

Road accidents kill 7, injure 22

STAR REPORT

At least seven people were killed and 22 others injured in separate road accidents in Gazipur, Faridpur, Khagrachhari, Comilla, Rajshahi and Barisal yesterday and on Monday.

A correspondent from Gazipur adds: An unidentified woman was killed and two others were injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Tangail highway at Gazipur Sadar yesterday.

The accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound minibus from Chandra in Kaliakoir hit a truck standing in front of Bhawal Badre Alam Government College, leaving a woman, aged about 24, passenger of the minibus, dead on the spot.

The injured were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH).

Officer in charge (OC) of Joydevpur Police Station Mizanur Rahman said a case was filed with Joydevpur Police Station in this regard.

A CORRESPONDENT from Faridpur reports: A woman was killed and eight others were injured in a road accident at Bhanga upazila of Faridpur yesterday.

According to police, the accident occurred at about 7:00am when a passenger bus coming from Dhaka for Moksedpur turned upside down on Bhanga-Mawa

highway and fell into a roadside ditch in Brahmapur area of Bhanga as its driver lost control over the steering.

The dead was identified as Salta Rani Das, 30, wife of Uttam Kumar Das of Moksedpur upazila of Gopalganj. The injured were admitted to Bhanga hospital.

Our correspondent from Khagrachhari adds: One person was killed and two others were injured in road accident at Thalipara under Mohalchhari upazila in Khagrachhari district yesterday.

The dead was identified as truck driver Amzad Hossen, 29, son of Soharab Hossen of Chongrachhari village under Mohalchhari upazila. The injured are Abul Hossen, 23 and Babu, 16.

Police said the accident occurred when a Mohalchhari-bound truck loaded with banana turned upside down and fell into a ditch as its driver lost control over the steering near Thalipara, leaving Amzad dead on the spot.

The injured were released after first aid, they said. The body was sent to Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

A CORRESPONDENT from Comilla reports: At least two people, including a BDR member, were killed and 10 others injured in a road accident in Kalakochua area on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in

Burichang upazila on Monday night.

The deceased were identified as Md Abdul Malek Biswas, 38 a BDR man of Chowbaria village of Pangsha upazila in Rajbari district and Shahidul Islam, 35, of Bonogon village in Gopalganj.

Police quoting local people said the accident occurred at about 10:30pm when a Dhaka-bound passenger bus collided head-on with a Chittagong-bound goods-laden truck, leaving two people dead on the spot and 10 others injured.

The critically injured were sent to Burichang Health Complex and Comilla Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

A case was filed with the Burichang police. The bodies were sent to the Comilla Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Meanwhile, one person was killed in a road accident the same day in Shetolia area near Miarbazar in Choudhogram upazila.

The accident occurred when a passenger bus collided head-on with a motorcycle, leaving the motorcycle dead on the spot.

The dead was identified as Farhan Uddin, 30, son of Abdur Rahman of College Road in Majidpur upazila in Noakhali district.

Police seized the bus but its

driver and helper managed to flee. Police also recovered the body and sent it to Comilla Medical College hospital for autopsy.

RU correspondent adds: An old man was killed in a road accident in Nawhatola bridge area in the city on Monday evening.

Police and locals said the accident occurred when a speedy truck hit the old man when he crossing the bridge.

The deceased was identified as Nader Ali, 60, of Barabari village in Rajshahi.

Local people rushed Nader to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Police seized the truck but driver managed to escape.

Our correspondent from Barisal says: Halimunnesa, 70, succumbed to her injuries at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) early yesterday morning.

A bus hit Halimunnesa in the Gouradi bus stand area on Monday morning.

Local people said the elderly woman, a widow without any spouse, became homeless by her relatives and engaged in begging in the area.

She was buried at her family graveyard at Nandampatty village yesterday afternoon after namaz-e-janaza.

DV LOTTERY 2009 Applications to be accepted from 10:00pm today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The US Embassy in Dhaka yesterday cautioned the applicants

not to become victims by paying money to frauds as the online Diversity Visa (DV) Lottery Season 2009 starts at 10:00pm (local time) today and will continue up to December 2.

"With your personal application, dishonest agents can receive your winning letter at a different address and then extort money from you. Some people have paid over Tk 15 lakh," said US Embassy Consular Section Chief Elizabeth P Gourlay at a press conference at American Club in the city.

Applicants may have the access to electronic DV entry form at www.dvlottery.state.gov during the registration period and no paper entries will be accepted, she said, advising them not to wait until the last week of the registration period to enter because heavy demand may result in website delays.

Elizabeth said every person is 100 percent responsible for his or her own entry.

"Even if someone fills out the form for you, you are still responsible for the mistakes on the application, which will disqualify you," she said, asking applicants not to use agents to fill out the form.

Elizabeth said the applicants should pay not more than one lakh to pay to check his or her email while paying for using a public computer during applying for DV.

She said the costs for DV will be about Tk 60,000, but only if anyone is scheduled for an interview at the US Embassy.

"Remember, it costs absolutely nothing to apply," she added.

The annual DV programme makes diversity immigrant visas available to persons meeting the simple, but strict eligibility requirements.

A computer-generated random lottery drawing chooses selectees for diversity visas.

The visas are distributed among six geographic regions with a greater number of visas going to regions with lower rates of immigration, and with no visas going to nationals of countries sending more than 50,000 immigrants to the United States over the period of the past five years.

