

Road accidents kill 13

STAR REPORT

At least 13 people were killed and 73 others injured in separate road accidents in Comilla, Gaibandha, Noakhali, Faridpur, Khulna and Patuakhali yesterday and on Sunday.

A correspondent from Comilla reports: At least four people, including a minor girl, were killed and five others injured in separate road accidents at Daudkandi and Titas upazila yesterday.

Police said a Chittagong-bound passenger bus collided head-on with a Dhaka-bound taxicab at Shahidnagar area on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at about 2:30pm, leaving one Manik Bapari of the upazila dead on the spot and taxicab driver MdYakub, 40, seriously injured. Yakub succumbed to his injuries on the way to Dhaka.

The injured were rushed to different hospitals in Dhaka and Comilla in critical condition. Later, the bodies were sent to the morgue for autopsy.

In another accident at Shibpur bus stand at Titas upazila, one woman and her grand daughter were killed on the spot when a Dhaka-bound passenger bus knocked them down at about 8.45am.

The dead were identified as Begumoon Nessa, 60, and Arifa, 5.

Our correspondent from Gaibandha adds: Three people were killed and 20 others injured in separate road accidents on Rangpur-Bogra highway in Gobindaganj upazila yesterday.

Police said a Rangpur-bound passenger coach from Rajshahi skidded off the road and fell into a roadside ditch at Kalitola when the driver lost control over the steering, leaving two people dead on the spot and 20 others injured. The injured were rushed to Gobindaganj health complex.

The dead were identified as Badal Chandra Sarker, field supervisor of Sonali Bank, and Nur Alam, helper of the coach.

A Dhaka-bound rice-laden truck from Mohimaganj fell into a roadside ditch when its driver lost control over the steering, leaving one Solaiman Ali, 45, a pedestrian, dead on the spot.

A correspondent from Noakhali reports: Two unidentified people were killed and 25 others injured when a passenger bus fell into a roadside ditch at Kalabagan area at Shonaimuri in Noakhali yesterday.

Rejaul Haq Bhuiyan, officer-in-charge of Shonaimuri Police Station said the accident occurred at around 5:00pm on the Dhaka-Shonaimuri road when the driver of the Chatkhil-

bound bus from Dhaka lost control while trying to give side to a rickshaw and fell into a ditch.

The injured were rushed to Shonaimuri Upazila Health Complex, Noakhali General Hospital and local hospitals.

There might be still some passengers trapped inside the bus.

Our staff correspondent from Khulna adds: One person was killed and three others were injured in a road accident at Arhonghata bypass road in Khulna city yesterday.

The dead was identified as Makbul Joarder, 45, while the injured are Nazrul Islam, Khabir Shaikh and Biplob.

The accident occurred when a Jessore-bound truck collided head-on with Dumuria-bound tempo at about 2:30pm.

The injured were rushed to Khulna Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

The tempo badly damaged in the accident was seized while the driver escaped with his truck.

A Correspondent from Faridpur reports: Two people were killed and 20 others injured in separate road accidents in Bhanga and Boalmari upazila yesterday and on Sunday.

A labourer was killed on the spot and six others were injured when a earth-laden truck fell from a bridge

near Kaderdi Bazar under Boalmari Police Station on Sunday.

The dead was identified as Tota of Kalyanpur. The injured were rushed to Boalmari Hospital.

Another accident occurred yesterday when a Dhaka-bound passenger bus from Barguna hit a rickshaw van at Bhanga Vishwa road crossing under Bhanga upazila on Dhaka-Barisal highway as its driver lost control over the steering.

The bus fell into the roadside ditch, leaving rickshaw van puller Uzzal, 23, dead on the spot and 13 others injured.

The injured were admitted to Bhanga Hospital and Faridpur Medical College Hospital.

Our Correspondent from Patuakhali adds: An old woman was killed in a road accident on Patuakhali-Kuakata road in Patuakhali yesterday.

