

Road accidents kill 8

METRO DESK

At least eight people were killed and two others injured in separate road accidents in Sylhet, Sirajganj and Jhenidah yesterday.

Staff correspondent from Sylhet reports: Four people, including three women, were killed and 10 others sustained injuries in a road accident on Sylhet-Zakiganj road yesterday.

Locals and police said a Sylhet-bound minibus from Zakiganj collided head-on with a CNG-run autorickshaw coming from the opposite direction near village Mollagaon in Golapganj upazila at about 2:30pm.

Autorickshaw driver Murad, 22 and Rumana Akhtar, 17, died on the spot while Rumana's mother Swapna Begum, 35, and Shammi, 25, suc-

cumbed to their injuries on the way to hospital.

Three of the deceased hailed from village Sirampur under South Surma upazila while the driver Murad hailed from village Nimadal in Golapganj.

Our correspondent from Sirajganj adds: At least three people were killed and two others injured in a road accident on the Dhaka-Bogra highway near the toll plaza of Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge western side in Sirajganj district yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Abdul Majed, 20, Iqbal Hassan, 22, and Milon, 22. All were labourers from Gaibandha district.

Police and witnesses said the accident took place at around 4:30am when driver of a salt-laden truck lost his control over the steering while he was trying to over-

take another vehicle.

The truck turned upside down on the roadside, leaving three people dead on the spot and two others injured. The injured were rushed to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital.

Police sent the bodies to Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy.

Our correspondent from Jhenidah adds: A bus helper was killed in a road crash at Kaliganj bus stand yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Faruk Hossain, 19, son of Mozammel Hossain of Arpara village under Kaliganj upazila.

The accident occurred when a passenger bus hit another bus while it was parking at Kaliganj main bus stand at around 5:30am, leaving helper Faruk dead on the spot.

Police sent the body to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Live concert of sufi music today

METRO DESK

A live concert of sufi music will be held at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city at 7:30pm today, says a press release.

Momentum events, an event wing of Unirent Ltd, will organise the concert.

James from Bangladesh, Junoon from Pakistan and Kailash Kher from India will perform at the concert. This is the first time in Dhaka where the sonorous voices of renowned sufis in the region will join together and present a musical soiree.

Momentum events held a press conference at the Radisson Water Garden Hotel in the city yesterday on the occasion. Kailash Kher and James were present at the press conference while Junoon will arrive this morning.

Tickets are available at all outlets of Helvetia, Coffee World, Chaat Street, Fahim Music, Karai Gost at Dhanmondi, The Cheq at Navana Tower in Gulshan 1, Guddi at Basundhara City-Level 6 and at Sagor Publishers at Bailey Road.



Unitrend Ltd Managing Director Zulfikar Ahmed speaks at a press conference at the Radisson Water Garden Hotel in the city yesterday. Head of Momentum Faiyaz Ahmed, extreme right, and Unitrend Ltd Chairman Muneer Ahmed Khan, extreme left, were present on the occasion.

Sikhs banished by Taliban want to migrate to India

THE ASIAN AGE, Islamabad

Scores of Sikh families, banished from Pakis-tan's tribal areas by Taliban militants, want to migrate and settle in India for good, this newspaper learned.

"We can't say anything openly against the Taliban as we fear for our lives. What we will prefer is to migrate to India where we will have more freedom," a Sikh, a doctor by profession, told this newspaper.

He added, "We have conveyed this to the Pakistan government but they have promised us that things will change and we will be secure." The Sikhs approached by this newspaper requested anonymity.

fearing Taliban reprisals.

"Most of our people have been giving pro-Taliban statements on television channels. This does not mean we love them, but we fear them. We may have to go back and then there's the question of survival," said a Sikh woman who has taken refuge in Islamabad after migrating from Orakzai Agency. She said, "I have four children, all of them are with me. My husband has a shop (in Orakzai Agency). We can't say anything against them (the Taliban) on record, but the

truth is that they are brutal."

A Sikh shopkeeper named Gurmeet said, "I think the militants are not against any specific religion. They are fighting against humanity. No peaceful citizen can be their (militants') friend." Gurmeet added, "Though I would prefer to go back home, I still think India is much better as far as human rights are concerned." He added, "Several of my family members live in Amritsar and one day I might move there with my wife and children."

3 workers hurt as roof of under-construction bldg collapses at ZIA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least three workers were injured as a roof of an under-construction building in the Cargo Village area of the Zia International Airport collapsed yesterday.

The injured are taking treatment at Women's Medical College and Hospital at Uttara.

Airport police said around 25 workers were working on the roof of a one-storey building. Suddenly, a portion of the roof fell onto the land at around 4:15, injuring the workers.



Teachers and staffs of recognised schools form a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding steps to bring their institutions under monthly payment order (MPO) scheme.

