

Road accidents kill 8

METRO DESK

At least eight people were killed and 37 others injured in separate road accidents in Savar and Sirajganj yesterday.

UNB from Savar reports: At least three people were killed and 20 others injured in a head-on collision between two buses at Kahirpur on Kaliakoir-Nabinagar road yesterday.

Witnesses and police said one bus carrying workers of Shachchan BD Ltd from DEPZ area collided with a Dhaka-bound bus in the afternoon. They said critically injured Sujon,

25, Shefali Begum, 48, and an unknown bus driver aged around 45 died at clinics in Savar and Kaliakoir. A case was filed with Ashulia police in this connection.

Our correspondent from Sirajganj adds: Five people were killed and 17 others were injured in two separate road accidents in Sirajganj yesterday.

Police and witnesses said that Jamiullah, 7, son of Emdadul Haque and a class two student of a local primary school, was run over by a lorry in front of Saleha Ishak Govt Girls' High School at around 9:30am.

In another accident, four people were killed and 17 others were injured when a Bogra-bound bus from Nagarbari collided head-on with a human hauler (Nasim) on the Bogra-Nagarbari highway at Binnadair at Shahjadpur in the evening.

The victims were identified as Kamela Khatun, 38, Shahjahan Ali, 27, Gadon, 42, and Biku, 40.

The injured were admitted to Shahjadpur Upazila Health Complex and Sirajganj Sadar Hospital. Of the injured, the condition of four is critical, hospital sources said.

7 auto-rickshaw lifters arrested in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested seven members of a well-organised syndicate of auto-rickshaw lifters from different parts of Chittagong in the last three days.

They also seized two stolen CNG-run auto-rickshaws, fake licence and other documents, painting materials and auto-rickshaw switches.

A team from Kotwali Police Station led by Assistant Commissioner Md Babul Akter conducted the drive since 8:50pm on Saturday.

The arrestees were Aminul Haq Majumder alias Amin, 28, of Barura in Comilla, Md Abdul Motaleb, 36, and Md Abdul Mannan, 24, of Satkania upazila in Chittagong, Md Omar Faruk, 22, of Ramu in Cox's Bazar, Abdul Mannan alias Angulkata Mannan, 38, of Boalkhali upazila in Chittagong, Shahidul Islam, 30, of Khalishpur in Khulna and Md Khorshed Alam, 24, of Begumganj in Noakhali.

During interrogation, the arrestees confessed that they had been working in two groups for lifting CNG-run auto-rickshaws. The first group led by Amin stole the auto-rickshaws with the help of the drivers concerned and took them to the other end of Shah Amanat Bridge (Karnaphuli 2nd bridge) before handing them over to the other group.

The members of the other group led by Motaleb changed the number of the stolen three-wheelers and took them to different workshops, particularly Redwan Engineering Workshop and Gafur Engineering Workshop, in Satkania.

The whole body, paintings as well as chassis and engine numbers of the auto-rickshaws were completely changed at the workshops.

The stolen three-wheelers were then sold with fake documents at Tk 2 lakh to Tk 2.5 lakh each.

The drivers of the stolen CNG-run auto-rickshaws were given Tk 30,000 each to help lifting of the three-wheelers, informed the arrestees who also disclosed the names of another five members of their syndicate.

Aminul Haq Majumder alias Amin, the linchpin of the racket, confessed that he stole five CNG-run auto-rickshaws from City Gate (the entry point of Chittagong on Dhaka-Chittagong highway), Mirsarai, Hathazari and Oxygen areas since he was released from jail only about 25 days back.

Non-govt teachers demand nationalisation of jobs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of non-government educational institutions yesterday called on the government to nationalise their jobs.

They also demanded that the educational institutions which got the approval from the government be brought under the Monthly Pay Order system.

The demands were placed at a meeting of the national executive committee of Bangladesh Teachers' Association.

The association leaders said the non-government schoolteachers have been receiving 100 percent of

their salary from the institutions, but they are yet to get medical allowance, house rent, festival bonus and annual increment as per the government rules.

