

Road crashes kill 5

STAR REPORT

At least five people, including two ansar personnel, were killed and 47 others injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka, Rangpur, Tangail and Sirajganj yesterday and on Friday.

Our staff correspondent adds: A garment worker was killed as an army vehicle ran over him at Pallabi in the city on Friday night, witnesses said.

The dead was identified as S Alam, 30, a worker of a sweater factory at Pallabi.

Police said a speeding army vehicle knocked down Alam when he was crossing the road near the Mirpur-12 bus stand at around 8:15pm.

Local people rushed injured Alam to the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopedic Rehabilitation (NITOR) at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar where he succumbed to his injuries at around 11:05pm.

Alam's aunt Firoza Begum filed a case with Pallabi Police Station accusing the driver of the vehicle without mentioning any name.

Our correspondent from Rangpur reports: Two ansar personnel were killed and two others injured critically in a road accident on Rangpur-Bogra highway at

Kashimpur under Mithapukur upazila yesterday morning.

Police said a truck hit a Lalmonirhat-bound microbus carrying the dead body of ansar platoon commander Shamser Ali for his ancestral house from Dhaka at about 4:00am.

The microbus fell into a roadside ditch. Ansar personnel Delwar Hossain, 40 and Habib, 30, succumbed to their injuries on the spot while ansar personnel Emdadul and Meher Ali were rushed to Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) in critical condition.

Delwar is a resident of Bhangga upazila of Gopalganj district and Habib is the resident of Kamalkatchna of Rangpur.

They were working at Ansar headquarters in Dhaka and going to hand over the body of Shamser Ali to his relatives in Lalmonirhat.

A case was lodged with Mithapukur police station in this connection.

Our correspondent from Tangail reports: A truck driver was killed and five others were injured in a road accident in the district yesterday.

Witnesses said the accident took place at around 4:00pm when a Tangail-bound passenger bus from Sagardighi collided head on with a jackfruit-laden speedy truck coming

from the opposite direction at Bangra under Basail upazila, leaving six people of both the vehicles including the truck driver seriously injured.

They were rushed to Tangail General Hospital where the truck driver succumbed to his injuries.

On information, police received the body and sent it to morgue for autopsy.

The identity of the truck driver could not be known immediately.

Our correspondent from Sirajganj adds: An old man was killed and 40 others were injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Bogra highway near Soyadabad approach road in the district early yesterday.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred at midnight when a Dhaka-bound bus collided head on with another bus coming from opposite direction, injuring at least 41 passengers of both the vehicles.

Of the injured, an unidentified old man, aged around 65, died on the way to hospital, while the rest were taken to Sadar hospital and different clinics in the town.

HIV-positive sex worker dies in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

An HIV-positive sex worker died at Banishanta in Dakop upazila on Friday afternoon.

Marufa Begum, 30, was under treatment at the Upazila Health Complex when she died.

Marufa, who was a sex worker in Mumbai, India, died of HIV-related illness, said Civil Surgeon of Khulna DrAKMAbdus Samad Mian.

Although she returned to her home village at Banishanta in October 2005, she was diagnosed as having the deadly disease in March last year when her blood tests carried out in Khulna General Hospital and Bangabandhu Medical College Hospital showed that she was infected with HIV.

Since then Marufa had been under treatment with the financial support from the World Vision, a non-government organisation.

Estranged from her husband, a day-labourer, while in Mumbai, Marufa became a sex worker to earn a living.

She left behind a 10-year-old daughter.

India HIV cases likely to fall

Says UNAIDS

AFP, New Delhi

India will report new estimates of HIV/AIDS infections next month that could show a sharp drop from earlier surveys that left the country with most cases worldwide, a UNAIDS official said yesterday.

Previous estimates from India's National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) have put the number of HIV cases at 5.2 million, while the United Nations AIDS arm in 2006 estimated 5.7 million cases -- the highest in the world.

NACO, UNAIDS and other organisations are now compiling data collected last year in what they termed the most detailed effort to count those infected with HIV, the virus that leads to fatal AIDS, in the nation of 1.1 billion.

"Most probably the figures will be lower than we thought," Dennis Broun, country director for UNAIDS India told AFP Saturday, without specifying a number.

"When UNAIDS gave the estimate of 5.7 million in India we said it could as low as 3.4 million and as high as nine. That is a very broad range. It might be that it could be even lower."

A report in India's Hindustan Times daily yesterday said the new estimate could be around 3.5 million but Indian officials working on the new numbers said it was too early to tell what the final tally would be.

The officials said the figures would be the most accurate yet, with vastly more data available from a larger number of testing sites used as markers for the presence of the disease in low and high-risk groups.

More than 1,100 such sites were used compared to 700 in previous years, said NACO's epidemiologist Ajay Kumar Kherra.

"With HIV it is very difficult to find out the numbers -- you have to make a guess. This year it will be a better guess," Kherra told AFP.

