

Road accidents kill 6

STAR REPORT

At least six people were killed and 50 others injured in separate road accidents in Munshiganj, Manikganj, Rajshahi and Magura yesterday.

A correspondent from Munshiganj reports: Three people were killed in a road accident at Balasur under Shrinagar upazila in Munshiganj yesterday.

Two of the dead were identified as rickshaw passengers Obayedur Rahman, 16, and Dulal, 35, while the identity of the rickshawpullar, aged about 50, could not be known immediately.

The accident occurred at about 2:00pm on the Dhaka-Shrinagar-Doha road when a Dhaka-bound passenger bus hit a rickshaw, leaving them dead on the spot.

Traffic on the road was disrupted for sometime following the incident.

Our Correspondent from Manikganj adds: A school student was killed in a road accident in

Tepra Bus Stand area on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Manikganj yesterday.

The victim was identified as Liakat Ali, 10, a student of Ananda School and son of Raham Ali of Karjona village under Ghior upazila in Manikganj.

Police sources said the accident occurred at around 8:00am when a Dhaka-bound coach from Rajbari ran over the schoolboy when he was crossing the road. Liakat died on the spot.

Angry people blocked the highway for an hour protesting the accident.

Borongail outpost police arrested driver Taslim and seized the coach.

The body was sent to Manikganj Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

RU correspondent says: One person was killed and 50 others were injured in a road accident in Parbatipur Bottoly area at Noagong on Sunday.

The injured were rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital

(RMCH) and Patnitala Health Complex in Noagaon.

Witness said when a Noagaon-bound passenger bus hit a power tiller at Parbatipur Bottoly, leaving bus helper Ajmat Ali was dead on the spot.

The local people rushed the injured to Patnitala Health Complex and Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

OUR CORRESPONDENT from Magura adds: One person was killed in a road accident near Brac office in the Parmanduali area on Magura-Faridpur highway in Magura Sadar upazila at around 3:00pm yesterday.

The dead was identified as Sheikh Ekramul Kabir, 68.

Police quoting locals said, the accident occurred at around 1:00pm when a speeding bus of Eagle Paribahan knocked him down on Magura-Faridpur highway when he was crossing the road.

He was rushed to Magura Sadar Hospital in critical condition where he succumbed to his injuries after about two hours.

Couple electrocuted in Gazipur

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A couple was electrocuted at Bhogra Channa village in Gazipur Sadar on Sunday morning.

The victims were identified as Akkas Ali, 65 and his wife Mamtaz Begum, 50.

Neighbours said Mamtaz was electrocuted while hanging her wet clothes from a GI chord for drying. As her husband rushed to save her, he also got electrocuted.

They used to live alone and since their tenants were away to be at their workplaces no one else was there when the accident occurred, said Shamsun Nahar, one of the neighbours.

Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Annesh Kumkum Chupkatha, a child drama activist, has been suffering from blood cancer for the last one year.

The six-year-old girl needs to undergo prolonged treatment, which involves a huge amount of money. But it is not possible for her parents to afford such expensive treatment.

Chupkatha, a member of Gobindaganj Shishu Kishore Theatre, is also a promising actress.

Her fellow child artistes have appealed to generous people to extend a helping hand to save her life.

Contributions can be sent to her father Prodip Kumar Sarker, Savings Account No. 7448/79, Rajshahi Krishi Unnyan Bank, Gobindaganj branch, Gaibandha.

Munia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Munia, a nine-year-old girl, is suffering from cancer.

A class four student of Saint Vincent D Pauls Primary School, Munia is now

undergoing treatment at Dhaka Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital.

Her father Abdul Mannan, who is a petty service-holder, cannot afford the expensive treatment.

So he has appealed to generous people of the society for financial assistance to save the life of her daughter.

Contributions can be sent to Md Abdul Mannan, Savings Account No 17383, Janata Bank, Rajanigandha Super Market Branch, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka.

Mosammat Sheuly



A father has appealed for financial assistance for the treatment of his daughter who has been suffering from cancer.

Mosammat Sheuly, a student of class nine, needs to undergo operation on her right eye immediately, which involves about Tk 70000. But it is not possible for her father Md Shamsuddin, a rickshawpuller, to manage the amount.

He appealed to the generous people to extend a helping hand to save his daughter.

Contributions can be sent to Mosammat Sheuly, Savings Account No. 02196468, Islami Bank, Khulna branch, Khulna.

Interested persons can also call at 0152-366260 or 01711889911 for further information.

