

Road crashes kill 8, injure 40

METRO DESK

At least eight people were killed and 40 others injured in separate road accidents in Tongi, Pabna, Jhalakathi and Bogra yesterday and on Saturday.

A correspondent from Gazipur reports: At least four people, including a woman and a child, were killed and 10 others injured when a truck and a human hauler collided head on in Kamarpura area in Tongi yesterday.

Of the dead, one was identified as Anisur Rahman of Sirampur village under Nandail upazila in Mymensingh and identities of a man aged about 45, a woman aged about 38 and a child aged about five could not be known immediately.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred when an Ashulia-bound truck collided head on with a human hauler Laguna at Salehia Madrasa crossing at around 12.45 pm.

Four passengers of the human hauler died on the spot and 10 others were injured. Two private cars were also damaged during the accident.

The injured were rushed to different hospitals at Tongi, Abdullahpur and Dhaka.

Turag police recovered the bodies and sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Our correspondent from Pabna adds: At least two people were killed and 30 others injured as a passenger bus turned upside down and fell

into a roadside ditch at Ganguhati village in the district yesterday.

Police and the locals said the accident took place on Pabna-Nagarbari highway when driver of a Pabna-bound bus of 'Aminpur Express' from Kashinathpur lost his control over the steering at Ganguhati while he was trying to overtake another bus.

The injured were rushed to Pabna General Hospital. Of them, Bipul, 40, of village Bishnapur in Santhia upazila succumbed to his injuries at hospital and an unidentified woman aged about 45 on the way to hospital.

UNB from Jhalakathi reports: A branch manager of local NGO 'ASA' was killed in a road accident at Amirabad in Nalchhiti upazila yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Mrityunjoy Sarkar, 38, Manager of Shreerampur Branch of ASA. He hailed from Kalkini upazila in Madaripur district.

Police said the accident occurred when a bus hit Mrityunjoy's motorcycle at about 11:30am, leaving him dead on the spot.

Police seized the bus but its driver managed to flee the scene.

BSS from Bogra adds: Monwara Begum, 45, assistant primary education officer of Naogaon, was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Bogra Highway on Saturday.

Police quoting witnesses said the accident took place while a Dhaka-bound truck ran over her when she was crossing the road.



PHOTO: PID

A delegation of Jagannath University led by its Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Mejbahuddin Ahmed calls on President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Land Commission Chairman Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury visits several families of refugees and hears their words at Dighinala upazila in Khagrachhari yesterday. There are 4,200 refugees settled at different places in the upazila.

Medicare goes pricey

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sell a cow, a source of our income, to pay the additional money," she said.

Government hospitals provide about 470 types of medical services under 23 categories and charges for most of them have been increased, said a ministry official wishing anonymity.

The services include X-ray (small plate) and X-ray (large plate), Barium meal (without medicine), Barium enema (without medicine), Barium swallow, Barium enema double contrast, intravenous urogram (IVU/IVP), myelogram, sycogram, oral cholecystogram, radiotherapy (single), ECG single channel and free channel under X-ray and imaging categories.

At least Tk 30 to Tk 180 have been increased for X-ray of chest, legs, spine, cervical spine, abdomen, neck, foot, arm, hand, hip joint, knee

joint, elbow joint, wrist and dental X-ray.

According to the notification, the charges for mammography tests have been increased by Tk 100 to Tk 1000. Rate for Barium enema double contrast has been raised to Tk 800 from Tk 500, IVU/MCU/OCG to Tk 800 from Tk 500, Barium meal (S/D) to Tk 600 from Tk 500, Barium swallow to Tk 500 from Tk 400 and Myelogram to Tk 1,500 from Tk 500.

Clinical pathology department at the DMCH now charges Tk 20 each for total count, differential count, erythrocyte sedimentation rate and haemoglobin test of blood, which was Tk 5.50. Besides, it now charges Tk 50 for a package of the four tests, which was Tk 22 earlier. Service charges for only 20 tests remain unchanged.

Ministry officials said some

modern medical equipment has been installed at government hospitals and there are allegations that operators and technicians charge patients extra money in absence of fixed rates for the tests.

Health Secretary Sheikh Altaf Ali declined to comment on the new service charges.

The health minister said poor people always get free treatment and the doctors are authorised to provide them with medical services for free.

He said poor people would continue to receive medical services free of charge at public hospitals.

In 2005, a circular was served to all government hospitals for increasing service charges for about 363 types of services under 22 categories. But it could not be implemented for "unavoidable circumstances," ministry sources said.

3 arrested for assaulting policemen

UNB, Dhaka

Three people, including a son of former BNP lawmaker Hafiz Ibrahim, were arrested from the city's Gulshan area on charge of assaulting three policemen early yesterday.

Police also seized cars of Hafiz Ibrahim and his son following the incident.

Police said Maruf Ibrahim, son of Hafiz Ibrahim, along with his friends, was going to Gulshan-2 by a car from Gulshan Circle-1 through Gulshan Avenue at about 1:30am on Sunday.

At one stage, Maruf and his friend locked into an altercation with a taxicab driver near Gulshan Circle-2 as their vehicle hit the cab from behind.

A patrol police team comprising three rushed to the spot and tried to settle the matter.

In the meantime, Hafiz Ibrahim along with his several friends reached the spot following information from his son and attacked the policemen and the cabby.

On information, police rescued the injured driver and policemen -- Constable Saheed, Nayek Anis and Nayek Kashem -- and rushed them to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Hafiz and his friends fled the scene, leaving behind his car, says a witness.

