

Road accidents

FROM PAGE 1
Reza, 35, businessman Shahidul Islam Sagar, 32, Shihab, 25, motocyclist Wazid Ali, 60, and his son Monimul Islam, 19.

Police said three were killed when a Gaibandha-bound bus slammed into an electric pole. Wazid and his son Monimul were killed when a speeding three-wheeler hit them.

KURIGRAM

Motorcyclist Nur Amin, 17, son of Amir Uddin of Harisur village, was run over by a plough bus at Sadar upazila in the district, says our Kurigram correspondent.

DINAJPUR

Our Dinajpur correspondent adds:

Two bicyclists -- Abu Shahadat Suman, 18, son of Farukur Rahman, and Shahidul Islam, 20, son of Mohammad Babul, of Gaptara village -- were killed when a speeding truck hit them at Birampur upazila in the district.

MYMENSINGH

At least three were killed and 25 others injured when a truck skidded off the road on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Churkhia on Saturday, says our Mymensingh correspondent. One of the victims was Shaheb Ali, 60, while identities of the others could not be known immediately. Of the injured, 22 were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

In another accident, a minor girl -- Sonia, 8, daughter of Ratan Mia -- was killed as a pick-up van ran over her at Major Vita in the municipality area on Wednesday.

JAMALPUR

Three people were killed and 10 injured when a bus careered across the road and fell into a roadside ditch

HC order allows

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BTRC since May. Bangla Phone is focussed on setting up fibre optic network, sources said.

The BTRC had warned Bangla Phone of cancelling its telephone licence for violation of licence terms, but so far remained vague about the allegations. However, Bangla Phone categorically defended its position saying all of its activities have been in line with the licence terms.

Bangla Phone was trying to have an agreement earlier this year with BTTB for swapping optical fibre networks between Cox's Bazar and Dhaka, which would provide a vital backup for BTTB's own network that connects the country with the submarine cable.

Having this backup line has become a priority issue for BTTB due to repeated snapping of the original line between Dhaka and Cox's Bazar by miscreants. Each disruption deprives the BTTB of revenue of at least \$70,000 per hour. The cable serves as the nation's backbone for Internet and overseas call connectivity.

But BTRC on July 25 notified BTTB that under the Telecom Act, BTTB will need prior approval from BTRC before signing any deal with Bangla Phone. This stopped BTTB signing any deal with Bangla Phone. Till date, BTTB could not ensure any backup line.

The BTRC afterwards continued a hostile stance against Bangla Phone, without resolving its objections. Sources said, Bangla Phone had recourse to the court last month when BTRC asked BTTB on November 15 not to sign a deal with Bangla Phone saying the company violated contractual terms and legal action is being taken against it.

The High Court on November 20, issued a rule nisi on BTRC to show cause as to why its July 25 and November 15 letters shall not be declared to have been issued without lawful authority. The rule was made returnable in one week. The court also stayed all matters related to the fibre optic backup scheme during this

Dateline Afghanistan

FROM PAGE 16
otherwise, but couldn't."

Talking to The Daily Star in his Jamdina village home under Bagharpura of Jessor on December 15, 37-year old Noor Islam, regional manager of Brac Afghanistan, said on the day of his abduction he had gone to the office at 10:00am, while two of his colleagues -- a manager and an accounttant -- were out visiting the field activities of the non-government organisation carrying out development work in war torn Afghanistan.

"Completing some work on my computer, I told our security guard Fuaid to close the door. After 10 minutes, I heard sounds of knocks on the door. I looked through the door and saw the guard with his hands up as four men in police uniforms and two others in civilian outfit were pointing guns at him."

As the knocks on the door were incessant, Noor Islam opened it. The armed men immediately pointed their AK 47s at him, commanding him to go with them. "I raised my hands and said La Ilaha Illallah Muhammadur Rasulullah. They put me in a jeep, looking like a police vehicle, but the coat of paint on the vehicle was very shoddy."

The abductors tied Noor's legs and hands, and had him blindfolded. After a 10-minute ride, he was transferred to another car still blindfolded, which again went on for another 20 to 25 minutes. Noor said adding, "They seized some money and a ring from me. I repeatedly said that was my wedding ring and pleaded with them not to take it, but they cared little. I feared they would kill me, but as they had not fire any shot, I thought they had some different motive for my abduction."

The abductors put Noor in a mountain cave asking him to remain there, silent. "It was almost evening. I asked for some iftar as I had been fasting. They could not understand, might be because I spoke in Persian,

from the Jheni Bridge on Thursday, reports our Jamalpur correspondent.

