

6 killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

At least six people, including a woman, were killed in separate road accidents across the country yesterday.

Our correspondent from Pabna says: Two people including a woman were killed and 14 others injured in two separate road accidents in the district.

The dead were identified as Sharmin, 35, of Boalia village under Ullapara upazila in Sirajganj and Tomizuddin, 30, of Shingharia village under Atghoria upazila in Pabna districts.

Police said a Sirajganj-bound passenger bus rammed Sharmin at Shalikha under Bera upazila at around 7:00am when the driver lost control over the steering before falling into the roadside ditch.

Sharmin died on the spot. At least eight passengers were injured, police said.

The injured were taken to Bera Hospital.

Meanwhile a passenger-loaded tempo collided head on with a truck at Jalapur on Dhaka-Pabna highway at around 7:00am.

Tempo driver Tomizuddin died on the spot while six passengers were injured.

They were taken to Pabna General Hospital for treatment.

Our correspondent from Mymensingh adds: At least two people were killed and four others injured in a fatal road accident on Dhaka-Mymensingh high at Trishal upazila in the district yesterday.

The dead were identified as Harun, 30, driver of the taxicab, and Akkas Ali Chowdhury, 42, a passenger of the taxicab.

Police and eyewitnesses said the accident occurred when the taxicab collided head on with a bus coming from the opposite direction at about 2:30pm.

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

Later three of them were shifted to Dhaka as their condition deteriorated, hospital sources said.

All the injured were coming to Mymensingh from Dhaka and they are the residents of Bank Colony at Shabbagh, sources added.

Our correspondent from Sirajganj reports: A man was

crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus in the district yesterday.

He was identified as Saiful Islam, 35, of Nimgachhi village under Raiganj upazila.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred when a Tarash-bound bus from Sirajganj town hit Saiful from behind leaving him dead on the spot.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy.

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

UNB from Magura says: A motorcyclist was killed in a road accident on Magura-Jhenidah Road at Alamkhali under Sadar upazila yesterday.

He was identified as Didar Biswas, 52, of Kaliganj village.

Police quoting local people said he died on the spot when a speeding bus rammed his motorbike at noon.

Police seized the bus and arrested its driver.

A case was filed in this connection.

Teen defies early marriage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A 16-year-old girl, whose parents wanted to marry off her against her will, has managed to foil their plan with the help of the local ward commissioner and the police in the port city.

Sources said the parents of Bibi Fatema Reshmi arranged her marriage at Eidgah Munshipara in Halishahar with Md Azad, 26, of Beparipara on Thursday.

Failing to dissuade her parents, Reshmi, a student of class 10 at Yakub Ali Kindergarten School, contacted woman ward commissioner Rehana Kabir Ranu over phone and sought her intervention in stopping the marriage.

"Reshmi told me that she doesn't want to get married right now since she wants to pursue her study further," Ranu told The Daily Star.

Ranu along with local ward commissioner Nurul Kabir and policemen went to the bride's residence at Munshipara at around 2:30pm and urged the parents as well as the local guardians to stop the early marriage, as it was an offence.

Bacha Mia, father of Reshmi, complied and pledged not to marry off her before she turns 18.



Members of Kendriya Kochi Kanchar Mela perform at a cultural programme at its Segunbagicha office in the city yesterday on the occasion of the birth anniversary of poet Sufia Kamal.

PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: STAR

Vietnamese Ambassador in Bangladesh Ngo Van Hoa calls on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Cantonment residence in the city yesterday.

'Maintain quality of pharmaceutical products'

BSS, Dhaka

Health and Family Welfare Adviser Major General (ret'd) Dr ASM Matuir Rahman yesterday underlined the need for maintaining proper quality of pharmaceutical products to expand foreign markets for enhancing export earnings.

Speaking at the 23rd annual conference of Bangladesh Microbiology Scientists' Association at Dhaka University, the adviser said Bangladesh would have to open up newer avenues for export earnings apart from the earnings from readymade garments and remittances of expatriates.

The theme of the conference was 'Microbiology Safety and Food and Pharmaceuticals.'

As regards export earnings, the prospects of Bangladesh's pharmaceutical industry are very bright, he added.

Presently, the adviser said, Bangladesh exports medicines to 66 countries, including the United Kingdom.

Matuir laid stress on involving microbiologists in controlling the quality of food and pharmaceutical products.

Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Professor SMA Faiz, Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh Agriculture University Mosharrar Hossain Mia, President of Bangladesh Microbiology Scientists' Association Prof Sirajul Islam Khan and its General Secretary Prof M Anwar Hossain and President of the conference observance committee Prof M Mozammel Huq also spoke on the occasion.

