

8 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least eight people were killed and six others injured in separate road accidents in Lalmonirhat, Comilla, Joypurhat and Benapole yesterday.

A correspondent from Lalmonirhat reports: Four people were killed and six others injured in separate road accidents in Lalmonirhat yesterday.

Witnesses and police said three people, including two by-cycle riders and a rickshawpuller, were killed on the spot and six pedestrians injured in Rangpur-Kurigram Highway in Barobari Dakbangla area under Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila when a Rangpur-bound passenger bus from Kurigram hit them at 12.30pm.

The dead were identified as Rezaul Karim, 18, Mohammad Reza, 28, and Yunus Ali, 35. They were residents of Barobari and Khaleda Bag villages under Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

The agitated people put up barricade on the highway for two hours following the accident.

The local people seized the bus but drivers managed to escape. Meanwhile, a village policeman was killed on the spot in Saptari area under Aditmari upazila when a microbus hit him on Lalmonirhat-Burimari highway at 10.30am yesterday.

The dead was identified as Golam Hasnain Towhid alias Shohag, 25, a BBA student and son

Hossain Ali, 35, son of Akbar Ali of village Kamlibari under Aditmari upazila in Lalmonirhat.

Hossain was working as a village policeman under Kamlibari Union.

Hossain was going to Lalmonirhat town from Aditmari riding a by-cycle.

The bodies were sent to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A correspondent from Comilla adds: Two people were killed in a separate road accidents in Comilla yesterday.

A elderly man was crushed under the wheels of a bus on Comilla-Burichang road in South Shyampur area under Burichang upazila in the morning.

The dead was identified as Abdul Khaleq, 70, of Mohismara village of the upazila.

Local people said, a Brahmanpara-bound passenger ran over Khaleq when he was crossing the road at about 7.00am, leaving him dead on the spot.

Police sent the body to Comilla Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Police also seized the bus. A college student was killed on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Suyagazi area in Choudhogram upazila on Saturday night.

The dead was identified as Golam Hasnain Towhid alias Shohag, 25, a BBA student and son

of Ahalay Sunnat Wall Jamaat Comilla district President Gazi Md Wahid Maburi.

Quoting local people, police said the accident occurred at about 7.30pm as Towhid's motorcycle turned upside down on the road while he lost his control over the steering, leaving him dead on the spot.

Our correspondent from Dinajpur adds: A minor girl was killed in a road accident at Kalai upazila of Joypurhat yesterday.

The dead was identified as Purnima, 6, under Kalai upazila of Joypurhat was student of Kalai Primary School in Kalai upazila of Joypurhat.

Witnesses said the accident occurred when a motorcycle hit Purnima while she was crossing a scrap shop at Bangla Bazar under Bayezid Police Station on September 20.

They demanded Tk 5 lakh from Renu Begum, mother of Hanif, as ransom over cellular phone and threatened to kill her son if she fails to meet their demands.

Later, the deal was settled at Tk 1 lakh, to be paid in two installments. Renu Begum paid Tk 50000 of the first installment at a house in Benapole and port yesterday.

The dead was identified as Rukanuddin, 35, son of Akbar Ali of Gazipur in Benapole.

Witnesses said the accident occurred when a truck hit his van while Rukanuddin was going to Benapole Port, leaving him injured critically.

Rukanuddin succumbed to his injuries on the way to hospital.

Two abductees rescued in Ctg, 2 arrested

CU CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) rescued two abductees and arrested two abductors from Rangpur at Hathazari in the district Saturday.

The abductees were identified as Mohammad Hanif, 22, son of Abdul Wahab of Munshiganj district and Mohammad Nasir, 20, son of Alek Ali of Dhaka district while the arrestees were Mohammad Ayub Uddin, 29, and Mohammad Zia Haider, 25.

Sources said the abductors picked up Hanif and Nasir identifying themselves as policemen from a scrap shop at Bangla Bazar under Bayezid Police Station on September 20.

They demanded Tk 5 lakh from Renu Begum, mother of Hanif, as ransom over cellular phone and threatened to kill her son if she fails to meet their demands.

Later, the deal was settled at Tk 1 lakh, to be paid in two installments. Renu Begum paid Tk 50000 of the first installment at a house in Benapole and port yesterday.

In the meantime, Renu lodged a complaint at Rab-7 Headquarters in this connection.

Later, Rab members raided the house - Nur Mahal at Rangpur and arrested the abductors and recovered Tk 40000 from their possession on Saturday.

In the second raid, two people Md Jahangir, 24, and Nur Karim, 30, were arrested from Dayaganj Bridge and Uliniganj area and seized 63 grams of heroin.

The team also arrested a woman Rani, 20, with 4 grams of heroin from Pallabi area.

