

10 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least 10 people were killed and 43 others injured in separate road accidents in Chittagong, Comilla, Brahmanbaria, Netrakona, Satkhira, Rajshahi and Kurigram yesterday.

UNB from Chittagong adds: Two people were killed and three others injured in a road accident at Hashempur in Chandanpur upazila yesterday.

The accident occurred when a tempo and a microbus collided at about 1:00pm.

Police said Maulana Jabul Hossain and tempo driver died on the spot. Three injured tempo passengers were rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

A correspondent from Comilla reports: Three people were crushed to death under the wheels of speed-buses in separate road accidents yesterday.

Kalpana Rani Shail, 48, of Kashara village and his three-year-old granddaughter Mukta Shail were run over by a bus on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Dotlah in Chandina.

Witnesses said the Feni-bound bus knocked down Kalpana and his granddaughter at around 5:00pm as they were crossing the road.

Police sent the bodies to morgue for autopsy.

In the other accident, Kamal Hossain, 30, of Yusufpur village was crushed under the wheels of a bus at Yusufpur bus stand on Comilla-Sylhet bypass road in Debiddar.

Our correspondent from Brahmanbaria reports: One minor boy was killed in a road accident when a bus knocked him down on Dhaka-Brahmanbaria highway at Shuhilpur village under Sadar upazila at around 6:15pm yesterday.

The accident occurred when the

dead was identified as Md Arif Mia, 9, son of Md Abdus Zaher of Shuhilpur village.

Witnesses said a Brahmanbaria-bound bus from Dhaka knocked him down while he was crossing the road, leaving him dead on the spot.

The angry villagers blocked the road for an hour following the accident.

The body was sent to Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy.

Our correspondent from Netrakona adds: One person was killed and 38 others were injured in two separate road accidents at Kalmakanda and Durgapur upazilas in the district yesterday.

Police said one person was killed and 15 others were injured on Netrakona-Durgapur Road at Gurastan at about 12:30pm, at least 23 people were injured.

Police said the accident occurred when a Netrakona-bound bus from Kalmakanda fell into a roadside ditch while it was crossing a tempo.

The seriously injured Abul Kashem, Surat Ali, Shahab Mia, Nurjan Begum and Khadija Khanam were sent to Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital in critical condition.

Others were admitted to Kalmakanda Upazila Health Complex.

A case was filed with Kalmakanda Police Station in this connection.

Police seized the bus, but the driver managed to flee.

Our correspondent from Satkhira adds: A trolley driver was killed in a road accident on Satkhira-Jessore road at Helatala in Kalaroa upazila yesterday.

The dead was identified as Kamruzzaman, 27, son of Nur Islam Sardar of village Bahura in Kalaroa upazila.

Quoting local people, police said the accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound night coach hit the trolley, leaving its driver Kamruzzaman injured seriously.

He was rushed to Kalaroa Upazila Health Complex from where he was shifted to Satkhira Sadar Hospital as his condition deteriorated. Later, he succumbed to his injuries at Satkhira Sadar Hospital.

RU correspondent adds: An old man was killed in a road accident at Bhugroil crossing under Shah Mukund Police Station in Rajshahi city yesterday.

The dead was identified as Abbas Ali, 75, son of late Samir Ali of Bhugroil village of Rajshahi.

Police said the accident took place when a Rajshahi-bound minibus hit Abbas while he was crossing the Rajshahi-Naogaon highway at Bhugroil at around 11:30am, leaving the old man dead on the spot.

His body was sent to Rajshahi Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Police seized the mini bus but bus driver and helper manage to escape. None was arrest in this connection.

A correspondent from Kurigram adds: One passenger was killed and five others were injured in a road accident at Raumari upazila yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Hossen Ali, 32, of Raumari.

Witnesses said the accident occurred when a Raumari-bound truck from Jamalpur collided with a passenger trolley (locally known as Bhatbhati) on Raumari-Jamalpur road at Raumari upazila at about 6:00pm, leaving Hossen dead on the spot and five others injured.

The injured were rushed to Raumari Health Complex.

driver of Netrakona-bound bus from Durgapur lost his control over the steering at Suknukuri and fell into a roadside paddy field.

The dead was identified as Nurul Mia, 55, of village Bagarhati under Durgapur upazila.

The critically injured Rahmat Ali, Khati Mia, Nurunnabi, Saleha Khatun and Amena Begum were sent to Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital while others were admitted to Durgapur Upazila Health Complex.

A case was filed with Durgapur Police Station in this connection.

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Tata Group Resident Director Manzer Hussain hands over contribution of Tk 25 lakh to Chief Adviser Fakhrul Islam for the flood-affected people at the latter's office in the city recently. Sujay Nag, Senior Resident Representative of Tata International, is also seen.

