

Road accidents kill 10, injure 61

STAR REPORT

Ten people were killed and 61 others injured in separate road accidents in Narayanganj, Dhaka, Manikganj, Netrakona, Faridpur, Chandpur and Satkhira in the last two days.

Our Correspondent in Narayanganj reports: Three people were killed and 25 others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Sylhet highway near Adhuria at Rugganj in Narayanganj yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Gopinath Chandra Saha, 29, an executive of Siemens Bangladesh, his nephew Sowmik Saha, 14, a student of Dhanmondi Tutorial and Akash, a young motor mechanic.

Gopinath was the younger brother of Swadesh Ranjan Saha, an established businessman, while Sowmik was the latter's son.

The accident occurred as a Dhaka-bound private car and a Habiganj-bound bus from Dhaka collided head-on at about 8:00am.

Among the injured, two other passengers of the car Balaram Chandra Saha, 34, and Doyal, also a motor mechanic, were rushed to Apollo Hospitals in Dhaka.

Other injured passengers of the bus are undergoing treatment at different hospitals in Narayanganj and Dhaka.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: A driver of a microbus was burnt alive while ten others were injured

after the microbus caught fire as a result of a head-on collision with a Mawa-bound bus in Abdullahpur old ferryghat area on Dhaka-Mawa highway at Keraniganj near Dhaka at about 7:45pm yesterday.

Although six passengers of the microbus managed to come out of the burning vehicle, the driver failed to do and was burnt alive on the spot.

The accident caused severe traffic congestion on the highway but fire services failed to reach the spot till filing of this report at 8:15pm.

Our Correspondent in Manikganj adds: A bank official was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Aricha highway at Tepa Bus Stand under Shivalaya Police Station in Manikganj yesterday.

The victim was identified as Jafar Ullah, 45, an official of Sonali Bank Tepa branch in Shivalaya.

The accident occurred at around 5:30am when a speedy vehicle knocked the victim down while he was walking beside the road.

Meanwhile, in another accident, a woman was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Aricha highway at Bathuli under Dhamrai Police Station in Dhaka on Saturday evening.

The victim was identified as Romeja Begum, 38, a worker of a brickfield and wife of late Bodor Uddin.

The accident occurred at around 6:30pm when a speedy

vehicle knocked her down while she was crossing the road.

She was rushed to Manikganj Sadar Hospital where on duty doctors declared her death.

Our Correspondent in Netrakona adds: A man was killed and 20 others injured in a road accident on Netrakona-Mohongonj road at Atitpur under Mohongonj upazila in the district yesterday.

The victim was identified as Aftab Uddin, 52, of village Bari under Barhatta upazila in the district.

The accident occurred when a Netrakona-bound passenger bus lost control and fell into a roadside ditch, killing Aftab on the spot.

Seriously injured Abdul Malek, Sabu Mia, Barek Mia, Abdul Motaleb, Kasum Ali and Shamsunnahar were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital while others were admitted to Mohongonj Upazila Health Complex.

Police detained the bus but the driver managed to flee.

A Correspondent from Faridpur adds: An elderly person was killed and three others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Khulna highway at Karimpur in Faridpur Sadar yesterday noon.

The accident took place when a Magura-bound passenger bus hit a Nasimon, a locally assembled human hauler, from behind, killing Nazim Uddin, 62, on the spot and

injuring three others.

However, the identity of the injured could not be known immediately.

The body was sent to Faridpur Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Our Correspondent from Chandpur adds: A minor boy was killed in a road accident on Chandpur-Faridganj highway at Ghachola in Chandpur Sadar yesterday.

Sources said a Faridganj-bound speeding bus from Chandpur knocked Eman Hossain, 4, son of Mokbul Hossain of Ghachola, down while he was walking beside the road along with his father.

Our Correspondent in Satkhira adds: A cattle trader was killed and three others were injured in a road accident on Satkhira-Jessore highway near Charabat Tola under Kalaroa Police Station on Saturday night.