The dead was identified as Rahima, 50, of Kaliakpur Badghat area under Sadar upazila. She was rushed to Patuakhali General Hospital where on-duty doctor declared her dead at 2:00pm.

A Patuakhali-bound motorcycle from Amtali hit the woman at 11:00am when she was crossing the road at Badghat area, leaving her seriously injured.



This pothole on the Biswa Road near Sayedabad bus terminal in the city has long been hampering traffic movement, but the authorities remain indifferent.



Winners of a quiz competition titled 'Passport to Europe' pose for photograph with the guests at the prize giving ceremony at British Council auditorium in the city yesterday. British Council, Goethe Institut and Alliance Francaise jointly organised the competition.

Quiz competition held at British Council

DU CORRESPONDENT

An award ceremony of a quiz competition was held at the British Council yesterday.

The open-for-all quiz competition included questions on 27 member states of European Union (EU) and clues were found from posters displayed at an exhibition, organised in the city to mark the 50th anniversary of EU earlier in the month.

The quiz competition titled "Passport to Europe" was held as part of the poster exhibition by the British Council (BC), Goethe-Institut Bangladesh and Alliance Francaise, organisers said.

Forty successful winners, most of them students of different universities and colleges picked up from a lucky draw held on May 10 at the BC, were awarded with gift packs. In addition, the top ten winners have been offered free language courses and library memberships at the BC and Goethe Institut.

First Counsellor of European Commission Anthony Goodwin, Deputy High Commissioner of British High Commission Stephen Bridges, BC Dhaka Director June Rollinson and others were present at the ceremony.

Sri Lanka says 8 rebels killed in fresh violence

AFP, Colombo

Eight Tamil Tiger rebels have been killed in fresh clashes in Sri Lanka's embattled northern and eastern regions, the defence ministry said yesterday.

Security forces killed seven rebels in the northern district of Vavuniya late Sunday in a gunbattle along their defence lines, the ministry said.

Pakistan can replicate Bangladesh microcredit

Says Shaukat Aziz

Bss, Islamabad

Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has said his country could follow the microcredit system of Bangladesh and derive benefits from it.

"Bangladesh is a centre of excellence in microcredit," he told a media delegation from Dhaka when it paid a courtesy call on him at his official residence here on Sunday night.

The prime minister praised the development of Bangladesh in various fields saying that it has achieved huge success in microcredit, women's empowerment and population control.

He said the goodwill of Pakistan for Bangladesh is very high and both the countries are striving hard to improve the quality of lives of the

two peoples.

Describing Bangladesh as a 'centre of excellence in microcredit,' he referred to the visit of Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus to Pakistan.

Terming Bangladesh population human capital, Shaukat said it could be utilised for the development of the country.

During the meeting that lasted nearly an hour, he dwelt on various issues of bilateral interest, including the Saarc.

The prime minister said many countries have evinced interest in the forum which was mooted in Dhaka and culminated in the just concluded summit in New Delhi.

He hoped that as a multi-lateral organisation, Saarc should forge ahead in the coming days.

Taj Mahal losing its sheen due to pollution

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Rajya Sabha MP Sitaram Yechury, recommended that caution should be taken to retain the original glory of the Taj, which is turning yellow day by day.

"The committee expresses its concern that the Taj Mahal, the world famous monument at Agra is becoming yellowish due to deposition of Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM)," the report said.

It recommended that the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) while undertaking any conservation activity at the Taj Mahal in Agra take abundant caution to retain the original glory of the shimmering white marble used in the structure.

The Air Pollution Monitoring Laboratory at Agra has found that the level of air pollutants -- Sulphur-di-oxide and Nitrus Oxide gases -- are generally

within permissible limits, whereas the Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) is at a very high level except during the rainy season, it said.

The laboratory is continuously monitoring the ambient air quality in and around the Taj Mahal to study the possible impact of air pollutant on the monument and to formulate conservation measures accordingly.

"The deposition of SPM on the shimmering white marble of the Taj Mahal imparts yellow tinge to the marble surface," the report said.