Achieve traits of honesty, dutifulness, patriotism

Air chief tells new recruits

BSS, Chittagong

The passing out parade of the 35th batch of recruits of the Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) was held here at the Recruits' Training School at BAF Base Zahurul Haque yesterday.

Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman reviewed the spectacular parade and took salute at the impressive march past. He also distributed certificates and awards among the outstanding recruits, an ISPR press release said.

Speaking on the occasion air chief said, "The recruits must achieve the traits of honesty, uprightness, dutifulness and patriotism and should receive different

training in order to discharge duties properly imposed on them in Bangladesh Air Force."

He called upon them to remain prepared for supreme sacrifice, if necessary, to safeguard the independence and sovereignty of the beloved motherland.

AC-2 Morsalin Miah was adjudged the best all-round recruit among the passed out recruits for his best performance in General Service Training and Academics. AC-2 Md Mostafizur Rahman Pathan was adjudged the best recruit in Academics. AC-2 Md Rajib Hossain was adjudged the best recruit in General Service Training. AC-2 Shahidur Rahman commanded the smartly turned out parade.

'40m children become victim of violence annually'

STAFF Correspondent

About 40 million children under the age of 15 become victim of violence around the globe every year, said the speakers at a function on Sunday.

They said children are the most vulnerable component of the society as they are often harassed sexually and tortured physically and mentally at their homes, schools, and workplaces and even by law enforcement agencies.

They said apart from guidance of the guardians, the children should also be provided with a better social and cultural atmosphere where they will not fall victims to sexual harassment and physical or mental torture.

The function was organised by Ichchhey Media Group in collaboration with Save the Children Sweden-Denmark and the daily Samakal at LGED Bhaban in the

city marking the Global Action Day on Violence against Children which was observed on October 19.

At the function, Ichchhey Media Group launched a 26-minute-long video documentary styled 'Nirobot Mukti-2' in a bid to creating awareness about violence against children.

Dr Selim Al Din, eminent playwright and professor of drama and dramatics department of Jahangirnagar University inaugurated the documentary based on true stories.

The speakers said one in four children across the globe is suffering from physical, sexual or psychological abuse, neglect or exploitation.

They said violence of any form could have horrific consequences on the minds of the children that can last throughout their lives.

Speaking on the occasion as chief guest Dr Selim said, "Expos-

ing children to violence would not do any good to them, rather we should protect them by building a safer social movement, where they would not experience anything like the incidents portrayed in the documentary."

Salma Ali, executive director of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association, said, "We must have a commitment to build a safer society for our children."

Most of the violated and tortured children do not know whom to approach for help after they encounter brutal treatment, she added.

Moderated by Muzammel Husain, deputy editor of the Samakal, the function was also addressed by ABM Abdus Sattar, joint secretary to the Ministry of Labour and Employment, and Obaidur Rahman, acting country representative of Save the Children Sweden-Denmark.

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"Our bilateral trade has developed exceedingly well in recent years, from 988 million euro in 2002 to 1.86 billion euro in 2006. This represents a very respectable 88 percent increase in just four years.

"In 2006 our bilateral trade increased by 29 percent, Bangladesh exports to Germany increased by 33 percent and Bangladesh imports from Germany increased by 18 percent."

From 2002 to 2006 exports from Bangladesh to Germany -- consisting largely of products of the RMG-industry -- and imports from Germany -- with machinery playing an important role -- have steadily and strongly increased.

However, during the first half of 2007 bilateral trade has decreased due to lack of confidence of buyers in the second half of 2006, when political unrest and extreme political confrontation prevailed in the country, he added.

"I have no doubt that keeping to the road map and, in particu-

lar, legally binding reforms of the political parties will be decisive factors in regaining the confidence of buyers and achieving strong export growth for Bangladesh again," he said.

The ambassador said German investment in Bangladesh amounts to about 50 million euro only, but he said there is considerable potential for expansion "if a sustainable political climate congenial to foreign investments is created with democracy and human rights stabilised and strengthened."

In the last 34 years of Bangladesh-German development cooperation, more than 2.3 billion euro of direct bilateral assistance has been made available and another 2 billion euro indirect multilateral German contributions went into programmes of the European Commission, the World Bank, the ADB and the UN families.

He said Germany donated more than \$1.1 million in food aid to support people in flood-affected districts.

The envoy announced that the German government provides another \$350,000 for ongoing rural infrastructure improvement programme for repairs of infrastructure damaged by floods.

DCAB President Anis Alamgir presided over the talk while General Secretary Raheeda Ejaz made welcome address.

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