

Road crashes kill 6, injure 63

UNB, Dhaka

At least six people were killed and 63 others injured in separate road accidents in Gazipur, Manikganj, Kushtia and Comilla yesterday and on Friday.

Two people were killed and three others injured when a truck ploughed through two rickshaw vans in Kaliakoir on Dhaka-Tangail Highway in Gazipur yesterday.

Police said the Kaliakoir-bound truck rammed the two vans at Chandra, leaving a van passenger dead on the spot and four others injured.

The injured were rushed to a local hospital where another succumbed to his injuries.

Police seized the truck.

AManikganj report adds: A trader was killed and 30 people were injured in a road crash at Nali on Dhaka-Patua highway yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Keramat Ali, 60, a watermelon trader of Hanuya village in Bakerganj upazila of Barisal district.

Police said the accident took place at noon when a goods-laden truck collided with a Barisal-bound bus, leaving Keramat dead on the spot and 30 others injured.

Two of the injured, Jahangir, 38, and Salam, 30, also watermelon

traders, were sent to Dhaka Pangu Hospital while the others to Sadar Hospital and Uthali Health Complex.

Another report from Kushtia adds: A bus ran over two people, including a woman at Kachubaria in Mirpur upazila yesterday.

Police said the Dhaka-bound bus first ploughed through a rickshaw van and then ran over a pedestrian woman at 12:00 noon, leaving the woman dead and the van puller dead on the spot.

The dead were identified as van puller Rabul Islam, 40, and Hazera Mandol, 70.

A report from Comilla says: A bus helper was killed and 30 passengers were injured when a bus and a truck collided head-on at Fajirbazar in Choudhogram upazila on Dhaka-Chittagong highway on Friday night.

Police said a Dhaka-bound Volvo coach collided head-on with the truck at about 8:00pm, leaving the bus helper Babul, 23, dead on the spot and 30 passengers injured.

The injured were rushed to different hospitals in Comilla and Feni.



PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka Heritage organised a photography exhibition titled 'Revisiting Heritage of Dhaka' at Asian Art and Cultural Gallery at Elephant Road in the city yesterday. (From left) Prof Sirajul Islam, Prof Nurul Islam and Artist Hamiduzzaman Khan visit the exhibition.

Patient dies during operation by quack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A patient died during a surgical operation by a quack at the dining room of his house at Parhajgram in Digholia upazila on Friday evening.

Quack Israil Hossain alias Mokaddes went into hiding soon after the incident.

He performed the operation on Moksed Ali, 28, on a dining table in the room lit by only a 100-watt bulb, sources said.

Moksed, who had been suffering from kidney problems, died from excessive bleeding.

The police sealed off the dining room of the house. They have launched a manhunt for the quack.

World powers to meet Iraq neighbours again

AFP, Baghdad

The Iraqi government has agreed to a new meeting between its neighbours and world powers in Egypt next month, Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari said yesterday.

"The Iraqi government agreed to hold the next ministerial meeting of Iraq neighbouring countries, plus the G5 (UN Security Council veto-wielding permanent members) and G8 (most industrialised nations) in Egypt, most probably in Sharm el-Sheikh on May 3 and 4," Zebari told a Baghdad news conference.

An ambassador-level conference held in Baghdad on March 10 to discuss the security situation in Iraq saw the United States and

regional foes Iran and Syria hold rare direct talks.

That meeting was due to be followed up by the ministerial-level conference, which could see US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice meet her Iranian counterpart -- a meeting that the US State Department has not ruled out.

Although Zebari did not specify the individual breakdown of the guest list for the May talks, he expressed hope that it would lead to dialogue and said it could present an opportunity to help break the "deadlock".

Against a background of increasing tension across the region, Zebari said the expanded ministerial meeting was "very important".