

Road accidents kill six

STAR REPORT

At least six people were killed in separate road accidents in Tangail, Rangpur, Patuakhali and Sirajganj yesterday and on Monday night.

Our correspondent from Tangail reports: A young man and his sister were killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Tangail road at Karatia area under Sadar upazila in the district on Monday night.

The dead were identified as Mohammad Hassan Ali, 22, son of Shuck Chand Miah of Gabtoly village at Deldur upazila in the district and his younger sister Kohinor Akter, 12.

Police said the accident took place when a North Bengal-bound passenger bus from Dhaka crushed Hassan and Kohinor when they were returning home from Karatia in a bicycle at Karatia area, leaving Hassan dead on the spot and Kohinor seriously injured.

Local people immediately rushed critically injured Kohinor to Tangail General Hospital. She succumbed to her injuries on the way to Dhaka Medical College

Hospital (DMCH).

Police sent the bodies to Tangail General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Tangail Police Station in this regard.

Our correspondent from Rangpur adds: Two people were killed in a road accident on Rangpur-Kurigram road at Mirbag under Kounia upazila yesterday.

The dead were identified as Rafiqul Islam Bhutto, 19, and Jalil. Police and witnesses said a Dhaka-bound couch from Kurigram hit Bhutto and Jalil while they were going to the same direction in a bicycle, leaving Bhutto dead on the spot and Jalil injured seriously.

Jalil succumbed to his injuries on the way to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

A case was filed with Kounia Police Station in this connection.

Our correspondent from Patuakhali adds: An 8-year child was killed in a road accident on Patuakhali-Galachipa road in Patuakhali yesterday.

The dead was identified as Rezaul son of Main Uddin of Kalai Keshor village area under Galachipa upazila. The boy was rushed to Patuakhali General Hospital where on-duty doctor declared him dead at 2:00pm.

The accident occurred at about 9:00am when a Patuakhali-bound motorcycle from Galachipa hit the boy when he was crossing the road at Badura village area on the road.

Our correspondent from Sirajganj says: A man was crushed under the wheels of a bus at Sholomile area near Highway villa in Raiganj upazila of Sirajganj yesterday.

The victim has been identified as Jadu Shaikh, 45, of Raiganj.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred at around 11:00am when a Dhaka-bound bus from Bogra crushed him while he was crossing the road.

Police sent the body to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Raiganj Police Station in this connection.

Reinstate Valerie Taylor as CRP coordinator

Shishu Bikash Network urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shishu Bikash Network, a team of physicians, psychologists, therapists, social workers and special educators, yesterday called on the government to bring back Valerie A Taylor, founder of the Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP), to her position as co-ordinator of the centre.

The CRP board of trustees recently removed Taylor from her position as the coordinator.

In a joint statement, the Shishu Bikash Network also urged the government to take necessary steps to save the CRP from ruin.

It said the CRP is a national voluntary organisation committed to improving the quality of life of disabled people and working to ensure their equal rights and integration into society.

Members of the network also said Valerie Taylor has given meaningful lives back to hundreds of persons with spinal injuries and disabilities, with special emphasis on the socio-economic empowerment and rehabilitation of women within their communities.

Shishu Bikash Network Chairperson Dr Naila Zaman Khan, Convenor Shamim Ferdous and Bangladesh Protibondh Foundation General Secretary Prof Sultana S Zaman issued the statement.

UN Peacekeepers Day observed

BSS, Dhaka

The fifth International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers was observed in the city yesterday with due solemnity as elsewhere across the world.

For the first time, Bangladesh observed the day though other countries of the world have been observing the day since 2002.

President Iajuddin Ahmed, Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, Foreign Adviser Iftekhar A Chowdhury, UN Under Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations, chiefs of three services, inspector general of police and UN resident coordinator in Bangladesh gave separate messages on the occasion.

Marking the day, Bangladesh Armed Forces chalked out various programmes. The day began with peacekeepers run which was inaugurated by Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman at 6:30am.

The chief adviser laid foundation of "Peace Monument" at the south-west corner of the National Parade Square at 3:00am.

