

Road accidents kill 9, injure 91

STAR REPORT

At least nine people were killed and 91 others injured in separate road accidents in Comilla, Gazipur, Rajshahi, Brahmanbaria and Narayanganj yesterday and on Saturday.

A correspondent from Comilla reports: At least four people, including a woman, were killed and 48 others injured in a road accident in Korpal area on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Buriang upazila yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Md. Mojibur Rahman, 55, sub-assistant engineer of Chandina Public Health in Chandina upazila, Bilkis Akhter, 32, professor of Chandina Redwan Ahmed College, Kadir Mollah, 42, of Cantonment area and bus driver Md Badal, 36.

Police quoting local people said the accident occurred at about 10.30am when a Noakhali-bound passenger bus collided head-on with a Comilla-bound bus, leaving four people dead on the spot and 48 others injured. The critically injured were rushed to different hospitals in Comilla and Chandina.

A case was filed with the Buriang Police Station and the bodies were sent to the Comilla Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A correspondent from Gazipur adds: Two people were killed and 13 kindergarten students injured when a minibus rammed a school van on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Bagher Bazar area in the district yesterday.

The dead were identified as van driver Afazuddin, 35, and a local kindergarten student Mehedi Hasan Opu.

The accident occurred when a

Dhaka-bound bus from Sreepur hit a school van in front of Virgin Cola factory at around 8:00am, leaving 14 students injured seriously.

Locals rushed them to different hospitals. The van driver Afazuddin succumbed to his injuries on the to Dhaka Medical College Hospital while Opu died at Bangladesh Medical College Hospital.

Nine other students were admitted to Bangladesh Medical College Hospital.

Traffic on Dhaka-Mymensingh road remained snarled for about an hour following the accident.

The driver and helper, however, managed to flee. Police seized the bus.

RU correspondent adds: At least two people were killed in separate road accidents in Nawhata area in the city and Tanor upazila on Saturday.

A young man was run over by a bus at Nawhata Bridge in the city yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Selim, 18, son of Hoza Ali, of Barabari village under Mohanpur upazila.

Locals said a speeding bus ran over Selim when he was standing near Nawhata Bridge at about 7:00am, leaving him critically injured.

Selim was rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at 9:00am.

Local people seized the bus and handed over to police but the driver managed to escape.

Meanwhile, a boy was killed in a road accident at Pachandor crossing under Tanor Upazila of Rajshahi on Saturday.

The victim was identified as Jahangir, 14, son of Tufan Biswas of Sundor Nagar village of Tanor

upazila.

Local people said the accident occurred when a speeding bus hit another bus from behind at Pachandor crossing, leaving Jahangir dead.

Our correspondent from Brahmanbaria says: At least 30 passengers were injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Khatihata Point under Sadar upazila in the district Saturday night.

The critically injured are Montu Mia, 37, Jahirul Haque, 40, and Abdul Aziz, 50, of Narsingdi district.

Witness, police and hospital sources said the accident occurred when a Kuti-bound bus from Dhaka turned upside down and fell into a roadside ditch at the Khatihata turning point as its driver lost control over the steering.

Thirty people were injured. Of them, ten were admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital.

Condition of Montu Mia, 37, Jahirul Haque, 40, and Abdul Aziz, 50, of Narsingdi were stated to be critical. The rest 20 were given first aid at Brahmanbaria Sadar hospital and two private clinics.

On information, police and fire fighters of Brahmanbaria Fire Service and Civil Defence rushed to the spot and salvaged the sunken bus.

BSS from Narayanganj adds: One passerby was killed when a speedy truck hit him at Sanarpur on Dhaka-Chittagong road here yesterday morning, police said.

The dead was identified as Nurul Haq, 25, son of Abdus Salam of village Noagao under Araihaazza police station.

Police said the accident took place when a Meghna-bound truck hit Nurul Haq when he was crossing the road.

OZONE DAY ART CONTEST Physically challenged Sanjida becomes champion

BSS, Dhaka

Physically challenged Sanjida Haque Swarna, 12, won the championship for third consecutive year in the art competition organised for school children on the occasion of the International Ozone Day.

She became first out of 200 participants in the art competition organised by the Department of Environment (DoE) marking the day.

Swarna, a student of Class IX of Bijoynagar Muk O Bodhir High School, became completely deaf and dumb after six months of her birth as she suffered from typhoid.