Police said the Madarganj-bound bus from the district headquarters smashed down the railing of the bridge and tumbled into the 20-foot belowditch.

GOPALGANJ

Three people died and 30 suffered injuries in a road accident in Kashiani upazila on Wednesday, reports our Gopalganj correspondent.

DINAJPUR

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CHITTAGONG

One person died and nine others were injured when a night coach of Al-Arin Transport skidded off the road into a ditch around 5:00am, reports our Chittagong correspondent.

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IMALPUR

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Turkey stages new air attack on Kurd rebels in Iraq

AFP, Ankara

Turkey's military said it attacked Kurdish separatists in northern Iraq Saturday for the third time in less than a week, bombing and shelling positions and warning more will follow.

"Turkish aircraft attacked between 1:35 pm and 2:00 pm (1125-1200 GMT) major positions of the terrorist organisation 'PKK', before Turkish artillery shelled the area for 15 minutes, the military said in a statement on its website.

It gave no details on targets, saying more information would be given next week and that it would carry out more operations despite harsh winter conditions in the mountainous region.

The Turkish television channel NTV said the raids were in the Amadiyah area of northern Iraq.

"It will become well understood how effective the operations against the terrorist operations are," the military's statement said. The PKK "no longer has a chance of success" against the Turkish army.

Actions over recent weeks had left "hundreds of terrorists" dead, it added.

In northern Iraq, Jabbar Yawar, spokesman for the Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga security force, said Turkish warplanes had hit isolated Kurdish villages.

"In the afternoon Turkish warplanes entered northern Iraqi airspace in an area called Al-Amadiyah. Later at around 4:00 pm they bombed Iraqi Kurdish villages.

We do not know the extent of damage. But these areas are largely deserted and are along the border with Turkey," Yawar told AFP.

The Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), listed as a terrorist group by Turkey and many other countries, has waged a bloody campaign for Kurdish self-rule in southeast Turkey since 1984. The conflict has claimed more than 37,000 lives.

Movable properties that need to be declared are jewellery, stocks, insurance policies, shares, cash and bank balances, motor vehicles, and electronic goods such as computers, televisions, air-coolers, refrigerators, ovens, etc.

The government servants will have to mention the dates of acquiring the properties, nature, position and volume of the properties, how and when those were acquired, the source of money with which they were purchased if applicable, and under whose name those are registered.

HOWTO DECLARE

The cadres and class I non-cadre

City still

FROM PAGE 1
Although the civil courts remained closed, activities at the criminal courts recommenced yesterday with a thin attendance.

The picture was the same at the Secretariat and the ministries, although the advisers and the top officials were present. Attendance in other government offices in the capital was also thin.

Only a few staff turned up and stayed in their offices for some hours and they were seen busy exchanging Eid greetings.

The cultural affairs ministry and the authorities concerned, however, were busy as two rare terracotta artefacts were stolen from Zia International Airport on Friday route to France.

Although the insurance companies, semi-government offices, autonomous bodies, multinational companies and the offices of local business complexes in Motijheel commercial area resumed work yesterday, the business hub of the capital witnessed a rather dull work-day due to absence of staff in offices.

The city-dwellers thronged the amusement parks and the zoo to enjoy the holidays. With a thinner flow of traffic since Saturday, they seem happy to move around, as the naggings traffic gridlock was absent.

And they were Poshtu speaking. As I tried to communicate through gestures asking for water, they said there was no water."

About an hour later, the armed men told Noor that he would have to go with them to another location, Noor Islam who joined Brac Afghanistan on December 22, 2005, said adding that the abductors then untied his legs and hands allowing him to walk with them on a mountain path full of jagged rocks in the dark of night. After a short while, the abductors put him in yet another jeep that drove for about an hour before bringing him to a different cave.

"I thought they would shoot me in the cave. The fear of being shot was constant in my mind," the young man who had left his mother, six siblings, wife, and son Arian at home said adding, "I started praying to Allah. I feared for my future, and for the future of my mother, wife, son and the siblings, who would take care of them, I thought."

Soon they were on the road again when two of the abductors held his hands helping him to cross a small river in 10 to 15 minutes, while the others stayed back. Noor however could not say exactly how many men were with him, as he could not see them being blindfolded the whole time.

"We had walked for an hour and a half late at night before I was left in a cave," Noor said adding that although he tried to talk to the abductors, he failed because of the language barrier. He had to use hand gestures and improvised signals to communicate with the abductors on the road.

Indicating an editor-cum-union leader, the adviser said it has to be looked into whether the editor implements the wage board award in his newspaper. "I've heard that the salary of 14 months remained unpaid in his newspaper."

