

5 killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

At least five people were killed and 15 others injured in separate road accidents in Rajshahi, Bagerhat, Munshiganj and Khagrachhari yesterday and on Sunday.

UNB from Rajshahi reports: Two people were killed and 15 others injured as a bus fell into a roadside ditch at Palashbari in Godagari upazila on Rajshahi-Kakonhat road in Godagari upazila yesterday.

Alim, 25, hailed from Palashbari village and an unidentified bus helper died on the spot.

Witnesses said the accident occurred at about 9:30am when a city-bound bus from Kakonhat fell into a ditch as the driver lost control over the steering.

The injured were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Another report from Bagerhat adds: A woman travelling with her husband in a motorbike died under

the wheels of a truck at Badatala on Bagerhat-Pirojepur road yesterday.

Safia Begum, 40, died on the spot when the speedy truck hit the motorbike while her husband Sikder Irshad Ali was rushed to Bagerhat Sadar Hospital in critical condition. They hailed from Patarpara village of Chitalmari upazila.

Police seized the truck but the driver managed to flee.

Our Correspondent from Munshiganj adds: A truck driver was killed when his speeding truck plunged into the river Padma while trying to get on a ferry at ferry ghat no 2 at Mawa in the district yesterday.

The victim was identified as Farid, 40, hailed from Bhola.

The Jessore-bound truck that was carrying iron rods broke the railing of the ferry and fell into the river. Divers started recovery drive

after one and half hours and found the body of Farid 40 feet deep under the water. However, they are yet to recover the body and the truck.

The accident hampered vehicular movement at that particular ferry ghat for more than two hours.

Our Correspondent from Khagrachhari adds: A helper of a human hauler, who was admitted at Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital following a head-on collision between his hauler and a truck on Sunday evening, succumbed to his injuries yesterday early hours.

The victim was identified as Usha Kanti Tripura, 25.

The accident happened in Krishi Gobeshona area at Sadar upazila of the district that left the driver of the hauler Dev Ananda Tripura dead on the spot and seven more critically injured.

One beaten to death by drug addict in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A drug addict bashed to death his neighbour who tried to stop him from quarrelling with his mother in the district yesterday.

Chan Mia, 55, a neighbour of the addict Akbar Hossain, resident of Adarshagram of Pashchim Deobhogh area, died after he was punched indiscriminately by Akbar.

Sub-inspector of Fatullah Police Station Sujatit Hossain said Akbar, 28, entered into severe quarrel with his mother as she refused to give him Tk 5000 for buying drugs in the morning.

As Chan Mia went there to stop the quarrel, Akbar became furious and punched him indiscriminately causing serious injuries that resulted in his death, he added.

Locals caught Akbar and handed him over to police.

Autopsy of Chan Mia was done in Narayanganj General Hospital morgue.

A case was filed with Fatullah Police Station.

Indian novelist mugged in city

DU CORRESPONDENT

Muggers took away valuables from female novelist and playwright of Kolkata Lina Gangopadhyay and renowned Indian filmmaker Satyajit Ray's niece Surojit.

They snatched a bag and important papers except their passports and bus tickets.

Lina said they were going to city's Kalabagan by rickshaw from Hatirpul on Sunday morning to take a Kolkata bound bus.

As the rickshaw approached the bus stand, a taxicab waylaid its way. Three to four youths got down from the cab and snatched the bag where the papers were kept.

Lina and Surojit came to Dhaka to visit parental home of Satyajit at Kishorganj and to select a shooting spot for Lina's new film, she said.

Japan university assures DU of materials for visually impaired students

DU CORRESPONDENT

A delegation of Japan Sukuba University of Technology yesterday assured the Dhaka University (DU) authorities of providing modern academic materials for visually impaired students, says a DU press release.

The team led by Executive Vice President of the Japanese University Uoshimi Morisawa gave the assurance to DU Arts Faculty Dean Prof Sadrul Amin when the team made a courtesy call.

