Road crashes kill 8, injure 35

STAR REPORT

At least eight people were killed and 35 others injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka, Netrakona, Sirajganj and Sylhet yesterday.

Staff correspondent reports: A five-year-old girl was killed in a road accident at Bashundhara gate on Pragati Sarani in the city yesterday.

The victim identified as Anjana Akhtar who lives in a nearby slum with her mother died on the spot when a Rampura-bound passenger bus ran over her while she was crossing the road.

Following the accident locals chased the bus and its driver down. They handed over the driver to police.

Anjana's mother Jarina Begum filed a case with Badda Police Station in this connection.

Our Correspondent from Netrakona adds: Two people were killed and 20 others injured in separate road accidents in Sadar and Durgapur upazilas of the district yesterday.

Police said one person was killed on Netrakona-Mymensingh high way at Mankanda under Sadar upazila at about 6:30am.

The victim was identified as Sohal Mia, 25, of Sherpur district.

The accident occurred when a Netrakona-bound passenger bus from Mymensingh knocked down Sohal at Tagoria where he was crossing the road and died on the spot.

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

Meanwhile, another person was killed and 20 others were injured on Netrakona-Durgapur Road at Rantritola at about 9:00am.

Police said the accident occurred when the driver of Netrakona-bound passenger bus from Durgapur lost his control over the steering and fell into roadside paddy field.

The victim was identified as Nuru Mia, 55, of Bagarhati village under Durgapur upazila.

Seriously injured Arman Khan, Lokshan Mia, Nurunnabi, Salaha Khatun, Rahala Akter and Amana Begum were sent to Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital in critical condition.

Other injured were admitted to Durgapur Upazila Health Complex.

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

Police seized the bus but the driver managed to flee.

UNB from Sirajganj adds: Three people were killed and 15 others injured in a road accident at Pasila in Salanga Police Station in the district yesterday.

Police said the accident took place at about 1:30pm when a Dhaka-bound bus from Pabna hit a rickshaw van, leaving three van passengers, Kamal, 20, Saiful, 38, and Amir Hossain, 37, dead on the spot.

Seven bus passengers, one passer-by and seven van passengers were injured in the accident on Dhaka-Bogra Highway.

On information, police recovered the bodies and sent it to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Nine of the injured were rushed to Sadar Hospital.

A case was filed with local police station.

Another report from Sylhet adds: A woman and her daughter were crushed under the wheels of a truck on Sylhet-Kanaighat-Gacchbari road at Mirapara in Sadar upazila yesterday.

Sources said a speeding truck ran over Moyna Begum, 27, and her daughter Rubina, 6, while they were crossing the road at about 11:00am.

Police sent the bodies to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police seized the truck and arrested its driver Shahjahan Miah.

PHOTO: STAR

The two-day 15th Annual Convention of Bangladesh Gastroenterology Society began at Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday. From left are Prof Dr ASMA Raihan, Prof Dr MA Foyez, Brig Gen (retd) Abdul Malik, Prof Md Tahir, Prof Mahmud Hasan and Prof Projesh Kumar Roy.

9 killed in Afghan violence

AFP, *Asadabad*

A mine blast killed seven guards in Afghanistan yesterday, while two civilians were killed in separate incidents, officials said.

A landmine blew up a vehicle transporting Afghan guards who had been protecting a road construction company in Kunar province, a troubled region on the Pakistani border, governor Fazullah Wahidi told AFP.

He could not say who was responsible for the attack but Taliban militants waging a bloody insurgency against the Kabul government have been blamed for a string of similar incidents.

Meanwhile in the western province of Farah, a suicide bomber with explosives strapped to his body blew himself up near a police vehicle. Regional police spokesman Abdul Mutalib Rad said the bomber was the only person killed.

Police later arrested four men believed to be Taliban who were seen dropping the bomber off from a vehicle, Rad said.

The Taliban are trying to topple President Hamid Karzai's government and force out tens of thousands of international soldiers based in the country.

In other incidents linked to the Taliban insurgency, a civilian truck driver was killed and a truck supplying Western troops was set ablaze in the volatile southern province of Zabul on Saturday, police said.

A Taliban spokesman claimed responsibility.

Kunar governor Wahidi also alleged that US troops patrolling in the mountains on Friday had shot and killed a civilian who was collecting wood and injured two others.

The US military, which has soldiers in the area, could not confirm the report.

Casualties of civilians caught in the crossfire between rebels and troops have eroded public support for the campaign against the extremist insurgents.

The deepening violence and higher-than-expected casualties among foreign soldiers has also weakened support in many of the roughly 40 countries with troops in Afghanistan, prompting calls for them to leave.

Canada, after threatening to leave next year, announced Thursday it would withdraw in 2011.

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