

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 Korpai area on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Burichang 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 Mowllah, 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 Burichang 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 snapped 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 Hozza 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 Khatitha Point under Sadar upazila in the district on Saturday night.

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

Witness, police and hospital sources said the accident occurred when a Kutibound bus from Dhaka turned upside down and fell into a roadside ditch at the Khatitha 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, Jahiriul 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 Sanarpar 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 Araihazar 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 optimistic.

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 Mahbubul 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 Rabiul 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 Shoeb 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 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 over Tk 88 thousand, Dr Saad Akhter Khan and Sheher Akhter 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 Madhhaya Badda at around 2:30am and left him injured.

Police said two local boys Khalil and Sohnel 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.

Day labourer dies after brick falls on him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A day labourer was killed as a brick fell on him from an under-construction building in the city's Lalbagh area yesterday.

Ashraf Ali, 45, was seriously injured when the accident occurred at about 10:30am.

Locals rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital but on duty doctors declared him dead.

5 drown in floodwaters in Sirajganj

UNB, Sirajganj

Five people drowned in floodwaters in Sadar, Belkuchi and Kazipur upazilas in the district in the last two days.

They were identified as Shefali, 40, wife of Hanif of Chandidasgati village in Sadar upazila, Shipon, 5, son of Soleman of Hariyahata village in Sadar upazila, Rahat, 4, of Mukundagati village, and Aleya, 16, of Chandangati village in Belkuchi upazila, and Hamid, 4, of Bishwariyaberi village in Kazipur upazila.

With this, a total of 25 people have so far been killed since the second spell of flood hit the district. Another 65 people lost their lives in the first spell of the flooding in the district.

The flood-affected people are passing days in miseries in many parts of the district for lack of emergency supplies.

Ex-FAO adviser at IUBAT as visiting scholar

Dr Cato Aall, former adviser for nutrition to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), visited International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) as a visiting scholar recently.

This is a follow-up of his visit to IUBAT in 2002, says a press release. During the visit, Dr Aall, a Norwegian, worked on development issues of marginalised people across the world.

The research and consultation in IUBAT led to the development of a Memorandum on International Solidarity Fund for Marginalised People (ISFMP).

The objective of ISFMP is to reach the poorest of the poor and bring them back into society and reintegrate them in solidarity through self-reliance and participation in regular economic development.

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.

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.

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

women need to step forward personally with courage for establishing themselves in the society.

She also informed the daily that Bangladesh had already achieved remarkable success in the sector of women development and gender parity.

Power plants generate record 4,018MW Saturday evening

Power generation hit maximum during the peak hours on Saturday evening with the production of 4,018 megawatt electricity, said a press release of Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) yesterday.

Without establishing new power plants, it was only made possible by proper maintenance, utilisation, timely and realistic planning and proper management, the release said.

This is the first time power generation leaped up to 4,000 megawatt in post liberation Bangladesh. Earlier, only three weeks ago power generation jumped to 3,900 megawatt on August 24.

With this, the efficiency of the power plants rose up to 85.6 per cent, the release added.



Shahadat Hossain and Mabroor Hossain, directors of HOSAF GROUP, hand over a cheque for Tk 10 lakh to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin 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, third 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 Ranganee 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

ADNAlaboratory 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 Bhavan. Time: 11:00am.

Rotary Dhaka Eskatan

The regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Eskatan will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5:30pm.

Discussion

Voice for Interactive Choice and Empowerment (VOICE) organises a discussion on international financial institutions. Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Unity. Time: 10:30am.



PHOTO: STAR

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury speaks at a party meeting at Baridhara in the city yesterday.

'Adopt 'no model' approach for attaining development'

Bss, Dhaka

Laurence J Brahm, a visiting scholar, yesterday suggested that the developing countries should adopt a 'no model' approach for attaining development.

Laurence, a regular author on China and Vietnam, was delivering a speech on 'Himalayan Consensus' and 'China Today' at the Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) in the city.

He said each country has different experiences based on local conditions and therefore theories and assumptions made by the IMF and the World Bank might not apply to individual countries.

In this regard, he mentioned the examples of China and said China's economic experience overturned IMF and World Bank development assumptions.

Laurence said while China emphasises on gross domestic product (GDP), Bhutan calls for gross domestic happiness (GDH).

One killed in train accident in Rajshahi

RU CORRESPONDENT

A man was killed in a train accident near Arani rail station in Rajshahi on Saturday evening.

The victim was identified as Rahidul Islam, 30, son of Aslam Sarker of Chakorpara village. Local sources said 'Modhumoti express' crushed him under its wheels while he was crossing the rail track.

On information, police recovered the body and sent to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) for autopsy.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy rainfalls are also likely at one or two places over the country, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 24.5 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:00pm today and rises at 5:46am 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	33.5	26.5	76	69
Chittagong	32.6	26.7	79	79
Rajshahi	34.2	27.0	84	82
Khulna	33.4	26.8	87	92
Barisal	32.6	26.0	92	87
Sylhet	31.5	24.5	87	79
Cox's Bazar	32.8	25.4	83	82