They discussed other mutual issues of interest.

The other members of the visiting team are: first secretary of Japan Embassy Takashi Asai and Head of General Affairs Section of the University Iida Kyoichi.

DU's Prof Md Iqbal Aziz Muttaki, Prof Hamida Akhter Begum and Registrar Md Anwar Hossain were present.

Prof Aminur new provost of RU Motihar Hall

RU CORRESPONDENT

Professor Aminur Rahman, a teacher of political science department, was made provost of Motihar Hall of Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday.

He was given a warm reception in the hall, campus sources said.

Professor Aminur was posted here as tenure of outgoing provost Prof Afrauzzaman Khan ended.

In the reception, RU Proctor Enamul Haque and former provost Prof Afrauzzaman Khan were present among others.

Channel i to air beach walk in Cox's Bazar

Channel i will telecast a three-day beach walk styled 'Activate Bangladesh', scheduled to be held on March 23, live from Cox's Bazar, says a press release.

Eminent cultural personalities and selected people will take part in the 100km long beach walk that will start at Teknaf and end at Cox's Bazar.

Channel i will broadcast the programme live three times everyday, the press release reads.

Grameenphone is the title sponsor of the programme while Activate Bangladesh and MAA Consortium are the organisers of the event.



PHOTO: PID

Chief Adviser to the caretaker government Fakhruddin Ahmed presides over a meeting of the council of advisers at the Secretariat in the city yesterday.

Mannan Bhuiyan hospitalised

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan was admitted to a hospital in the city for diabetic complications yesterday morning.

"As he felt sick at his Gulshan residence in the capital, he was rushed to Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the United Hospital" in the area at about 11:00am, a party sources said.

Mannan Bhuiyan, the former LGRD minister, has been suffering from diabetes for long.

Mill supervisor arrested for tampering with electric meter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Special vigilance team of Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (Desa) yesterday arrested a supervisor of a mill at Fatullah in Narayanganj for tampering with electric meter.

Desa conducted a drive at Fatullah led by its special vigilance team Superintendent Engineer SM Monjur-ul-Ehsan and Desa special Metropolitan Magistrate Md Ashraful Amin Mukut, says a press release.

Magistrate Ashraful arrested reportedly supervisor of Messrs Jewell Steel and Re-rolling Mill Monir Hossain for tampering with electric meter.

A case was also filed in this regard. Vigilance team also disconnected the electricity line of the mill instantly.

The owner of the mill Md Shahjahan used to steal electricity worth around Tk 3 lakh every month through tampering with meter for long time.

QUESTION PAPER LEAKAGE AT MARINE ACADEMY 2 officials, 2 coaching centre men arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested four people for their alleged involvement in leaking question papers of the admission tests at Bangladesh Marine Academy in Chittagong.

The arrestees included a director and an office peon of a coaching centre and two officials of the academy.

Rab arrested Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, a director of Unity Coaching Centre, and its peon Abdul Alim, from a function at Marine Academy on Sunday evening.

Acting on their confessional statement, Rab members held Chief Education Officer Abul Hashem Bhuiyan and Steno-typist Zakir Hossain of Marine Academy yesterday on charge of helping leakage of question paper.

Earlier, a group of aggrieved admission seekers had lodged a complaint with Rab saying that three coaching centres namely Brain Wash of Chittagong, Unity Coaching Centre of Dhaka and Marine Guide Coaching Centre were involved in leaking question papers.

While talking to The Daily Star at Rab Head Quarters at Patenga, Rezaul and Alim confessed that three coaching centres were involved in leaking and selling question papers.

The directors of these so-called coaching centres including Unity Director Kudrat-e-Khuda and Brain Wash Director Abul Bashir used to sell each of the leaked question

papers in connivance with some dishonest officials of Marine Academy for money ranging from Tk 2 lakh to Tk 2.5 lakh, they added.

