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Road accidents kill 29 in two days

STAR REPORT

At least 29 people were killed and 105 others injured in road accidents across the country in the last two days.

Of them, five were killed and 30 injured when a bus carrying garment workers and a goods-laden truck collided on Dhaka-Tangail highway at Baroipara in Savar Thursday.

The killed were Swapan Kumar, 35, Enamul, 36, Kulsum, 28, Sagar, 25 and Sabina, 27. Police said ten of the injured were in critical condition and sent to clinics and hospital in Savar.

Officer-in-charge (OC) of Ashulia Police Station Monwar Hossain told The Daily Star that the bus carrying the employees of Experience Clothing at Dhaka EPZ on its way from Kaliakoir met head-on with the truck around 7:30am. The traffic movement on the highway

remained suspended for two hours until the bus and the truck were removed with a crane.

In Khulna, three members of a family were killed when their motorbike was run over by a speeding pick-up truck on Rupsha Bridge near Labanchhara Thursday.

The deceased were Ashish Halder, 39, an NGO official, his wife Ishter Halder, 33, and their seven-year-old daughter Abanti.

Witnesses said the accident occurred around 9:45am when the family on the bike was crossing the bridge.

Police seized the pick-up truck but the driver managed to escape.

In Manikganj, three people were killed and over 40 injured as a Dhaka-bound bus plunged into a ditch after colliding with another bus at Nayadingi in Satura upazila Thursday around 11:00am. Of the injured, 18 were admitted to

Sadar Hospital while two others rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

In another accident in Manikganj, a couple died as a bus knocked them near Jogir Bridge in Ghior on Thursday.

The deceased were Hakim, 30, and his wife Sahera Begum, 25. Hakim died instantly while Sahera succumbed to her injury yesterday at 7:25pm after she had been referred to DMCH from sadar hospital and later shifted to Pongu hospital.

Besides, another female pedestrian died on spot when a bus ran over her in Ghior Upazila headquarters Thursday night.

Meanwhile, two were killed and five others got injured when a covered van knocked a rickshaw van on Chittagong Road under Demra Police Station early yesterday.

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PHOTO: STAR

This road in front of Mitali Bidyapeeth in Swamibagh has been waterlogged for months due to poor drainage system there.

Foam factory gutted in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire gutted a foam factory at Shyampur in the capital on Thursday morning. No one was, however, reported injured.

Fire Service and Civil Defence sources said the fire was originated from an electric short circuit around 9:00am and engulfed the entire tin-shed building within moments.

Witnesses said the fire destroyed machinery, foam, chemicals and other valuables in the factory.

Several fire-fighting units worked for over an hour to douse the flames.

War crime trial must be fair

Sector commanders' roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is firm to conduct the much-awaited trial of 1971 war criminals but fairness, not quickness should be the priority while trying the perpetrators of war crimes, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said yesterday.

"The government is not compromising on the issue, but it requires huge preparation. It has to be ensured that the trial process is beyond question," she said at a roundtable on "Challenges in trying the war criminals and our role" organised by Sector Commanders' Forum (SCF) at the Jatiya Press Club.

Planning Minister Air Vice Marshal (ret) AK Khankder said the government would soon finalise the list of the investigators and prosecutors for the trial after scrutinising the names.

The prime minister wants that those to be involved with the trial process are trustworthy, he said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Ensure free flow of info

PM tells Information Commission

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged the newly formed National Information Commission to discharge its duties sincerely to ensure the free flow of information.

Hasina made the call when the three-member information commission led by Chief Information Commissioner M Azizur Rahman met her at the PM's office Thursday morning.

The two other commissioners are Mohammad Abu Taher and Prof Sadeka Halim.

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Businesses to help keep prices stable

Minister asks them not to make extra profit during Ramadan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Business leaders yesterday gave assurance that they would help the government keep prices of essentials stable during Ramadan.

The assurance came at a meeting on essentials' prices ahead of Ramadan between Commerce Minister Faruk Khan and business leaders at the FBCCI Bhawan in the capital.

The commerce minister earlier urged the business community not to make windfall profits during Ramadan at the meeting organ-

ised by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry with its President Annisul Huq in the chair.

