

Road crashes kill six

STAR REPORT

At least six people were killed and 46 others injured in separate road accidents in Manikganj, Sirajganj and Kishoreganj yesterday

Our correspondent from Manikganj adds: One was killed and four others were injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Singair-Manikganj Road in the early hours of yesterday.

The accident occurred when the driver of a Singair-bound taxicab from Dhaka lost control of the vehicle that fell into the roadside ditch at Joymantap at around 2:30am.

The victim was identified as Shah Alam, the driver of the ill-fated taxicab.

He hailed from Badda Naton Bazar in Dhaka.

The body of the driver was sent to Manikganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The injured were admitted to different clinics at Savar.

Quoting the passengers, local people said the driver lost control of the vehicle as he tried to save them from a gang of robbers who tried to barricade the cab.

A case has been lodged with Singair Police Station.

Our Correspondent from Sirajganj reports: At least two people were killed and five others injured in two separate road accidents in Shahzadpur upazila of Sirajganj district yesterday.

Police and witnesses said an unidentified person aged about 32, died on the spot; when a Nagorbari-bound bus from Bogra hit him from behind on Nagorbari-Bogra highway at Dilruba bus terminal area in Shahzadpur upazila. On the other hand, another unidentified person died on the spot and five others were injured at around 10.30am, when an auto-tempo (popularly known as Bhutvuti) turned upside down on the road as its driver lost control over the steering at Jigarbari area in the same upazila.

Police rushed to the spot and rushed the injured to Shahzadpur Upazila Health Complex and

Sirajganj General Hospital.

Shahzadpur police sent the bodies to Sirajganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A Correspondent from Kishoreganj adds: Two people were killed and 25 others critically injured in a road accident at Achmita area on Kishoreganj-Dhaka highway in Kotiadi upazila yesterday.

The injured were rushed to Kishoreganj Sadar Adhunik Hospital and Dhaka Medical College & Hospital, locals said.

The accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound BRTC bus hit a covered van of Igloo Ice-cream Co. coming from opposite direction, leaving a salesman and driver of the van dead on the spot and 25 bus passengers injured.

Staff Correspondent from

Khulna reports: One person was killed and 12 others were injured in a road accident near Kendua bridge on Khulna-Dhaka highway at Fakirhat upazila of Bagerhat district yesterday.

The dead was identified as shrimp trader Mohammad Ali, 45, who hailed from Bhola district.

The injured, also shrimp traders from Bhola, were admitted to different clinics at Bagerhat.

The accident occurred when a car carrying them from Bhola turned upside down and fell into a ditch near the bridge as its driver lost control over the steering.

Of the injured, 10 were identified as Milon, 45, Mannan, 40, Jahangir, 35, Arif, 30, Helal, 40, Jahangir, 40, Jewel, 25, Shohag, 40, Liton, 45, and Jamal, 43.

Bridge collapses as overloaded truck hits railing

A CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A bridge collapsed when an overloaded truck crashed into its railing in Majherchor area at Sonargaon in the district early morning yesterday.

The accident suspended bus services on Dhaka-Araihazar and Narayanganj-Araihazar routes.

Road and Highways Department (RHD) said the bridge known as 'Baily Bridge' collapsed as the truck was carrying three times more than its capacity.

Sources said, the loading capacity of the Baily Bridge was ten ton and it collapsed when the speeding ten-wheeler weighing 40-ton hit the railing of the bridge with a great force.

Sonargaon Police Station told The Daily Star that the bus driver and the helper are absconding since the incident.



A pothole on a road at Naton Bazar in the city's Badda area has long been causing suffering to passengers as well as pedestrians, but the authorities remain indifferent. This picture was taken yesterday.

Dhaka-Seoul bilateral trade should increase: President

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed has underlined the need for enhancing bilateral trade between Bangladesh and Republic of Korea (ROK).

The remark came when the newly appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Bangladesh Park Sun-bum presented his credentials to the President at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Welcoming the new Ambassador, Iajuddin said Bangladesh greatly values its friendly and cooperative relations with Korea.

He termed the existing bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Korea as excellent and hoped that it would be further strengthened and deepened in the coming days.