Shompa Biswas



Shompa Biswas, a student of class ten at a government school at Dhanmondi in the city, has appealed for financial assistance for her and her mother's treatment.

Shompa has been suffering from rheumatic fever and her mother Kalpana Biswas from intestinal tuberculosis.

They are undergoing treatment, but they need a huge amount of money to complete the treatment. Her father Parimol Kanti Biswas, who now teaches students at their homes for his livelihood, cannot afford to continue their treatment as he has already spent all his savings.

Shompa, who would sit for the SSC exams next year, has appealed to generous people to extend a helping hand.

Contributions can be sent to Parimol Kanti Biswas, Savings Account No. 20-5416-0, Rupali Bank, Dhanmondi branch, Sat Masjid Road, Dhaka.

Interested persons can also call at 01712-074767 for further information.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Pedestrians waded through stagnant rainwater at Shaheed Nagar in the city's Ganderia area yesterday. The road became waterlogged following torrential rain on Sunday.

No chance of vote rigging in digitised voter list

ECs say in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The two election commissioners, who are visiting Rajshahi to see the preparations for the enumeration of the voter list with photographs, yesterday asked for cooperation of all in this regard.

Election Commissioners Brig Gen (ret'd) Shakhawat Hossain and Sahul Hossain also said there would not be any chances of vote rigging after completion of the digitised voter list.

In the morning, the election commissioners met with district level officials and newly appointed assistant registration officers at the conference room of Rajshahi deputy commissioner's office.

Presided over by Deputy Commissioner Khalilur Rahman, the meeting was also attended by Col Taher of 11 Artillery Division, District Election Officer Sayed Mohammad Musa, senior army and police officials.

They said there would be tight biometric security measures under the new voter enrollment system. Before the election, political parties will be given voter lists without photo.

The election commissioners warned government officials and other related to the voter listing of stern actions if they adopt any unfair means.

Brig Gen (ret'd) Shakhawat Hossain said political leaders spent crores of money in previous elections and once the got elected, practiced corruption for lack of accountability. But, this won't be allowed this time, he added.

Election officer apprised the election commissioners that there would be 101 registration centers in Rajshahi City Corporation and one data entry operators for 300 voters.

Data entry operators will be appointed after applicants from ward no 1 to 15 sit for tests tomorrow and those of ward no 16 to 30 sit for the tests on Wednesday on Government Laboratory School premises.

The election commissioners also attended a meeting with civil society members at the same venue in the afternoon.

Workers' Party politburo member Fazle Hossain Badsha, business leader Manjur Faruk Chowdhury, journalists Liakat Ali, Sardar Abdur

Rahman and Bulbul Chowdhury, lawyer Mohsin Ali, representative of persons with disabilities Joy Chand Karmakar and several ward commissioners were present in the meeting.

New crackdown on unislamic fashion in Iran

AFP, Tehran

Iran yesterday launched a new wave of a moral crackdown against women who "dress like models" and men whose hairstyles are deemed unislamic, police said.

Tehran's police force dispatched dozens of police cars and minibuses into the early evening rush-hour to enforce the dress rules at major squares in the city centre, an AFP correspondent said.

The new "plan to increase security in society" -- which is limited to Tehran but will later extend nationwide -- comes after a pre-summer drive by the police resulted in thousands of warnings and hundreds of arrests.

Obituary

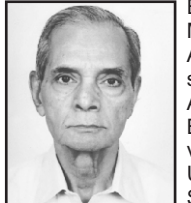
M Serajul Haque, a former government official and father of M Humayun Mahmud, joint general secretary of Comilla (North) Awami League, passed away due to old-age complications at his Sidhreshwari residence in the city on Sunday at the age of 81, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons, six daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

He was buried at his family graveyard in Comilla.

His qukhwani will be held at his Sidhreshwari residence after Asr prayers on July 27.

Mohammed Abdul Mannan



Engineer Mohammed Abdul Mannan, son of late Alhaj Abed Ali of Bannakandi village at Ullapara in Sirajganj district, passed away at Samorita Hospital in the city on Sunday at the age of 88, says a press release.

He has left behind his wife, one daughter, one son and a host of relatives, friends and admirers to mourn his death.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at Azad Mosque at Gulshan Avenue in the city after Zohr prayers that day.

His qukhwani will be held at his residence after Maghrib prayers on Thursday.

Death anniversary

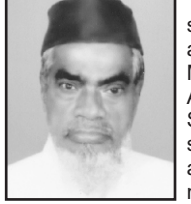
Today is the first death anniversary of Jolly Kabir, former organising secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Awami League and a ward commissioner, says a press release.