Prof Mamun wins Fredric William Basel Research Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr A A Mamun, professor of physics at Jahangirnagar University (JU), has won the Fredric William Basel Research Award from Alexander Von Humboldt Foundation in Germany for his outstanding contribution to physics, says a press release.

This is the first time that a Bangladeshi scientist is given this prestigious research award.

The German head of the government will hand over the award to the winners who will be given reception in Germany from June 8 to 10.

The award includes 45,000 Euro.

Comilla varsity reopens May 10

A CORRESPONDENT

Comilla University will reopen on May 10, says a press release.

Proctor Dr Abu Jafor said, "Considering the overall situation, we have decided to resume all the administrative activities of the university."

The authorities closed down the university following a clash on the campus on April 29.

The students expect that no clash will take place on the campus in future.

Pro-BNP lawyers for resignation of AG, SCBA president, secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pro-BNP lawyers yesterday demanded resignations of the attorney general (AG), president and secretary of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) for their reactions to a recent Supreme Court (SC) order in a case regarding fifth-amendment to the Constitution.

They made the demand at a meeting organised by Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Oikya Forum, a body of pro-BNP lawyers, at the south hall of the SCBA in the afternoon in protest against the reactions of the Attorney General Mahubey Alam, SCBA President AFM Mesbahuddin and Secretary SM Rezaul Karim over the SC order.

The SC on May 4 permitted BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain and three lawyers to file separate leave-to-appeal petitions with the SC against the High Court (HC) judgment declaring illegal the fifth amendment to the Constitution that endorsed takeover of late president Ziaur Rahman and all his acts since August 15, 1975.

The attorney general commented to the media that if the HC verdict on the fifth amendment to the Constitution is not upheld the highly ambitious army officers would get inspiration to usurp state powers and it would pave the way for martial law again in future.

At an urgent meeting, the SCBA leaders also protested the SC order and decided to fight a legal battle with the SC for upholding the HC verdict.

Presided over by senior lawyer TH Khan, the meeting was also addressed by former speaker Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, former law minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Barrister Mahbu Uddin Khokon, Nasiruddin Asim, Advocate Golam Mohammad Chowdhury Alal and Barrister Ruhul Quddus Kajal.



National Human Rights Commission Chairman Justice Amirul Kabir Chowdhury calls on President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 3)

No swine flu case in Bangladesh so far Says govt spokesperson

UNB, Dhaka

No case of swine flu strain has so far been detected in Bangladesh as the screening drives taken by the government at the country's nine entry and exit points are going on in full swing.

"Still there is no case of swine flu in Bangladesh and the laboratory test of the sample of a suspected traveller was found negative," Prof Mahmudur Rahman, the government spokesperson on swine flu, told the news agency yesterday.

Replying to a question, Prof Rahman, also director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), said a few days ago, the sample of a suspected traveller from abroad was tested at IEDCR laboratory but it was found negative.

He said the screening of travellers at the entry and exit points are going on in full swing as the swine flu has already spread in 21 countries following its outbreak first in Mexico.

The entry points are Zia International Airport, Shah Amanat International Airport in Chittagong, Osman

International Airport in Sylhet, Chittagong and Mongla seaports and Benapole (Jessore), Sonapur Masjid (Chapainawabganj), Hili (Dinajpur) and Joyentapur (Sylhet) landports.

About screening, Prof Mahmudur said it is being done in two ways -- firstly, printed screening forms are being filled in by travellers suffering from fever, cold and cough, and secondly those coming from the swine flu-hit countries.

Replying to a question, he said some 580 air passengers were screened on Monday at the ZIA.

Dr Quamruzzaman Biswas, National Professional Officer of the World Health Organisation, Dhaka office, said WHO is providing all kinds of technical and logistic supports to the government for its preparedness and response to the swine flu strain.

He said the preparedness and response to swine flu and bird flu are almost the same, and Bangladesh already has the preparedness against bird flu since 2006. "So, the government's present preparedness is better."

Abandoned brief-case spreads bomb scare in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A black briefcase lying abandoned at the Municipal Shaheed Minar in the centre of the town from 11:00am to 4:00pm yesterday spread bomb scare in Narayanganj.

Rab and police cordoned off the whole Shaheed Minar area at Chashara for security reasons.

Bomb experts from Rab Headquarters in Dhaka reached the spot in the afternoon and after opening the briefcase they found only some papers and medicines in it.

Officer-in-Charge of Narayanganj Sadar Police Station Akter Hossain said the briefcase belonged to Shahid Gazi, a medical representative of PTC International.

Shahid came out of his house situated at Khanpur area in the town in the morning.

Sources said somebody stole the briefcase from his house, and finding nothing valuable left it at the Shaheed Minar area.

It is recalled that a total of 20 people were killed when a powerful bomb exploded at the spot on June 16, 2001.

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