The numbers will also include the findings of a wide-ranging population health survey that tested 100,000 adults randomly between December 2005 and August 2006.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Selim Ahmed, founder president of Prantik Sangeet Bidyalya, Shobdaboli group Theatre and Barisal Sangskritik Sangathan Samannaya Parishad, passed away due to old age complications at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital on Friday night at the age of 70.

He was buried at Barisal Muslim Gorosthan after namaz-e-janaza on the Aswani Kumar Hall premises. Different socio-cultural organisations and personalities, including Surlahori, Prantik, Shobdaboli, Kheyalai, Udichi, Barisal Natok, Brojomohon Theater, Projonmo, Shahid Altaf Mahmud Sangeet Bidyalya, Khelaghor and Sangskritik Sangathan Samannaya Parishad, condoled the death of Selim Ahmed.

Farida Shahid



Farida Shahid, wife of Md Sanaulah Shahid, chairman Electra group, passed away due to prolonged illness at a city hospital on Friday, says a

press release.

She was buried at the Azimpur graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at Gulshan Azad Jame Mosque the same day.

She left behind her one son and one daughter to mourn her death.



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina talks to reporters in front of her Shudha Sadan residence in the city yesterday.

Call for adequate budget allocation for street children

BSS, Dhaka

Incidin Bangladesh, a non-governmental organisation (NGO), yesterday urged the government to ensure adequate allocation in the national budget to establish safe night-shelter for street children.

Addressing a news conference at the Dhaka Reporters Unity, Ratan Sarkar, executive director of Incidin Bangladesh, said poverty, natural disasters, river erosion, flood, famine and rising water level affect most of the children of poor and marginalised

families.

A large number of children are driven to the capital city and other towns for their survival as they face immense suffering due to broken family and natural calamities and take shelters in the streets in different cities and towns, including Dhaka and Chittagong.

"It is impossible to figure out accurate number but it is assumed that about two million children are living in the streets", Ratan Sarkar said, quoting the report of government's Arise Project 2002 and the United Nations.

Although there are different government and non-government initiatives and programmes for the welfare of street children, but these are not enough, he said.

Ratan said due to lack of resources and skills, the area of activity to ensure safe night for the street children could not be achieved yet up to the required level.

Underlining the importance of government's intervention, he said the government must play a vital role in ensuring safe night for street children.

Emphasising the need for initiatives in resolving painful scenario of street children for their food, shelter, medicare and torture by the traffickers and sex abusers,

he demanded the government's active role to make positive changes in this regard.

He hoped that the government would create instances to ensure safe shelter for street children by making adequate allocation in the budget under the constitutional provision for ensuring rights of life and safety for all citizens.

Adequate budgetary allocation could be the introduction of the initiative of ensuring protection for the children and their safe night shelter, he added.

Referring to the budget proposal for 2007-2008 for the construction of 15,000 flats for poor and migrated slum-dwellers on government khas lands, he demanded inclusion of the issue of establishing shelter home for the street children in the proposed plan.

"Floating children and the children from detached families are part of the homeless people," he said.

Nasimul Ahsan Dipu, advocacy chief, Rakibul Hasan, project manager, Mushfiquur Rahman, project coordinator of Incidin Bangladesh, Hritu Das and Imran Ali were present in the news conference.



Noor Mohammad speaks at a discussion on the Sepoy Rebellion of 1857 at the Teacher-Student Centre on Dhaka University campus yesterday. The National Committee for the Observance of 150 Years of Great Rebellion of 1857 organised the event.

Swedish 18th century replica ship returns from China

AFP, Stockholm

A replica of the Swedish East India Company's 18th century merchant vessel, the Gothenborg, returned home to Sweden on Saturday amid festive celebrations after a two-year voyage to China.

Thousands of leisure boats crowded the outskirts of the harbour in the southwestern city of Gothenburg as tens of thousands of onlookers massed on the docks to watch the Gothenburg sail in to port after retracing the original ship's route to and from Shanghai, images broadcast live on television showed.

The ship fired a 21-gun royal salute under a blazing sun as it entered the port.

Chinese President Hu Jintao, who was in Sweden for a state visit, boarded the vessel along with Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia after it docked, to the strains of traditional Chinese folk music.

The original ship, the East Indiaman Goetheborg, was returning from its third two-year voyage to China in 1745 with a full cargo when it ran into a rock at the entrance to the Gothenburg port.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Dhaka, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions with moderately heavy falls at places in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Southwest monsoon may sweep over whole of the country by this morning, Met Office said.

