

Road crashes kill 8

STAR REPORT

Eight people were killed and 24 others injured in separate road accidents in different parts of the country in the last two days.

Our CU correspondent reports: A collision between a bus and a truck on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Mirsarai left one person dead and 15 others injured yesterday.

The dead was identified as Dipon Barua, 27, son of Milon Barua of Lohagara upazila.

The Chittagong-bound bus of Shaymoli Paribahan collided head-on with the Dhaka-bound truck in Komoldoho area, leaving 16 people injured, sources said.

The injured were rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where the doctors declared Dipon dead.

Seven of the injured are now undergoing treatment at the CMCH while the others received first aid, hospital sources said.

Police seized both the vehicles, but the drivers and helpers managed to escape. A case was filed with Mirsarai Police Station.

Our Correspondent in Netrakona adds: An eight-year-old girl was killed when a motorcycle crashed into her on Netrakona-Dhaka highway at Baghra in the district at about 10:00am yesterday.

The girl was identified as Anuara Khatun, daughter of Innas Ali of village Jawshi.

Police sources said a speeding motorcycle knocked down the girl when she was crossing the road.

The motorcycle managed to speed away.

Our RU correspondent reports: A schoolgirl was killed and two persons were injured when a speeding truck ran over them at Joitha Bottola on Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj highway on Thursday.

Local people said a Chapainawabganj-bound fertiliser-laden truck ploughed into them at around 2:30pm, killing Nurjahan Khatun, 8, daughter of Tazimul Haque, on the spot.

The injured -- Moyezuddin, 30 and Aminul 25 -- are now undergoing treatment at Chapainawabganj General Hospital.

Police seized the truck but took necessary measures to send the fertilisers to its destination.

Our correspondent in Gaibandha adds: Four people were killed in separate road accidents in the district on Thursday.

Two of them were killed when a speeding truck collided head-on with a tempo at Kashipur on Rangpur-Bogra highway on Thursday night.

Police said the goods-laden truck coming from Joypurhat collided with the tempo, killing two passengers, Wazed Ali, 50, a schoolteacher of village Bogula, and Babu Mia, 45, of village Nutmaricha in Gobindganj.

Six other passengers, who received severe injuries, were rushed to Gobindaganj Health Complex.

In another road accident, the driver and helper of a vehicle carrying milk were killed as the vehicle swerved off the road and fell into a roadside ditch at Biherpur on Bogra-Rangpur highway in the early hours of Thursday.

The dead were identified as Anwar Hossain, 32, and Sobhan Ali, 45.

The accident took place as the driver lost control of the vehicle coming from Dinajpur.

Our correspondent from Kishoreganj adds: A woman was killed and three others were injured in a road accident at Kormoli area on Kishoreganj-Pakundia road at Kishoreganj Sadar yesterday.

The victim was identified as Lovely, 30, while the injured are her four-month-old baby boy Ontu, her brother-in-law Mokter Hossen, 35, and rickshawpuller Heron, 28.

Sources said the accident occurred when a Pakundia-bound pickup rammed a rickshaw at Kormoli, leaving Lovely dead on the spot and others critically injured.

Locals detained the driver of the pickup and handed over to Kishoreganj Police Station.

The injured were rushed to Kishoreganj Sadar Adhunik Hospital but on duty doctors said Ontu might die anytime.

Militant suspect held in Habiganj

UNB, Habiganj

Police arrested a young man on suspicion of his link with a militant outfit from Madhabpur upazila of the district yesterday.

The arrestee was identified as Hafez Abdul Matin, 35, of Mollah Village.

Police said Matin was a follower of Maulana Habibur Rahman who was arrested by joint forces on charge of instigating militants.

Matin was being interrogated till filing of the report at about 9pm.

Jamalpur JCD leader arrested with hemp

UNB, Jamalpur

President of Melandaha upazila unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was arrested along with 50 kgs of hemp on Thursday night.

Rab members arrested the JCD leader Saifur Rahman Khokon, 25, from Dewanpara area in the town, sources said.

He was handed over to Sadar Police Station yesterday.

A case was filed under narcotics control act against the JCD leader.

11000 CDs worth Tk 6 lakh seized

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Police yesterday seized 11,000 Indian Compact Discs (CD) worth about Tk 6 lakh and 20 litres of wine and 20 bottles of phensidyl in separate incidents at Benapole and arrested three smugglers in this connection.

Benapole Police said acting on a tip-off, they raided a private car at Dholda Bazar of Sharsha and arrested one Mashiar Rahman Babu with 11,000 CDs worth Tk 6 lakh.

In another incident, the law enforcers raided the village of Bhaberbar and arrested two smugglers, Faruk and Babul, with 20 litres of wine and 20 bottles of phensidyl.

President, CA greet French counterparts

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Chief Adviser Fakhrudin Ahmed congratulated the French President Nicolas Sarkozy and Prime Minister Francois Fillon on the occasion of the National Day of the country today.

