

Road accidents kill

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Sylhet in the last four days.

A Sylhet-bound private car hit an auto rickshaw and a rickshaw on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway at about 12:30pm on Friday leaving rickshaw passenger Mahbubul Alam Doros, 45, dead on the spot and three others seriously wounded.

The injured were rushed to MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital where Sonaraf Ali, 44, succumbed to his injuries.

A pick-up van carrying 30 labourers fell into a roadside ditch as its driver lost control over the vehicle at Khashikaput at about 7:00pm on Friday leaving labourer Ahd Noor, 55, of Batia village in Sunamganj dead on the spot and two others injured.

The wounded were rushed to Osmani Medical College Hospital where Abdur Rafige succumbed to his wounds.

In another accident, a speeding minibus ran over a person on Sylhet-Zakiganj road at Lalarchak on Friday evening.

The dead was identified as Riazuddin, 26, son of Intaj Ali of Kanaighat upazila.

Police said separate cases were filed.

Our correspondent from Noakhali reports: A child was killed and 45 people were injured as a Lamkipur-bound passengers bus from Chittagong skidded off Begumganj-Lamkipur road at Kalikapur on Monday morning.

The identity of the dead could not be known.

A pick-up van plunged into a roadside canal after its driver lost control over the steering near Eklashpur Bazar on Begumganj-Maizdi road leaving Masud, 25, helper of the vehicle, dead and five others injured.

Meanwhile, Ranji Das, 30, a journalist of local fortnightly Lok Sangbad was killed and another person injured when a truck hit his motorcycle at Begumganj on Monday afternoon.

Seriously injured Zahirul Haque was admitted to a hospital.

Our correspondent from Narayanganj reports: Three of a family were killed when a microbus carrying them collided with a bus on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Bhatrab on Sunday morning.

The dead are Ripon, 24, his brother Hik, 22, and cousin Shaheen of Lakkhankhola.

They were on their way to

Shokhia in Kishoreganj.

A Kushtia-bound truck from Jhenidah ran over Saiful Islam, 28, of Shalakupa upazila in Jhenidah while he was crossing a road near Shekhpara of Kushtia on Monday.

Our staff correspondent from Khulna reports: Two of a family were killed and another was injured when a Dhaka-bound bus hit a van.

The dead are Abul Khair, 54, and his grandson Sumon, 19.

Our correspondent from Jhenidah reports: Four people were killed and two others injured in separate accidents on Sunday and Monday.

The deceased are Munna, 45, of Rahmatpur village in Jessor, Bichitra, 40, Yakub Ali, 65, and Saiful Islam, 28, of Jhenidah.

Our Manikganj correspondent reports: Two people were killed and 50 others injured in two separate road accidents on Dhaka-Aricha Highway on Monday and yesterday.

The identity of the deceased could not be known.

State-run news agency BSS reports: Two people including a child were killed in two road accidents at Baniachang in Hobiganj and Shibchar in Madaripur yesterday.

The dead are Pakul Mia, 4, and Amzad Pramanik, 65.

Meanwhile, a passenger bus hit a CNG-run auto-rickshaw at Anwara upazila in Chittagong leaving Ismail Hossain, 40, of Bokalhi upazila dead and two others injured yesterday.

Army chief

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Bangladesh caucus Joseph Crowley.

The army chief would then go to Florida to visit his son, who is studying at a university there, and his younger brother.

His brother is reported to have arranged a dinner for the general, to exchange views with local Bangladeshi-Americans.

The general would also visit Boston between October 21 and 23, where he is expected to address a seminar hosted by the Ash Institute of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

He will depart for Macau, China on October 23. Top brass of the army accompanies him.

Yunus

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Gai (singing the song of Bangla).

"Today's world needs kind people like Dr Yunus very much, people who can sacrifice their lives to make other people happy," Cherry Blair said while talking with News.

Grameen Foundation, US organised the function.

Meantime, Dr Yunus congratulated Al Gore on his winning the Nobel peace prize and the Nobel committee for recognising the former US vice-president's work.

"Bangladesh is one of the countries which are going to be the worst sufferer for climate change and global warming. As a result of this, 20 percent area of Bangladesh may go under water and millions of people will face disaster," he said, lauding Al Gore's work to create worldwide awareness about climate change, terming it 'timely' and 'humane'.

Obaidul Haque

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"Ekushey Padak" for his outstanding contributions to the field of journalism. Besides, he won several awards, including Bangla Academy Sahaitya Padak and Unicef Gold Medal.