A reception to nearest keens to fallen peacekeepers and retired injured peacekeepers was arranged at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. CA attended the ceremony as the chief guest.

Advisers to the caretaker government, Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed, Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam, Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman, Inspector General of Police Nur Mohammad, media personalities, and high civil and military officials were also present on the occasion. Besides, UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh Renata Dessallien attended the ceremony.

Marking the day, the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies of Dhaka University (DU) and the UN Information Centre (UNIC) jointly organised a seminar at the Business Studies auditorium in the city.

Speakers at the seminar dwelt at length on the glorious role played by the peacekeepers of Bangladesh in various conflict-ridden countries of the world and expressed sympathy to the members of the families of the deceased.

Powerful bomb recovered at Benapole

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Police recovered a powerful bomb from a pond adjacent to a primary school at Gazipur village under Benapole Port Police Station yesterday.

None could be arrested in this respect.

Sources said two students of the primary school Raihan, 7, and Rustam, 6, found outside their school two black tape wrapped cans which were left by some unidentified people.

Raihan and Rustam took the cans behind the school and tried to unwrap them when a landlady of a house next to the school started screaming "bomb", "bomb" after she saw them unwrapping the cans.

The two boys threw the cans out of fear to the pond.

Being informed, Benapole police recovered the bomb from the pond after a two-hour search.

Different intelligence agencies are investigating the type of the bomb and enquiring whether there was any terrorist intention behind the leaving of the bomb outside the school.

A case was filed in this connection.



PHOTO: STAR

Chittagong Samity, Dhaka accorded a reception to Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus at Osmani Memorial Hall in the city yesterday. The photo shows Prof Yunus receiving a crest from Abu Alam Chowdhury at the reception ceremony.

Release of AL leader Jalil demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political parties yesterday protested arrest of Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil by the joint forces and demanded his immediate release.

They also urged the government to make public the allegation on which Jalil was arrested.

In a statement, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasnau Haque Inu and General Secretary Syed Jafar Sajjad said before arresting a national leader like Jalil the authorities should have filed a case and investigated specific allegation against him if there is any.

The Workers Party has also expressed concern over the arrest of the AL leader.

In a statement, it said the reason of his arrest has not been made public yet, which makes people think that Jalil was arrested due to his repeated reminders on preparing voter list and quick electoral reforms and lifting ban on indoor politics.

It also said the people have welcomed government's anti-corruption drive but the attempt to make corruption and politics

synonymous will not only hamper the anti-corruption drive but also create confusion and mistrust about the government's intention.

They demanded immediate release of Jalil to bring a healthy political environment in the country.

Bangladesh Awami Juba League President Advocate Jahangir Kabir Nanak and General Secretary Mirza Azam in a statement said the democratic process will be hampered if the government takes the 'political repression policy'.

The joint forces picked up Abdul Jalil from his Mercantile Bank office at Motijheel in the city at around 3:45pm on Monday.

ETV on list of approved channels

UNB, Dhaka

Ekushey Television (ETV) has been put on the list of approved satellite TV channels, said an information ministry handout yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Police arrest Abdul Halim alias Munna, a listed criminal, from Mirzapur in Tangail yesterday.

