

Road crashes kill nine

STAR REPORT

Nine people were killed and 82 others injured in separate road accidents in Bogra, Bagerhat, Satkhira and Sirajganj yesterday.

Our staff correspondent in Bogra reports: Three people were killed and 30 others injured when a Dhaka-bound passenger bus and a fertiliser-laden truck collided head-on at Mokamtala in Shibganj in the early hours of yesterday.

Two of the deceased were identified as Zarina Begum, 50, and Yusuf Ali, 45, while the identity of another could not be known immediately.

Ten of the injured were rushed to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

In another incident, Afsar Ali, 45, a rickshawpuller, was injured when a truck rammed into his rickshaw.

He succumbed to his injuries at the same hospital.

Our staff correspondent in Khulna reports: Three people were killed and 45 others injured in a road accident at Madrasa Ghat at Mollahat in Bagerhat yesterday.

The dead were identified as Swapna Khatoun, 12, Aleya Begum,

52, and Masud Rana, 32. Swapna and Masud Rana died on the spot while Aleya succumbed to her injuries on way to Mollahat Hospital.

Twenty among the injured were rushed to Gopalganj Hospital and Khulna Medical College Hospital in a critical condition while others are undergoing treatment at the Mollahat Hospital.

Sources said the accident occurred when a Madaripur-bound passenger bus from Khulna skidded off and fell into a roadside ditch.

Our correspondent in Satkhira adds: A seven-year-old boy was killed and seven others were injured in a road accident on Satkhira-Kaliganj highway at Debhatta in the district yesterday evening.

The deceased was identified as Masum, 7, son of Arjad Hossain.

The accident occurred when a truck hit a rickshaw van at about 6:00pm, killing Masum on the spot and leaving seven others injured.

Among the injured, Momena Begum, 40, Durga Dasi, 50, Mominur Rahman, 8, and Moslema Khatun, 30, were rushed to Satkhira Sadar Hospital.

Later, Moslema and Mominur were shifted to Khulna Medical College and Hospital at 8:00pm yesterday as their condition deteriorated.

Other injured were admitted to Sakhipur hospital.

Our correspondent in Sirajganj adds: A man was crushed under the wheels of a train as he fell from a running train at Sadanandapur Railway Station yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Ashraf Islam, 35, of Chatmohor in Pabna district.

US mission to remain closed on Jan 20

BSS, Dhaka

The American embassy including the consul section and the public affairs section with the Archer K Blood American Center Library and the Student Advising Center will remain closed on January 20, on the occasion of Martin Luther King Jr's birthday, said a press release.

Army officers donate Tk 25 lakh to CA's relief fund

BSS, Dhaka

Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed yesterday handed over a cheque for Tk 24.28 lakh to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed for the CA's Relief and Welfare Fund to help the Sidr victims.

The amount has been collected from one-day salary of the army officers and voluntary donation made by the army personnel.

Earlier, Bangladesh army donated Tk 50 lakh to the chief adviser's relief fund to help the Sidr victims, an official handout said.

Secretary to the chief adviser's office Kazi M Aminul Islam, Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim, CGS of Bangladesh Army Maj Gen Sina Ibne Jamali, Adjutant Gen Maj Gen M Matiuur Rahman, DG SFF Maj Gen Sheikh M Monirul Islam, Military Secretary to CA Brig Gen M Amin Tarique and Director of Military Education Department Brig Gen AKM Rezaul Karim were present.



Students of Dhaka University form a human chain on the campus yesterday demanding that the killers of Fatema-Tuz-Zohra Eti, an MA student of Bangla department, be brought to book. She was found dead at the residence of her husband at Mirpur on Monday.

Dhaka-Yangon meet next month

FROM PAGE 1

neighbouring country last year, with foreign secretary Touhid Hossain going to Yangon next month to hold annual discussions.

Additional Foreign Secretary MAK Mahmood will lead a high-level delegation within a month to Yangon to start technical discussions on demarcating the maritime boundary, an issue not discussed by the neighbours in 21 years.

The boundary dispute intensified over the past five years after both India and Myanmar rushed into exploration for gas allegedly within Bangladesh territory.

"We have, during the past year, developed an excellent bilateral relationship with Myanmar. It is our view this would be further strengthened when we resolve the issue of maritime boundaries," Iftekhar told reporters yesterday.

The decision to send the delegation was made in an inter-ministerial meeting yesterday chaired by Foreign Adviser Iftekhar A Chowdhury and attended by senior foreign ministry officials, home ministry officials and Navy personnel.

Yangon has increasingly

warmed to Dhaka over the past year and the neighbours made significant progress in a number of key areas such as road links, border management and energy cooperation.

Most of these issues were put on hold after monks took to the streets in Myanmar in September last year, plunging the military-ruled state into a political crisis.

Foreign ministry sources told The Daily Star that Bangladesh has been preparing its case for gas exploration but has not been able to invite tender for block bidding as the maritime boundaries had not been demarcated.

The sensitivity of the issue has kept the maritime boundary dispute off the bilateral agenda over the last few years, said one official, adding warmer relationships have made it possible to start talks to resolve the matter.

India, Myanmar and Bangladesh have not demarcated their territorial water. India and Myanmar have agreed on an "equidistant" boundary allowing them to explore gas in the Bay of Bengal.

One foreign ministry official said Bangladesh's delay in demar-

ing its maritime territories has allowed both India and Myanmar to creep into Bangladeshi territory in the Bay of Bengal.