He was the chairman of the Dainik Bangla and Bangladesh Times Trustee Board, Nazrul Institute and Bangladesh Press Institute.

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Chief Adviser Fakhrudin Ahmed expressed deep shock at the death of journalist Obaidul Haque.

In a condolence message, the president said his (Obaidul Haque) death caused an irreparable loss to the country's press arena.

He conveyed his sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

The chief adviser in his message said Obaidul Haque was a pioneer in the domain of the country's journalism. His contributions to the field of journalism will ever be remembered, he added.

The CA conveyed his sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

Information Adviser Mainul Hossain also expressed his deep shock at the death of Obaidul Haque.

The adviser conveyed his sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

Both groups of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) condoled the death of journalist Obaidul Haque.

QULKHANI

The qulkhani for journalist Obaidul Haque will be held at Banani Jame-e-Mosque after Asr prayers on Friday (October 19).

Family members have requested the journalists, cultural activists, relatives and well-wishers to attend the qulkhani and pray for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

Demanding the release of Sheikh Hasina, the AL president, Suranji hoped that legal and people's courts would clear her of the charges, and said the party will continue the legal battle to get her released.

The AL's acting President Zillur Rahman, meantime, demanded Hasina's release and withdrawal of the state of emergency immediately.

While exchanging Eid greetings with party leaders and workers on Sunday, Zillur questioned the necessity of the emergency as the government is claiming that the country is running smoothly.

FDI flow

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The government would scrutinise some of the rules and regulations which are hindering the flow of investment, the BoI chairman said adding it would also introduce some new rules to facilitate investment.

He said USA, Egypt, UAE, Norway and UK are the top five countries which contributed about 66 percent to Bangladesh's total FDI last year.

Telecom sector remained at the top as the most FDI receiving sector with about 43.8 percent followed by energy and power at 26.3 percent, trade and commerce 16.4 percent and manufacturing 13.2 percent.

According to the Unctad report, the global FDI rose by 38 percent to \$1,306 billion in 2006 and the three top FDI recipient countries are USA \$175 billion, UK \$139 billion and France \$81 billion.

In South Asian region, India received \$16.9 billion, Pakistan, \$4.3 billion and Sri Lanka \$480 million FDI in 2006.

However, the BGM&A and BKMEA are confident that they can overcome the bad time and if it is possible, the new export target is not unrealistic," he said.

The commerce ministry fixed the target after consultation with all exporters' associations, chambers and different government agencies.

As per the new target, the government aims to earn \$5.4 billion from the weaving sector with a 16 percent growth. In the last fiscal year, the sector witnessed 14.05 percent growth with an export earning of \$4.65 billion against a similar target.

The government has fixed \$5.46 billion as the export target for the knitwear sector with a 20 percent growth. In the last fiscal year, earning from the sector was \$4.55 billion with 19.3 percent growth against a target of \$4.84 billion.

The RMG makes up 75 percent of the country's exports.

The target in exporting frozen food was fixed at \$600 million with 16 percent growth, \$6 million in tea export with 15 percent growth, \$350 million in jute and jute products with 9 percent growth, and \$295 million in leather and leather goods with 21 percent growth.

Rain-fed calamities

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The local roads and highways office said road connections with Rowangchhari, Chirring-Lamai-Alikodom and Ruma were snapped.

Storms damaged many houses, uprooted hundreds of trees and disconnected electric and telephone cables, disrupting power supply in the district.

A correspondent from Noakhali reports: A tornado killed a three-year-old, Atiq, and injured 10 others at Bhumihari Bazar and Morshed Bazar of Hatia upazila yesterday morning.

Condition of one of the injured, Abdur Rashid, 70, was reported to be critical.

Stamps damaged more than 50 houses and shops and uprooted hundreds of trees. Local sources said incessant driving rain accompanied by gusty winds caused heavy damage to many houses and trees at Nijhum Island and Kering Char.

Our correspondent from Patuakhali reports: At least 20 persons, including a child and a female, were injured and over 50 houses damaged as a tornado lashed a remote Patuakhali village on Monday.

Relatives of the missing fishermen gathered in Kuakata and Mohipur areas to see if they returned.

A correspondent from Chandpur reports: Three persons including two women have been missing since an engine driven boat capsized in the vast Tangar haor in Tahirkhali upazila of Sunamganj district yesterday afternoon.

Locals recovered the body of a 10-year-old, Sohag.

Locals said the small boat started from Lakma village with 20 passengers for Moheshkhola bazar of Madhyanagar upazila at about 10:30am. It overturned at about 12:30pm.