They also called for giving permission to the institutions to open a new department or class if there are a greater number of students and allowing the teachers to take part in all education-related activities such as test examinations and preparing book lists and syllabus.

They also demanded cancellation of the system of upazila education officer asking the headmasters to submit the Annual Confidential

Report and the system of recruitment of headmasters having 15 years' experience and assistant headmasters having 3 years' experience and no third class.

Protesting harassment of teachers at the education directorate, the leaders warned that tough movement would be launched if steps are not taken immediately to put an end to it.

Association President Kazi Abdur Razzak presided over the meeting addressed by Secretary General Md Selim Bhuiyan, Kazi Mujibur Rahman, MA Safa Chowdhury and Amir Farook Talukder.



Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain speaks at a press briefing at his Bailey Road residence in the city yesterday. On his left is Advocate Subrata Chowdhury. (Story on Page 16)

Rab hands over 4 Vishnu statues of Pala era to Barendra Museum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday handed over four Vishnu black stone statues of Pala era to Barendra Research Museum (BRM) in Rajshahi.

Rab-5 handed over the statues after a Rajshahi court granted Rab prayer for handing them over to the museum for proper preservation and research.

The statues were recovered from Nachole in Chapainawabganj, Kaharol in Dinapur and Kumarpura in Rajshahi city during different drives, says a Rab press release.

Rajshahi Rab Deputy Director Rakib-ul Ahsan handed over the statues to BRM acting director M Zakaria at a simple function.

Rab Assistant Directors Kazi Nazrul Islam and Muhammad Khorshed Alam, BRM deputy directors M Monirul Haque and M Abdus Samad Mondol, Senior Conservation Officer M Abdul Kuddus were present on the occasion.

The release also said that Rab, since its inception, is conducting operations against some organised gangs of smugglers who are active in lifting local treasures.

RU Press Club expels 8

METRO DESK

Rajshahi University Press Club (RUPC) expelled its eight members for their involvement in anti-club activities, says a press release.

The expelled members are Ismail Hossain, Hojjatul Islam Shohag, Johar Ibn Kalim, Sirajul Islam, Tuhinul Islam, Abu Saem and Asadur Rahman.

A meeting of the executive committee of the club took the decision on Sunday.

Eight members of the club were absent willingly at the iftar party of the club held on September 8. Later, they misbehaved with the president of the club at a meeting and reported against the club in various newspapers, the press release added.

The press release also said they no longer belong to the RUPC and the club will not responsible for their activities.

13 hurt as JCD, Shibir clash at Bogra college

Students asked to vacate dormitories

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

At least 13 people were injured in a clash between Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir at Government Azizul Haque College in the district over filling up of admission forms yesterday.

The college authorities closed four hostels and asked the male students to vacate the dormitories by last night and the female students by this morning.

JCD college unit General Secretary Masud Rana said the clash erupted at one stage of altercation with Shibir activists over filling up admission forms, leaving JCD college unit President

Jobaydur Islam Riton and six others injured.

On the other hand, Shahadat Hossain, Shibir college unit general secretary said clash began as JCD activist Titash stabbed Palash, a Shibir activist.

Besides, Shibir Organising Secretary Nurun Nabi and seven other activists were also injured during the clash.

Police said the clash began at around 10:30am and continued until 3:00pm. Shibir activists were armed with cocktails and sticks during the clash, they added.

However, Shibir activists brought the same allegations against the JCD men.

CHUADANGA BNP LEADER MURDER Janajuddha leader sentenced to death

UNB, Chuadanga

A court here yesterday sentenced a regional leader of an outlawed party to death for killing BNP leader Nur Ali in 2005.

The convict is Yusuf Goni alias Khairul, of Sonadanga village of Khulna. He was regional leader of Janajuddha, one of the factions of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (BPCP).

According to prosecution, Shankerchandra union parishad (UP) chairman and BNP leader Nur Ali was killed in a brush fire by some Janajuddha cadres at Dingedaha village in Sadar upazila on June 22, 2005.

Victim's brother Abdur Razzak

Crab catcher killed by tiger

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A crab catcher was killed in an attack by tiger at Kateswar Sora canal in the Sundarbans yesterday.