Mahmudur Rahman, energy adviser to the last BNP-led coalition government, claimed in 2006 that Myanmar had encroached 18,000 square kilometres into Bangladeshi territory and floated gas exploration tenders.

India was alleged to have encroached into 19,000 square kilometres into Bangladeshi waters.

The caretaker government is reported to have plans to explore deepwater fossil fuel in Bangladesh's claimed 200 nautical miles of territorial water in the Bay of Bengal.

According to the Law of the Sea, Bangladesh claims 12 nautical miles of territorial sea, 200 nautical miles of Exclusive Economic Zone and 350 nautical miles of Continental Shelf in the Bay of Bengal.

The country has been allowed 10 years time to justify its claim since it ratified the United Nations Convention on the Laws of the Sea in 2001.

Expats in UAE donate Tk 1.24cr for Sidr victims

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladeshi expatriates in the United Arab Emirates have donated Tk 1.24 crore to the Chief Adviser's Relief and Welfare Fund in aid of the cyclone Sidr survivors.

A number of Bangladeshi community organisations and individuals also collected relief materials besides the cash, according to a message received here yesterday.

The collected relief materials include rice, lentil, milk powder, blankets, warm clothes, tents etc.

An amount of Tk 41 lakh and Tk 96 lakh have been sent to the Chief Adviser's Relief Fund for flood and cyclone affected people respectively while remaining amount will be sent shortly.

With the assistance of the embassy, relief materials including blankets, clothes and milk powder collected by the community have been transported to Bangladesh by ship and air.

An UAE company donated Tk 40 lakh worth of tents for the cyclone affected people through UAE Red Crescent.



Begum Nazneen Moeen, wife of Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed, has her fingerprint scanned during the voter registration at the DOHS Community Centre at Banani in the city yesterday.

Orientation programme held at NSU

The spring semester 2008 orientation ceremony of the newly enrolled undergraduate students of BBA programme of North South University (NSU) was held yesterday at NSU campus, says a press release.

NSU Vice Chancellor Dr Hafiz GA Siddiqi spoke on the occasion as the chief guest.

Deans of different schools, BBA director, Proctor and Registrar Mohammad Ali also spoke on the occasion.

Dr Siddiqi said in the ceremony, as the leading private university in Bangladesh NSU is committed to ensure high quality higher education and congenial academic atmosphere. He also said in the present context quality-education is imperative to face the competition.

Registrar Mohammad Ali thanked the students and their parents for showing trust and confidence in NSU and gave an overview of rules, regulations, academic and extracurricular activities of the university.

রেডি দোকান

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- সরাসরি সাক্ষাত ও প্রকল্প পরিদর্শন

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North South University Vice Chancellor Dr Hafiz GA Siddiqi addresses an orientation ceremony for the newly enrolled undergraduate students under spring semester 2008 on the campus yesterday.

Black flags hoisted

FROM PAGE 1

A number of teachers yesterday also wore black ribbons as part of their protest programme.

The Duta meeting had set a new deadline for the release of the detainees within January 23 and decided not to hold any admission test at the university until the arrested teachers and student are freed. The teachers also decided to observe a three-hour token hunger strike at the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla from 10:00am to 1:00pm on January 21.

STUDENTS DEMONSTRATION

DU students under the banner of "Students against Repression" yesterday staged a demonstration on the campus, boycotting classes from 11:00am to 1:00pm. They formed human chains, brought out silent processions and held a protest rally.

Three human chains were formed in front of the Arts Faculty building, Curzon Hall and Institute of Fine Arts around 12:00noon. Hundreds of students spontaneously participated in the programme.

Boycotting classes, the students kept the gates of Curzon Hall, Science Annex building and Institute of Education and Research under lock and key.

DU students had already set today as the deadline for the release of their teachers and fellow student.

Meanwhile, the students alleged that the university authorities cheated them by extending the usual one-day Ashura holiday by another day "to stall" the ongoing demonstrations on the campus.

But DU public relations department Director Ashraf Ali Khan said usually classes remain suspended for two days on the occasion of Ashura while administrative offices remain closed for one day.

The leaders of Students against Repression yesterday met Vice-Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz and demanded that as the guardian of the university he take his stand for the unconditional release of all the detainees by withdrawing the cases.

They warned of violating the Emergency Power Rules if the teachers and student are not released by today.

Later, talking to reporters, Prof Faiz said he is trying to get the detainees released immediately.

Meanwhile, a number of students of Mirpur Bangla College in the city yesterday alleged that a fellow student was intentionally implicated in a case in connection with the August violence after police arrested him.

Our RU correspondent adds: Students of Rajshahi University and Sirajganj University College observed yesterday as a "black day", demanding release of 10 fellow students and an employee convicted in a case filed for torching a vehicle of the DGFI last August when the campus was violent following DU incidents.

Several hundred students and family members of the 11 convicts brought out a procession on the campus in the morning, wearing black badges and holding black flags.

They boycotted classes for two hours and hoisted black flags at all faculty buildings.

The family members of the convicted students criticised the RU authorities for not taking any step for their release.

Our correspondent in Sirajganj reports: Around 200 students of Sirajganj University College formed a human chain on the campus, protesting arrest of the DU teachers and a student and demanding their unconditional release immediately.

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Jan. 21~24, 2008 12:00-20:00 Daily

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Send your comments & contribution to **Star Insight**

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