

Road accidents kill 10, injure 68

STAR REPORT

At least 10 people were killed and 68 others injured in separate road accidents in Dinajpur, Manikganj, Comilla, Chittagong, Chapainawabganj and Jhenidah yesterday and on Monday night.

Our correspondent from Dinajpur reports: At least three people were killed and 15 others injured in a road accident at Birganj upazila in Dinajpur on Monday night.

The dead were identified as Harun, 60, Md Mokshed, 35, and Rubeda Khatun, 50, wife Noman Ali of village Tikatola under Birganj upazila.

Witnesses said the accident occurred when tyre of a Thakurgaon-bound passenger bus from Birganj burst and fell into a roadside ditch, killing three people on the spot.

The locals rushed the injured to Birganj upazila Health Complex and Dinajpur Medical College Hospital.

Our correspondent from Manikganj adds: An unidentified boy was killed and 20 others were injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Manikganj yesterday.

Police said the accident occurred at around 12:30pm in Falsatia Pashchimpara area under Shivalaya Police Station when a Dhaka-bound passenger bus from Aricha skidded of the road and fell into a roadside ditch, leaving a boy aged about 14 dead on the spot and 20 others injured.

The injured were rushed to Uthuly Health Complex.

Abdul Hamid, officer-in-charge of Shivalaya Police Station, said the accident occurred as the bus driver lost his control over the steering when he tried to save a van.

UNB from Comilla says: Three people were killed and 25 others injured in separate road accidents here yesterday.

Police said a bus hit a CNG-run autorickshaw at Amirshar in Sadar South upazila, leaving the autorickshaw driver Humayun dead on the spot and five passengers injured at about 1:30pm.

The injured were admitted to Laksam health complex where one of them succumbed to injuries. Four others were shifted to Comilla Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Six bus passengers were also injured in the accident.

Meanwhile, a bus and another goods-laden truck collided head-on at Amirabad in Daudkandi on Dhaka-Chittagong highway, leaving a bus passenger, Rahela Akhter of Noakhali, dead on the spot at about 11:30am.

Fifteen passengers of the bus injured in the accident were rushed to different hospitals.

Our correspondent from Chittagong adds: A minor girl was killed and four others injured in a road accident at Patiya upazila in the district yesterday.

The dead was identified as Jannatul Fedous Pinky, 6, daughter of Abu Taher of Madhyam Jir of Patiya.

Sources said the accident occurred when a Chittagong-bound bus from Cox's Bazar hit a passenger tempo at Shantir Hat at around 9:00am, leaving Pinky dead on the spot and four others, including Pinky's father, injured.

Abu Taher, Mohammad Alam, Kamal Hossain and Md Farid were admitted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

A girl child was killed and four others were injured in a road accident at Shahibagh in Chapainawabganj yesterday.

The victim was identified as Karima, 5, daughter of Md Arif of Dariapur in Sadar upazila and the injured are Karima's mother Taslima, 30, Russel, 25, Ramzan, 50, and rickshawpuller Rakib, 25.

Quoting local people, police said the accident occurred when a rice-laden Dhaka-bound truck lost its control while giving side to a rickshaw and hit a roadside shop, killing Karima dead on the spot and four others seriously injured.

Fire service and police rushed the injured to Sadar Hospital.

Our correspondent from Jhenidah adds: A youth was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Khulna highway at Nimtala bus stand of Kaliganj town in Jhenidah yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Tariqul Islam, 35, son of Samad Kha of Kamalpur village under Kaliganj upazila.

Witnesses said a Dhaka-bound bus hit Tariqul's bicycle while he was crossing the road. He was rushed to Kaliganj Health Complex where the on-duty doctor declared him dead.

Police sent the body to Jhenidah hospital morgue for autopsy.



PHOTO: PID
Ambassador Monsignor Paul Tschang in Nam of Embassy of the Holy See calls on Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at the latter's office in the city yesterday.

Ten bombs recovered in Shariatpur

UNB, Shariatpur

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members recovered 10 bombs, a shutter gun and a motorcycle in Shariatpur yesterday.

Rab sources said they recovered 10 live bombs from a shop in an abandoned condition at Bishalpur Bazar in Jajira upazila in the morning.

