

Road crashes kill 11, injure 44

STAR REPORT

At least 11 people were killed and 44 others injured in separate road accidents in Satkhira, Rangpur, Rajshahi and Gaibandha yesterday.

Our correspondent from Satkhira reports: Five people, including the son of the deceased Pir of Gunakarkati Khanka Sharif in Assassuni upazila, were killed and four others injured in a road accident on Satkhira-Khulna road early morning yesterday.

The accident occurred when a microbus carrying the body of Gunakarkati Khanka Sharif's Pir plunged into a roadside ditch at Noapara in Tala upazila.

The body of Pir-e-Kamel Shah Mohammad Sadequr Rahman who died at a Khulna clinic on July 8 night was being taken to Gunakarkati in Jessore military hospital cold storage.

The dead are Khaja Ehsanullah, 45, son of the deceased Pir and his father-in-law Mohammad Sayeed, 60, of Sonadanga in Khulna City, Manzurul Alam, 52 of village

Pangaon in Kearniganj upazila in Dhaka, Abdul Aziz, 45, a police constable of village Ganapatipur and Manirul Islam, 32 of village Kalijuga in Kaliganj upazila.

The injured are Safiullah Selu son of Zahiruddin, Rumi, 16, daughter of Abdul Aziz and Afroza Begum, 20, daughter of Masum Billah of village Gunakarkati in Assassuni upazila and Saidur Rahman, 35 of village Ghona in Kotwali in Jessore.

The injured were rushed to Satkhira Sadar Hospital from where Saidur was shifted to Khulna Hospital as his condition deteriorated, hospital sources said.

Quoting local people police said, the accident took place when one of the microbus of the convoy carrying the Pir's body plunged into a road-side ditch as the driver lost control over the steering.

Police and local people rescued the injured from the microbus.

The Pir and his son were buried at their family graveyard.

Our correspondent from Rangpur: Four people, including a minor girl, were killed and 35 others

injured at Boiriganj under Mithapukur upazila early hours of yesterday.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred when a Panchagarh-bound bus from Dhaka turned upside down and fell into a roadside ditch at Boiriganj as its driver lost control over the steering, leaving three passengers dead on the spot.

The dead were identified as Saiful Islam, 32, Sheikhha Rani, 5, and Islam Ali, 32. An unidentified passenger succumbed to his injuries on the way to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

Of the injured, 28 were rushed to RMCH. Condition of eight was stated to be critical.

RU correspondent adds: A housewife was killed in a road accident in Rajshahi yesterday.

The dead was identified as Rehana Khatun, 45, wife of Suhra Ali of Noadapara area of Rajshahi.

Witnesses said the accident occurred when Mishuk, auto-rickshaw, knocked down Rehana while she was standing beside the Noadapara road crossing at about

1:00pm, leaving her dead on the spot.

Local people sent her body to home in Noadapara.

On the other hand, Rehana's son Kamal Uddin filed a murder case with Shah Mukduma police station against the Mishuk driver on Tuesday evening.

Our correspondent from Gaibandha says: One person was killed and five others were injured when a speeding coach rammed a rickshaw van at Dhaperhat on Rangpur-Bogra highway yesterday.

Police said the accident occurred when a Rangpur-passenger coach from Dhaka rammed a rickshaw van coming from opposite direction near the BTC centre at Dhaperhat on Rangpur-Bogra highway, one Babul Mia, 55, a cattle trader, on the spot.

Of the injured, three were rushed to Sadullapur Health Complex in critical condition. The seriously injured are Ainul Islam, 40, Khaja Mia, 66 and rickshaw van puller Quddus, 36.



With potholes filled with rainwater, Gulshan Road No 108 in the city lies in a dilapidated condition, causing immense suffering to commuters and pedestrians, but the authorities have turned a blind eye to the problem. The picture was taken yesterday.

Fistula a major challenge to safe motherhood

Experts tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fistula is a major challenge to ensure safe motherhood and reduce maternal mortality, said the experts at a workshop yesterday.

They said though fistula is preventable and treatable a huge number of women are suffering from the disease and leading an inhuman life.

The project start up workshop on 'Establishment of National Fistula Centre and Skilled Birth Attendants (SBAs) Training Institute' was held at a city hotel.

Speaking as chief guest Health Adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) ASM Matiuur Rahman said the government has been trying continuously to create an atmosphere where people would have the opportunity to reach and maintain the highest attainable level of health.

"A serious challenge to government efforts is to improve the health of women, newborns and children," he added.

The adviser said the government has adopted the health, nutrition and population sector programme (HNPPS) to provide quality and affordable reproductive health ser-

vices, including family planning to attain Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

"The males can play a key role in all development activities related to maternal health services in a society where they hold higher social status and decision making power," he added.

As a special guest, Director General of DGHS Shahjahan Biswas said the main reason of fistula is obstetric labour, which can be prevented through skilled birth attendants and access to emergency obstetric care facilities.

"Obstetric fistulas can also be treated with reconstructive surgery. If done properly, the surgery has a 95 percent success rate at a very nominal cost," he added.