Lightning kills two in Gaibandha

UNB, Gaibandha

Two farmers died and five others were injured by lightning in the district yesterday.

Azhar Ali, 50, died as lightning struck him while working on land at Char Krishnapur village under Phulchhari upazila at about 2:00pm.

In another incident, Yasin Ali, 40, died as thunderbolt struck him while he was working on land at Haferhat under Sadullapur upazila.

Five other farmers, injured in lightning at two upazilas at the same time, were admitted to Pirganj health complex.

WEATHER TODAY

Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places in the next 24 hours as of 6:00pm today.

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

Yesterday's highest temperature of 37.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Majidee Court and the lowest of 24.5 degrees at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:49 pm today and rises at 5:12 am tomorrow.

The 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	32.7	27.7	75	97
Chittagong	33.4	25.9	73	76
Rajshahi	33.8	27.0	79	91
Khulna	33.5	27.1	70	96
Barisal	33.0	28.0	80	86
Sylhet	34.0	24.5	80	65
Cox's Bazar	34.3	27.4	--	71

Woman found dead in diagnostic centre in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the decomposed body of a woman from a diagnostic centre and clinic in the city in the early hours of yesterday.

The police entered the Lab Com Diagnostic Centre and Nursing Point adjacent to the Mitford Hospital after breaking open the collapsible gate of the clinic and recovered the body from a cabin which was locked.

The centre had been closed for the last few days, sources said.

The body of the victim aged around 28 was sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College Morgue.

Morgue sources said the woman was pregnant for six months.

Nehal Mirza, the owner of the building which housed the clinic, rented the 1st floor of the building to Abdus Sattar and Abdul Karim who run the clinic.

On Thursday night, Mirza filed a general diary with Kotwali Police station saying that Satter called him over his mobile phone to say that there is a dead body in the cabin No. 2 and that the woman died during abortion.

The police searched all the rooms of the centre but did not find any documents.

Depression crosses Andhra

UNB, Dhaka

The deep depression over the Bay crossed north Andhra coast near Machilipatnam at noon yesterday and lay centred as a land depression over Andhra Pradesh.

It is likely to move in a northwesterly direction and weaken gradually, said a Met Office bulletin yesterday.

Under its influence steep pressure gradient persists over north Bay. Squally weather may affect the ports.

Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to keep hoisted local cautionary signal number three.

All fishing boats and trawlers over north Bay have been advised to keep close to the coast until further notice.

Four held with fake driving licences

BSS, Dhaka

Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) arrested four persons with fake driving licences and materials used for them from South Badda of the city Thursday night.

The arrested persons are Mohammad Sirajul Islam, 28, Mohammad Bashir Ahmed Ghani, 30, Mohammad Nurul Islam Alias Imran, 20, and Mohammad Hafizur Rahman, 23.

RAB sources said that a team of the elite force on a tip-off raided the House No T-217 at South Badda and arrested these four persons with these materials.

During the raid, a total of 31 fake driving licenses, 454 incomplete driving licenses and various license-related papers and materials were recovered.

The arrested persons and the recovered materials were handed over to Badda thana.

Bomb found again at Ruet

RU CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered a powerful bomb in front of the main gate of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet).

Six more bombs and a sawn off rifle were also recovered from the Ruet campus in last one month.

Recently formed militant group 'Jadid al Quada' in their leaflets spread on the spot claimed ownership of the bomb and said it was a powerful remote control bomb, police said.

At around 12:00 noon, a passer-by saw a tin can wrapped with red tape in front of the university gate and informed Ruet security guards who informed Motihar Police Station.

Bomb expert Sub-Inspector Alamgir rushed to the spot and recovered the bomb. The bomb was put in a bucket full of water.

The bomb contained gunpowder, circuits, battery and bicycle balls, SI Alamgir said.

Following the bomb recovery, police were deployed on the Ruet campus, Motihar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Khandoker Ferdous Ahmed said.

The students, teachers and locals have expressed deep concern over recovery of seven powerful bombs from the Ruet campus in a month.

Earlier on May 22, a bomb was found on the Ruet campus. The next day, police recovered a sawed off rifle and a bomb from students' union office of Shaheed Selim Hall.

On May 24, police recovered two more bombs and found an aluminium sheet carrying a message that Jadid al Qaeda would plant six bombs on the Ruet campus.

On June 2, the joint forces found a bomb at a Ruet dormitory and on June 14 police recovered a powerful bomb in front of Ruet main gate. Earlier, the joint force raided Ruet dormitories and arrested six students for alleged involvement in bomb making.

Palassey Day today

BSS, Dhaka

Today is historic Palassey Day.

On this day in 1757, the glorious sun of national independence set in Palassey on the bank of the Bhagiriathi.

