

Road accidents kill 11, injure 22

STAR REPORT

At least 11 people, including three of a family were killed and 22 others injured in separate road accidents in Moulvibazar, Gopalganj, Faridpur and Madaripur yesterday and on Friday night.

Our Correspondent from Moulvibazar reports: Four people, including two women, were killed and at least 20 others injured in a road accident near Moulvibazar town yesterday.

Witnesses and police said the accident occurred when a Habiganj-bound microbus collided head-on with a Moulvibazar-bound mini-bus on Moulvibazar-Dhaka highway in BSCIC area at about 4:00pm, leaving three passengers of the microbus dead on the spot. Another was rushed to the Moulvibazar Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Voter registration starts in C'nawabganj

A CORRESPONDENT, C'nawabganj

Voter registration with photos began in Chapainawabganj municipality area yesterday.

Commanding officer of joint forces of local camp Lt Col Shahid Anwar Siddique formally inaugurated the programme at Green View high school in the morning.

Presided over by ADC (Rev) Shah Alami Mridha, the function was attended, among others, by Chapainawabganj Pourasabha Chairman Ataur Rahman, Lt Col Taher and other officials.

The first phase of voter registration will continue till September 24 when the work will be done in ward No 1 and 3, election officials said.

In the second phase, the work will be done in other wards of Chapainawabganj Pourasabha October 25 to November 8.

BSS journos urged to discharge duties neutrally

BSS, Chittagong.

Information Secretary Mohammd Dildar Anwar yesterday visited Chittagong bureau office of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) at Jamal Khan Road in the city.

During the visit, the information secretary exchanged views with the newsmen working in the bureau. He called upon the journalists to discharge duties in a neutral manner to uphold the image and dignity of the national news agency.

He stressed the need for projecting the country's economic and tourism potentials along with the rich and diversified cultural heritage of this region at home and abroad through the national wire service-BSS.

Anwar went round different sections of the bureau and enquired about the activities of the bureau and its problems.

The information secretary, who is now on a 3-day visit to the region, also visited the Chittagong regional center of Bangladesh Betar at Agrabad, its Kalurghat Transmission Center, BTV Chittagong Center at Foy's Lake, divisional office of D P & R M C of Mass Communication, offices of 3 local dailies - The Daily Azadi, The Daily Purbakone and The Daily Suprabhat Bangladesh and held meetings with the officials and journalists.

CPC Congress to close today

AFP, Beijing

China's most important political event in five years, the Communist Party Congress, is scheduled to close today with the new leadership expected to be announced soon afterwards.

At the close of the congress -- which determines the party's future agenda and approves a new leadership -- a new central committee will be announced, who will then pick China's top leaders for the next five years.

Members of the central committee -- around 200 senior cadres who can have a say in key party decisions -- are expected to choose members for the powerful Politburo and the elite Politburo Standing Committee in its first plenum on Monday.

State media said Saturday the Communist Party had granted its party council marginally more say in electing its leadership this year, hailing it as "a sign of progress of intra-party democracy."

In line with the party's election tradition, past congresses have allotted slightly more candidates than positions on the central committee and then a small number of officials will be eliminated after votes.

This year, the number of candidates exceeded the number of seats by eight percent, compared with last year's 5.1 percent, Xinhua news agency said.

In President Hu Jintao's opening speech on Monday, he emphasised the importance of "intra-party democracy," meaning more transparency and competition within party ranks.

The dead were identified as Champa 22, Jewel 25, Zanab Ali 25 and Lubna 28. All of the dead hailed from Habiganj.

The injured were admitted to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital and Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital. Of them, condition of Kutub Uddin, Kanai Lal Pal and Mitu Pal at Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital was stated to be critical.

The injured passengers of the microbus said the accident occurred when they were returning to Habiganj after visiting Madhab Kunda water falls, a tourist spot at Baralekhupur upazila in Moulvibazar.

UNB from Gopalganj reports: A mother and her two sons were killed in a collision between a private car and a human hauler on Khulna-Dhaka highway at Kanapuri Bazar in the town yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Latifa Begum, 45, wife of Dr Rahim

of Khulna, and her sons -- engineer Jitu Rahman, 28, and Mishu Rahman, 15.

Local sources said the private car collided head-on with the human hauler, locally known as Nasiman, at Mazra at about 8:15pm, killing Jitu and Mishu on the spot. Their mother died on the way to hospital.

They were going to Dhaka from Khulna when tragedy struck down the family.

A Faridpur report adds: A local leader of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Khulna highway at Kanapuri Bazar in the town yesterday.

The dead was identified as Shawkat Kabir, 48, a member of JSD district committee.

Police and witnesses said Shawkat died on the spot when a fessore-bound microbus from

Dhaka hit him at about 9:00am. Police recovered the body and sent it to Faridpur Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Another report from Madaripur says: Two people were killed and two others injured when a bus hit a rickshaw van on Faridpur-Barisal Highway in Rajori upazila yesterday.

Local sources said the bus ploughed through the van in Shanerpa area, killing the van puller and a passenger on the spot and injuring two others.

The dead were identified as van puller Emdadul Huq, 35, and Taslim Sardar, 40, of Barodia village in Narail district.

Meanwhile, a passerby was killed when a motorcycle hit him at Gobindabari in Shibchar upazila yesterday.

The dead was identified as Rathin Chandra Sutradhar, 40.

Firm manager, youth murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Criminals killed a construction firm official by slitting his throat in his apartment's bathroom on the second floor of a five-story building on Rupsha Strand Road under Khulna Sadar thana on Friday night.