The National Fistula Centre (NFC) will be set up at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital

(DMCH) while the Skilled Birth Attendants (SBAs) Training Institute in Comilla.

Islamic Development Bank (IDB) will provide US\$ 3000000, while UNFPA will provide US \$ 300000 and the government will give another US \$ 300000 for the establishment of NFC and SBAs Training Institute.

With Additional Secretary to health ministry Jamil Osman in the chair, the inaugural session was also attended by UNFPA representative Arthur Erken and Healthcare Support Specialist of IDB Hisham A Fakha.

Representatives from different ministries, and directors and professors of different medical colleges and hospitals including UN agencies and development partners took part in the workshop.



A policeman inspects the site where three bombs exploded on the Dhaka University campus as some unknown persons hurled the bombs near the vice-chancellor's office yesterday.

Make recommendations to strengthen local govts

CA asks experts

UNB, Dhaka

An expert committee formed by the caretaker government to recommend measures for recasting country's local government system made a presentation on their activities in a meeting with Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday.

On June 3, the LGRD ministry, under the initiative of the chief adviser, formed the seven-member committee on "Accelerating and Strengthening Local Government Institutions".

The committee has been asked to make recommendations reviewing the activities of the existing local government institutions to gear up administrative works of the institutions and enhance their financial power under the constitutional obligation.

Former secretary AMM Sawkat Ali is its chairman while Mizanur Rahman, joint secretary (development) of the Local Government Division, is member-secretary. The other members are Prof Syed Giasuddin Ahmed, Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar, Prof Dilara Chowdhury, Advocate Azmatullah Khan and Mir Enayet Hossain Mintu.

Their scope of work encompasses 17 areas designed through a government notification. Those include preparing recommendation for making time-beffiting organisational structure and determining tiers of local-government institutions by reviewing the existing structures, manpower, responsibilities, powers, mutual relations and coordination among the local government institutions.

They are also working out source of income and strategy to increase the income, autonomy of local government institutions and their relations with the government, relation with local members of parliament, empowerment of women in local government institutions, setting criteria for qualifying and unqualified candidates for election, structural reforms to ensure accountability of the elected representatives, determining needs of 'Gram Sarkar' to ensure effective participation of people, and account and management system of the institutions.

The chief adviser urged the committee members to make recommendation so that the government can do something "immediately", saying that the government will implement the doable recommendations.

"Local government would defi-

nately be strengthened to establish good governance and the present government attaches priority to strengthening the local government," he said.

The committee will exchange views with all sections of people in preparing the recommendations for recasting local government to make the institutions more effective.

They have already met some groups to get their opinions.

LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal, Cabinet Secretary Ali Imam Majumdar, Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim and LGRD Secretary Safar Raj Hossain were present.

Buet team leaves for Hanoi July 23

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) will participate in the 'Robocon 2007, Hanoi' organised by the Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (AUB), says a press release.

A group of students of Mechanical Engineering Department will leave for Hanoi on July 23 to attend the competition.

The students have made four modern Robots for the competition that will be kept in the laboratory of Mechanical Engineering Department until July 20.

Previously, teams from Buet took part in 'Robocon 2006, Kuala Lumpur' and 'Robocon 2005, Beijing' and won Panasonic Award.

DHAKA

T O D A Y

Discussion

Ghash Ful will hold a discussion titled "Convention on the rights of the child". Venue: Russian Science and Cultural Centre. Time: 4:30pm.

Seminar

Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) organises a seminar on 'Major contextual issues for e-governance adaptation in Bangladesh'. Venue: Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 4:00pm.

Roundtable

Save the Environment Movement, Unnayan Dhara and WBB Trust will jointly organise a roundtable titled 'The importance of railway in an environment-friendly, cost effective and safe communication system'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

BILIA Discussion

Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) will hold a discussion on 'Right to information legislation in India: How Bangladesh can benefit'. Venue: BILIA auditorium. Time: 3:30pm.

National Career Fair July 20

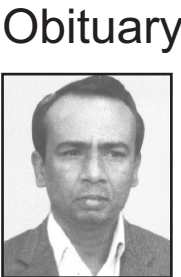
DU CORRESPONDENT

Career and Professional Development Services of North South University is going to organise the National Career Fair 2007 on July 20 at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city, says a press release.

The daylong programme will be organised to facilitate both career seekers and employers looking for better opportunities to amplify their values and career.

About hundred reputable companies from different sectors are expected to participate in the event, a press release said.

Grameenphone will be the titled sponsor of the career fair.



Md Shafiul Alam, eldest son of late Dr H a b i b u r R a h m a n, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at the Holy Family Hospital on July 15 at the age of 65, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife and a daughter.

A doa mahfil will be held at his brother's residence at 15/1 Eastern Housing Apartment at Siddheshwari after Asr prayers today.

Friends, relatives and admirers are requested to attend the doa mahfil.

It all started with extension of judges' retirement age

FROM PAGE 1

chief justice KM Hasan as the chief of the caretaker government. Nonetheless with the new retirement age for judges in effect, KM Hasan was all set to become the chief of the interim government to be formed.