"To restore the pristine glory of the Taj Mahal, as a conservation measure, the clay pack treatment which is non-corrosive and non-abrasive is carried out for the removal of the deposits," the committee said.

Newborn stolen from CMCH

Bss, Chittagong

A newborn was stolen from Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) yesterday, a hospital source said.

Shamsul Islam and his wife Hasina Akhter, parents of the baby, lodged a complaint with the hospital authorities and Panchlaish police in this connection.

The couple is inhabitants of Shakpura village under Boalkhali upazila of the district.

Police arrested Zulekha Begum, a female attendant of a patient of a nearby bed, on charge of stealing the child.

Shamsul said his wife Hasina was admitted to CMCH yesterday morning and gave birth to the baby boy at night following a cesarean operation.

Hasina couldn't find her baby on her return from the toilet after going there keeping her child alone on the bed.

The couple alleged Zulekha might have stolen their baby.

High-level govt team visits 6 Khulna shrimp processing factories

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

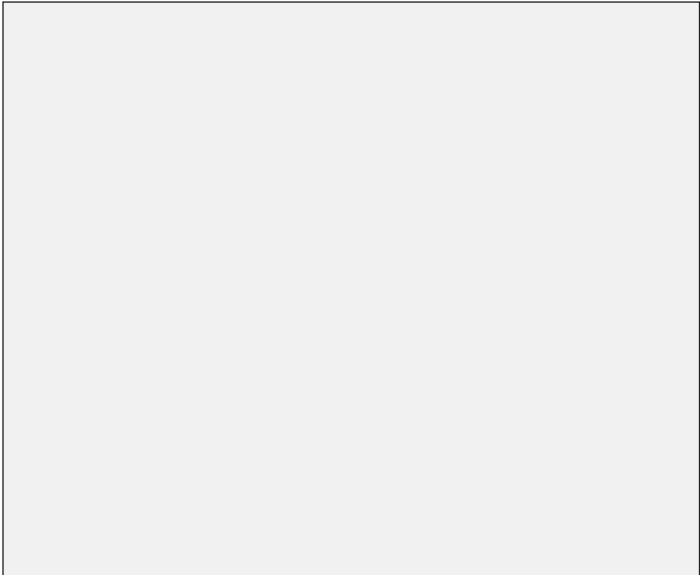
A three-member high level team of the government visited six frozen shrimp processing factories in Khulna recently.

These export-oriented factories were allegedly exporting processed frozen shrimps which were unhygienic and containing nitrofurans, sources said.

The six shrimp processing factories visited by the team are National Sea Foods, Jahanabad Sea Foods, Locpur Fish Processing Factory, Rupsha Fish & Allied Industries Ltd, Bagerhat Sea Food and Southern Sea Foods Ltd, said a source of Bangladesh Frozen Food Exporters' Association (BFEEA).

The team will submit a report to the government shortly, the sources added.

Led by Senior Scientific Officer of the Directorate of Fisheries Mokammel Huq, the team also included Inspector Rafiqul Islam and Assistant Director Anup Kumar Saha.



Sector commanders of the liberation war and the members of the Rotary Club of Dhaka pose for photograph at the 'Freedom Plaque' award ceremony in the city recently.

War heroes awarded 'Freedom Plaque'

Rotary Club of Dhaka has awarded 'Freedom Plaque' to the sector commanders of the liberation war at a programme recently in recognition of their contribution to independence of the country, says a press release.

Sector commanders Lt Gen (ret'd) Mir Shawkat Ali, Maj Gen (ret'd) CR Dutta, Maj Gen (ret'd) KM Shafullah, Col (ret'd) Abu Osman Choudhury, Lt Col (ret'd) Noor Uz-Zaman, and Maj (ret'd) Rafiqul Islam attended the programme and spoke of their experiences in the liberation war.

Rotary District Governor Aminuzzaman Bhuiyan gave away the 'Freedom Plaque' to them at the programme presided over by club President Khandker Badrul Hasan.