<p>View exchange</p> <p>Centre of Women Journalists, Bangladesh will hold a view exchange meeting on 'Risk in the profession of journalism: Bangladesh context'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.</p> <p>Meet the author</p> <p>Words 'n Pages organises a 'Meet The Author' programme where the guest is Tahmina Anam, author of 'A Golden Age', published by John Murray, London. Venue: Words 'n Pages, Gulshan. Time: 6:00pm.</p> <p>Seminar</p> <p>HIV/AIDS and STD Alliance Bangladesh (HASAB) organises seminar on the adaptation and piloting of 'Join in Circuit on AIDS, Love and Sexuality'. Venue: Spectra Convention Centre. Time: 10:30am.</p> <p>Workshop</p> <p>American International University, Bangladesh organises a workshop on 'Development of measurements for higher education quality assurance in Bangladesh'. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 9:00am.</p> <p>Seminar</p> <p>Research Initiatives, Bangladesh (RIB) organises a seminar on 'Poverty and untouchability'. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 10:00am.</p> <p>Roundtable</p> <p>Bangladesh Union Parishad Oikya Jote will hold a roundtable on 'Rural development and rural budget'. Venue:</p>	<p>National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.</p> <p>Workshop</p> <p>Democracywatch organises a workshop on 'Gender policy'. Venue: Democracywatch auditorium. Time: 9:00am.</p> <p>Publication ceremony</p> <p>The publication ceremony of North South University's first major research book titled 'Kazi Nazrul Islam: Third chapter' by Prof Abdul Mannan Syed, scholar-in-residence, will be held. Venue: NSU campus. Time: 4:00pm.</p> <p>View exchange</p> <p>Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will exchange views with the students of Dhaka University with a view to raising awareness about violence against women. Venue: Social Welfare and Research Institute auditorium, Dhaka University. Time: 12:00noon.</p> <p>Workshop</p> <p>Dhaka Ahsanul Mission (DAM) and Concern Universal organise a workshop on 'Disaster Risk Reduction and Lessons Learned'. Venue: DAM auditorium. Time: 9:30am.</p> <p>Debate</p> <p>Debate for Democracy will hold an awareness-raising debate on disaster management. Venue: Public Library auditorium. Time: 10:30am.</p> <p>AGM</p> <p>The annual general meeting of Dhaka University Film Society will be held. Venue: TSC cafeteria. Time: 4:00pm.</p>
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PHOTO: STAR

BDRCS Chairman Prof Dr Abdur Rob, middle, speaks at Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Partners meeting at Washington Hotel at Gulshan in the city yesterday.

Red Cross partnership meet begins in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Partners meeting began in the city yesterday.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss issues relating to BDRCS partnership with Red Cross and Red Crescent partners for its various humanitarian works and future course of actions to be taken to provide better and coordinated support to the most vulnerable.

A total of 45 participants including representatives from American Red Cross, British Red Cross, German Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, International Federation's Geneva Secretariat and South Asia Regional Delegation and International Committee of Red Cross and BDRCS are taking part in the meeting.

Organised by Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), the meeting was inaugurated by its Chairman Prof Dr Abdur Rob at Washington Hotel in Gulshan.

He said the meeting will help BDRCS to coordinate with its partners for necessary resources required for the delivery of quality services to the most vulnerable people in Bangladesh.

BDRCS Secretary General M Shaiful Alam said BDRCS provides vital services to the most vulnerable in the field of disaster management including risk reduction, relief and response, primary health care, public health in emergencies, safe blood, HIV & Aids, water and sanitation and promotion of humanitarian values for encouraging respect for the dignity of human life and tolerance.

Head of the Federation's Bangladesh Delegation Selvaratnam Sinnadurai, Head of International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) New Delhi Region Vincent Nicod and BDRCS Treasurer Advocate SM Munir Lablu also addressed in the inaugural session.

UPDF leader arrested in Khagrachhari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Milton Chakma, coordinator of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF), Naniarchar wing, was arrested from Chengpur area of Khagrachhari district yesterday.

The joint forces arrested Milton, who was the former president of Pahari Chhatra Parishad, when he was taking his ailing wife to Chittagong city.

His whereabouts could not be confirmed as of writing this report last night.

2 held for torturing domestic helps

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police rescued two domestic helps and arrested two people for allegedly torturing them at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday.

The domestic helps were identified as Ruma Begum, 30, and Parveen Akhter, 14. They were working at the flats of two sisters residing next to each other at Eastern Housing of Free School Street in Hatirpul area.

Police sources said they raided the two flats after they were tipped off about the torturing incident and rescued Ranu and Parveen and arrested two in this connection.

The arrestees were identified as Masuda Begum and Ishtiaq Ahmed, nephew of Masuda Begum.

The domestic helps were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment.

Parveen Akhter told the Daily Star that Masuda suspected that Ranu Begum, domestic help at her house, stole Tk 30000 when the amount went missing from her Steel Almirah on Saturday.