The victim, Kumaras Biswas, 45, was manager of RR Traders in the city and son of Bijoy Krishna Biswas of Baroaria village under Batiaghata upazila of Khulna district.

Police recovered his blood-stained body from the bathroom at 9:30pm and seized a blood-stained dagger from the spot.

His wife Ambika Mallick and three college and school going sons were not in the house when the murder was committed.

Ambika Mallick, who is an official of Slum Development Project

**শেখান আতিথি: মেজের জেনারেল (অব): সেয়েদ মুহাম্মদ ইব্রাহিম
প্রধান কক্ষ: ক্লাসিপ্টেন (অব): আবু নাসের আলুম্বু
মজাদেরি: জামার মোঃ আলিমুর হোসেন, প্রয়োগসন্ধি সংস্থা
সংস্থা: জাতীয় প্রেস ফ্লাব, ঢাকা। তারিখ: ২০ শে অক্টোবর**



Major General (Retd) Syed Mohammad Ibrahim speaks at a seminar titled 'Present political context: Responsibilities' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right is Advocate Konika Mahfuz and on his left is Zakir Hossain. Samiddha Bangladesh Andolon organised the seminar.

Kashmir protests over Indian army killing

AFP, Srinagar

Thousands of villagers set fire to government vehicles in noisy demonstrations in northern Kashmir over the killing of a Muslim schoolteacher by Indian troops, officials said yesterday.

Residents accused Indian troops of killing Abdul Rashid Mir in cold blood during frisking of civilians near a front-line post.

The army has expressed its regret over the death and ordered an enquiry into what it called an "unfortunate incident."

Instead of showing his identity

papers the individual got into an argument with the soldier. In this confusion the weapon got accidentally discharged, which caused unfortunate fatal injuries," it said.

Police and residents said thousands of villagers have been holding noisy demonstrations against the army on Friday and Saturday.

"They have kept the body on a stretcher and refuse to bury the dead until a murder case is registered against the accused," a police officer said, adding more and more villagers were joining in the protests.

Ajith Roy, Subir Nandi, Kanak Chapa and Rupu Khan will render songs based on poems of Shamsur Rahman.

Voter registration begins in Barisal

BSS, Barisal

Registration of voters for preparing a fresh voter list with photographs and National Identity Cards (NIDs) in Barisal began at a simple ceremony on the premises of Syed Majidunnissa Madyamik Bidyalaya yesterday.

Barisal Divisional Commissioner Md Haroon Chowdhury will inaugurate the project which will be participated by Syed Shamsul Huq, Prof Borhan Uddin Khan Jahangir, Belal Chowdhury, Selina Hossain and Nasiruddin Yousuf.

Rafiq Azad, Nirmalendu Gun, Rabiu Hossain, Sazzad Kadir, Samudra Gupta, Habibullah Siraji, Nasir Ahmed, Shihab Sarkar, Asaduzzaman Noor, Kazi Arif, Laila Afroz, Rezina Wali Lina, Rafiqul Islam and Naila Tarannum Kakoli will take part in the recitation.

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speech on Monday, he emphasised the importance of "intra-party democracy," meaning more transparency and competition within party ranks.

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershows accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over all the six divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

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

Highest temperature 33.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at lessore and lowest 21.5 degree Celsius at Rajshahi.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:27pm today and rises at 5:59am tomorrow.

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

City/Town Temperature Humidity in
in celsius percentage

Max Min Morning Evening

Dhaka 31.3 22.8 78 64

Chittagong 29.5 24.7 87 83

Rajshahi 31.4 21.5 77 72

Khulna 32.0 24.0 75 88

Barisal 32.0 24.2 86 87

Sylhet 30.3 23.4 86 75

Cox's Bazar 31.8 24.0 80 83

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Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed presides over the weekly meeting of the Council of Advisers at his office in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

BRITISH CURRY AWARDS CEREMONY TODAY

Promises more exciting entertainment this year

ANSAR AHMED ULLAH, from London

Once again, it is time to find out the best spice restaurants across the UK with the British Curry Awards 2007 ceremony to be held at the Grosvenor House Hotel at Park Lane of London today.

This glittering black-tie occasion will mark the third consecutive year of the Awards and will be attended by senior professionals from the spice industry, along with celebrities from TV, Radio, government ministers and ambassadors.

This year the event promises even more exciting entertainment for an expected 1100 guests with a celebrity host presenter and guests who will once again enjoy sumptuous cuisine.

This is the spice industry's premier networking event of the year and is patronised by industry leaders, food critics, key suppliers, and of course the all important nominees and winners of the British Curry Awards.

A record number of more than 18000 public nominations covering 3000-plus restaurants were received for this year's British Curry Awards which, since 2004, have been helping to raise standards of cuisine, service, ambience and presentation in the industry.

A string of well-known UK and international celebrities, MPs and diplomats will join more than 1000 leading figures from the curry, restaurant sector to see the ten best restaurants from every corner of Britain receive their awards.

The ceremony will be broadcast to 127 countries around the world.

The top 100 restaurants will be

listed in the British Curry Guide which will be distributed widely.

The event will be an opportunity for the industry, which employs more than 100,000 people, to showcase itself to the fast-growing number of young Bangalees who are electing to go into alternative careers.

British Curry Awards Organiser Enam Ali, himself a restaurateur and publisher of the specialist trade journal Spice Business, said, "I have children of my own, and I know how difficult it is to persuade them that there's a good future for them in the restaurant business as they have so many more options open to them