Besides, they recovered a shutter gun from Gonganagar Bazar in Sadar upazila and an abandoned motorbike from Paschim Kota Para in the same upazila on the same day.

Killer Babu gets life in arms case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A court in Narayanganj yesterday sentenced Sundar Babu alias Killer Babu, a top terror of Shyamur, to life imprisonment in arms case.

Justice Sheikh Golam Mahbub of Special Tribunal handed down the verdict in a crowded court.

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested Babu from near Dhaka City Corporation on December 14 last year.

Following Babu's confession, Rab recovered a loaded shooter gun from one Shahidullah's house at Lalkha area in Fatullah.

Rab Deputy Assistant Director Hafizur Rahman filed a case under Arms Act with Fatullah Police Station in this connection.

Several murder cases were also filed against Babu with different police stations.

Prof Foyzur to be accorded reception

Motijheel Ideal School and College will accord a reception to veteran academic Prof Foyzur Rahman, says a press release.

On the occasion, a preparatory meeting of the alumni members will be held at Sunnydale School at Road No 7, House No 34, Dhannoddi in the city on October 27 at 6:00pm.

Alumni members are requested to attend the meeting. For further details, interested people can contact Md Talha (01711329294), Sharif (01711544921), Mizan (01727311196) and Mithu (01819407770).

ACC gets permission to quiz Hasina

FROM PAGE 1
Tejgaon Police Station on September 2, accusing Hasina and six others.

ACC Deputy Director Johirul Huda, investigation officer of the Gato graft case, yesterday placed before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court the prayer for taking Koko on remand.

The hearing on the remand prayer will be held today.

The investigation officer of the case has sought a remand prayer to interrogate Koko in connection with the Gato graft case, said ACC Secretary Mukhesur Rahman.

The ACC filed the case on September 2, accusing 13 persons including Khaleda and Koko.

Khaleda was questioned on October 11. Six former ministers of her cabinet, bureaucrats and officials of Chittagong Port Authorities, Kamalapur ICD yard and Global Agro Trade (Pvt) Co Ltd (Gatco) were also questioned.

The team investigating the case visited the ICD yard at Kamalapur yesterday, seized some documents from the yard and questioned Assistant Traffic Manager of the yard Shariful Islam and Transport Inspector Shah Alam.

The four-member team also found evidence of irregularities and carelessness in container

First hajj flight on October 12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has announced its two-month-long hajj flight schedule.

Meanwhile, Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (HAAB) has alleged that Biman authorities finalised the hajj flights without discussing with them which might create problems for them to rent houses in Medina Sharif.

According to the schedule, the first flight would leave for Jeddah on October 12 while the last one on December 14, sources said.

Biman has acquired on lease a wide-bodied Boeing 747 which will land at Zia International Airport one or two days ahead of the hajj flight, said Abdul Mamdud Khan, general manager (flight operations) while talking to The Daily Star last night.

It will carry around 35 thousand

hajj pilgrims in 85 flights.

Biman will operate three flights a day from October 12 to first of December and two flights a day from December 2 to 14, sources added.

Around 45 thousand pilgrims are expected to perform hajj this year. Of them, 10 thousand will be carried out by Saudi Airlines.

HAAB Secretary General Yaqub Sharafati claimed that Biman authorities fixed the timetable of hajj flight without talking with them.

"According to the hajj policy, they (Biman) should discuss with us before finalising the flight schedule," he told The Daily Star.

"It could be easier for us to rent house and hotel in Medina if Biman would have discussed with us before fixing the hajj flight schedule," he added.

Reactivate taskforce to free children from confinement

CJN urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Children Justice Network (CJN), a coalition of more than 30 organisations and individuals, urged the government to reactivate National Taskforce for releasing children from confinement nationwide.

At a meeting yesterday, leaders of CJN expressed grave concern because the National Taskforce (NTF) didn't hold any meeting since September 3 last year.

The leaders observed that in order to make the overall reconstruction efforts of the government more effective and sustainable, attention to the children who need special care and treatment, is central and thus needs to be considered as a national human resource development issue.

Taskforce formed at national, district and upazila level to execute the Suo Moto Rule (148 of 2003) of the High Court in August 3 and was monitoring the release of children from confinement.