Despite her being physically impaired, Sanjida's parents continued to educate her and encourage her in taking part in extracurricular activities. Their efforts proved very optimum.

Sanjida so far bagged 200 prizes on painting from different organisations including Notun Kuri of BTV, Prime Bank and DoE.

Unicef has made a documentary on her success in painting.

"She can see and read everything, but unable to hear and speak. She perceived everything about ozone and her interest on the issue grew from news and articles published in the newspapers," said Sanjida's father Abdul Haque, a retired BTV cameraman.

"She was born with the ability of hearing and speaking, but the typhoid made her impaired physically but not intellectually," the proud father added.

KHOKON KILLING

Convicts at large even after 3 yrs

DU CORRESPONDENT

Even after three years of the killing of Mahbulul Islam Khokon, an MSS student of political science department of Dhaka University, convicts are at large.

Khokon was beaten black and blue by members of a rival faction on September 15 and later succumbed to his injuries three days later.

Md Rabul Islam, elder brother of Khokon filed a case with the Ramna Police Station on September 16, 2004 accusing 15 JCD men and 10 anonymous people.

Two main accused of the murder case Syed Iqbal Mahmud Titu, international affairs secretary of the JCD central committee, and Shobek Khandkar, organising secretary of the hall, and other accused are on interim bail.

Masud Karim, one of the witnesses and cousin of Khokon, was killed after few months of Khokon's murder.

Two probe committees were formed to investigate into the killing, but probe by DU committees was stalled after official judicial probe into the incident began, said DU Proctor Prof AKA Firoz Ahmed yesterday.

Cancer Hospital gets donation worth Tk 22.48 lakh in August

With the support of the government and people from all walks of life, the construction work of 500-bed Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital at Uttara in the capital is going on speedily.

Donation received in August for the hospital stood at over Tk 22.48 lakh, says a press release.

Of the amount, friends and well-wishers of late Dr Mohammad Shahabuddin of USA donated Tk 10 lakh, Prime Finance and Investment Limited, and Dr (Col Retd) Sultan Ahmed donated Tk 5 lakh each, Saad Rahim and Raniya Tk 88 thousand, Dr Saad Akther Khan and Sheher Akther Khan Tk 50 thousand, Muslema Wafe Tk 40 thousand, ASM Anisuzzaman Chowdhury over Tk 35 thousand, Masuda Begum Tk 12 thousand, Sufia Shamsuddin (Hinguli) Tk 10 thousand, Meherun Nessa Ruby and Mohammad Nuruzzaman Tk 5 thousand each, Mohammad Harun Tk 1 thousand and Farida Yasmin Tk 5 hundred.

The hospital needs Tk 200 crore for timely completion and commissioning.

So far donation worth Tk 52 crore has been received.

Under the circumstances, Dhaka Ahsania Mission has appealed fervently to all corporate houses and fellow countrymen to donate generously to help complete the project on time.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA
Election Commission (EC) discusses its draft proposal for reforms of electoral laws with Krisak Sramik Janata League (KSJL) in the city yesterday.

One shot, 3 stabbed in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four people received injuries in four separate incidents in the city yesterday.

Locals said Mohammad Ripon, 25, a drug addict, received bullet injury when he went to Gulbagh to take drug at around 4:30pm.

He was locked in a quarrel with other drug addicts over taking drug and at one stage of their quarrel one of the drug addicts shot him in the back.

In another incident, miscreants chopped an employee of a video shop at Madhaya Badda at around 2:30am and left him injured.

Police said two local boys Khalil and Sohel entered the Sagar VCD Centre and chopped its employee Bidhan Chandra Sheel, 20, over previous enmity.

Meanwhile, criminals stabbed a security guard of Habib Forman Khan Market at Demra.

Abdul Mannan, 60, was stabbed as he resisted the criminals who were trying to enter the market by breaking the locks at the collapsible gate open at around 2:30am.

In the other incident, some snatchers stabbed Yakub Ali, 29, at Razar Bagh.

The victim said a group of three snatchers stabbed him as he was getting on a rickshaw and took away his mobile set and money.

All the injured received treatment at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

In view of her own experience as a woman, the adviser said

Women's participation in nat'l dev on rise

Geeteara tells The Korea Times

BSS, Dhaka

Adviser for Women and Children Affairs Geeteara Safiya Choudhury underscored the need for greater participation of women and said the role of women as well as their participation in the process of national development had been on the rise.

