

Six killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Six people were killed and three others injured in separate road accidents across the country yesterday.

UNB from Narayanganj reports: Three people were killed and another was injured when a truck plunged into a roadside ditch at Bholail in Fatullah as the lorry skidded off Dhaka-Munshiganj road early yesterday.

Police said three people died on the spot as the iron rod-laden truck tumbled into the ditch and the rods fell on them at about 5:30am.

The deceased were identified as truck-driver Moshur Rahman, 35, helper Khademul Islam, 34, and Abdur Rashid.

Injured Rahman Shikder was

rushed to a local hospital from where he was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

The accident took place when the truck was going to Shyampur in the city from Kashipur Shikder Re-rolling Mills in Fatullah.

The bodies were sent to Narayanganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Our CU Correspondent adds: Two people, including a schoolboy were killed and two others injured in two separate road accidents in the port city yesterday.

The victims were identified as Shuvo Mallik, 6, a class one student of Pahartali Boys School, and Fatema Akter, 18, wife of one Nurul Alam of Rangunia upazila while the injured were her husband and one Rabiul.

A speeding truck knocked Shuvo from behind in Punjabi Lane area under Khulshi Police Station at around 1:00pm while he was returning home from his school. He died on the spot, sources said.

Protesting the incident, the local people put up a barricade on the road for around half an hour. Later, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Police detained the truck with its driver Maksud Milon, 29.

Fatema was killed when a Rangunia-bound bus collided head-on with a CNG-run autorickshaw in Moulvi Pukur Par area under Chandgaon Police Station at around 3:00pm.

Fatema was killed on the spot while her husband Nurul Alam and Rabiul, were injured. The

injured were sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where Nurul was undergoing treatment and Rabiul was released after first aid, said the sources.

Police detained the bus but its driver managed to flee.

Our Correspondent in Sirajganj adds: A man was killed in a road accident on the Sirajganj-Kazipur highway at Pipulbaria Bazaar in Sirajganj yesterday morning.

The deceased was identified as Lalon, 30, of Dhobabari village.

Police and witnesses said the accident took place at around 6:00am when a Sirajganj-bound truck hit him from behind, killing him on the spot.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

1,608 more held

UNB, Dhaka
Police arrested 1,608 people in separate drive across the country in the last 24 hours ending at 6:00am yesterday.

During the countrywide drives, five firearms, two other weapons and 13 bullets were also recovered.

Meanwhile, 50 motorcycles were seized for not having valid documents and 399 cases filed in this connection.

Australian grant for two NGOs

The Australian High Commission has provided a grant of Tk 13,20,000 under its Direct Aid Programme (DAP) 2007-08 to two Bangladeshi NGOs, Symbiosis Bangladesh and the Assistance for Blind Children (ABC), says a press release.

Australian High Commissioner Douglas Foskett handed over cheques to Abdul Muttalib Akand, country director of Symbiosis Bangladesh, and ZB M Bakht, secretary general of ABC, at his office in the city recently.

Symbiosis Bangladesh will spend its share of Tk 7,00,000 in constructing a multi-purpose community centre to provide primary education and training programmes on agro-fisheries, sewing, and basic health treatment.

The centre can also be used as a shelter during natural disasters. This contribution will add value to the NGO's existing Development Project at Madarganj, Jamalpur.

ABC is known for providing formal education, training and accommodation for visually impaired underprivileged children.

With the allocated DAP amount, ABC targets to provide Braille reading materials for recreation of blind children/ readers from all over the country. These books will include writings of renowned Bengali poets and authors, and will be first of its kind in Bangladesh.

Each of the ABC hostel will also be provided with a harmonium for musical practice and cultural development.



Angry people block a road in Pahartali area in Chittagong after the death of a school student in a road accident yesterday.

8 get life for murder in Gazipur

BSS, gazipur

A court yesterday sentenced eight persons to life imprisonment for murder and fined them Tk 10,000 each, in default to suffer another six months in jail.

Additional Sessions Judge SM Rezaul Karim announced the verdict in a crowded court in Gazipur.