But since September 6, NTF did not meet and as a result the overall progress made in the last few years slowed down. This resulted in many disruptions such as application of Section 67 of Children Act

1974 to release children from Kishore Unnayan Kendra (KUK) by the ministry of Social Welfare on completion of children's treatment plan, assessment of children at risk that was to be done by Police Headquarters.

The CJN appreciated government's initiative to review the Children Act 1974.

Body recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered a decomposed body of an unidentified woman from an abandoned plot at Asad Avenue in Mohammadpur in the city.

Police said local people found the body, aged about 25 and wrapped in polythene, in a sack at around 1:00pm and informed the police.

The victim's hands and legs were strongly tied with rope, police said.

Police suspected that miscreants left the body after strangling her in some other place two days back.

Police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

One crushed under wheels of train

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A youngman was crushed under the wheels of a running train at Chapadaha under Gaibandha Sadar upazila yesterday.

The railway source said the accident occurred when a Balashighat-bound mail train hit one Nazmul Khandker, 30, of village Hashem Bazar under Gaibandha Sadar upazila while was talking over cellphone by the side of railway track.

GRP police from Bonarpura sent the body to Gaibandha hospital morgue for autopsy.

Obituary



Aminul Islam Khan, former chairman of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) and managing director of National Investment and Finance Company Limited, died of old age complications at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore on Monday at the age of 80, says a press release.

He will be buried at his home village at Kazirapara at Kanchoipur in Tangail after a namaz-e-janaza on DSE premises.

His body was scheduled to arrive last night.

He was also the founder managing director of Investment Corporation of Bangladesh.

Expressing deep shock, the DSE board meeting observed a minute's silence and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

His qulhwani will be held at DSE after Asr prayers on Thursday.

Sitesh Ranjan Dev

BSS, Dhaka

Sitesh Ranjan Dev, joint secretary of the parliament secretariat, passed away due to cancer yesterday afternoon at Lab Aid Hospital at the age of 53.

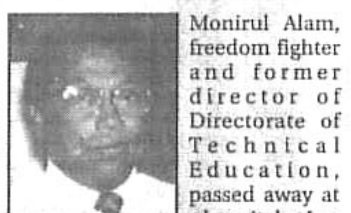
Dev served as the head of finance and information services wing of the parliament secretariat.

Speaker Barrister Muhammad Jamir Uddin Sircar, Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui and Parliament Secretary ATM Astar Rahman condoled his death.

In separate messages, they prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Monirul Alam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Monirul Alam, freedom fighter and former director of Directorate of Technical Education, passed away at a hospital at Los Angeles in California on October 11 at the age of 74, says a press release.

He left behind his freedom fighter wife Begum Nurun Nahar Alam and three daughters to mourn his death.

He was buried at his family graveyard in Munshiganj.

Sadaruddin Biswas

A CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Sadaruddin Biswas, a resident of Charkamapur under Sadar upazila in Faridpur, passed away yesterday due to old age complications at the age of 65.

He left behind his wife, a son, a daughter and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

He was buried at Alipur graveyard.

Laila Badrul



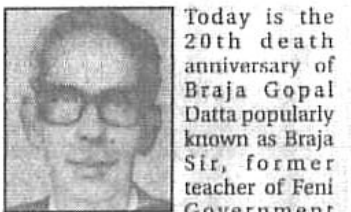
She was the adviser to the Patuakhali Women's Association.

Laila was buried at Banani graveyard after a namaz-e-janaza on High Court premises.

Her Qulhwani will be held at 44 Mintu Road in the city after Asr prayers on Friday.

Her relatives and admirers have been requested to join the programme and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Death anniversary



Today is the 20th death anniversary of Braja Gopal Datta popularly known as Braja Sir, former teacher of Feni Government Pilot High School, a sports organiser and a cultural personality, says a press release.

His annual Shradha will be held at his son's residence at Sadarghat in Chittagong.

Rituals will also be organised at his residence at Masterpara in Feni. He passed away at Birdem Hospital in the city on this day in 1987.



PHOTO: PID
President Iajuddin Ahmed presents a crest to Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, the vice chancellor of University of Development Alternation, at its first convocation at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

Saifuddin Ahmed wins Anwarul Quadir Prize

DU CORRESPONDENT

Saifuddin Ahmed, general manager of an agricultural organisation in Bangladesh, has won the first Anwarul Quadir Prize for his essay on Innovations in Bangladesh, a press release said.

