

## Road accidents kill five

## STAR REPORT

At least five people were killed and 10 others injured in separate road accidents in Manikganj, Mymensingh, Chandpur, Rajshahi and Netrakona yesterday.

Our Correspondent from Manikganj adds: A motorcyclist was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Aricha highway at Pukuria under Ghior Police Station in Manikganj yesterday.

The victim was identified as businessman Abdul Mannan, 35, of Kushtia.

Locals said the accident occurred at around 4:00pm when a Dhaka-bound speeding vehicle ran over the motorcyclist from behind, killing him on the spot.

Family sources said Mannan was going to his business place in Dhaka from Kushtia in a motorcyclist.

The motorcycle and a mobile set recovered from the spot.

Our correspondent from Mymensingh adds: One person was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Bharaduba in Bhaluka Upazila yesterday.

The victim was identified as Khorshed Ali, 55, son of late Samar Ali of village Rasulpur in Nandail upazila. He was a member of a Tablig Jamaat staying at Bharaduba in Bhaluka.

Bhaluka Police said the accident took place when a Dhaka-bound

passenger bus from Mymensingh crushed Khorshed while he was crossing the road after Asr prayers at a local mosque at around 5:15pm. He died on the spot.

Our correspondent from Chandpur adds: A rickshawpuller was killed and four others were injured in a road accident on Chandpur-Matlab South Road at Udamdi village under Matlab South yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Arshad Ali Mridha, 60, of Udamdi village in Matlab South.

The accident occurred when a Matlab South-bound speeding truck from Chandpur Sadar hit two rickshaws from behind yesterday.

Arshad was rushed to Chandpur Sadar Hospital where the on-duty doctor declared him dead while the injured were admitted to Matlab South Health Complex.

Police seized the truck but the driver fled the scene.

An eight-year-old boy identified as Md Shakil was run over by a speedy maxi on Chandpur-Cormilla road in Hajiganj town on Thursday evening.

The accident took place when Shakil was crossing Chandpur-Cormilla road. He was rushed to Sadar Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

RU correspondent adds: A minor boy was killed in a road accident at Rajbarihat crossing under Godagari upazila of Rajshahi yesterday.

Police said the accident took place at around 10:00am when a Chapainawabganj-bound truck hit the boy in Rajbarihat crossing area, leaving him dead on the spot.

The victim was identified as Abu Raihan, 10, son of Arshad Ali, a resident of Kashiadanga area in the city.

Local said the truck hit Raihan when he was crossing the highway.

The truck managed to escape.

Our correspondent from Netrakona reports: One person was killed and six others were injured in a road accident on Netrakona-Purbadhal road at Trimohani Bazar under Purbadhal upazila in the district yesterday.

The dead was identified as Kamala Rani Saha, 60, of village Shaldiga under Purbadhal upazila.

Police said the accident occurred at about 8:00am when a Purbadhal-bound passenger tempo from Netrakona knocked down Kamala Rani at Trimohani Bazar as its driver lost his control over the steering, killing her on the spot.

The tempo also fell into the roadside ditch, leaving six passengers injured.

Seriously injured Sirajul Islam, 38, Abdul Mannan, 45, and Rakibul Hasan, 50, were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Local people seized the tempo and its driver.

### DRIVE AGAINST YABA Intelligence activities beefed up in posh city areas

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) beefed up their intelligence activities in the city's posh areas following the arrest of six people on charges of carrying illegal drugs from the city's Gulshan area on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Rab personnel yesterday filed a case with Gulshan Police Station against the arrestees -- Dayee Khan Beer alias Chiku, 32, Moshifur Rahman alias, 34, Sheikh Ahmed Shafiq, 33, Salman Rahim Juaran, 28, Altaf Akmal Kollot, 33, Mahmud Ali Jaber alias Shanon, 19 under Narcotics Control Act and Special Powers Act.

Rab officials seized the Porsche and BMW-325i, which were allegedly used by the arrestees for selling and carrying illegal drugs including 'yaba tablet' and phencyclidine. They also said that they had been investigating whether the carshad valid papers.

Gulshan police said that the arrestees were sent to Court urging it to put the arrestees on a five-day remand. The trial would begin on Monday.