"You should make 10 to 15 percent profit, not more than that," said the commerce minister.

He assured them that the government would give them necessary support to overcome any obstacle.

Faruk also asked them to make arrangement for displaying three to four price charts under the supervision of the business association

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

BSF kills 1

UNB, Lalmonirhat

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot dead a Bangladeshi national along Khengti border in Patgram upazila early Thursday.

The victim was identified as Moinul Haque, 25, a cattle trader and son of Mozammel Haque of Islampur village in the upazila.

Locals said the BSF troops fired shots on Moinul as he got close to pillar no 843/2 early in the morning, killing him on the spot.

The BSF men then took away his body.

Meanwhile, BDR sent a letter to BSF protesting the killing and demanding immediate return of Moinul's body.



BDR's 39 Rifles Battalion in Chapainawabganj on Thursday prepare to destroy the large amount of phensidyl, liquor, heroin and hemp they had seized in the last three months.

PHOTO: STAR

Death penalty for Mumbai bombers

AFP, Mumbai

An Indian court on Thursday sentenced to death three people, including a married couple, for planting bombs that killed 52 in the city of Mumbai in 2003.

Judge MR Puranik, sitting at a special anti-terrorism court, ordered that Hanef Sayyed, his wife Fahmeeda Sayyed, and Ashrat Ansari "should be hanged by the neck until dead" for murder, criminal conspiracy and terrorism.

All three were convicted last week, six years after bombs exploded at the Gateway of India monument and in the Zaveri Bazaar jewelry quarter.

They stood impassive in the dock as the sentences were handed down.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Car bomb kills 30 near Iraqi mosque

7 others die in Baghdad bombings

AFP, AP, Mosul/Baghdad

A powerful car bomb exploded outside a mosque in the restive northern Iraqi city of Mosul as worshippers were leaving after Juma (Friday) prayers, killing at least 30 people and wounding 72, police said.

The mosque was a Shia facility used by members of the Turkmen minority in the mainly Sunni Muslim city, the police official said.

He said worshippers were walking to an annex of the mosque during a condolence ceremony when the bombers detonated the explosives which had been hidden in a car parked nearby.

"Thirty people were killed and 72 wounded in the suicide car bomb attack," said a police official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Dr Hikmat Sobhi of Mosul's Medical City hospital said the emergency room had received

the bodies of 30 dead and was treating 61 wounded, some of them for serious injuries.

The attack follows a bombing in Mosul late on Thursday in which two Christian women were wounded.

The city -- Iraq's second largest -- has remained the scene of frequent attacks despite a marked decline in violence elsewhere in the country.

US commanders have said that it is the last urban bastion in Iraq of loyalists of al-Qaeda.

The Mosul bombing came as a string of attacks in the capital targeted Shias returning from the central shrine city of Karbala after marking a key religious ceremony, an interior ministry official said.

A roadside bomb at the entrance to the sprawling Baghdad Shia district of Sadr City ripped through a bus, killing four pilgrims and wounding eight as they returned from the

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Aminul, Milon, Faisal get HC bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court on Thursday granted bail to former minister barrister Aminul Haque, former state minister Ehsanul Haque Milon and Faisal Morshed Khan, son of former minister M Morshed Khan, in separate cases.

Former posts and telecommunications minister Aminul was granted ad interim bail for a year in a corruption case in which he was earlier jailed for 10 years in absentia.

After the bail order, counsel for the BNP leader said his client would not be able to walk to freedom, as he was still convicted and accused in other cases.

The HC bench of Justice MA Wahhab Miah and Justice Marzi-ul-Huq passed the bail order upon a petition filed by the defendant.

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OnlinePoll

Are you convinced with India's assurance that India won't do anything that harms the interests of Bangladesh in Tipaimukh project?

- Yes (12.1.3%)
- No (86.5%)
- No Comments (1.4%)

Total votes: 2210

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think government's reaction to Rid Pharmaceutical is sufficient following the deaths of children after taking its deadly paracetamol syrup?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

August 8		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-20	5-55
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	6-00	6-15
Maghrib	7-47	7-50
Esha	9-15	9-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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