The new annual essay contest is sponsored by the Harvard University's Centre for International Development and the Anwarul Quadir Foundation of Cambridge, Massachusetts.

He will share the first prize of \$25,000 with Anastasia M Telesetsky, an environmental lawyer and former anthropologist who lives in San Francisco.

The promises of the two prize-winning essays are: the lives of rural people of Bangladesh can be improved by utilising absentee-owned fallow land more effectively and by employing the vitamin-rich fruits and leaves of the indigenous moringa tree, the release said.

Saifuddin seeks to improve the productivity of farmers. His winning proposal creates an innovative way of managing the absentee-owned land and generating large-scale employment and the production of cash crops.

Telesetsky seeks to empower rural villagers, especially women. Her project proposes promoting the use of moringa oleifera, an indigenous oil, not widely cultivated nutritious plant, through community-based, small-scale gardens in low-income-Bangladeshi communities.

A total of 141 essays were submitted from more than a dozen countries and ranged in focus from healthcare to energy to micro-finance solutions.

Bac University Vice Chancellor Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Advocate Sara Hossain, and Director of Enterprise Development Company Ltd, Dhaka, assisted the judging panel in its assessments, the release added.

The Qadir family established the Anwarul Quadir Foundation in 2004 at the initiative of Iqbal Z. Qadir, who taught at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and now teaches at MIT.

The foundation promotes economic and social progress in Bangladesh by encouraging innovations that empower its citizens.

Panic grips KCC officials as ACC team arrives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Panic has gripped a section of officials including engineers following information that a three-member task force of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has arrived in Khulna to probe irregularities in Khulna City Corporation (KCC).

KCC Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman is among the listed 35 corrupt suspects.

The high-powered task force headed by Deputy Director Md Panahullah of Faridpur office of ACC is yet to begin formal probe into allegations of corruption against the city mayor.

When asked Sarder Abu Taher, public relations officer of KCC, said they have no knowledge about the arrival of any ACC team, and they did not visit Nagar Bhaban as of yesterday.

However, Assistant Director of Khulna Office of ACC Selina Akhter has confirmed the information of task force's coming over to Khulna, but expressed her ignorance about anything more in this connection.

It is learnt from a reliable source

that the team has started collecting concrete evidences in support of corruption and irregularities in KCC.

Man strangled in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Unknown criminals strangled a person at Shiddhirganj on Monday night.

The victim was identified as Tokon Mia, 42. Police recovered the body on Tuesday morning and sent to Narayanganj General Hospital for autopsy.

Tokon Mia had been living with his second wife, father-in-law and a sister-in-law at a rented house owned by one Momin Mia at Aijpur under Shiddhirganj Thana, police said.

On Tuesday morning, neighbours found his body with his hands and legs tied.

A piece of cloth was also stuffed inside his mouth. His head also bore signs of injuries, police source said.

Rest of the family members were absconding and their identities could not be known.

BID TO KILL CAB DRIVER 3 muggers held

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Local people yesterday handed over three muggers to police while they were trying to kill a driver in order to mug his taxicab at Shalna area under Sadar upazila of the district.

The muggers were identified as Raju Ahmed, 25, Zaman, 26, and Kamal, 25.

Quoting the driver Rafiqul Islam, police said the muggers hired the cab from Ashulia Fantasy Kingdom for going to Joydevpur Chowrasta at around 8:00pm.

In the middle of the journey, they asked the driver to change the route for going to Rajendrapur.

When they reached Shalna, the muggers tried to strangle him.

During the scuffle, people rushed to the spot and caught the muggers red handed.

Urs

Annual Urs of Hazrat Shah Abdur Rahim (RIF) Shah Saheb of Paribag will be held on Friday on the Paribag Mazar premises, says a press release.

Munajat will be held at 11:00am.



No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

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

Highest temperature 32.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 19.2 degree Celsius at Sitakunda.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:25pm today and rises at 6:00am 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	30.9	21.8	64	64
Chittagong	30.4	21.3	80	56
Rajshahi	31.5	19.8	89	85
Khulna	31.6	22.0	78	89
Barisal	31.4	21.0	78	88
Sylhet	31.5	20.4	76	75
Cox's Bazar	32.3	22.2	71	70