Instead of responding to any of the objections of AL, the BNP-led alliance government's unilateral actions in connection with a controversial voter list, and appointments of the chief election commissioner (CEC) and the other election commissioners, deepened the animosity between the rival political camps. By the time the alliance government was ready to hand over power to the caretaker government on October 29 last year, almost all government organisations with links to holding of the upcoming election appeared to be dominated by the ruling alliance loyalists.

In that crucial month, AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil and BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan also initiated their negotiations across the political divide, which failed miserably to the dismay of the people as BNP was not ready to make any major concession.

As a result, everyone became afraid that the handover of power will be followed by a bloody political confrontation. A large number of BNP leaders and other beneficiaries of its decrepit regime -- many of whom were later accused of graft -- consequently left the country by October 29, only to return home soon after realising that the newly formed caretaker government was also very much within the control of BNP,

although it was not in power anymore.

Amid such a tense political atmosphere, retired chief justice KM Hasan surprised the intransigent BNP-Jamaat-led alliance with an announcement that he would not become the caretaker government chief.

Then as per the plan of BNP's advisers, President Iajuddin Ahmed, who was very much loyal to BNP chief Khaleda Zia, became the chief of the caretaker government on October 29.

President Iajuddin Ahmed grossly disappointed the nation by continuing to do what the alliance government had been doing. It became clear to all thinking individuals that Iajuddin would not do anything without the approval of Khaleda Zia.

In the face of an ensuing raging movement, a cosmetic change to the status quo was attempted, in a bid to resolve the crisis, by sending the controversial erstwhile CEC MA Aziz to a vacation. But the cosmetic change could not prettify the situation as the Election Commission was adorned with additional two new commissioners who were more vigorously pro-BNP, including one who had sought election nomination from BNP earlier.

Iajuddin's caretaker government got the ultimate public rebuke through the resignations of four important advisers of his own cabinet in December.

In line with the immediate past four-party alliance government's design, the Election Commission was all set to hold the election on January 22. The BNP-Jamaat-led alliance appeared over-confident about ramming its plan through,

while AL was frantically trying to forge a bigger opposition coalition and was lobbying the international community hard to stop the election.

As the election was visibly heading to become a 'one-party' poll, the international community put tremendous pressure on all influential quarters of the country, including the defence forces, to stop the election in a bid to avoid possible post election violence.

Consequently the top brass of the armed forces met President Iajuddin on January 11, prompting him to declare the current state of emergency in line with constitutional provisions.

On January 12, a new caretaker government was formed, dissolving the previous one, with ex-Bangladesh Bank governor Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed at its helm. Political activities were banned and a series of reform measures seemed to be on the horizon.

Soon after the regime change, controversial CEC MA Aziz quit the Election Commission.

The joint forces then launched an anti-corruption drive. On February 4, the joint forces arrested more than a dozen of big names in politics including Mohammad Nasim of Awami League and Salauddin Quader Chowdhury of BNP.

On March 7, the joint forces arrested Khaleda Zia's elder son Tarique Rahman, who had been accused of the most nefarious of graft in the country over the previous five years.

A dominating and powerful political leader like Khaleda Zia however apparently remained under house arrest during the

DCC to launch 'outsourcing' to carry out waste management

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) would launch 'outsourcing' to carry out waste management in Dhanmondi-5 area before Ramadan and the entire city would be brought under this programme gradually.

A meeting headed by LGRD and Cooperatives Adviser Mohammad Anwarul Iqbal yesterday took the decision. DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka and Secretary of the concerned ministry Safar Raj Hossain were also present during the meeting.

The DCC would monitor the waste management activities across the city and the DCC cleaners would be engaged there.

Besides, DCC would install required number of containers and would complete the Aminbazar landfill site as soon as possible. Some other landfill site would also be added to the current sites.

DMC Computer Club executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Computer Club of Dhaka Medical College, a voluntary IT organisation of medical students, has formed its 17-member executive committee for the session 2007-08 was formed.

Rakibul Alam Chayan and ANM Tausiur Rashid Shuvro have been elected president and general secretary of the committee.

The committee was formed at a meeting held at the club office on Sunday.

Death anniversary



Today is the 34th death anniversary of AKM Fazlul Quader Chowdhury, speaker of the erstwhile Pakistan National Assembly, says a press release.

On this occasion, wreaths would be placed and Fateha would be offered at his graveyard at Raozan.

A milad mahfil will also be held at his Goodshill residence in Chittagong.

Besides, different educational institutions, including Salamatullah Ideal High School in Raozan, Selima Quader Chowdhury Memorial College, Fazlul Quader Chowdhury Ideal High School Alumni Association, Fazlul Quader Chowdhury Primary School and Fazlul Quader Chowdhury Smriti Parishad will hold discussions and milad mahfil today.

Syed Najmuddin Hashim Bss, Dhaka

The 8th death anniversary of Syed Najmuddin Hashim, former information minister, diplomat and eminent writer, will be observed today.

His family members have requested the relatives, friends and well-wishers to pray for salvation of the departed soul.