Chief Education Officer Abul Hashem Bhuiyan has however denied his involvement in question paper leakage.

"I only gave some suggestions from my own experience to the admission seeking wards of the officials and staffs of the Marine Academy," he defended.

After interrogation at its Head Quarters, the elite force sent the two officials back to Marine Academy asking the academy authorities to take necessary action against them.

When contacted Marine Academy Commandant Captain Zahir Uddin said, "We will go for tough action if the allegations are proved against them."

JU viva voce for students with disability Mar 24

Bss, Savar

Viva voce for the admission seekers under the quota for the students with disability at Jahangirnagar University (JU) will be held at 10:00am on March 24 at the dean's office of the Mathematics and Physical Faculty of the university.

The applicants have been asked to be present before the viva board with main copies of their certificates and admit cards.



PHOTO: STAR

Maj Gen (retd) Syed Mohammad Ibrahim speaks at a roundtable on 'Expectations about nation building activities by the caretaker government' at Brac Inn Centre at Mahakhali in the city yesterday. On his right is Maj (retd) Ahsanullah and on his left is Dr MA Hasan. (Story on Page 16)

Cancel jobs of teachers recruited during 4-party rule CU progressive teachers demand

CU CORRESPONDENT

Progressive teachers of Chittagong University (CU) yesterday demanded cancellation of the appointments of the teachers recruited during the tenure of the immediate past four-party alliance government.

The demand came following disclosure of the news that few pro-BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami teachers of the university had allegedly taken an undertaking from Mohammed Ashrafuzzaman, a lecturer at the Anthropology department, assuring to make him a teacher of the university two years back.

The sensational issue came to light on Sunday when Ashrafuzzaman approached to a visiting team of University Grants Commission (UGC) with the allegation.

"They recruited party men dropping comparatively meritorious candidates only to increase their votes to win different university elections," observed Professor Helal Uddin Nizami, a syndicate member of the university.

"All recruitments during the tenure of the four-party alliance government should be reconsidered," he said.

Prof Gazi Saleh Uddin, dean of Social Science faculty and former general secretary of Chittagong University Teachers' Association (Cuta), said more conspiracies would be unearthed if proper investigations are conducted.

Former pro-vice chancellor Prof Abu Yusuf Alam also echoed Prof Nizami and Prof Saleh.

The university is facing various financial problems because of such additional appointments, he observed.

Such problems should be solved immediately, he added.

Meanwhile, the visiting University Grants Commission (UGC) probe committee summoned Ashrafuzzaman and accused Assistant Professor Ashiqur Rahman of Anthropology department yesterday afternoon.

They listened to the allegations against Ashiqur that Ashrafuzzaman disclosed on Sunday and also interrogated both of them, sources said.

Vice Chancellor Prof M Badiul Alam and four of the five-member probe committee were present during the hearing.

Moon Sighting Committee meets today

Bss, Dhaka

National Moon Sighting Committee will hold a meeting at the conference room of Islamic Foundation in the capital today to decide on the moon sighting of the month of Rabiul Awwal.

EC to help develop textile sector Ambassador assures adviser

Bss, Dhaka

The European Commission (EC) will extend cooperation to the development of textile sector in the country.

The assurance came while EC Ambassador to Bangladesh Dr Stefan Frowein called on Adviser for Textiles and Jute Geeti Ara Safiya Chowdhury at her ministry's conference room here yesterday, an official handout said.

During the meeting, the adviser said the caretaker government has given a special emphasis on modernisation of the country's textile sector consider-

ing the national interest.

Geeti Ara apprised the ambassador of the multifarious programmes taken by the caretaker government for the development of womenfolk.

She thanked the ambassador for the assurance and hoped that the EC's cooperation in Bangladesh would be further expanded in future.

Dr Stefan Frowein appreciated the government's massive development programmes, including reforms in the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Election Commission.

Housewife strangled, friend arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife was strangled at Sutrapur in the city yesterday.

