

Road crashes kill 6

STAR REPORT

At least six people were killed and 42 others injured in separate road accidents in Faridpur, Narayanganj, Rajshahi and Jhenidah yesterday.

A correspondent from Faridpur adds: Two people were killed and at least 40 others injured in separate road accidents in Bhanga and Nagorkanda upazilas here yesterday, police said.

An accident took place at Hamirdi under Bhanga upazila on Dhaka-Barisal highway, where truck helper Siddique, 25, succumbed to his injuries on the way to hospital as the truck fell into a roadside ditch when it was trying to give side a passenger bus at about 6:00am.

Meanwhile, two passenger buses, one coming from Bishwa Zaker Manjil, collided head on with another bus from Madaripur at Jodurdi under Nagorkanda upazila on Dhaka-Barisal highway at about

1:30pm, leaving bus helper Hasibul Rahaman, 35, dead on the spot and 40 others injured.

Of the injured, 27 people were rushed to to Faridpur Medical Collage Hospital in critical condition. Two of them have been sent to Dhaka as their condition deteriorated.

A correspondent from Narayanganj reports: Shariful Islam, tax inspector of Narayanganj, was run over by a truck yesterday evening.

Police said a speedy truck ran over Shariful, 40, and his friend Asaduzzaman, 39, when they were going to Dhaka from Narayanganj riding a motor-bike, leaving Sharif dead on the spot and Asad injured.

Local people blocked the Dhaka-Narayanganj link road for about one hour following the accident.

Staff Correspondent from Rajshahi adds: Two people were killed when a speedy truck run over them at Godagari on Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj

highway yesterday.

The victims -- Matiur Rahman, 50, and Kalam Hossain, 40, of Bidirpur areas of Godagari died on the spot.

The accident occurred in the morning when a Rajshahi-bound truck hit a shallow-engine driven goods-hauler from behind and ran over the victims. Driver of the vehicle Minarul was also injured.

Our Correspondent from Jhenidah says: A truck driver was killed in a road accident in front of Jhenidah Cadet College in Jhenidah yesterday.

The dead was identified as Sultan Sikdar, 45, son of Wased Ali of Maniktala village under Daulatpur upazila in Khulna.

Witnesses said a speeding truck knocked Sultan when he was standing before his truck in front of Jhenidah Cadet Collegeon at around 5:30am, leaving him dead on the spot. Police seized the truck and sent the body to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Demands of labourers still unattended Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The demands of the labourers are still unattended although they play a significant role in country's economic, social and cultural sectors, speakers at a discussion said yesterday.

Karmojibi Nari (KN) held the discussion at the National Press Club with the slogan 'Ensure rights and dignity of the workers' on the eve of the historic May Day yesterday.

President of Karmojibi Nari Shirin Akhter said women workers are neglected although the garment industry sustains with their help.

They are still being discriminated regarding their wages while issues on their health and security at the workplaces are still unattended, the speakers said.

Besides, a good working environment and job security should be ensured while the right to have trade unions should be established, they added.

Economist Dr Kazi Kholiquzzaman, Executive Director of KN Rokeya Rafik, Coordinator of Nijera Kori Khushi Kabir and Afroza Haque of Jatiya Nari Jote and Kohinoor Mahmud of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS) also spoke.

The discussion was followed by a cultural programme where labourers held a candlelight vigil to pay homage to those who sacrificed a lot to ensure the dignity and rights of the workers.

TURYA GHOSH MURDER Charges framed against five accused

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against five accused in connection with the killing of a young jewellery trader Turya Ghosh Ronin in October last year.

The accused are Shahadat Hossain Liton alias 'Khora' Liton, 35, Shamsunnahar Sheuli, 29, Al Mamun alias Mamun, 26, Abu Syed, 30, and Farhad Alam Hira, 24.

Of them, Hira is still at large while the rest others are now in jail custody.

The four accused -- 'Khora' Liton, Sheuli, Mamun and Abu Syed -- pleaded not guilty and sought justice before the court after Judge Momin Ullah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court read out the charges to them. Charges were framed against Hira in absentia.

The mutilated body of Turya, son of a jewellery trader in the city, was recovered from beneath the earth at Rampura on December 11, after 43 days of his abduction.