Though the women of the country achieved remarkable successes in social and political arena, many of those attainments were kept unrevealed, she said while giving an interview to The Korea Times during her visit there, said a PID handout issued here yesterday.

Meanwhile, the adviser returned home from South Korea yesterday after attending the women affairs ministerial meeting of the First World Women Forum, held at Seoul from September 12-14, the handout added.

During the interview, the adviser said the typical perception for the Bangladeshi women abroad were that they had no contribution in the socio-economic development of the country as they confine themselves inside the houses. "But this observation is not true, women of the country have already set lots of examples of successes and everybody now recognise their contribution," she added.

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More countries join US-led nuclear energy programme

AFP, Vienna

Eleven countries joined yesterday a US-led initiative to spread atomic power but not technology which can be used to make nuclear weapons.

Australia, Bulgaria, Ghana, Hungary, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Ukraine signed in Vienna a statement of principles for the programme, the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP).

It called for the "expansion of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes worldwide in a safe and secure manner."

GNEP seeks to help states get nuclear fuel, such as uranium, so they do not produce it themselves.

It also aims to promote the use of nuclear reactors that do not present proliferation risks, such as producing plutonium, and to recycle spent nuclear fuel so that plutonium can not be separated out.

Enriched uranium and plutonium can be fuel for reactors but also can be used to make nuclear weapons.

The GNEP started as a US initiative in February 2006 and had its first meeting in May this year in Washington when the United States hosted fellow members China, France, Japan and Russia.

Nuclear power is seen by many as crucial in a world where energy demand is booming since it makes electricity without adding to the greenhouse gases which cause global warming.

The United States is seeking to promote nuclear power while guarding against the danger of the spread of nuclear weapons which arises when states like Iran develop strategic technologies such as uranium enrichment, which makes nuclear reactor fuel but also atom bomb material.

The United States wants GNEP to organize countries that have secure, advanced nuclear capabilities to provide fuel to other nations which agree to use nuclear energy just for power generation.

Their compliance would be monitored by the UN watchdog International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

US Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman said Sunday that GNEP had no specific projects yet.

"Our task today is to formally commit to the principles espoused by GNEP and to begin discussions with like-minded countries that seek to develop civilian nuclear power in a safe and secure manner and who, not coincidentally, have been reaching out to us," Bodman said in a speech at the GNEP meeting, which also included 22 candidate partner and observer countries.

Bodman later told reporters that GNEP is "not committed to any (one particular technology)" but is "looking at everything that is available."

"What we are attempting to do is to start looking long-term... how we should go about developing nuclear power on a safe and affordable basis" while protecting "against proliferation," Bodman said.

"We have a lot to do here just to get ourselves organized," he added.

Asked if the GNEP initiative was coming too late, with Iran for instance already enriching uranium, Bodman said: "It may have been better to do this 10 years ago and not now."

But "we're trying to do the best we can given the set of circumstances that confront us," Bodman said.



Shahadat Hossain and Mabroor Hossain, directors of HOSAF GROUP, hand over a cheque for Tk 10 lakh to Chief Adviser Fakhrudin Ahmed at his office recently for the flood victims.



Rtn. Rafique Ahmed Siddique, Governor, Rotary International District 3280, Bangladesh, 2nd from left, receives a cheque for Tk 6 lakh from Syed Ershad Ahmed, President, 3rd from right, American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (AmCham), recently in order to undertake a joint project to rehabilitate the flood-affected small and marginal handloom owners in Sirajganj.

DHAKA TODAY

Book launch

Oitijhya organises the launching ceremony of Rangeen Phul, a publication for the children. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 11:30am.

Workshop

Partners in Population and Development (PPD) organises a workshop on 'Access to reproductive health for the achievement of ICPD and MDGs: The south-south initiative'. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

Inauguration

A DNA laboratory will be inaugurated at the Paediatric Hematology and Oncology department of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib medical University. Time: 10:00am.

Launching ceremony

The launching ceremony of Controller General Defence Finance Procedure Manual 2007 and Audit and Accounts Practices Handbook 2006-07, Volume II (Defence Finance) will be held. Venue: Audit Bhaban. Time: 11:00am.