He said Korea is one of the most important development partners of Bangladesh and hoped that the ROK would continue to provide financial and technical assistance for the development of Bangladesh especially in the field of ICT.

He thanked the ROK government for the inclusion of Bangladesh in the list of work-force sending countries under employment permit system.

The president requested the

ROK for more investment in the fields of leather goods, gas exploration, tourism, fertiliser, jute and jute goods products.

He appreciated the Korean government for making contribution at the 14th Saarc summit as an observer.

Iajuddin requested the ROK government through the ambassador to take measures for reducing trade imbalance, which is against Bangladesh, by allowing more duty free and concessional tariff for Bangladeshi products to their market.

He mentioned that Bangladesh produces quality pharmaceuticals; garments, melamine, ceramic and leather goods and the ROK might import these products at very competitive prices.

He told the envoy that Bangladesh is endowed with

huge population and have experienced teachers, doctors and engineers.

Iajuddin said ROK might utilise Bangladesh's skilled and non-skilled manpower for their development.

He assured the Ambassador of all support and cooperation in discharging his duties in Bangladesh and wished him good health and happiness.

The president, through the envoy, conveyed his greetings to ROK President Roh Moo-hyun and invited him to visit Bangladesh.

He also thanked UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, who is from the Republic of Korea.

The ambassador said the relations between ROK and Bangladesh are excellent and would be further strengthened in the future.

He told the president that

Korea has invested a huge amount in Bangladesh especially in the exporting processing zones (EPZ). He hailed the government of Bangladesh for giving its decision regarding the EPZ at Chittagong.

The envoy underlined the need for enhancing the exchange of business bodies between the two countries for exploring all avenues of cooperation in the field of trade and commerce.

He requested the government of Bangladesh to further improving the management of receiving and sending manpower to the ROK. He said government to government cooperation is needed in this regard.

Secretary to the president's office Sirajul Islam, Foreign Secretary in-charge Touhid Hossain and concerned officials from both the countries were



Principal of Teachers' Training College Taslima Begum gives away a certificate to a participant at the concluding session of a training workshop on gender and human rights at Teachers' Training College in the city yesterday. On her right are Shahin Sultana, Mahfuza Parvin and Shegufta Yasmin. Nari Uddug Kendra organised the workshop.

Training on gender & HR held

A three-day training workshop on 'Gender & Human Rights', conducted by Nari Uddug Kendra (NUK), concluded in the city yesterday, says a press release.

Some 25 teachers of Teachers' Training College (TTC), Dhaka took part in the workshop held at the college.

NUK organised the workshop under its Adolescent Rights Support Programme. The training was very vivid and multi-dimensional in terms of subject variety. Almost all aspects of gender issue were discussed.

Gender and Human Rights consultant Shahida Begum facilitated the training. The objective of the training was to sensitise the teachers to gender and human rights issues.

TTC Principal Taslima Begum, NUK Manager (Programmes) Shahin Sultana, Associate Programme Coordinator Shegufta Yasmin, Project Coordinator Mahfuza Parvin and trainer Saidur Rahman were present at the concluding session of the training.

In her speech, Shahin Sultana hoped that the participants would help promote gender equality in society by disseminating knowledge about gender issue to other teachers who, in turn, would teach the students its importance.

Nari Uddug Kendra has been working for the last 15 years to ensure gender equality in society.

Novartis Community Partnership Day observed

Novartis (Bangladesh) associates observed the Novartis Community Partnership Day in the country yesterday, says a press release.

They took part in different activities on the premises of The Dhaka Project, an NGO, to mark the day.

The initiative is aimed at supporting local communities, which also gives meaningful opportunity to the staff of Novartis all over the world to strengthen community ties and express personal commitment to corporate citizenship.

This year the associates of Novartis extended support to rehabilitate street children. The associates performed in a number of activities such as basic health check, painting the school building, conducting workshops on art and craft, skill development training, and donating equipments and educational materials.

Thousands of Novartis associates worldwide every year take part in the company's Community Partnership Day by engaging in volunteer activities to benefit people in their local communities.

This year marks the 11th Community Partnership Day, established to commemorate the creation of Novartis in 1996.