Bangladesh will receive a maximum of 3500 visas under the DV-2009, Elizabeth said.

The Diversity Visa application instructions in Bangla are available on the Embassy's website at www.usembassy.gov.

All instructions in print will also be found at the American Embassy at Baridhara, American Center at Banani and Saimon Overseas Ltd at House 4/A, Road 22, Gulshan in the city.

Deputy Director of American Center Harvey W Sernovitz and US Embassy Visa Assistant Jasmin Ara were present at the press conference.

Drug stores fined for irregularities

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A mobile court realised fine Tk 47,000 from several drug stores for having no trade license, not preserving vaccines properly and keeping dead expired medicines in Gazipur yesterday.

The court ran the drive at Sadman Medical, Hasan Medical, Beethi Pharmacy and Sayma Medical.



Former state minister for labour and employment Amanullah Aman, left, and former state minister for communications Salahuddin Ahmed, right, were produced before the court in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA



The two persons circled in the photo are pedestrians, not accused in any case. But Focus Bangla provided the photo with circle marks on Monday, inadvertently identifying them as accused. The caption of the photo, published in The Daily Star yesterday, was 'former public works secretary SM Jafarullah, former Rajuk chairmen Shahidul Alam and Iqbal Hossain and Rajuk official Golam Nabi are being taken to jail after they surrendered to a court in connection with a graft case'. Focus Bangla regrets the inadvertent error.

WATER PILFERAGE 40 Ctg establishments fined in Sept

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A mobile court in the port city in its month-long drives against water pilferage fined 40 different establishments Tk 36 lakh for pilfering Wasa water last month.

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Magistrate Munir Chowdhury led the drives titled 'Operation Save Wasa' through out the month of September at different places in the city with the help of the officials of engineering and revenue departments of Chittagong Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa).

The court fined 40 different establishments, including 12 residential and non-residential hotel and restaurants, 19 residential and commercial buildings, three salt factories, two ice factories, two building construction firms, one community centre and one plastic factory, said the sources.

During the drive the court found that the authorities of these establishments pilfered water through illegal underground pipeline, tempering metres, digging unauthorised deep tube-well, expanding Wasa main line and plastic pipe and seven motors with three-wheels, headed.

Feroz started the project as a research and development project and gave the robot a shape of human body.

The IIUC has provided Feroz with a laboratory to do the work, but fund constraint is hampering the rest of the job.

He said to finish his work, a financial assistance worth Tk 2,000 is needed.

Feroz sought help from government and private organisations for full implementation of the project.

"If fund is available, I am confident I can finish the work on time and it will be one of the best robots of the world," he claimed.

Feroz said an Australian software firm Tachibana wanted to provide fund for the project, but it also wanted the copyright of the robot.

"So we refused them," he added.

Polish priest caught driving 11 times over drink limit

AFP, Warsaw

A Polish Roman Catholic priest is facing a holy row after he was caught at the wheel following a drinking spree that left him 11 times over the limit, police said yesterday.

Father Antoni M., 54, had a blood-alcohol level of more than 2.2 grammes per litre, Warsaw police spokeswoman Anna Kedzierszawska was quoted as saying by Poland's PAP news agency.

Officers arrested the priest in the early hours of Tuesday after spotting him zigzagging through the centre of Warsaw, police said.

He could face two years in prison for breaking Poland's drink-driving limit of 0.2 grammes of alcohol per litre of blood.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong division and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka,

Sylhet, Barisal and Khulna divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 34.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 24.0 degree Celsius at Tangail.

The sun sets at the capital at 5:44pm today and rises at 5:51am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in celsius	Humidity percentage
Dhaka	32.8	26.4
Chittagong	32.7	26.5
Rajshahi	32.8	26.0
Khulna	33.5	26.4
Barisal	33.5	26.6
Sylhet	33.5	25.0
Cox's Bazar	33.0	25.5

A mobile court realised fine Tk 47,000 from several drug stores for having no trade license, not preserving vaccines properly and keeping dead expired medicines in Gazipur yesterday.

The court ran the drive at Sadman Medical, Hasan Medical, Beethi Pharmacy and Sayma Medical.

Sources said the highest level of the government has approved in principle this proposal and it is now under legal scrutiny. A legal adviser of the ministry is now scrutinising it.

In the past, secretaries or high officials of the ministry solidified their positions in these companies through approval of the prime minister or by incorporating certain clauses in the Memorandum of Association of the companies.

The court ran the drive at Sadman Medical, Hasan Medical, Beethi Pharmacy and Sayma Medical.

According to legal experts, these

Power ministry power being decentralised

FROM PAGE 1
A power ministry official cannot represent the ministry in more than two of these companies at other levels.

At the executive body level, only the managing director will have the authority to represent a company. The company boards will have representatives from the consumers, businessmen and other groups concerned for the first time.

Representatives' councils of the companies will include financial experts, also for the first time.

On the other hand, the companies, which now do not have specific financial or performance targets, will have to set their annual targets.

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clauses can be removed through holding annual general meeting (AGM) of a company.

Sources pointed out that in the past secretaries or high officials of the ministry managed to have such powers simply to get extra personal benefits. For instance, a power secretary used five to six cars and Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs). They also made extra income by taking allowances for attending meetings of the companies. Besides, there were a host of other benefits.

"As the power secretary headed five or six boards, this made him a very powerful and influential man, which was not desirable. This created the opportunity of corruption at his level, and broke the chain of command in the companies," said another official.

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