

# Road crashes kill 13, injure 34

## STAR REPORT

At least 13 people were killed and 34 others injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka, Pabna, Thakurgaon, Satkhira, Sylhet, Faridpur, Bagerhat and Patuakhali yesterday and on Sunday night.

Staff correspondent reports: A passenger bus rammed several rickshaws and CNG-run auto-rickshaws injuring at least eight persons at Babubazar near Buriganga Bridge-2 in the city.

Of the injured, auto-rickshaw passengers Shila Rani Sarkar, 30, her son Pritom Sarkar, 8, and husband Paritosh Sarkar were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) while Jahangir Hossain, 29, Didarul Alam, 20, Arif Hossain, 25, Ishraq Miah, 25, Md Rihan, 30 were admitted to Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital (SSMCH).

Witnesses said the accident occurred when driver of the speeding bus of Balaka Paribahan lost his control over the steering while it was running down the bridge at about 2:15pm.

The driver managed to escape, leaving the bus. Police seized the bus and took to the Kotwali Police Station.

Our correspondent from Pabna says: Three motorcycle riders were killed in a road accident on Pabna-Kushtia highway at Tetultala in the district.

The deceased were identified as Md Sohan, 22, son of Mizanur Rahman of village Dasuria, Rassel, 23, son of

Atiur Rahman and Atiur, 22, son of Afil Uddin of village Arambaria in Ishwardi upazila.

Police and the locals said the accident occurred when a minibus hit a Pabna-bound motorbike from Ishwardi at the village Tetultala yesterday afternoon, leaving three motorcycle riders dead on the spot.

Our Correspondent from Dinajpur adds: At least two people were killed in a road accident in Thakurgaon yesterday.

The dead were identified as Md Ruhul Amin, 55, son of Habibur Rahman, village Jaduar under Ranishonkoil upazila of Thakurgaon and Md Shaukat Ali, 52, son of late Sobir Uddin, village Korla Khononda under Baliadangi upazila of Thakurgaon.

Police quoting witnesses said two speeding motorcycles collided head-on at Nekmorod village on the Ranishonkoil-Thakurgaon highway of Thakurgaon yesterday afternoon, leaving Ruhul Amin dead on the spot.

Locals rushed Shaukat to Birganj Upazila Health Complex in critical condition where he succumbed to his injuries.

Our Correspondent in Satkhira reports: Two people, including a housewife, were killed and two others injured in two separate road accidents in Tala and Kaliganj upazilas in the district yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Sahida Khatun, 35, wife of Abdul Mazed Sheikh, and Russell, 21, son of Kamrul Islam Khan.

The injured Nazmul and

Mizanur Rahman were taken to Tala Upazila Health Complex in a critical condition.

Quoting local people, police said a speeding motorcycle knocked Sahida Khatun down while she was crossing a road near Fultala in Shyamnagar, leaving her seriously injured. She succumbed to her injuries on way to a Shyamnagar hospital.

In another incident, Russell was killed and Nazmul and Mizanur Rahman were injured when the former lost control over the motorcycle the three were riding on at Rishpara intersection on Tala-Mohandi highway.

Our Staff Correspondent in Sylhet adds: Two people were killed and another injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at South Surma upazila in the district yesterday afternoon.

The accident occurred when a speeding bus collided head-on with an auto-rickshaw at about 4:00pm, leaving two people dead on the spot.

The identity of the deceased could not be known immediately. Enamul Haque, the driver of the auto-rickshaw, was rushed to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

UNB from Faridpur reports: A bus helper was killed and 23 others were injured when a bus plunged into a roadside ditch at Sator Bazar in Boalmari upazila yesterday.

Witnesses said the Boalmari-bound bus fell into the ditch at about 11:30am as the driver lost his control over the steering, killing its

helper on the spot and injuring 23 passengers.

Police later recovered the body of helper Mirajul Kazi, 25, and sent it to Faridpur Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The injured were admitted to Boalmari Hospital and Faridpur Medical College Hospital.

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

In Bagerhat, two people were killed when a bus hit a rickshaw-van on Bagerhat-Mawa highway at Mulghar in Fakirhat upazila.

Police said a Dhaka-bound bus from Khulna dashed the rickshaw-van at around 3:30pm, killing driver Mandal, 50, of Chanderhat village, and passenger Ajit Biswas, 45, of Barogati village in Mollarhat upazila, on the spot.

Our Correspondent in Patuakhali adds: A woman, who was injured in a road accident on Patuakhali-Kuakata highway on Sunday night, succumbed to her injuries in the early hours of yesterday.

The woman was identified as Monoara Begum, 45, of Baliaatali village under Kalapara upazila in the district.

Sources said Monoara Begum was seriously injured when a human hauler fell into a roadside ditch at about 9:00pm.

She was rushed to Kalapara Upazila Health Complex and later shifted to Barisal Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital where she succumbed to her injuries at about 2:00am.

## Conjoined twins born in Munshiganj

A CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

A pair of conjoined twins fused at the pelvis was born at a hospital in Munshiganj yesterday.

The upper parts of the boy twins are normal, but they have only two legs, one navel and one genital. Two torsos of the twins have joined at the abdomen.

The twins were born by Caesarean section at Amena Mollah Modern Hospital at around 12:30pm.

The babies and their mother Firoza, wife of labourer Sattar Ali Bepari of Gazariakandi village in Sadar Upazila.

A large number of curious people throng the hospital to see the babies.

## Dr Ajoy Roy, Trivedi HRCBM president, secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 33-member executive committee of Bangladesh National Chapter of the Human Rights Congress for Bangladesh minorities (HRCBM) has been recently formed with former professor of Dhaka University Dr Ajoy Roy and ex-additional secretary Rabindranath Trivedi as president and secretary general respectively, says a press release.

The executive committee consists of philanthropists, ex-diplomats, journalists, retired academics, lawyers, ex-public servants, religious leaders, indigenous people and businessmen.

At the first meeting of the executive committee on December 10, Prof Ajoy Roy said that the minorities in Bangladesh have been the victims of persecution since the division of the Indian subcontinent in 1947.

Dr Ajoy Roy, Trivedi HRCBM president, secy

passed away at his own residence on Saturday morning, says a press release.

His kulkhwani will be held at around 12:00noon tomorrow. His friends and relatives are requested to attend the programme and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Sultan Ahmed Talukdar

Sultan Ahmed Talukdar, a social worker, passed away at his home at Kaunia in Barisal on Friday at the age of 84, says a press release.

He is survived by four sons and a daughter.

M Masud Ahmed Talukdar, an advocate of Supreme Court and leader of Jatayatbadi Ainjibi Forum, is one of his sons.

## MEET THE PRESS

ST NON RESIDENT BANGLADESHI CONFERENCE 2007



Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain addresses a press briefing at National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left are North South University Vice Chancellor Hafiz GA Siddiqi and Prof Bazul Mobin Chowdhury and on his right is SE Chowdhury Shamim. (Story on Page 1)

## Concern over missing artefacts

Exemplary punishment to persons responsible demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political parties yesterday condemned and expressed grave concern over the heist of the terracotta Vishnu statues and demanded exemplary punishment to the persons responsible.

Workers Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon and General Secretary Bimol Biswas in a joint statement said there is a rumour about the connection of high profile officials of the government with the theft.

Only arresting guards or loaders at the airport could not unravel the mystery behind the heist, read the statement, adding that the countrymen expect a transparent investigation into the matter.

Communist Part of Bangladesh, Gonotantik Baam Morcha, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal and Bangladesh Chhatra, Moitree also condemned the theft of the age-old artefacts.

## 700 Mujibnagar govt staffs granted bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to 700 officials and employees of the then Mujibnagar government in connection with 18 criminal cases.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) filed the cases accusing them of submitting forged documents during their recruitment.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Al-Mamun granted them bail upon a bond of Tk 20,000 with two guarantors for each after they appeared before the court and sought bail.

Moving the bail petitions, defence lawyers argued that their clients were falsely implicated in the cases as part of a conspiracy to harass them.

Gulam Rahman, second secretary of NBR, filed the cases with Ramna Police Station in November and December.

The complainant said that the High Court and Supreme Court had earlier directed the NBR to absorb these officials and employees. As per direction, the NBR asked a total

of 1100 officials and employees to submit their educational certificates and other relevant documents.

Following the order, all the officials and employees had submitted their documents to the NBR. But it is found that the accused had submitted forged documents, the complainant alleged.

## Faiz, Habib made additional AGs

UNB, Dhaka

Supreme Court lawyers Hassan Faiz Siddiqui and Mansur Habib have been appointed additional attorneys general, raising the number of additional attorneys to three.

The president has given the appointments under the Bangladesh Law Officers Order, 1972, said a handout yesterday.

With the appointment of Faiz Siddiqui and Mansur Habib, the number of government law officers stands at 81.

## 8-storey office bldg develops cracks in walls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Staffs of offices at an eight-storey building in the city's Dilkusha area were evacuated and office equipment were shifted yesterday as it developed cracks in walls.

Witnesses said the cracks in the walls on the 5th floor of the building were spotted at around 2:00pm yesterday. The building houses offices of a number of business establishments, including bank.

Engineers visited the building and inspected the cracks after the cracks were spotted. They asked the staffs to evacuate and shift the office equipment.

The building was also kept locked as per the advice of the engineers.

## Skeleton recovered from garbage in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered a skeleton dumped inside garbage near Dhanmondi Lake and a beheaded body of an unidentified youth at Ashulia yesterday.

Scavengers found the skeleton inside a garbage pile near the lake in the morning. Later locals informed Dhanmondi police who recovered the skeleton although a few bones of both the hands and legs were missing.