The convicts are: Mohammad Ali, 60, Moslem Uddin, 35, Shahiduzzaman, 50, Elias Khan, 57, Hobi Bepari, 60, Shabar Ali, 40, Abdus Salek, 25, and Shahjahan, 25. However, another accused in this case Monir Hossain, 60, died during proceedings of the case.

The accused killed Lal Miah of Banshabari village under Stripur upazila in the district in 2003 over a land dispute. Victim's son Khairul Islam lodged the case with Stripur Police Station.

After hearing the both sides and examining documents and witnesses, the judge pronounced the verdict.



Australian High Commissioner Douglas Foskett hands over a cheque to Abdul Muttalib Akand and Jeff McClintock of Symbiosis Bangladesh recently in grants under the Direct Aid Programme.

CA condoles Debdas's death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday expressed profound shock at the death of renowned artist Debdas Chakraborty.

The chief adviser in his condolence message said Debdas had contributed a lot to flourish country's fine arts and also played an important role during the Liberation War.

He prayed for eternal peace of his departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Debdas, a painter of modern fine arts of Bangladesh, who had been suffering from different medical complications for a long time, passed away at his Uttara residence on Tuesday at the age of 75.

Different organisations also expressed shock at his death.

In separate condolence messages, director general of Shilpakala Academy Kamrul Hasan and Secretary Ashraf Mosaddek and director of the Institute of Fine Arts said the vacuum in the death of Debdas cannot be met easily. Ayesha Khanam and Maleka Banu of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad said the nation lost a gifted son of the soil in Debdas's death.



Recipients of the Bank Asia higher studies scholarships pose for photograph with Bank Asia Director Alhaj Shafique Uddin, President and Managing Director Syed Anisul Huq and Lohagara UNO Mohammad Nuruzzaman at the scholarship award ceremony at Lohagara in Chittagong recently. Bank Asia Lohagara branch organised the programme.

Pak Taliban declare truce

AFP, Peshawar

A Pakistani Taliban commander blamed for the murder of former premier Benazir Bhutto has declared an indefinite ceasefire with government forces, a militant spokesman said yesterday.

But an army spokesman said they were not aware of any truce and vowed that operations against Islamic militants in the rugged region near the Afghan border would continue.

Militant leader Baitullah Mehsud had ordered an "indefinite" truce following months of clashes in the tribal region of South Waziristan and neighbouring regions, said spokesman Maulvi Omar.

"We have announced ceasefire for an indefinite period because the government stopped attacking us," Omar, the spokesman for Tehreek-e-Taliban (Taliban Movement) Pakistan, told AFP by telephone.

"Baitullah Mehsud has ordered his people to stop attacks against Pakistani forces from Waziristan to Swat and other areas of Pakistan," he added.

"It is not a formal agreement with the government forces but we have done it voluntarily."

The Pakistani government and the US Central Intelligence Agency have accused Mehsud of masterminding Benazir's assassination in a gun and suicide bomb attack in the garrison city of Rawalpindi on

December 27.

Pakistani officials say he is linked to Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda network and is also responsible for a string of suicide bombings around the country.

Chief military spokesman Major General Athar Abbas said the army would keep up operations against the Taliban.

"There is no formal information conveyed to us from them about a ceasefire. When they stopped firing we thought it was because of the severe weather conditions in the region," Abbas told AFP.

"Our position is very clear -- the operation has not ended, it will continue as long as the objectives the operations are achieved," he added.

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3. Firms may form consortium/joint venture for obtaining "Documents" and subsequent submission of EOI. But any individual member of the consortium/joint venture should satisfy all the conditions stated in Para 2 above.
4. Documents containing the task of the consultant, required qualification and experience and other conditions etc will be issued to intending consulting firms on payment of Tk.1,000.00 (Taka one thousand) only (non-refundable) in cash from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days between 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM from 10/02/2008 to 25/02/2008.
5. The intending consulting firm must clearly mention the category for which they are submitting their proposal.
6. The expression of interest (EOI) is to be submitted in the office of the undersigned in sealed envelope on or before 12:00 noon on 17/03/2008.
7. Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all application without assigning any reason whatsoever.

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