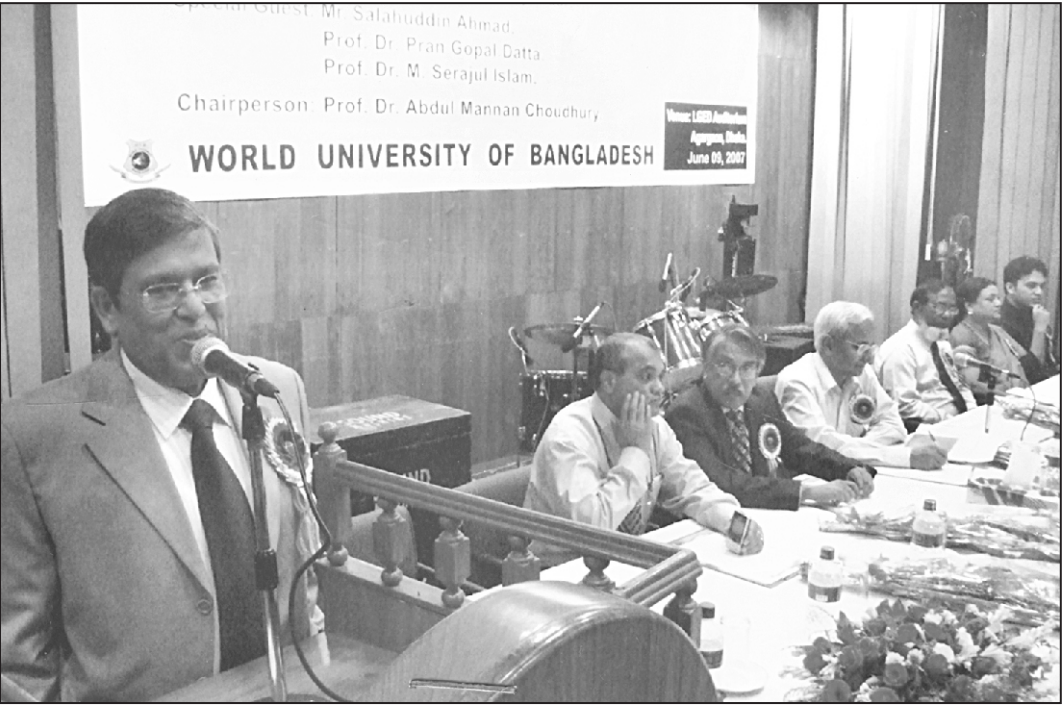
It also predicted that day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Highest temperature 33.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 21.1 degree Celsius at Majidee Court.

The sun sets in the capital at 6.46pm today and rises at 5:10am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.5	25.3	81	81
Chittagong	28.2	24.0	91	80
Rajshahi	30.0	25.1	92	87
Khulna	32.0	26.5	90	78
Barisal	31.0	24.6	90	90
Sylhet	28.7	23.9	90	92
Cox's Bazar	29.5	24.2	98	83



Vice Chancellor of World University Dr Abdul Mannan Chowdhury speaks at the orientation programme of summer semester at LGED auditorium in the city yesterday. Country Director of The Hunger Project Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar attended the programme as the chief guest. Additional Attorney General Salahuddin Ahmed, noted physician Dr Pran Gopal Dutta and Dean of the Faculty of Business Studies Prof M Sirajul Islam were present as the special guests on the occasion.

Fake Rab man arrested in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a fake Rab member from city's Steel Mill Bazar near the Rab 7 Chittagong headquarters on Friday afternoon.

The arrestee was identified as Mohammad Tareq, 34, of village Paikandi under Baliakandi upazila in Rajbari district.

On information, a squad of the Rab 7 raided the Steel Mill Bazar under Patenga Police Station at around 2:00pm and arrested Tareq.

After interrogation, Tareq confessed that he was involved in collecting extortion identifying himself as a Rab member at different areas of the portcity.

One Omar Faruk of city's Colonel Hat lodged a written complaint against Tareq on June 1 mentioning that Tareq demanded extortion from him identifying himself as a Rab member.

Besides, Mohammad Ali filed complaint against Mohammad Selim at the Rab headquarters. Tareq demanded a handsome amount from the both parties to settle the dispute among them as a Rab member.

Dialogue

The Daily Star and the Refugee and Migratory Movement Research Unit (RMMRU) organise a policy dialogue on 'Safe migration and remittance'. Venue: Brac Centre Inn. Time: 9:15am.

Seminar

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon will hold a seminar on use of environment-friendly fuel. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11:00am.

View exchange

Shamunnay will hold a view exchange on the current budget with noted economist Dr Atiur Rahman in the chair. Venue: Shamunnay conference room. Time: 10:00am.

FBCCI seminar

Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) will hold a seminar on 'Development of SME sector for industrialisation'. Venue: FBCCI

conference room. Time: 11:00am.

Seminar

Campaign for Good Governance will hold a seminar on 'Expectations and achievement of PRSP: Grassroots people' budget analysis'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:30am.

Seminar on land reform

A seminar on 'Reform in agriculture, land and water bodies to achieve millennium development' will be held to mark the Land Rights Day. Venue: LGED. Time: 10:30am.

Seminar on audit

A seminar on 'Entity wide audit inauguration ceremony' will be held. Venue: Audit Bhaban. Time: 10:00am.

Discussion

Badhan Hijra Sangha will hold a discussion on 'HIV and Human Rights'. Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity. Time: