sentenced Dr ABM Maruf Islam, former president of JCD unit at Rangpur Medical College, to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment in an arms case.

Judge of the Special Tribunal-1 Sunil Chandra Paul handed down the verdict to Dr Maruf Islam alias Maruf, who was also the vice-president (VP) of the student unit at the college.

According to the prosecution, members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested Maruf along with a pistol from his room at Dr Milon Hall on March 30, 2006.

Monir, an engineer of a private firm, told the police that Pakhi went to the bathroom at around 7:00pm but did not come out even after a long time.

Monir was not at home at that time. He returned home at around 8:30pm.

Mystery shrouds death of domestic help

Employer arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested the employer of a domestic help who was found dead at his house at Khilgaon in the city on Thursday night.

The employer, Monir Ahmed, claimed that 10-year-old Pakhi Khatun committed suicide by hanging herself from the door handle inside the bathroom, although the handle is as high as her nose.

Receiving information, police went to the house at Block-C, Road No.-2, Mahanagar Project at Khilgaon, after midnight and found that the body was lying on the floor.

Sources at the morgue said that they have found only one mark around her neck.

Pakhi, who hailed from Comilla, had been working in the house for the last two years for Tk 300 a month.

"As Pakhi did not respond despite repeated attempts, we broke open the door and found her hanging from the handle of the door with her frock," he said.

But the height of the door handle aroused the suspicion of the police. They suspect that the girl might have been killed.

A Dhaka court sent Monir to jail after the police produced him at the court yesterday.

Police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College morgue in the morning for autopsy.

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CU IRREGULARITIES
Syndicate member critical of UGC probe beginning today

CU CORRESPONDENT

A Syndicate member of Chittagong University (CU) yesterday criticised the formation of a committee to investigate various alleged irregularities of the university including the LLB certificate scam.

Prof Helal Uddin Nizami said the University Grants Commission (UGC) cannot investigate any matter related to examination.

"As far as I know the education ministry in a letter has directed the UGC for investigating the irregularities in the appointment and promotion of teachers that took place in last five years," he said.

"The UGC has no right to investigate any matter or decision taken by the Syndicate," he added.

Prof Helal alleged that the UGC is trying to save a 'special person', who holds a fake certificate that has already been cancelled by the university authorities.

Menonable, a 5-member UGC team headed Prof Sultan Hossain is scheduled to start its probe into LLB certificate scam today.

Current nets worth Tk 2.3 cr seized in Barisal

UNB, Barisal

A total of 4,52,360 metres of current nets worth Tk 2.29 crore were seized during drives in rivers and water bodies of the district from March 15.

Bangladesh Navy with the help of fisheries department and local administration conducted the drives to check catching of 'Jatka' or young hilsa.