

Road accidents kill 4

STAR REPORT

Four people were killed and 32 others injured in separate road accidents in Magura, Rajshahi, Natore and Jhenidah yesterday.

Our correspondent in Magura reports: A man was killed and 25 others were injured when a passenger bus fell into a roadside ditch at Kadamtala on Magura-Sreepur road yesterday.

The victim was identified as Ripon Mian, 30, the helper of the bus.

Police and witnesses said the Sreepur-bound bus fell into the ditch at around 10:00am as the driver lost control while overtaking a tempo.

Twelve seriously injured were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital while 13 others took treatment at local hospitals.

Our RU correspondent adds: A

man was killed and five others injured in a road accident on Puba-Rajshahi highway at Muralpur under Puba upazila in Rajshahi yesterday.

The accident took place at around 9:15am when a Rajshahi-bound goods-laden truck collided head-on with an autorickshaw, leaving a passenger of the autorickshaw dead on the spot.

The victim was identified as Jamir Uddin, 55, while the injured were identified as Mira Begum, 30, Rokeya Begum, 23, autorickshaw driver Jaharul Islam, 21, Rokeya Khatun, 18, and Mou, 5.

The injured were rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH). Among the injured, the condition of Mira Begum was stated to be critical.

A correspondent from Natore adds: A man was killed and two others were seriously injured in a

road accident at Mohisvanga under Baraigram upazila in Natore on Bonpara-Hatikumrul highway yesterday.

The accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound covered van turned turtle and fell into a roadside ditch.

The dead was identified as Abul Kalam, 32, the helper of the covered van, while the injured are Azad, 31, the driver, and Abdul Aziz, 33.

The injured were rushed to Bonpara Amina Hospital.

Our correspondent in Jhenidah adds: A minor boy was killed in a road accident at Paklaganai in Jhenidah yesterday morning.

The victim was identified as Nayan Saha, 8, son of Narendra Nath Saha.

Police and locals said Nayan was crushed under the wheels of a Kushtia-bound truck on Kushtia-Jessore highway while he was crossing the road at about 8:30am.

Trader robbed of Tk 5 lakh, two arrested in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers snatched Tk 5 lakh from a trader yesterday at gunpoint at Uttara in the city while he was returning home after drawing the money from a bank.

The victim, identified as Abdul Latif, along with his friend Abdul Hossain was returning home by a rickshaw after drawing the money from National Bank at Uttara branch at around 2:30pm.

Six muggers, three in a CNG auto-rickshaw and three others in a motorbike, snatched the money from him at gunpoint at Sector 13.

Uttara police said the process of filing a case is underway.

Meanwhile, two cheats were arrested by officials and employees of Al-Arafah Islami Bank at Motijheel while they were trying to flee the spot after snatching Tk 5 lakh from one Mohammad Kawsar Ahmed.

The arrestees are Zamal Mridha and Delwar. They were handed over to the Rab-3 team by the bank officials at around 12:30pm.

WORKSHOP ON MIGRATION Better understanding, networking stressed

Better understanding and cross-checking of facts and figures is a must for writing objective reports on migration related issues.

There should be exchange meetings with senior media representatives and more knowledge sharing on all aspects of migration.

Speakers said these at a three-day workshop on 'Migration, Counter Trafficking and Media' at Rajendrapur recently, says a press release.

The workshop was organised by International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and attended by 20 diplomatic and other correspondents of print and electronic media. Various issues related to migration were discussed like rights and exploitation, labour migration, trafficking, remittance, health and gender.

Nurul Islam, director of Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET), Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, executive editor, The Daily Sangbad, Farida Yasmin, senior sub-editor, Daily Ittefaq, Advocate Suraiya Banu of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) and representatives from returnee migrant organisations WARBE and BOMSA were present.

Nurul Islam of BMET suggested that media should allocate an exclusive page or programme for migration, as it is becoming an important area to work and know about.

Bulbul requested his fellow colleagues to be more knowledgeable to write better stories on migration related issues.

Regional Representative for IOM South Asia Rabab Fatima proposed forming a forum of journalists on migration to enhance better understanding on the issue.

Acid survivors make TV programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seven acid survivors have teamed up to make television programme focusing on the sorrow, happiness, success and failures of acid survivors.

The programme titled 'Amader Katha Shunun' (listen to our stories) will be shown on Bangladesh Television every last Wednesday of each month at 9:30pm.

The first episode of the programme will be aired on June 25, said Nurunnahar, a member of the programme team, at a view exchange meeting at Dhaka Reporters' Unity yesterday.

All the team members are members of Acid Survivors Network. Poriprekhhit, an organisation, has provided them with technical training required to make television programme.

Among the seven members, Mohammad Rabul Islam is the assistant director and assistant presenter of the programme, Shamima Akhter is presenter, Raushan Ara is cameraman and Mohammad Abdul Karim is assistant cameraman while Peyara Begum is involved in gathering information and Kalima in editing the programme.