FIVE KILLED IN STORMS

At least five people were killed and more than one hundred injured when tornadoes ripped through the southern coastal districts and the south-central parts of the country on Monday night.

Over 100 fishermen were reported missing as 18 fishing trawlers capsized in the River Passur during storms caused by land depression.

The gale also damaged hundreds of thatched houses and crops and uprooted trees in their thousands and some electrical poles, disrupting road communication and snapping power supply in the districts.

Monga Coastguard authorities said they rescued two fishermen from Kochikhali area on Monday night, adding that drive was on to find out the rest.

Our staff correspondent from Khulna reports: Two people, killed during a tornado, were identified as Nazrul Islam, 40, of Faridpur and Al Amin, 18, of Mollahat upazila of Bagerhat.

Police said both the men died when trees fell down on them during the twister, which also injured around 50 people and damaged over 500 thatched and mud houses in the district.

Quoting doctors, family members said Jewel died due to poisoning. He had fallen home with his rickshaw on Thursday. The rickshaw is missing.

An unidentified man of around 25 was brought to the DMCH in an unconscious state yesterday afternoon. He died an hour later. Hospital sources said he was poisoned.

Mohammadpur police said Niloy was a listed criminal of New Market area. They suspected that his accomplices killed him due to feuds.

6 murdered

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found him lying unconscious near Barabagh mosque and took him to the DMCH.

Abdul Karim from Jatrabari was brought to the DMCH with fatal injuries on Sunday night. A pedestrian, Junus Ali, who brought him to the hospital, said muggers stabbed him. He succumbed to his injuries in the morning.

Sumon, a private car driver, was stabbed by muggers at Shantibagh while he was returning home from Segunbagicha on Monday night. He was admitted to the DMCH where he died yesterday morning.

Jewel, a rickshaw puller, was taken to the DMCH in the early hours of Friday. Some pedestrians said he was lying unconscious near Gulistan.

Reports on Russian news agencies of an assassination threat had cast doubt over whether Putin would go ahead with the visit and his arrival was delayed from the scheduled touchdown on Monday evening.

But much to the relief of Iranian officials, his plane finally landed at Tehran's Mehrabad airport early Tuesday.

Russia's Interfax news agency, citing a source in the Russian special services, had reported on Sunday that a group of suicide bombers would try to kill Putin in Tehran. The Kremlin said Putin had been notified of the report.

Iranian media reported that Putin's armour-plated car had been air-freighted into Tehran ahead of his visit to ensure his security.

His exact travel plans were kept closely under wraps, with Kremlin officials refusing even to disclose what time he left Germany after talks with Chancellor Angela Merkel for the five hour flight to Iran.

Putin had insisted that he would "of course" press ahead with his visit, saying that talking directly to Iran's leaders could help end the standoff over its nuclear programme.

The Islamic republic has regularly hosted allies who share its antipathy towards the United States such as Belarus President Aleksander Lukashenko, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, and Venezuela's Hugo Chavez.

But a visit by a statesman of Putin's stature - his country is a veto-wielding permanent member of the UN Security Council -- is a major event.

The last Kremlin chief to visit Iran was Soviet dictator Josef Stalin, who attended the famous conference of the "Big Three" World War II Allies in Tehran in 1943 alongside Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

3 killed

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spot Saturday afternoon. The adviser directed senior officials of railway to find out the cause of accident immediately.

Communication Secretary Mahbubur Rahman, Railway Director General Belayet Hossain, General Manager (East Zone) Iqbal Mollah and other senior officials accompanied the adviser.

Bangladesh Railway and communication ministry formed two probe committees regarding the accident.

Divisional Transportation Officer of Railway Mohibul Arefin was made the convener of a five-member probe committee formed by Bangladesh Railway. Other members of the committee are Divisional Mechanical Engineer Nur Ahmed, Divisional Signal Engineer Shariful Islam, Divisional Engineer (I) Abdul Jalil and Assistant Engineer (Mechanical) Md Solaiman.

The court passed the order after ACC Assistant Director Shamsul Alam submitted a petition seeking permission to quiz Babul.

The case was filed on August 19 against Babul, his wife advocate Shamsul Alam and their son Sharmin Islam for concealing Tk 43,980,412 in their wealth statements.

ALAM CASE

Judge Mohammad Azizul of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court issued arrest warrants against Manik.

Joint Secretary Shafizuddin Ahmed, head of the four-member probe committee of the communication ministry, is scheduled to visit the spot today.