Eight killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

Eight people were killed and 28 others injured in separate road accidents in the city, in Manikganj, Narail, Madaripur and Barisal yesterday.

UNB in Dhaka adds: Two people were killed and four, including a woman, injured as a goods-laden truck ploughed into a roadside tea stall at Nawaberbagh under Shah Ali Police Station in the city yesterday.

The victims were identified as Nazrul Kazi, 55, and Montu, 25.

Witnesses said the truck, running on the busy road at daytime, smashed through the tea stall of Hayat Banu and then tumbled into a nearby ditch.

Quoting witnesses, police said, "The accident took place as the driver of the truck lost his control over the steering."

Nazrul and Montu, who were sitting at the tea stall, died instantly being crushed under the wheels of the truck.

Hayat Banu and Ruhul Sarder, uncle of Montu, and two truck passengers -- Rana and Abul Kalam -- were injured.

Our correspondent in Manikganj reports: A Juba League leader was killed in a road accident in Manikganj yesterday.

The dead was identified as Golam Abul Hossain Liton, 39, of Bandutia village under Manikganj Sadar Police Station. He was a member of Manikganj Bus Owners' Association.

Police said the accident occurred at around 2:00pm near Bandutia High School when a Manikganj-bound truck hit his motorcycle, leaving him dead on the spot.

Police seized the truck but its driver managed to flee.

The body was sent to Manikganj Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

A Correspondent from Narail adds: A couple was killed in a road accident on Lohagara-Bardia road near Khalchar in Narail yesterday.

The dead were identified as Nripan Biswas, 30 and his wife Kakoli Biswas, 26.

Police and locals said the accident occurred at about 4:30pm when a Lohagara-bound Nosimon, a locally made human holler, hit their motorbike, leaving them seriously injured.

They were taken to Lohagara Health Complex and then shifted to Khulna Medical College Hospital where they succumbed to their injuries.

UNB in Madaripur adds: Two people were killed and 22 others injured when a bus crashed into a roadside ditch at western side of Hazi Shariatullah Bridge at Shibchar in Madaripur early yesterday.

Police said the accident took place at about 5:00am when the Patuakhali-bound bus plunged into the ditch as its driver lost control over the steering, leaving two people dead on the spot.

The deceased were identified as Khakon Das, 22, and Alauddin, 40.

The injured were rushed to Faridpur Medical College Hospital, Bhanga and Shibchar health complexes.

Our correspondent in Barisal adds: A school student was killed in a road accident at Madavpasha under Babuganj upazila in Barisal yesterday.

The dead was identified as Dipu, 10, class III student of Badla Primary School at Madavpasha.

Sources said the accident occurred when a tempo hit him on his way to school.

He was rushed to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in a critical condition where on duty doctor declared him dead.

Rizwana wins Goldman Environmental Prize

METRO DESK

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (BELA), has been awarded the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize 2009 for the Asia region in recognition of her contribution to the conservation of the environment.

As Bangladesh's leading environmental attorney, Rizwana's legal advocacy for tighter regulations for the country's environmentally devastating ship-breaking industry in particular, makes her one of six winners of the world's largest prize for environmentalists this year, says a press release.

Rizwana, who is an advocate of the Bangladesh Supreme Court, will receive the award at a ceremony in San Francisco today and will be honoured at a smaller ceremony in Washington DC on the occasion of Earth Day on April 22.

The Goldman Environmental Prize, now in its 20th year, is awarded annually to environmental heroes from each of the world's six inhabited continental regions and is the largest award of its kind with a cash prize of $150,000.

Since receiving a Goldman Prize, eight winners have been appointed or elected to national office in their countries, including several who became ministers of the environment.

The 1991 Goldman Prize winner for Africa, Wangari Maathai, won the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize.

"This group of Goldman Prize recipients is as impressive as ever, taking on seemingly insurmountable struggles and achieving success," said Goldman Prize founder Richard N Goldman. "In this, our 20th year, we are pleased to bring attention to their courageous work."

This year's recipients include Maria Gunnoe, a born-and-bred West Virginian who faces death threats for her outspoken activism to stop the coal industry's plunder of Appalachia via mountain top removal and valley fills in the US.

Another recipient, Marc Ona, a wheelchair-bound civil society leader from the West African country of Gabon, faces arrest, imprisonment and public character assaults for his unyielding campaign to stop a destructive mining concession in a protected national park.

PHOTO: STAR

A visitor admires 'pitha' (cake) put on display at a Baishakhi festival organised by Eastern University on its campus in the city yesterday.

Finnish cooperation in Rly sector sought

UNB, *Dhaka*

Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain called on Finnish Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen at Boao in Hainan province of China and discussed issues of bilateral and mutual interest.

Special Adviser to the Prime Minister of Finland Jukka Ihanus, Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Esko Hamilo and Financial Counsellor Kari Varis were present.

During the meeting, the communications minister sought Finland's cooperation in developing Bangladesh's railways by providing railway signaling equipment and passenger coach wagons.

Matti Vanhanen assured that his government would consider the proposal for financing the second Padma Bridge project.

Abul Hossain expressed his gratitude to Vanhanen for cooperation extended by the Finish government for reconstruction of the post-independence Bangladesh and providing assistance in various sectors.

Abul Hossain, who is attending a conference of Boao Forum for Asia, took part in three seminars on 'Private Equity and Venture Capital: Opportunity in Emerging Market', 'Best Practices of Doing Business in Emerging Market' and 'International Financial Crisis and Cross-Straits Financial Cooperation'.

Navy chief leaves for China

METRO DESK

Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral ZU Ahmed yesterday left Dhaka to attend the founding anniversary programme of the China Navy scheduled to be held on April 23, says an ISPR press release.

Naval chiefs, naval representatives, naval analyst and naval observers from 24 countries are expected to take part at the programme.

Mentionable, Bangladesh Navy Ship 'Osman' is already staying in China to attend the international exercise "International Fleet Parade-2009" scheduled to be held from April 20-24.

Two bodies recovered from Arial Kha river

A CORRESPONDENT, *Madaripur*

Two bodies were recovered from Arial Kha river at Kumarbadi area under Madaripur sadar upazila yesterday.

The victims were identified as Rob Talukdar ,65, and his minor granddaughter Sabrina Akhter,6.

They went missing after they went to take bath in the river beside their village Kumarer Tek at around 12:00 noon on Saturday.

Family members said they apprehended that Rob and Sabrina might have been drowned as they did not return home even after a long time.

On information divers of Barisal Fire Brigade rushed to the spot and conducted rescue operation, but they could not recover the bodies.

However, the family members found the bodies floating in the river at around 5:15am.

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