Nurunnahar said they have now been preparing a database of acid survivors in 10 districts - Dhaka, Barisal, Patuakhali, Gazipur, Sirajganj, Dinajpur, Kurigram, Jhinalda, Comilla and Sathkhira.

She also said their organisation is also monitoring different hospitals in the country, including the burn unit of Dhaka medical college hospital, to ensure proper treatment of acid victims.



Brac Chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed speaks at a press conference at Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday. On his left are M Aminul Alam and Shafiqul Islam. (Story on Page 16)

UN urges better monitoring of chemicals for Afghan heroin

AFP, United Nations

The UN Security Council yesterday unanimously called on countries to improve monitoring of chemical precursors used to make heroin so as to better combat drug trafficking in Afghanistan.

In a moved timed to coincide with an international conference on Afghan development set to take place in Paris Thursday, the 15-member council adopted the text urging all member states to boost cooperation to counter illicit drug production and trafficking in Afghanistan, including "by

strengthening the monitoring of the international trade in chemical precursors, notably but not limited to acetic anhydride."

The resolution, drafted by France with the support of Kabul, also calls on all states, in particular those which produce chemical precursors to heroin and those on trafficking routes, to increase their cooperation with the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB).

The INCB's 2007 annual report released last March said the ready availability of acetic anhydride in Afghanistan was a key contributing factor to the booming heroin trade there.

Acetic anhydride, the main chemical used in the manufacture of heroin, is a controlled substance under the UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

France's UN deputy ambassador Jean-Pierre Lacroix said that it was important in the perspective of Friday's Paris conference on Afghanistan to put a spotlight on the issue of chemical precursors.

"The aim is to highlight the issue, to strengthen international mobilization on this particular question of precursors," he added.

Khaleda happy

FROM PAGE 1

British High Commissioner Duncan Norman, Delwar cautioned the government by saying, "It would not be fair to impose a condition on Khaleda Zia to leave the country for the treatment of her sons."

Party leaders and lawyers said Khaleda has asked them not to file any petition seeking exemption from the cases against her. She has even told the lawyers the government would be responsible for the treatment of her sons.

On the other hand, the BNP chief said he is matured enough to take decision regarding his own treatment.

The BNP leaders and workers are mounting pressure on party top brass for taking tough and effective stance for the release of Khaleda following Hasina's release, insiders said.

BNP and its allies sit for a meeting today to discuss the developments arisen after the release of former premier Hasina. They are also expected to decide the next course of action to free Khaleda.

The meeting takes place at 3:00pm at the residence of Delwar, Rizvi Ahmed, acting office secretary of BNP, told The Daily Star.

BNP leaders yesterday held informal talks on the latest devel-

opments, including Hasina's release, her meeting with advisers and the comments of some advisers on release of Khaleda and her sons.

Since Khaleda is still firm not to leave the country on any grounds, they observe they have no alternative to intensifying both legal and political movements for her release.

Both BNP and Jamaat, the main components of four-party alliance, have already placed their demands to release Khaleda and Motiur Rahman Nizami as a condition to take part in the ongoing political dialogues with the government.

Talking to reporters at his Nam flat after the meeting with the British diplomat, Delwar said, "Khaleda Zia has already said she will take treatment here if necessary, but her two sons desperately need better treatment as they are moving towards death."

Asked about the meeting, he said, "We told him [British diplomat] a non-political government is running the country but the people don't want them."

Replying to a query of a reporter, Duncan said they discussed different issues including the upcoming elections. "I hope the government will assure the parties about hold-

ing of a free and fair election."

REACTIONS  
Meanwhile, political leaders yesterday expressed mixed reactions on Hasina's release.

Workers Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon welcomed the release of Hasina and expressed the hope it will help create a congenial atmosphere for a meaningful dialogue.

Asked for his reaction, Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain said he would give his reaction later.

"First I need to know what the matter is before giving my reactions," he told The Daily Star. Dr Kamal believes whatever happens should follow the laws.

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad declined to comment and said, "I am not in the government. So, I don't have any reaction."

Convener of Progressive Democratic Party (PDB) Ferdous Ahmed Quarishi said the temporary release took place within the procedures of law.

Mujahidul Islam Selim, general secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh, said the government has mixed up the matters of fighting corruption and arresting politicians, which is enough to question its credibility.

GANGES WATER SHARING Writ petition filed with HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition has been filed with the High Court, seeking directions to the government to take necessary steps to ensure the availability of actual share of Ganges water at Farakka point as per the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty between Bangladesh and India.

The hearing of the petition might be held today, said advocate Tajul Islam, counsel for the petitioners.

Supreme Court lawyers MK Muraduzaman and Faruk Hossain filed the petition as public interest litigation on June 8 stating that Bangladesh has not been receiving the actual share of Ganges water at Farakka point as per various agreements signed with India.