Commander SM Abul Kalam Azad, director of Media Wing of Rab, told The Daily Star that they would quiz some of the arrestees for further information.

Sources of Narcotics department told journalists use of 'yaba tablet' was first reported in 2002 in the city. But it is now widely used in the older part of the city and in the posh areas.

Ingredients of 'yaba tablet' come through the border areas and manufactured in Bangladesh, sources said.

Doctors said that 'yaba tablet' are used as sex stimulator, but it is very harmful for health.

### Body to probe fire incident at Banglar Jyoti

## OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) yesterday formed a three-member committee to probe into the fire that broke out in the state-owned ship Banglar Jyoti on Thursday night.

Headed by BSC General Manager (Ship Repair) AHM Mamun, the committee comprises BSC Master of Staff (Ship Repair), Captain Masud Rana and Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Harbour Pilot Captain Abu Sufian.

The committee is to submit a report within three working days, said a press release.

Mentionable, a fire broke out at the cargo tank no 4 of MT Banglar Jyoti while undergoing a routine repair work at the River Mooring 9 of Chittagong Port at around 9:15pm.

### 2 youths drown in Noakhali

## A CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Two youths drowned when they were taking bath in a pond in Noakhali yesterday.

They were identified as Tanmoy Ahmed Bappi, 22, son of ZA Khan, and Sayedur Rahman Bappi, 22, son of Jahangir Alam of Pilkopara village in Narayanganj district.

Both of them were the members of the Prothom Alo Narayanganj Bandhushava.

Police said they went to the house of their another friend Saded Hossain, son of Rafiqul Islam, at Charbata under Subarnochar upazila of the district on October 16.

Locals rushed them to Char Jabbbar Hospital where the on-duty doctors declared them dead.

Poachers hunt in Gir for pelt, claws and body parts, which have ready markets outside India.

India said yesterday.

The society said five lions had recently been electrocuted, adding to a long list of deaths this year at Gir National Park in western Gujarat state.

The Asiatic lion is one of the most critically endangered species on this planet and this added twist of so many lions being killed by electrocution... is a catastrophe", said Belinda Wright, the society's executive director.

"Preliminary information suggests that the three lionesses and two cubs were electrocuted by a crop protection fence put up by a farmer near Dharai, Amreli district, in an area adjoining Gir National Park," she said in a statement.

This new tragedy brings the number of Gir lions that have died this year to a staggering total of 32 lions."

The society listed eight lions

killed by poaching, six electrocuted, five fallen into wells, one hit by a vehicle and 12 others found dead.

The Wildlife Protection Society of India is already working closely with the enforcement authorities to curb the killing of lions by professional poachers, the society said.

The number of Asiatic lions plummeted from around 1,000 a century ago to just 20 in 1913 but the creation of the Gir sanctuary after India's independence from British colonial rule in 1947 helped revive the population.

The 1,400-square-kilometre (560-square-mile) sanctuary -- the world's only natural habitat for the lions -- was home to more than 350 lions when the latest census was carried out in 2005.

Locals rushed them to Char Jabbbar Hospital where the on-duty doctors declared them dead.

Poachers hunt in Gir for pelt, claws and body parts, which have ready markets outside India.

Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon escaped unhurt in a road accident yesterday.

His car collided with a bus while he was going to attend the wedding ceremony

of the son of a party leader

Anwar Hossain at Majidi in Noakhali.

Menon and his associate

Kamrul Ahsan were unhurt

although the front part of his car was damaged.

Chairman of Shonaimuri

Municipal Corporation Mosharrif

Hossain Manik, local Awami

League President Monimul Islam

Baker and others rushed to the spot

and salvaged the car.

No evidence Iran

arming Taliban

Says Afghan FM

AFP, New Delhi

Afghan Foreign Minister Rangene Dadfar Spanta said yesterday there was no evidence that Iran was supplying weapons to Taliban militants waging a violent insurgency.

Spanta's comments came after the top US commander in Afghanistan, General Dan McNeill, said Thursday a convoy of explosives intercepted last month had arrived from Iran and probably with the knowledge of the Iranian military.

"Our government has no evidence to show Iran is giving weapons to the Taliban and we have never stated this," Spanta told reporters after meeting with his Iranian counterpart Manouchehr Mottaki in the western city of Herat.

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