"We have to ensure that the election is free from black money and muscle power to establish

Senior Editors' Conference 2007

Media Reporting: Armed Conflict and Violence



PHOTO: STAR
Law and Information Adviser Mainul Hosein speaks at the inaugural session of a two-day Senior Editors' Conference 2007 on 'Media Reporting: Armed Conflict and Violence' at Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

Five arrested with 71 grams of heroin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a view exchange meeting yesterday urged all to work together to ensure inclusion of all in the ongoing voter list.

Bangladesh Manabdhikar Samannaya Parishad (BMSP) organised the meeting titled 'Encouragement of voter registration and election management' at WVA auditorium in the city.

Speaking on the occasion, former adviser to a caretaker government ASM Shahjahan said people invest in election because it offers an opportunity to get the refund.

And that is why we witnessed influence of black money and muscle power in the previous elections, he said.

"We have to ensure that the election is free from black money and muscle power to establish

good governance," he added.

In his keynote paper, President AHM Nouman said, "We have witnessed bitter experiences regarding formulating voter list and we have to work together so that no voter misses out."

He proposed to form an Election Caretaking Council (ECC) comprising political parties, civil society members and professional bodies, which will assist the Election Commission (EC) in carrying out its election-related activities.

He urged the EC to formulate laws regarding electoral expenditure management to find out the deserving candidates.

BMSP Director Advocate Md. Shamsuddin, Vice Presidents Osman Gani and Abul Kashem also spoke on the occasion.

Spain to open embassy in Dhaka soon

UNB, Madrid

Spain will soon open an embassy in Dhaka to promote economic and business relations with Bangladesh.

Queen Sophia of Spain said this while UNB Chief Editor Enayeturullah Khan met her in a courtesy call on the sidelines of the World Congress of News Agencies (WCNA) in Estepona, Spain, last week.

Queen Sophia indicated that she herself might come to Bangladesh to attend the inauguration of the Spanish embassy.

Spain is one of the EU countries, which is yet to open an embassy in Dhaka.

Enayeturullah Khan represented Bangladesh at the global congress of news agencies held in Spain on October 24-27.

The moot, inaugurated by King Juan Carlos of Spain, was attended by heads of news agencies and top media personalities from across the world.

Obituary



Md Ibrahim Talukder, father of Commodore M.A.K. Azad, director general of Bangladesh Coast Guard, passed away due to old age complications at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) on October 26 at the age of 97, says a press release.

He left behind his six sons, two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was buried at Banani graveyard in the city on Saturday.

Khaleda Khanam

UNB, Sathkira

Khaleda Khanam, mother of Qamruzzaman, news editor of the daily Janakantha, passed away due to old age complications at her Polash Pool home in Sathkira yesterday at the age of 68.

Khaleda was grand daughter of Maulana Akram Khan.

She left behind five sons, four daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

She will be buried at the family graveyard after namaz-e-janaza after Zohr prayers today.

Shamsuddoha Talukder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Shamsuddoha Talukder Manik, ex-president of Mymensingh unit of Bangladesh Jatiya Bidyut Sramik Union, passed away due to kidney disease at the Dhaka Kidney Hospital in Dhaka yesterday at the age of 54.

He left behind his wife, two sons, two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam said journalists deal with the issues of freedom of expression, diversity of views, cultures, religions and the right to differ -- where lies the soul of creativity.

"They deal with accountability

and transparency and a whole range of intellectual activities," he said adding that the media's have also increased now in manifold, making it imperative that the media carries out its duties more effectively and responsibly.

There are international safe-guards for journalists, but those do not help effectively in situations of armed violence, said Mahfuz Anam, who chaired the afternoon session.

Lankabaranjeet Anura Solomons of Sri Lanka, Ugyen of Bhutan, Murtaza Razvi of Pakistan, and Abdul Aziz Danesh of Afghanistan also spoke at the sessions. Mahbubul Alam, former adviser to a caretaker government of Bangladesh, chaired the morning session.

The second and concluding day of the event is today, where Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury is scheduled to be present as the chief guest.

DHAKA TODAY

Roundtable

Governance Coalition organises a roundtable on 'Local government commission: Responsibility and proposal on scope'. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 9:30am.

Conference

The second day of the conference for the senior editors on Media reporting: Armed conflict and violence' will be held. Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Time: 10:00am.

Seminar

The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) organises a seminar on 'Privatisation of state owned enterprises and public-private partnership in public undertakings'. Venue: DCCI auditorium. Time: 11:00am.

DCAB talk

Diplomatic Correspondents' Association Bangladesh (DCAB) will talk with German Ambassador Frank Meyer focusing on Bangladesh-Germany relation. Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Unity. Time: 11:00am.

Film screening

Dhaka University Film Society organises its 54th World Film Manifestation Programme. Venue: Goethe Institute. Time: 3:00pm.

Rotary Dhaka North

The regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka North will be held. Venue: Rafflesia Restaurant, Gulshan. Time: 8:00pm.

Folk song

Mass-line Media Centre (MMC) and ORBIS International will jointly organise a mobile folk song programme to mark the World Sight Day 2007. Venue: National Press Club, Karwanbazar, New Market, TSC, Mirpur-10 and Shabag intersection. Time: 11:00am to 2:00pm.