Soundingly critical about the Wage Board, he said public money amounting to Tk 10 million have been lost in the name of Wage Board.

Mainul wondered how many newspapers had implemented 40 percent Dearness Allowance (DA) in interim award before the publication of the new Wage Board award.

"What is the utility of forming the 6th wage board for three or four newspapers?" he asked.

He was one of the pioneers of non-communal and democratic

Public servants

FROM PAGE 1

Bangladesh Secretariat in the capital yesterday, some officials said they were not aware of the government requirement at the time of joining the service. "No one told me about it then," a mid-level official of the establishment ministry said on condition of anonymity.

Class II gazetted and non-gazetted employees, and class III and class IV employees of different ministries and departments and other offices will have to submit their statements to their appointing authorities.

Asked, whether those who are working in different offices under contractual appointments also must declare their wealth, high official of the establishment ministry said, "We'll have to examine that."

Regarding whether those public servants who have been in the service for a long time without declaring their wealth at the time of joining, need to mention now the amount of wealth they had back then, he said, "Many might have forgotten what they had at the time of joining. We can accept their present declaration as a basis, but they'll need to update those from nowon."

"But a large number of government servants whose gross annual income is less than Tk 1.5 lakh taka, and who don't declare their wealth to the government in compliance with the 1979 Conduct Rules, have no record," an additional secretary of another ministry said, seeking anonymity.

And that is the main reason for many public servants to go untraced even after amassing a huge amount of wealth illegally, the additional secretary said citing examples of some metre readers of government utility agencies amassing wealth worth crores of taka.

"If we succeed, we'll have a database of wealth statements of all who are in the civil service," the establishment secretary said adding that the response so far is "good".

WHATTO DECLARE

Inmmoveable properties of government servants that need to be declared are cultivable and uncultivable lands, buildings, dwelling places, and industries.

Movable properties that need to be declared are jewellery, stocks, insurance policies, shares, cash and bank balances, motor vehicles, and electronic goods such as computers, televisions, air-coolers, refrigerators, ovens, etc.

He said he had taken several initiatives to arrest Tajuddin but they were unsuccessful. During the investigation of the case, they came to know that Tajuddin had left the country to avoid arrest.

Earlier, Harkat-ul-Jihad (Huji) leader Mufti Mohammad Hannan and five others of the banned outfit made confessional statements that they carried out the August 21 grenade attack with the intent to kill now detained Awami League President Sheikh Hasina.

A group of criminals had carried out the attack that left 24 Awami League leaders and workers dead and at least 300 injured.

Following the attack, police arrested 23 people from different places on different dates and three of them including Juji Miah had given confessional statements to a magistrate. They said the "seven-star group" had carried out the attack on the rally.

All the arrestees, except the three who had confessed to their guilt, were granted bail later from higher courts on different dates.

Says Mainul

FROM PAGE 1

only when they would think the time is ripe and doing so is needed for the sake of national peace and stability.

Talking to reporters at his ministry, Mainul said many qualified people are there to lead the nation. There must be a qualitative change in politics.

But the language the politicians still use suggests that hardly any change has taken place, he noted.

"Let the politicians commit themselves to not going back to the situation preceding January 11," he said.

Coming down hard on politicians, Mainul said people have been struggling for democracy since the British rule. But politicians do little to help the cause. Instead, they become rich overnight and this is not right.

"Jealousy and hatred will have to be shunned for implementing objectives of the Liberation War and building up the nation," he said.

The adviser said, "We want to listen less about election from those who failed even to prepare an acceptable voter roll."

Everything would slip back to

culture in the country.

Apart from the well-known Ekushey poem, Mahbub ul Alam also penned many poems, stories, dramas and essays.

He was the editor of the prestigious monthly literature magazine "Shimanto" from 1947 to 1952.

Mahbub ul Alam also took part in the "Quit India" movement as an activist of student congress in 1942.

One of the leading figures in the language movement, he was the convener of Sarbadol Rastobrasha Sangram Parishad in Chittagong in 1952.

He was awarded Bangla Academy Fellowship in 1986. Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) honoured him with Ekushey Padak and a reception in 2001.

Mahbub ul Alam also received 3rd Swadhinata Bui Mala award in 2004, Chittagong Press Club honorary award in 2000, Chittagong Samity honorary award in 2003, Mukti Juddho Fatya Purashkar in 2005 and Language Movement National Award in 2006.

He was highly critical about the Wage Board, he said public money amounting to Tk 10 million have been lost in the name of Wage Board.