On the other hand, Majeda Begum, sister of Masuda Begum, suspected that her domestic help Parveen has stolen the money as

the two domestic workers usually visited each other a lot.

The two sisters started severely beating their domestic helps to recover the money and locked them up in a room since last Saturday.

Doctors at DMCH found several injury marks on their bodies.

Body recovered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a youth from a ditch at Shyampur in the city in the early hours of yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Mohsin, 25.

Police sources said they recovered the body with several marks of stab injury from a ditch at Shahjalalbagh area.

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

Local sources said they saw Mohsin in the area with some local youths in the past but have no clue about the identity of the perpetrators.

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	37.0	28.5	73	54
Chittagong	33.0	28.2	79	79
Rajshahi	38.5	27.7	60	81
Khulna	38.0	28.5	81	51
Barisal	36.0	27.5	77	70
Sylhet	32.2	23.7	97	73
Cox's Bazar	34.3	28.5	--	74



No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Mild heat wave that is sweeping over Dhaka and Khulna divisions and the regions of Rajshahi, Ishwardi, Bogra, Barisal and Patuakhali may continue, Met Office said.

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

Highest temperature 39.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Ishwardi and Bogra and lowest 23.5 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:41pm today and rises at 5:11am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Concern over control of culture by fanatic groups in South Asia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

South Asian Human Rights (SAHR) has expressed its concern over the cultural control exercised by fanatic groups in some countries of the region.

SAHR has also called upon the governments of the countries concerned to take necessary steps to ensure respect for diversity of expression and democratic freedoms.

A press release of SAHR said Pakistan's Ministry of Culture banned a play named 'Burqavaganza' by Ajoka Theater after its staging in Lahore, although the play delighted the audience.

The play was banned apparently conceding to demands from five members of the National Assembly belonging to the religious alliance Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA).

MMA members also demanded action against Shahid Nadeem, the writer/director and Madeeha Gauhar, the producer and artistic director under the Blasphemy Law (which carries a mandatory death sentence).

SAHR said India is also seeing attacks against one of its greatest artists MF Hussain for his portrayal of Bharatmata (Mother India), and recent vandalism at the Fine Arts College in Baroda because of the art depictions by one of its students.

The trend of certain factions and groups to take the law into their own hands is indicative of growing fanaticism, the press release added.

SAHR demanded not only freedom of expression but also freedom of culture as well as culture of freedom.



Abed awarded honorary doctorate by Yale University

Yale University has conferred an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree on Fazle Hasan Abed, founder and chairperson of Brac, for his pioneering work in alleviating poverty and human suffering, says a press release.

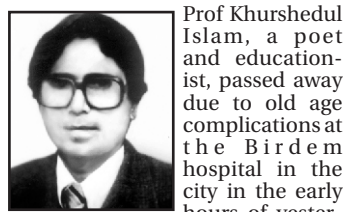
Richard C Levin, president of the university, conferred the degree on Abed at the 306th Commencement Ceremony of the university in the United States on Monday.

"With single-minded determination, you have given the poor the means to achieve economic independence, always demonstrating respect for the dignity of every citizen. Your organisation is now offering hope for developing nations throughout the world," reads his citation.

"Previous awardees include Nobel laureates Amartya Sen, Wangari Maathai and Bishop Desmond Tutu. Recipients over the years have been models of excellence and service to our students, to our graduates, to our community and to the world," said Levin. Yale University, established in 1701, is one of the eight Ivy League universities in the United States.

In addition to numerous national and international awards, Abed was also awarded Doctor of Laws by Queen's University in Canada and Doctor in Education by the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom in recognition of his work with Brac.

Obituary



Prof Khurshedul Islam, a poet and educationist, passed away due to old age complications at the Birdem hospital in the city in the early hours of yesterday at the age of 70, says a press release.

After a namaz-e-janaza at the Loknath Dighi Moydan in Brahmanbaria after Zohr prayers, he was buried at the local graveyard.

He left behind three sons, including Hasnain Khurshed Shuchi, executive director of ntv, and one daughter.

Prof Khurshed published seven books during his lifetime.

He retired as the principal of Shariatpur Naria College in 1991.