The deceased was identified as Surman Ali Sardar, 42, son of Mijan Ali Sardar.

The accident occurred when a Jessore-bound Nasimon skidded off and fell into a roadside ditch, injuring Surman and three others.

Surman succumbed to his injuries at Kalaroa Upazila Health Complex while Ashraf Ali, the driver, was rushed to Jessore Sadar Hospital and Turfan Ali, 35 and Korban Ali, 30, were admitted to a private clinic at Sharsha in a critical condition.

Acquire professional knowledge for best use of new technology

Navy chief urges officers

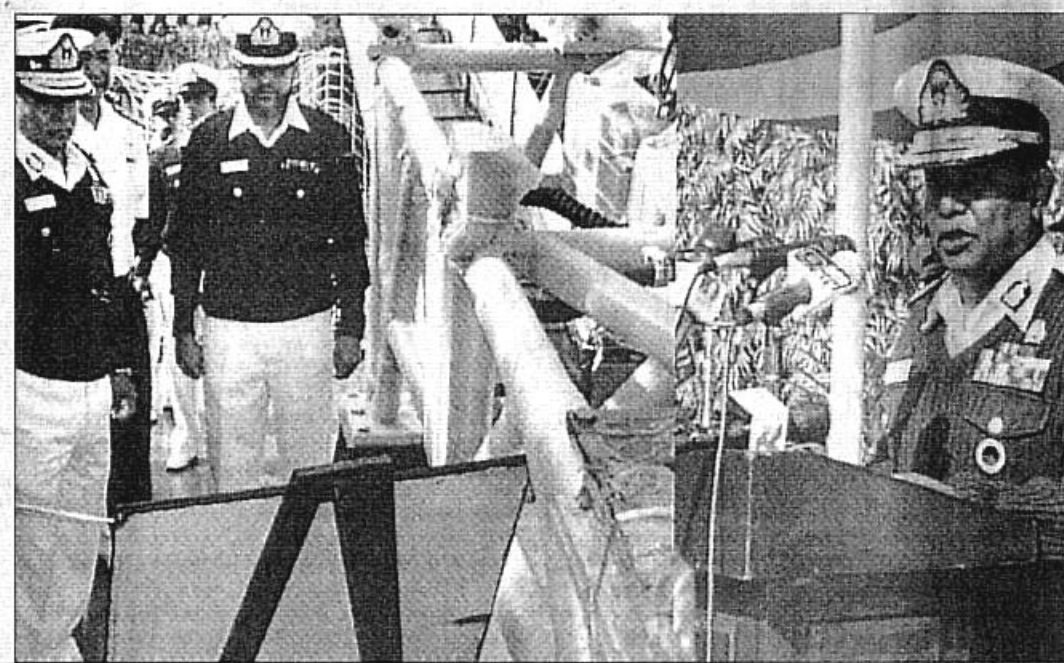
Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam inspected the ongoing modernisation works of BNS Osman under the Chinese technical assistance and overall supervision of Bangladesh Navy Dockyard in Chittagong yesterday, says an ISPR press release.

Addressing the officers and sailors following the inspection, the Navy chief urged them to devote themselves to acquire professional knowledge for the best use of the new technology as well as taking the challenge of maintaining the operational state of Bangladesh Navy Ships at the highest level.

He also added that the re-commissioning of BNS Khalid Bin Walid has created more promotional scope for the officers and the sailors.

Besides, the inclusion of new technology in BNS OSMAN will definitely enhance the capabilities of Bangladesh Navy, he added.

Commodore Commanding Chittagong, Commodore Superintendent Dockyard, Commodore Commanding BN FLOTILLA, Director Navy Intelligence and a good number of officers, sailors and dockyard staffs were present on the occasion.



Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam addresses the officers and sailors of Bangladesh Navy and the dockyard staff during his visit to inspect the ongoing modernisation work of BNS Osman in Chittagong yesterday.