In separate messages of felicitation to their counterparts, two Bangladesh leaders expressed their hope that the existing friendly relations between two countries will be further deepened in the coming years.

Juja to celebrate 37th founding anniversary in Aug

The 37th founding anniversary of Jahangirnagar University Journalists' Association (Juja) will be celebrated on the first week of August, says a press release.

On the occasion, Juja has chalked out a two-day programme that includes rally, seminar, symposium, etc.

The present and former members of Juja and the JU students serving in the media have been requested to join the function.

For further information, interested people can dial 01819864011, 01721911985, 01715322959 or 01912426064.

13 muggers arrested in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirteen members of Molom Party and Aggyan Party were arrested in the city.

The Molom Party rob people of their belongings after applying toxic ointment to the eyes of their victims while the Aggyan Party rob people after drugging them.

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and the police arrested the muggers from different areas of the city during their 16-hour raid beginning 7:30pm on Thursday.

Rab-1 arrested eight Molom Party members, including gang leader Nahid alias Ananda, from Mohakhali and Fakirerpul areas. The elite force also seized 10 small containers full of toxic ointment, a cellphone set, two rickshaws and over Tk 5000 from their possession.

During the raids, they also arrested three Aggyan Party men. Meanwhile, detective branch of police arrested two other Aggyan Party members in a separate raid.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

BNP Joint Secretary General Goyeshwar Chandra Roy talks to reporters after his meeting with party Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in the city yesterday.

Iran to allow IAEA visit to heavy water reactor

AFP, Vienna/ Tehran

Iran will let UN inspectors this month visit a reactor being built which could produce plutonium, the UN atomic agency said Friday, announcing measures to clear up questions about Tehran's nuclear work.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Mohmaed ElBaradei has called for such steps as a way to defuse the crisis caused by fears that Iran seeks nuclear weapons.

The measures were agreed during a visit earlier this week by IAEA deputy director for safeguards Olli Heinonen to Tehran.

Heinonen met with Iranian officials to draw up a plan to resolve "outstanding issues," including Tehran's refusal to allow 40 inspectors designated by the IAEA into the country.

"During the visit, agreement was reached on: the designation of new agency inspectors; a visit of agency inspectors to the Heavy Water Research Reactor at Arak by the end of July 2007; and the finalisation of the safeguards approach at the Fuel Enrichment Plant at Natanz during early August 2007," the IAEA said in a statement.

IAEA deputy head Olli Heinonen said talks with Iran on Thursday over its nuclear drive were "constructive" and that some "important steps" were made.

"We had constructive discussions and made some important steps and we will continue discussions in coming weeks," Heinonen

told reporters at the end of three rounds of talks with Iranian nuclear officials.

"The atmosphere was very good," he added, after a meeting between the IAEA delegation, including legal, political and technical officials, and Iranian deputy national security chief Javad Vaeidi.

"We immediately agreed on four or five steps. We'll continue on present issues in the next weeks and we look forward to progress," Heinonen said.

"Iran did some things in the past where we were not present and we have to reconstruct this history," he added.

"If the cooperation continues

like this we hope that the problems will be solved, not now but in a reasonable future."

Vaeidi for his part labelled Thursday's meeting as "serious and good."

"We discussed methods to regulate the outstanding problems with the agency, and made good progress," he told a joint press conference with Heinonen.

"We divided the matters into two parts, the current and the past problems. We reached agreement on certain points, we agreed on some modalities for our cooperation and our work with the IAEA," he added.

He also hoped to be able to "solve the remaining questions in a timeframe which is convenient to both parties."

IAEA's chief Mohamed ElBaradei has said that "drawing up a plan of action" should take 60 days. Implementation would then begin on resolving questions about Iranian nuclear activities that could have military applications.

Iran was slapped with two sets of UN sanctions over its failure to freeze uranium enrichment, but President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad remained defiant, saying on Wednesday that Tehran would never give up its "right" to nuclear technology.

"The trend of installing centrifuges could be slowed down or gain momentum, this is a executive issue, but no-one should expect that we will give up our rights, and we will not halt the trend," Ahmadinejad said.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Mosammat Khairer Nesa, widow of martyred freedom fighter Makbul Ahmed, speaks at a press conference at Bangladesh Crime Reporters' Association auditorium in the city yesterday.

India to monitor pregnancies to check girl foeticide

AFP, New Delhi

India plans a national mandatory registry of pregnancies and abortions to stem selective abortions of girl fetuses, a minister said, according to a report Friday.

India has only 927 females for every 1,000 males -- far lower than the worldwide average of 1,050 females -- mainly due to selective abortion in the country where many people prefer to have male children.

"This will check both foeticide and infant mortality," the minister for women and child development Renuka Chowdhury told the Hindustan Times daily.

Officials said the data would permit the government to focus efforts on areas with a large gap between the number of pregnancies recorded and births, the report said.

Chowdhury also told the paper abortions should only be permitted in cases with a "valid and acceptable reason," without elaborating.