Due to severe shortage of water, some areas of the country are turning into desert and the Sundarbans, the largest mangrove forest in the world, are going to die, the petitioners said.

They appealed to the court to issue a rule upon the government to show cause as to why the Ganges water sharing treaty should not be reviewed according to the provisions of Berlin Rules on Water Resources 2004 and the UN convention on international water-courses 1997.

Secretaries to the president and cabinet division and the ministries of foreign affairs, water resources, forest and environment, relief and disaster management affairs have been made respondents in the writ petition.

Obituary

Writer Rizia Begum breathed her last on June 8 at her Gulshan residence at the age of 69, says a press release.

Rizia, also a freedom fighter, left behind her three sons and admirers to mourn her death.

Her qulshwani will be held at her residence at 3B Riviera Apartment, Road 51, Ngrth, Gulshan after Asr prayers on Friday.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the qulshwani.

Mohammad Abdul Jobber

Mohammad Abdul Jobber, a retired employee of DMCH surgery department, passed away due to cardiac arrest at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) on June 10 at the age of 62, says a press release.

All are requested to pray for salvation of his soul.

Prof Zamiruddin Ahmed

Language veteran Prof Zamiruddin Ahmed passed away due to old age complications at his residence at Uttara in the city yesterday at the age of 87, says a press release.

He left behind his five sons and seven daughters.

He will be laid to rest at the Tomson Bridge graveyard in Comilla after namaz-e-janaza at Comilla Central Eidgah after Zohr prayers today.

Zamiruddin taught in Comilla Victoria College, Rangpur Carmichael College, Faridpur Rajendra College and Debiddar SA College.

He was terminated from his job at Carmichael College for joining the Language Movement in 1952 and was sent to jail.



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina presides over the Awami League Central Working Committee (ALWC) meeting at Sudha Sadan in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Recognise Kosovo to foster ties JBG leaders urge govt

BSS, Dhaka

Leaders of a forum yesterday said the government should immediately recognise Kosovo, a Muslim majority newly independent country, both on humanitarian and economical grounds.

The Japan-Bangladesh Group (JBG) said Bangladesh, as the world's second largest Muslim country, could be benefited in many fronts from economic and trade ties with Kosovo by giving it formal recognition.

The JBG leaders said this at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club in the city as part of felicitating the newly born Republic of Kosovo, its brave people and Prime Minister Hashim Tachim, a war veteran.

JBG Chairman Salim Prodhan

and former ambassador and UN regional administrator in Kosovo SM Rashed Ahmed spoke on the occasion.

They said the people of Kosovo achieved their independence through bloodshed against dictator Milosevic, known as Balkan butcher.

"They have fought liberation war like Bangladeshi people. Also majority of Kosovo has same religious belief and hold identical cultural and historical background like Bangladeshis. So, Kosovo deserves early recognition from Bangladesh," said Rashed Ahmed.

Bangladesh should not only

give recognition to Kosovo, but also lobby at the OIC for ensuring recognitions from other Muslim states, he added.

Salim Prodhan said Bangladesh can get a good friend in Europe along with finding a new export destination for its products by giving Kosovo formal recognition at the earliest.

He said the Kosovans have a very positive impression about Bangladeshi nationals because of Bangladeshi policemen, including incumbent police chief Noor Mohammad, who were highly appreciated in Kosovo during their duties as UN peacekeepers.

Dhaka urges ILO to promote green jobs, migrant workers

BSS, Dhaka

Labour and Employment Adviser Mohammad Anwarul Iqbal has called upon the ILO to promote "green jobs".

He was addressing a meeting of the labour ministers of Non-Aligned Countries on the sidelines of the ongoing session of the International Labour Conference in Geneva on June 10, according to a message received here yesterday.

The adviser focussed on the vulnerability of Bangladesh and other Nam countries to the hazards of climate change and natural disasters.

He suggested that the Nam should urge the ILO to widen its programmes for creating green jobs.

He also highlighted the plight of migrant workers and called for improving their conditions in the host countries.

Rail Security Week begins at Rajshahi

RU CORRESPONDENT

A seven-day Railway Security Week began at Rajshahi yesterday.

The event aims at developing the skills of railway officials and employees, creating security awareness among them and avoiding rail accidents.

AKM Mushfiqur Rahman, general manager of Rajshahi railway (West Zone), inaugurated the Week.

Railway officials Ali Akbar Khan, Abdur Rouf and Aminur Rashid were present as special guests at the inaugural programme that was presided over by Abul Fayez Abed.



Nurunnahar addresses a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the city yesterday. On her left is Naima Imam Khan.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Khulna divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy rainfalls are also likely at places during the period, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 35.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Ishwardi and lowest 25.2 degrees Celsius at Rangamati.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:47pm today and rises at 5:10am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening)