

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.

Star correspondent reports: A passenger bus rammed several rickshaws and CNG-run autorickshaws injuring at least eight persons in Dinajpur adds: At least two people were killed in a road accident in Thakurgaon Bridge-2 in the city.

Of the injured, auto-rickshaw passengers Shila Rani Sarkar, 30, her son Pritom Sarakar, 8, and husband Paritos Sarkar were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) while Jahangir Hossain, 29, Didarul Alam, 20, Arif Hossain, 25, Ishfaq Miah, 25, Md Ripan, 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 Teltulta in the district.

The dead were identified as Md Sohag, 22, son of Mizanur Rahman of village Dasuria, Rassel, 23, son of

Atiur Rahman and Atiur, 22, son of Afif 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 Teltulta 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 Bridge-2 in the city.

The dead were identified as Md Ruhul Amin, 55, son of Habibur Rahman, village Jadar under Ranihankoil upazila of Thakurgaon and Md Shawkat Ali, 52, son of late Sobir Uddin, village Koria Khononda under Baliahdangi upazila of Thakurgaon.

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

Locals rushed Shawkat 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 Shabida 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 Rishipara intersection on Tala-Mohandighi 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 autorickshaw 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 autorickshaw, was rushed to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

Sources said Monoora 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 Molla Modern Hospital at around 12:30pm.

The babies and their mother Firoza Begum are doing well, said gynaecologist Nasima Akhter Munni who delivered the twins.

The twins are the fifth child of 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 Ajay Roy, Trivedi HRCBM president, secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 33-member executive committee of Bangladesh National Chapter of the Human Rights Congress for Bangladeshi minorities (HRCBM) has been recently formed with former professor of Dhaka University Dr Ajay Roy and 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 business men.

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

Obituary

Abu Taher, senior engineer of the Engineers and son of Haji Jamiruddin Ahmed of Ruhita village in Feni Sadar, passed away at his own residence on Saturday morning, says a press release.

His quirkhwan 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 Jatiyatabdai Ainjibi Forum, is one of his sons.

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Grant temporary protected status to undocumented Bangladeshis

Iftekhar urges Rice

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar 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 Iftekhar 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 Iftekhar 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 dozen mahfil will be held at his village home at Golli in Pakulla, 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, Qurkhwani, milad mahfil and special prayers will be held at his Faridabad residence after Zohri prayers.

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

Qurkhwani of journo Fazlul Karim today

BSS, Dhaka

Qurkhwani of eminent journalist and Language Movement veteran 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 qurkhwani and pray for the eternal peace of the departed soul.



Members of the Council of Advisers receive Chief Adviser Fakhruddin 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 herself from the shower pipe of their bathroom at around 4:00pm.

After the alteration 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.



Two intellectually challenged children Kismar Jisan and Mahmud Bin Abdullah Rousseau 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 supervisor Sheba Khurshid and Mahfuza Begum are also seen in the picture.

WEATHER TODAY

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, MetOffice 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:

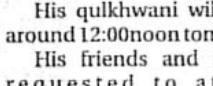
City/Town	Temperature in celsius		Humidity percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	24.5	12.4	80	76
Chittagong	24.7	15.0	68	68
Rajshahi	25.3	10.7	75	--
Khulna	24.7	14.3	95	83
Barisal	25.1	13.5	95	79
Sylhet	25.5	14.3	84	78
Cox's Bazar	27.0	16.0	69	72



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