There was no immediate official comment from the government on the report.

India already encourages pregnant women to voluntarily register with community health workers so they can get health and nutrition advice and benefits, one official told AFP.

"These things are not mandatory in a democracy," said a government child development official. "We have to educate people rather than forcing them."

Chowdhury's remarks came after several centres were discovered recently to be conducting outlawed sex-determination tests and aborting female foetuses.

In a gruesome discovery last month, dozens of tiny bones were found in the septic tank of a clinic belonging to a man posing as a doctor in wealthy Gurgaon, a suburb of the Indian capital.

The suburb is part of a state with one of the country's worst gender ratios -- just 820 females for every

1,000 males -- showing the preference for sons persists despite high incomes and education.

Sons are typically seen as breadwinners. They are also needed to light their parents' funeral pyres according to Hindu rites. Girls are often viewed as a burden because of the matrimonial dowry demanded by a groom's family.

But making it mandatory for women to report their pregnancies is too invasive and may do little to address the problems that create the preference in the first place, critics say.

"Whether such a thing will be possible in a democracy, I doubt," women's rights activist Ranjana Kumari told the Indian daily.

A study last year by the British medical journal The Lancet said India may have lost 10 million unborn girls in the past 20 years, but Indian experts have challenged the number, saying it likely closer to five million.

Two masons, housewife electrocuted in city

UNB, Dhaka

Two masons and a housewife were electrocuted in separate incidents in the city's Tejgaon, Rayer Bazar and Kamrangirchar areas in the last two days.

Police said Sujon, 25, a mason, came into contact with a live wire as he switched off a water pump at an underconstruction building at Indira road in Tejgaon at around 10:30pm on Thursday. He died on the spot.

Another mason Yasin, 22, son of Mansur Ali, was electrocuted while hanging clothes on a live GI wire unknowingly on the roof of an underconstruction building at Rayerbazar at about 8:30am.

In Kamrangirchar, Mehrunnisa, 50, wife of Zahir Ahmed, was electrocuted while ironing clothes at her rented house at Road-7 yesterday noon.

The bodies were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue.

RIVER EROSION Steps to be taken to protect Sirajganj

UNB, Sirajganj

Water Resources Adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) Dr ASM Matuir Rahman has said permanent measures will be taken soon to protect Sirajganj from erosion by the river Jamuna.

He said this while talking to reporters after visiting erosion-affected areas in Enayetpur yesterday.

A project involving Tk 249 crore has been taken up to build a permanent dam in the next dry season in order to tackle erosion by the river, he said.

The adviser also visited the town protection embankment area.

Water Resources Secretary Zubair Hossain, Deputy Commissioner Ibrahim Khalil and other officials accompanied the adviser during the visit.

Death anniversary



Today is the 3rd death anniversary of Prof Razia Begum, founder leader of Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Goshthi and a R a b i n d r a Sangeet singer, says a press release.

On the occasion, her family members and Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Goshthi will hold a discussion at Udichi central office at 14/2, Tophkhana Road in the city at 6:00pm.

A milad mahfil will also be held at a mosque at her village home.



Members of a voluntary dental research team pose with Valerie A Taylor at the CRP Head Office yesterday.

Team provides dental treatment to persons with disabilities at CRP

A voluntary dental research team provided dental treatment for over 100 persons with disabilities at the Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) yesterday, says a press release.

Led by Dr Mahfujul Haq Khan, assistant professor, department of dentistry, Birdem, and Ibrahim Medical College, the team comprised Richard Marshall Hubbard, University of South, USA, Dr Renato Salvato Fajardo, Centre for Promotion of Life Quality, Brazil, and some young surgeons from several dental institutions.

Dr Khan also assured Valerie A Taylor of the CRP that his team will help set up a dental unit at the CRP and provide professional support to physically challenged persons in regard to their proper oral and dental care.

The voluntary research group has been formed at the initiative of Richard and Dr Renato one month ago, Dr Khansaid.

Dr Khan and Richard are now conducting a study, which shows that the number of decaying teeth is significantly higher among urban children than their rural counterparts.

The team has also another project through which they are trying to raise awareness about oral cancer in Bangladesh. Dr Renato is actively involved with this project.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna division in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy rainfalls are also likely at places over the country, Met office said.

It also said day temperature may rise slightly over the southern part and may remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country.

Highest temperature 36.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Ishwardi and lowest 26.0 degree Celsius at Comilla.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:49pm today and rises at 5:20am 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	34.8	28.2	74	62
Chittagong	31.9	26.8	74	81
Rajshahi	36.4	28.0	74	73
Khulna	34.4	27.6	71	84
Barisal	33.3	27.5	77	81
Sylhet	35.3	27.5	77	77
Cox's Bazar	32.5	26.1	76	80



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

The Rapid Action Battalion yesterday arrested 11 members of a gang who robbed people of their belongings after applying toxic ointment to the eyes of their victims.