100 shops gutted in Barisal

Property worth Tk 20 crore damaged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A devastating fire gutted more than 100 shops in Barisal upazila town market in Barisal yesterday.

Md Shah Riaz, upazila nirbahi officer of Barisal, said the fire started from a closed electronics shop behind Agroni Bank branch at Bank Road of the upazila town at about 3:15pm. The flame spread rapidly and engulfed the vast area.

Fire services from Barisalpara, Barisal, Gournadi, Uzirpur, Jhalakati and Kawkhali stations rushed to the spot and extinguished the flame at around 7:30pm.

Manjure Elahi, deputy commis-

sioner and officials of joint forces rushed to the spot and supervised the fire extinguishing operation.

Electric short circuit assumed as fire instigator. The damaged properties included medicine, garments, hotel, restaurants, fast-food, bakery, grocery, electronics, hardware and book shops. Local people estimated the damage at Tk 20 crore.

Fire service men Bibek, Rafik and Ramesh and five people were injured during fire fighting.

Law enforcers cordoned the market and surrounding areas and prevented unwanted entrances of the people to check looting and stealing.

BIRD FLU

2,600 fowls culled in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Army personnel yesterday culled about 2,600 fowls affected by bird flu at Akkaberpur and Chandipur villages in Gaibandha.

Several hundred fowls that fell victim to the deadly disease in the two villages of Sadullapur Upazila started to die a few days back.

On information, specialists along with army personnel went to the spot and confirmed that those died of bird flu.

Later, army personnel collected 2600 fowls infected with the disease at the two villages and culled those.

Restrictions have been imposed on transportation of poultry to and from the two villages.

Proshika distributes relief in Pirojpur

Proshika with the assistance of World Food Programme (WFP) is implementing relief activities among cyclone-affected people at seven upazilas in Pirojpur, says a press release.

Under this programme monthly 30kg rice, 9kg pulse, 1kg salt, 0.75kg high-energy biscuit will be given to each family of 53,853 affected families. These food commodities are distributed from a number of distribution centers in each upazila.

District and upazila administration, joint forces, local government representatives and members of local civil society are helping to implement the activities.



Quasem, Chumki FPAB president, secy general

Principal Md Abul Quasem, Meher Afroze Chumki, Bimal Kumar Deb have been elected president, honorary secretary general and honorary treasurer of the Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) for 2008-10, says a press release.

The election was held at the annual general meeting of the FPAB at Shabed Maizuddin Auditorium in the city on December 29.

Other elected office-bearers are: Md Showkat Ali Talukder, Papri Bose, Begum Hasina Nazrul and Md Mozammel Hoque Talukder-vice-president; M Abu Sayeed-honorary assistant secretary general; Munjulika Chakma-honorary secretary (Medical); Nasir Ahmed Babul-honorary secretary (Youth); Md Salah Uddin Khan-honorary secretary (BCC) and Alhajji Parveen Billah-honorary secretary (Women).

And members are: Md Shamsul Alam Chowdhury, Proshanta Kumar Saha, Md Sayeedur Rahman, Serina Khanam, Fazle Karim Dara, Md Shahidul Alam Tuhin, Sukumar Chowdhury Swapan, ASM Aktaruzzaman Masum and Shelley Kana Pal.



Masud, Raheed elected DCAB president, secy

UNB, Dhaka

Masud Karim of Jugantor and Raheed Ejaz of New Age have been elected president and general secretary of the Diplomatic Correspondents Association Bangladesh (DCAB) in 2008.

After the annual general meeting (AGM) of the association, the election was held at the Press Club yesterday.

Outgoing DCAB president Anis Alamgir presided over the AGM where the reports of general secretary Raheed Ejaz and treasurer Mashudul Haque were approved.

Other office-bearers are vice-president: Imran Alam of Naya Diganta, joint secretary: Abdul Majid of Samokil, treasurer: Mamun Meysar of Manabzamin and office secretary: AKM Ziaur Rahman Khan Sohel of Janakantha.