On this occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at her C/15 B Railway Colony residence after Asr prayers today.

Besides, milad mahfils will also be held at Railway Station Jame-e-Masjid, Gausul Azam Jame-e-Masjid and Dhaka Diesel Shade Jame-e-Masjid after Zohr prayers and at the Sahjahanpur Railway Colony Water Tank Jame-e-Masjid after Asr prayers.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the programmes to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Abubakar Siddique



Today is the second death anniversary of Muhammad Abubakar Siddique, a social worker and businessman, says a

press release.

On this occasion, a doa and milad mahfil will be held at his 527/9, Nayatola residence in the city after Esha prayers.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the programme.

JICA Alumni hold tree plantation programme

A tree plantation programme was organised by JICA Alumni Association on the campus of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University (BSMRAU) at Gazipur on July 21, says a press release.

Vice-chancellor Prof Md Lutfor Rahman Khan was the chief guest while JICA Resident Representative Nobuko Suzuki Kayashima was the special guest at the programme.

JICA Alumni Association President Azmal Chowdhury and General Secretary Ezharuddin along with a large number of alumni members took part in the programme.

Dr M Mofazzal Hossain, dean of agriculture faculty at BSMRAU, made a presentation on the activities of the university and its future plan.

Every year, JICA Alumni Association organises tree plantation programme at different important locations in Dhaka city and other nearby districts.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Bangladesh and Myanmar held a bilateral meeting at the state guest house Padma in the city yesterday. Acting foreign secretary Mohammad Touhid Hossain led the Bangladesh side while Myanmar Deputy Foreign Minister U Kyaw Thu led the Myanmar delegation. (Story on Page 16)

Mutual Trust Bank-Daily Star debate begins in port city today

CU CORRESPONDENT

A five-day Mutual Trust Bank - The Daily Star Debate Contest '07 begins in the port city today.

Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam will inaugurate the competition, organised by Drishty, Chittagong, as the chief guest at Theatre Institute Chittagong (TIC) auditorium at 9:50am.

Resident Editor the daily Prothom Alo Abul Momen, Centre for Good Governance Chairman Syed Ahsanul Alam Parvez and Executive Vice-President of Mutual Trust Bank Limited Khorshed Alam would attend the inaugural ceremony as guests with Drishty Debate Club Chairman Safia Gazi Rahman in the chair.

A total of 16 schools, six colleges and eight universities would compete in the competitions.

The schools participating in the 15th Inter-School Debate Competition are Bangladeshes Women Association Girls' High School, St Placid's High School, Chittagong Collegiate School, Chittagong Government Girls High School, Dr Khastagir Government Girls High School, Silver Bells Girls' High School, Ispahani Public School and College, Government Muslim High School, Kapasgola City Corporation Girls' High School, Nasirabad Government Boys' High School, Nou Bahini School and College, Imaratunnessa City Corporation Girls' High School, Krishnakumari City Corporation Girls' High School, State Guest School and College, Central Public School and College and Ankur Society School.

Chittagong Government College, Hazi Muhammad Mohsin College, Government City College, Chittagong Government Girls' College, Ispahani Public College and Bangladesh Nou Bahini College would compete in the 7th Inter College Debate Competition.

The universities participating in the 4th Inter University Debate Competition include Chittagong University, Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology, Premier University, BGC Trust University, University of Science and Technology, Chittagong, Veterinary University, Chittagong, Chittagong Medical College and Independent University Bangladesh.

Radio Today is the radio partner of the contest.

Polythene bags worth Tk 5 lakh seized, 4 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Joint forces in a raid at Machhua Bazar in the district yesterday seized nine sacks of banned polythene bags worth about Tk 5 lakh and arrested four in this connection.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of joint forces conducted the raid at four godowns at Machhua Bazar in the afternoon and seized the polythene bags, said police sources.

The arrestees were identified as Abdul Jabbar, Bishwajit Saha, Sudhangshu Banik and Mainul.

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 Barisal, Rajshahi and Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Khulna and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy rainfalls are also likely at places, Met office said in a forecast.

Day temperature may rise by 2-4 degree Celsius over the country. Highest temperature 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 22.2 degree Celsius at Kheupura.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:46pm today and rises at 5:24am 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	32.4	23.8	82	81
Chittagong	28.5	23.3	96	81
Rajshahi	31.5	24.8	88	97
Khulna	32.0	24.7	83	76
Barisal	31.4	23.0	83	95
Sylhet	28.0	23.6	90	98
Cox's Bazar	28.5	23.3	100	87