Navy chief returns home

Chief of the Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam has returned home on Saturday night after attending the 18th International Sea Power Symposium on Oct 16-19 in USA at the invitation of United States Navy (USN), says an ISPR press release.

Naval chiefs, naval representatives, naval analysts and naval observers from 100 countries took part in the Symposium. This year the theme of the Symposium was 'Forging cooperative solutions for international maritime security' and its purpose was to provide a common forum in which naval leaders can discuss issues of mutual interest and concern.

During his stay in USA, Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam attended various deliberation and lectures presented by maritime and naval warfare specialists.

He called on Chief of Naval Operations US Navy Admiral Gary Roughead (Chief of US Navy) and Pacific Fleet Commander Admiral Robert F Willard.

He also exchanged greetings and discussed issues concerning mutual interests with other naval chiefs of participating countries during the visit.

Admiral Nizam also extended official invitation to the Chief of Naval Operations of United States to visit Bangladesh during bilateral discussion.

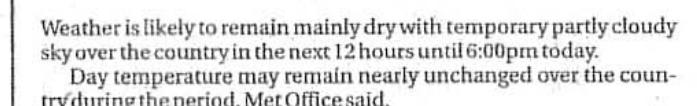
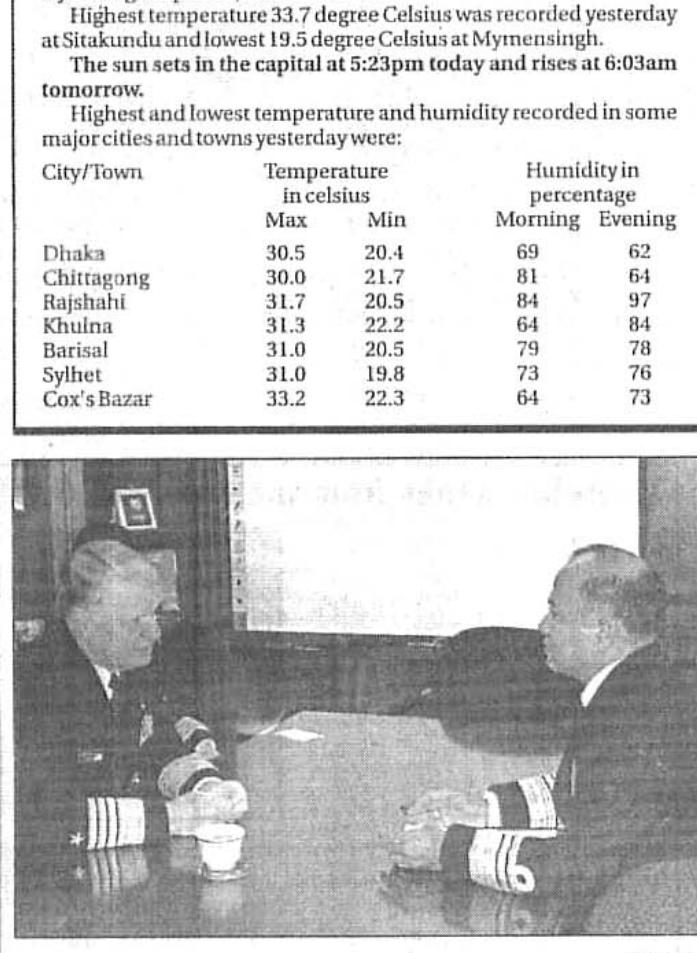


PHOTO: ISPR
Chief of the Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam calls on US Navy Chief Admiral Gary Roughead during his visit to US



Birth anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Principal Staff Officer of Armed Forces Division Lt Gen Masud Uddin Chowdhury left Dhaka for United States of America (USA) yesterday to attend the 10th Annual Asia-Pacific Chiefs of Defence (CHOD) conference.

The conference will be held at Honolulu in Hawaii from October 30 to November 2.

Lt Gen Masud was accompanied by his wife Begum Jasmin Masud, said an ISPR press release.

Referring to experiences in covering insurgency-related events, he said those groups often put pressure for printing their information as violations of that trust," said Swapna Das Gupta, a prolific columnist based in Delhi.

Speaking on glamorizing violence and the media's role in it, in the morning session he said glamorizing violence might be good for business, but it is a bad business

"The relationship between the media and its readers and viewers is based on trust. Misinformation and manipulation of information are violations of that trust," said Swapna Das Gupta, a prolific columnist based in Delhi.

Talim was born in a cultural family at Chakrail in Rajshahi on this day in 1918. He played a significant role in establishing Nazrul Academy. He also contributed in the field of literature and journalism in the sub-continent.

His daughters and sons requested all to pray for the departed soul.

This is tripled the coal production cost.

Sources said while the original coal production cost was estimated at less than \$35 per tonne now it is close to \$1