Executive committee members are: Anis Alamgir of Ajker Kagoj, Badiul Alam of News Today, Mostafa Kamal of Prothom Alo, Shamim Ahmed of UNB, and Shaheen Raja of Inquilab.

Expats donate Tk 2.95 lakh to AMCH

Bangladeshi Community in Blacktown, New South Wales, Australia took a noble decision to help constructing a two-bed cabin and a minor operation theatre at Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH) at Uttara in the city, says a press release.

To that end the community has raised Tk 2.95 lakh, which was a donation by Bangladeshi expatriates living in Australia.

On behalf of the Bangladeshi community D Abdul Huq handed over the cheque to Kazi Rafiqul Alam, president of Dhaka Ahsania Mission on Saturday at a simple function at mission's office. Another representative of the community Kamal-Uzzaman was also present at the function.

Earlier they had donated Tk 5,32,575 to the cancer hospital fund for the same purpose.

While handing over the cheque Dr Huq said they would organise series of fund raising events in Australia for AMCH and thereby encourage the Bangladeshis living there to extend their hands for completion of the construction and early start of operation of the hospital.

Kazi Rafiqul Alam thanked Dr Huq and the members of their association and said Bangladeshis living abroad need to take part in the development of the country by whatever means they can. We shall have to develop our country by ourselves. If the expatriates extend their hands there will be no problem to make the Hospital fully functional in time.



Participants at a discussion demanding trial of the war criminals at the Shilpakala Academy in Chittagong yesterday.

Try war criminals to erase 36-yr stigma from history

Speakers tell Ctg discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Speakers at a discussion in the port city yesterday urged the caretaker government to take immediate measures to try the war criminals to erase a 36-year-old stigma from the history of independent Bangladesh.

"The main reason that the leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami in Bangladesh has not changed their stand or attitude from 1971 till date, is because of our failure to try the war criminals," they said at the discussion on "Memories of 71" at Chittagong Shilpakala Academy.

Ektattur Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, Chittagong chapter, organised the meeting with its Convener Nesar Ahmad in the chair.

Noted writer Shahriar Kabir, also the acting president of central Nirmul Committee, was present as the chief discussant on the occasion.

Vice President of Central Nirmul Committee Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury, veteran politician Abu Saleh, President of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Chittagong chapter Noorjahan Khan, Prof Hamida Banu, Dr Iftekhar Uddin

Chowdhury, Dr AQM Sirajul Islam, Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) President Shahid Ul Alam and Chittagong District Bar Association General Secretary Sheikh Iftekhar Saimul Chowdhury were also present.

The speakers said the trial of war criminals has now turned into a national demand and this government must respect the sentiment of the people.

"While noticing positive attitude from the top level of this government, we at the same time found that a very few people within the government had been trying to distract the issue by making confusing remarks," they regretted.

Earlier, a press conference on behalf of 91 different socio-cultural and professional organisations was held demanding immediate trial of all war criminals. Shawkat Bangalee, general secretary of Nirmul Committee Chittagong chapter, read out a written statement at the press conference.

City Bank stands by Sidr victims

The City Bank Limited has successfully implemented its relief operation programmes for the Sidr victims at Telikhali and Tushkhali unions under Barisal division recently, says a press release.

Employees of the bank donated their one-day's salary, amounting to Tk 10 lakh in this regard and the same amount was also donated by the bank.

The total amount of Tk 20 lakh has been utilised in providing relief to 3,000 needy people with the help of the army and local administration.

Chairman of The City Bank Limited also donated 2,500 bottles of mineral water to the relief project.



Dr Abdul Huq on behalf of Bangladesh community in Australia hands over Tk 2.95 lakh to Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam as donation to his hospital in the city on December 29.



Ahsanul Bari, Head of Finance Division, and Esamul Arephin, vice president, HR Division, distribute relief among the Sidr victims at Telikhali and Tushkhali unions under Barisal division recently.

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Happy New Year 2008

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