Police arrested Maruf Ibrahim, one of his friends and his driver and seized two cars.

A case was filed with Gulshan police station accusing several persons, including Maruf and his father.

Women's empowerment at grassroots a must for democracy

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political and economic empowerment of women at the grassroots level is a must to ensure democracy, speakers said at a seminar yesterday.

The seminar titled 'Political empowerment of women at the grassroots level: Experience from the Southwest' was organised by Rupantar in association with Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation at the LGED auditorium in the city.

Advocate Sultana Kamal, former adviser to the caretaker government and executive director of Ain O Salish Kendra, said women's marginalisation is rooted deep into their own family and social inequality.

To ensure participation of the grassroots women at the policymaking level, it is imperative to ensure economic emancipation, social security and equality within their family first.

Swiss Ambassador to Bangladesh Urs Herren said sustainable development of the country is not possible without participation of women in all spheres of life.

Government and political parties have a role to play in empowering women at the grassroots level, he added.

Speaking as the chief guest, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs

Dr Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury said Bangladesh has a glorious example of women politicians taking the lead.

To take it to the grassroots level it is a must to educate women and increase their ability so that

they can explore the opportunities available.

Lawmakers Habibun Nahar and Nani Gopal Mandal, Shwapan Guha, chief executive of Rupantar, and Ashalata Dhali also spoke.

BCL factions clash at Dhaka Polytech

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday clashed at Dhaka Polytechnic Institute at Tejgaon in the city over establishment of supremacy on the campus that injured at least 15 people.

Meanwhile, police raided Abdul Latif Hostel of the institute and arrested five cadres, including two bosses of both the groups Zakir Hossain and Abul Hossain and recovered two machetes.

Three other arrestees were identified as Reaz Uddin, Harun-or-Rashid and Shan.

Witnesses said around 200 cadres and activists from both Zakir group and Abul group locked into clashes around

4:00pm on the campus over taking its control.

Equipped with sharp weapons and sticks, they chased each other, creating panic among the general students, they added.

Sources said Zakir group took position at Latif Hostel, while Abul group in its surroundings.

At one stage, police rushed to the campus, brought the situation under control and raided the dormitory.

But a tense situation was prevailing on the campus due to the apprehension of further clashes.

Rois Ahmed, operation officer of Tejgaon Industrial Police Station, said during an hour-long raid, they arrested the five and recovered the weapons.

BNP, 5 other parties

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with the provision saying if any political party fails to meet the deadline its registration with the EC will be cancelled.

All 39 registered political parties except one brought provisional changes to their constitutions to meet the registration criteria before the December 29 parliamentary election and promised to ratify the changes within six months from the first sitting of the ninth parliament.

Failing to meet the deadline, BNP on July 6 in an application to the EC sought six months' additional time to ratify the provisional changes in its constitution.

The bill was sent to the parliamentary standing committee on law, justice and parliamentary affairs ministry for scrutiny and submitting its report to the House.

MOBILE COURT BILL PASSED

The House passed a bill ratifying the mobile court ordinance for continuation of the executive magistrates' authority to take cognisance of offences and hold trial of those including electoral offences.

The lawmakers voted for passage of the bill after Home Minister Sahara Khatun piloted it in parliament.

But empowerment of executive magistrates to hold trials of electoral offences runs counter to a Supreme Court opinion.

Executive magistrates lost judicial power to try people for offences following separation of the judiciary from the executive during the tenure of the last caretaker government.

In the face of strong demand from administration cadres, the then caretaker government, however, promulgated an ordinance empowering executive magistrates to run mobile courts to maintain law and order.

The ordinance, which ceased to have effect in late February for not being ratified in parliament within the stipulated time frame, allowed executive magistrates only to fine individuals for an offence.

In line with the present government's decision, President Zillur Rahman promulgated the ordinance on July 23, 2009 empowering executive magistrates to run mobile courts to maintain law and order and try people for electoral offences.

Before the ninth parliamentary election, the EC moved to engage executive magistrates to hold trial of electoral offences under the then mobile court ordinance.

But the SC's general administrative committee, headed by the chief justice, unanimously decided in December that only experienced judicial magistrates should be engaged in administering justice in cases filed in connection with electoral offences.

"As jurisdictions of the judicial and executive magistrates are clearly delineated, the latter need not be entrusted with the authority of the former," the SC noted in response to a letter of the EC following a controversy whether the judicial or executive magistrates should be engaged in trying electoral offences.

Since the SC did not approve empowering executive magistrates, also officials of the admin cadres, to hold trials of cases filed in connection with electoral offences, the EC finally decided to engage judicial magistrates in the December 29 parliamentary polls.

Meanwhile, the parliamentary standing committee on LGRD and Cooperatives Ministry yesterday placed a report on scrutiny of the Local Government (Union Parishad) Bill and recommended that the House pass the bill.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Participants pose for photograph at a certificate awarding ceremony of a workshop on case study writing at Bangladesh Open University (BOU) conference room in Gazipur on Friday. Commonwealth of Learning and BOU jointly organised the workshop.

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United Commercial Bank Ltd. a leading first generation bank in the private sector is looking for a 'Deputy Secretary' for the company. The candidate must have professional qualifications and be conversant with Company Law, Bank Company Act and affairs of share division. Chartered Secretaries are preferred. Attractive compensation package will be offered to the right candidates.

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Only short listed candidates will be called for interview.

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