Officer-in-Charge of Dhanmondi Police Station Monwar Hossain said the skeleton is so old that it could not be ascertained whether it is of a man or woman.

He alleged that the body was dumped under the garbage a year or more ago.

The skeleton was sent to Dhaka Medical College Morgue for autopsy.

Meanwhile, Ashulia police recovered the beheaded body of an unidentified youth, aged around 25, from an open plot inside Niribili Housing at Ashulia yesterday morning.

Police suspected that criminals had slaughtered the youth and took away his head so that his identity could not be known.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

## Grant temporary protected status to undocumented Bangladeshis

Iftikhar urges Rice

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Adviser Iftikhar Ahmed Chowdhury addressed a letter recently to US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to consider granting Temporary Protected Status to undocumented Bangladeshi nationals staying in the US.

Sources in the Foreign Ministry said Iftikhar expressed thanks for the "generous support" received from the US in the post-Sidr relief and rehabilitation operations.

He also elaborated on Bangladesh's "strategy to deal with the emerging challenge" of natural disasters.

In the letter, the adviser has also urged Secretary Rice that it would "greatly help" if, given the current suffering of Bangladeshis due to the calamity, the US authorities could grant Temporary Protected Status to Bangladeshi nationals staying in the US under the provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

UN MISSION

## Anniversary of death of 15 army officers today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the fourth death anniversary of the 15 Bangladeshi army officers on UN peacekeeping missions in Sierra Leone and Liberia who were killed in a plane crash in the West African country of Benin in 2003.

To commemorate the day, Rhythm Cultural Society will hold a discussion on "The contribution of Bangladesh for establishing peace in the world" at the National Press Club at 11:00am today.

Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain will preside over the meeting that will also be attended by Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftikhar Ahmed Chowdhury.

In the accident, a total of 119 people, including 15 Bangladeshi peacekeepers were killed.

## Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 4th death anniversary of Captain Arifur Rahman Talukdar (Ujjal), says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at his village home at Golli in Pakulia, Mirzapur, Tangail after Asr prayers.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the programme and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Captain Arif was killed in an air crash in Benin on this day in 2003.

Dr Sofia Hasna Jahan Ali

Today is the 11th death anniversary of Dr Sofia Hasna Jahan Ali, wife of Dr Shaikh Maqsood Ali, says a press release.

A former professor at the Department of Economics, University of Dhaka, Dr Sofia was also the former president of Lioness Club, Dhaka East and a renowned sports personality.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Badaruddin Chowdhury

Today is the 21st death anniversary of Badaruddin Chowdhury, father of Mahbubuddin Chowdhury, secretary general of National Association of UNESCO Clubs in Bangladesh, says a press release.

On the occasion, Quankhwani, milad mahfil and special prayers will be held at his Faridabad residence after Zohr prayers.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the milad mahfil and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

## Qulkhwani of journo Fazlul Karim today

BSS, Dhaka

Qulkhwani of eminent journalist and Language Movement veteran Fazlul Karim will be held at his residence at House # 48, Block-C, Road # 11 at Banani in the city after Asr prayers today.

The city editor of the now-defunct Dainik Bangla, Fazlul Karim passed away due to cancer at his residence on Saturday.

Relatives, friends, colleagues and admirers have been requested to attend the qulkhwani and pray for the eternal peace of the departed soul.



Members of the Council of Advisers receive Chief Adviser Fakhrudin Ahmed at Zia International Airport in the city yesterday on his return from Saudi Arabia after performing hajj.

## Girl student commits suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A girl student committed suicide following an altercation with her younger brother over a trifling matter in the city yesterday.

Disha Ahmed Joyti, 20, passed HSC examination from Motijheel Ideal School and College this year securing Grade Point Average A-.

A relative said Joyti committed suicide by hanging herself from the shower pipe of their bathroom at around 4:00pm.

After the altercation Joyti entered the bathroom and locked it from inside.

"As she did not come out after a long time we started knocking the door. But as there was no response we broke the door open and found her hanging," said a cousin of Joyti wishing not to be named.

She was rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital where the doctors declared her dead.



## Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during early morning and night temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 27.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 9.7 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:18pm today and rises at 6:39am 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	24.5	12.4	80	76
Chittagong	24.7	15.0	68	68
Rajshahi	25.3	10.7	75	--
Khulna	24.7	14.3	95	83
Barisal	25.1	13.5	95	79
Sylhet	25.5	14.3	84	78
Cox's Bazar	27.0	16.0	69	72



Two intellectually challenged children Kiswar Jisan and Mahmud Bin Abdullah Rosseau of SWID Bangladesh, Ramna Branch, hand over their collection of nearly 120 kgs of puffed rice to Brac Chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed at the Brac Centre in the city yesterday for the cyclone-hit children. Their supervisors Sheba Khurshid and Mahfuza Begum are also seen in the picture.