The intrigues of the East India Company coupled with the betrayals by close associates of Nawab Sirajuddowla brought an end to the rule of Nawab and established British rule.

Kidney stone of 2-yr-old boy removed by PCNL method

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Stone has been removed from the kidney of a two-year-old boy by applying Percutaneous Nephrolithotomy (PCNL) method for the first time in the country, said a press release of The Barakah Kidney Hospital and Research Institute Ltd yesterday.

The keyhole surgery has been applying for the adults in the country since last few years, but this is the first time that kidney stone of a child was removed successfully in an hour at the hospital in New Eskaton in the city on Thursday.

The surgery does not need to cut the abdomen, rather stone is removed by creating a hole there.

Prof M Fakhru Islam, head of the urology department of Bangladesh Medical performed the operation on Fardin Ahsan Hridoy who hails from Satkhira.

China to build strong ties with Bangladesh

Says Chinese vice foreign minister

UNB, Beijing

Beijing's third largest trade partner in South Asia.

He observed that bilateral trade and economic cooperation has grown rapidly, with the trade volume having approached \$ 3.2-billion mark in 2006.

"But more potential remains to be tapped," Dawei said, adding that China has offered zero-tariff treatment to 84 categories of Bangladeshi export products and hoped Bangladesh would take full advantage of this trade preference.

He said China encourages mutual investment as it encourages competitive and reputable Chinese companies to invest in Bangladesh to promote mutually beneficial cooperation.

Looking over the entire spectrum of cooperation, Dawei observed education, tourism, human resource training and other fields hold promising prospects. China will continue to boost people-to-people exchanges with Bangladesh, he said.

The vice foreign minister said that as Bangladesh pursues 'Look East' policy, China is ready to work with Bangladesh to push forward regional cooperation.

The minister also said that economic cooperation is an important basis for fostering the China-Bangladesh friendship as Dhaka is



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

General Secretary of Jahangirnagar University Samajtantrik Chhatra Front Soumitra Kumar and activist Anjan are undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital after they were beaten up by Jatityatabadi Chhatra Dal cadres on the campus yesterday.

DHAKA TODAY

Workshop

Development of the National Biosafety Framework, Department of Environment, Ministry of Environment and Forests organises a workshop on 'Risk assessment and risk management of GMOs'. Venue: IDB Bhaban. Time: 8:45am.

Seminar

Citizens' Rights Movement organises a seminar on ways to control the price hike. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 9:30am.

Launching ceremony

IFIC Bank will launch IFIC Credit Card. Venue: IFIC Bank Head Office, Rajuk Avenue. Time: 11:00pm.

Workshop

A workshop on public procurement will be held. Venue: NEC Committee Room-1, Planning Commission. Time: 9:15am.

Seminar

National Committee on observing the 50 years of Kagmari Conference organises a seminar titled 'Kagmari Conference: Perspective and relevance'. Venue: Faculty of Business Studies of Dhaka University. Time: 4:00pm.

Int'l SOS Children's Village Day

SOS Children's Village International in Bangladesh organises the concluding function of International SOS Children's Village Day. Time: 6:30pm.

Founding anniversary

Notun Kuri Sanggeetatalaya will celebrate its founding anniversary. Venue: Shishu Academy auditorium. Time: 4:30pm.

Rotary Dhaka Central

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30pm.

Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

Eradatullah Chowdhury, former director (finance) of Duncan Brothers, passed away due to old age complications at his residence in the city on Thursday night at the age of 73.

He left behind his wife, three sons, two grand children and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

He was laid to rest at Azimpur graveyard after a namaz-e-janaza at Paribagh mosque after Juma prayers yesterday.

Death anniversary



Today is the first death anniversary of SM Samsul Alam Moktar, one of the organisers of the liberation war and former vice-president of Pirojpur district Awami League (AL), says a press release.

On the occasion, his family has organised a milad and doa mahfil at his Mothbaria residence.

Sheikh Mejbahuddin Ahmed

UNB, Dhaka

The 36th death anniversary of martyred freedom fighter Sheikh Mejbahuddin Ahmed was observed yesterday.

Mejbahuddin was killed during a fight with the Pakistani occupation forces near Shahpur Bazar in Habiganj district in 1971.

On the occasion of his death anniversary, a session of special prayers was held at his ancestral home at Akhitar village in Sarail upazila of Brahmanbaria district.

Bartaman Sanglap held a discussion and milad mahfil at 'Jyoti' Bhaban at Mirpur in the capital on Thursday.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

A team of Rapid Action Battalion-2 arrested four people along with a large number of fake driving licences and equipment to produce other fake documents at Badda in the city on Thursday night.