The victim was identified as Sirajul Islam Sheikh, 40, of No 9 Sora Burigolani village under Shyamnagar upazila.

Quoting locals, police said a tiger killed him while catching crab at Kateswar Sora canal.

30 injured as passengers jump from train out of panic

UNB, Naogaon

Two trains escaped a head-on collision but left some 30 passengers injured out of panic jumping at Raninagar railway station yesterday.

Railway sources said the driver of Rajshahi-bound Titumir Express intercity train from Shantahar junction drove into track-number 1 ignoring the signal for it to pass through the track-number 2 when Parbartipur-bound Khulna Rocket Mail was stationed on the first track.

"Finding the Titumir rumbling in the same track, the passengers of the mail train began jumping onto the ground," says a spot account of what was a close call.

Some 30 passengers got injured. The driver of Titumir Express stopped his train as soon as he saw the Khulna Mail standing on the same line.

Stationmaster Fazlul Haque said it happened due to "ignoring the signal by the driver". But the driver of Titumir said the signal was overtaken as he lost control over its engine.



Suk Bum Park, ambassador of the Republic of South Korea, appointed Md Riyadh Ali, managing director of Intraco Group, as honorary consul of South Korea to Chittagong yesterday. Earlier, the foreign ministry approved his appointment. Riyadh is the vice president of Bangladesh CNG Association and one of the directors of Hotel Agrabad in Chittagong.



As Durga Puja is drawing nearer, artisans are now busy with preparing idols for the biggest religious festival of Hindus. This photo was taken in Dewanji Pukur Par area in Chittagong city yesterday.

Malaysian govt hit by furore over crackdown

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia's government was hit with a storm of protest yesterday over a series of arrests under tough security laws, a move the opposition said was aimed at preventing it from seizing power.

A cabinet minister who criticised the arrests offered his resignation, highlighting disarray in the Barisan Nasional coalition since opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim threatened to form a new administration with defecting lawmakers.

Anwar has set a Tuesday deadline to topple the coalition, but said over the weekend that although he has enough support for a takeover, the parliamentary coup could be delayed in order to preserve national stability.

Minister Zaid Ibrahim, who is in charge of legal affairs, led an eruption of criticism from within the cabinet over Saturday's arrests of an opposition politician, a leading blogger, and a reporter for a Chinese-language daily.

Zaid offered his resignation, saying the government was wrong to use the Internal Security Act (ISA), a legacy of the British colonial era which allows for indefinite detention without trial.

"The ISA is open to abuse. If we cannot be fair in implementing it, then we should confine its use to terrorists," Zaid said according to the New Straits Times.

The New Straits Times said on

its website that Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi did not accept the resignation, and asked Zaid to take some time to reconsider.

The ISA arrests triggered fears that the government was planning a wider crackdown on dissent to crush Anwar's ambitions, but the quick release of the journalist on Sunday eased fears of a national crisis.

Home Minister Syed Hamid Albar defended the detentions but said it was a police operation and not his idea -- comments ridiculed by the opposition which said he and Abdullah must be held accountable.

Abdullah should explain whether the crackdown was rolled out "in order to protect his position as prime minister now that he is under attack," opposition veteran Lim Kit Siang told a press conference.

Construction worker shot

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed extortionists shot at a construction worker in the city yesterday for his refusal to provide them with the details of various construction owners.

Identified as Kabir Hossain, 22, of Ibrahimpur under Kafrul Police Station, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital with one bullet in his abdomen.

His condition was stated to be critical.

Kabir alleged that local extortionists Azad, Masud and another one called him out of his residence at Mirpur Section 14 at 2.00pm.

"The extortionists demanded mobile number and address of different construction owners. As I refused to do so, they shot at my abdomen," he added.

TORTURE ON SHAMIMA

Punishment to perpetrator demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The leaders of local NGOs in Satkhira condemned the torture on Shamima Khatun, a UN award winner, by her husband and demanded exemplary punishment to the perpetrator of torture.

Shamima fell victim of torture by her husband on September 6 as she protested his extramarital affairs.

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