Police arrested Qayyum, Tajul Islam, Hiralal Ghosh, Khawza Azim and Farhad Alam but they were released on bail on different dates.

During the investigation, four of the accused gave confessional statements to the magistrate admitting their guilt.

The judge fixed May 22 for trial of the case and summoned complainant and other witnesses to appear before the court on the scheduled date.



PHOTO: STAR

Members of Karmojibi Nari hold a candlelight vigil at National Press Club in the city yesterday to pay homage to those who sacrificed their lives to ensure the dignity and rights of the workers.

1st batch of 210 workers leave for Malaysia

UNB, Dhaka

The first batch of 210 Bangladeshi workers, out of 10,050, left for Malaysia early yesterday under a special scheme for oil-palm plantation.

A total of 10,050 workers have been

recruited by the Federal Land Development Authority (FELDA), a government-owned institution, in last one month for the palm plantation in Malaysia.

Malaysian High Commissioner Dato Abdul Malek Bin Abdul Aziz, who saw off the first batch at Zia international airport, told the journalists that the remaining workers would be leaving for Kuala Lumpur in phases.

He said 22 special flights of Malaysia will carry the workers in May.

The workers will be paid 800 Ringgit a month (one Ringgit equivalent to Tk 20)

The recruitment under special scheme is in addition to a large number of Bangladeshis working in the newly industrialised country under general recruitment process.

Chairman, Board of Directors of Pubali Bank Ltd Hafiz Ahmed Majumder handed over the cheque to Chief Executive Officer of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Kazi Rafiqul Alam.

The bank initially donated Tk two crore at a ceremony on April 26, 2006.

In recognition of the donation, the first floor of the hospital is named after Pubali Bank.

Touchstone statue of Ganesh worth Tk 3.5cr recovered

A CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Police recovered a touchstone statue of Hindu god Ganesh worth Tk 3.5 crore from Boloi village under Tangibari upazila last night.

The one-foot-long statue weighs over 3 kilograms.

Sources said the statue was found three days ago while digging a pond near the house of one Shaijuddin Dhali on Saturday. Later the statue was kept hidden at a house.

Kashif Sanwar, officer-in-charge of Tangibari Police Station, said they recovered the statue from Golam Kibria Khan's house adjacent to the pond.

Illegal structures of hospital demolished in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) yesterday demolished a large portion of a multi-storied private hospital at city's OR Nizam Road area for defying authorised design and building shops at the parking space.

The nine-and-half-storied Royal Hospital was built four years ago on the sprawling site and soon emerged as one of the leading private hospitals in the city.

Sources alleged that the hospital when built was eight-storied including the ground floor for parking space as per CDA authorised design but the building owner had defied it completely keeping the hospital directors in the dark. Besides, the owner later had raised another one-and-a-half story for his personal use, they said.

The authorisation department of CDA served notice two months ago to remove the unauthorised structures and the shops, which were raised on the 1,600 sq.ft ground floor in place of parking lot, but the hospital didn't oblige it, sources in CDA said.

A team led by magistrate Tahera Ferdous began the four-hour-long drive at 10:00am yesterday and demolished a grocery shop, a pharmacy, and the hospital's reception room from the ground floor.

Dr Shariful Islam, one of the 40 directors of the hospital, blaming the building owner alleged that it was his fault for which they incurred financial loss.

"The owner deliberately hid to us the details of design when we rented the entire building," the director said, adding "the CDA today (Monday) did nothing wrong by demolishing the unauthorised portion of the building."

CDA Authorisation Officer Kazi Fazlul Karim and Chief Engineer Noor Hossain were also present among others during the demolition.



PHOTO: STAR

Workers of Mehadi Apparels stage a demonstration in front of the factory at Begum Rokeya Sarani in the city yesterday demanding payment of arrear salaries and overtime allowances.

Rly Service Fortnight begins today

Bangladesh Railway will observe Railway Service Fortnight from today till May 15, says a press release.

Communication Secretary Dr Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman will inaugurate the event in the morning at Kamlapur Railway Station in the city.

The goal of this event is to motivate the railway workers so that they can shed old traditional ways of thinking and are fully aware of the ways modern services are rendered around the world.