The dead was identified as Rabeya Khatun, 30, wife of Farooq Hussain.

Police recovered the body in the early hours of yesterday from the victim's house at Shatish Sarkar Lane in Sutrapur.

The deceased's hands were tied with a piece of cloth and her mouth was wrapped with scotch tape and the furniture of the house was found ransacked, said the police.

Beauty, a friend of the victim, was arrested for her alleged involvement in the murder.

Victim's sister Mabia said Rabeya was alone in the house when the incident occurred around 11:00pm on Sunday.

Victim's brother Julhash suspecting Beauty behind the incident said Rabeya had been having internal feuds with Beauty who fixed her marriage with Farooq.

The body was sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for autopsy.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country having chances of rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind at one or to places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met office said.

Highest temperature 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangamati and lowest 12.4 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:10pm today and rises at 6:02am tomorrow.

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	32.0	17.5	48	36
Chittagong	31.8	17.0	58	58
Rajshahi	31.3	16.5	62	46
Khulna	32.5	18.4	58	60
Barisal	32.5	16.5	58	64
Sylhet	32.9	15.2	47	37
Cox's Bazar	31.0	19.3	51	70



PHOTO: STAR

Farida Akhter, wife of writer and journalist Abdul Kader, passed away at a hospital in London at the age of 61 on March 17, says a press release.

She wrote a number of books of poems and short stories in the sixties under the pen name Gazi Farida Akhter.

She is survived by her husband, a son and two daughters.

Her quikhwani and a doa mahfil will be held at her Tongi residence after Asr prayers on Friday.

Najmunnessa Ansari

Najmunnessa Ansari, wife of late Iftekhar Ahmed Ansari, passed away at a local clinic on January 31 due to old-age ailments at the age of 75, says a press release.

She was the fourth daughter of late Khan Bahadur Naziruddin Ahmed.

She left behind four daughters and a son-in-law. Relatives and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



PHOTO: STAR

Maj Gen (Retd) Md Anwar Hossain speaks at a press conference on 'Grameenphone Activate Bangladesh -- Challenge of the Longest Beach-2007' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right are Mir Nawbut Ali and Aly Zaker and on his left is Sanaul Arefeen.

500 selected for longest beach walkathon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 500 candidates have been selected for the 'Grameenphone Activate Bangladesh -- Challenge of the Longest Beach-2007', a 100-kilometre walkathon from Teknaf to Cox's Bazar.

The walkathon will be held from March 23 to 25.

Among 10,496 candidates who applied to take part in the walkathon, 934 were found fit as per Body Mass Index (BMI), but only 500 fittest candidates will get the opportunity, Chairman of selection committee Dr Anupam Hossain said at a press conference in the city yesterday.

Women applicants account for 17 percent of the total candidates.

The findings show that only about nine percent of candidates are physically fit to take part in the walkathon.

The committee has also put 200 more candidates on the waiting list.

The candidates were selected on the basis of their Body Mass Index, sporting background and written comments.

Ten percent of them were selected under special category considering their academic

and professional background.

Mir Nawbut Ali, AGM, Brand Development and Management, Grameenphone Ltd, said the longest beach challenge comprises a three-day beach walk from Teknaf to Cox's Bazar and an 'Activation Day' at Cox's Bazar on March 26 with a fun 10-kilometre walk and beach sports culminating in a cultural show on the beach.

Maj Gen (Retd) Md Anwar Hossain, Bir Protik, said some 254 law enforcers from Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), police and Ansars will be deployed during the event to ensure security.

Sanaul Arefeen, managing director of MAA (Mattrra, Asiatic & Ardent) Consortium, said this programme will enhance the positive image of Cox's Bazar sea beach.

Aly Zaker, chairman of MAA Consortium, hoped that the programme will be held annually.

The Activate Bangladesh and MAA Consortium have organised the event with the strategic partners Channel i, Prothom Alo, The Daily Star and Radio Today.