

5 killed, 20 injured in road accidents

METRO DESK

Five people were killed and 20 others injured in separate road accidents in Netrakona, Thakurgaon and Comilla yesterday and Sunday.

Our correspondent from Netrakona reports: One person was killed and 20 others were injured in a road accident at Gumai under Kalmakanda upazila in Netrakona district yesterday morning.

The dead was identified as Akther Hossen, 35, of Ranagaw village under Kalmakanda upazila.

Police said the accident occurred when the driver of a Netrakona bound bus lost control over steering and fell into a roadside ditch on Netrakona-Kalmakanda road, leaving a passenger, Akhter, dead on the spot and 20 others injured.

Seriously injured Mirasher Ma, Abu Mia, Nayan Mia and Keramatullah were sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital while the others injured were admitted to Kalmakanda Upazila Health Complex.

A case was filed with Kalmakanda Police Station in this connection. Police confined the bus but the driver managed to flee.

Our correspondent from Thakurgaon adds: A motorcycle rider was killed in a road accident at Rampur village under Haripur upazila in the district on Sunday night.

The victim was identified as Nosibul, 24, of Khalilur Rahaman of Jadabpur village of the same upazila.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Haripur Police Station Humayun Kabir said the accident occurred on Haripur-Bhaturia road at around 6:00pm when the rider lost control of his motorbike and hit a tree by the road, leaving him seriously injured.

Local people rushed him to Haripur Health Complex. His condition deteriorated and he

died on the way to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital at around 10:30pm.

An unnatural death case was filed with Haripur Police Station in this connection.

Another motorcycle rider was killed in an accident at Jalali village under sadar upazila in the district on Sunday night.

The deceased was identified as Rabi Kumar, 32, son of Pobitra Kumar of the same village.

Police said the accident occurred at around 10:30pm when Rabi lost control of his motorbike and hit a wall when he was entering his house, leaving him seriously injured.

Family members rushed him to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at around 2:30am yesterday.

In another road accident a woman was killed on Ruhia-Lahiri road at Khochabari village under sadar upazila in the district on Sunday night.

The victim was identified as Rupban, 40, wife of Bhuijan of Khochabari village under sadar upazila of the district.

Police said the accident took place at around 6:00pm on Sunday when the woman fell from the motorbike she was riding with her husband, receiving serious injuries to her head.

She was rushed to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital in critical condition and succumbed to her injuries at 2:20pm.

Our correspondent from Comilla adds: A motorcycle rider was killed in a road accident at Nankora area in Chaudhagram upazila yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Aminul Islam, 28, of Solotola village of the upazila.

Police said the accident occurred at around 12:30pm when a Dhaka bound bus rammmed a motorcycle on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway leaving the motorcycle rider dead on the spot.

Police recovered the body and sent it to the morgue of Comilla Medical College Hospital for autopsy.



Traffic, in a complete mess, comes to an almost standstill at Gulistan in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

MoU to build info rights portal

BSS, Dhaka

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed yesterday between Access to Information (A2I) Programme of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Information Commission to build an information rights portal to make information available to the people.

National Project Director of Access to Information of the PMO Md Nazrul Islam Khan and Secretary of Information Commission Nepal Chandra Sarkar signed the MoU at the PMO on behalf of their respective side.

Chief Information Commissioner

Muhammad Jamir was present on the occasion.

Under the MoU, the A2I programme in association with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will make the information rights portal of the information commission, which will help know and understand the Right to Information Act-2009.

The portal will make available information related to law, the names of concerned officials and other necessary information.

The A2I programme sources said different ministries and departments have taken some easy initiatives

(Sahajshadha Udjog) or 'quick win' initiative.

Under the quick win initiative, the information rights portal of the information commission will be built with financial and technical assistance of the A2I to reach services on the doorstep of the people.

The present government has approved Right to Information Act- 2009 for ensuring access to information, which will help build a digital Bangladesh by 2021.

The information right portal will strengthen the information commission by providing information for the people, the A2I sources said.

BAU Eid holiday begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authority of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) has announced a vacation of 13 days from today ahead of Shabe-e-Qadr and Eid-ul-Fitr, says a press release.

BAU authority has asked the students to vacate dormitories as soon as possible to maintain security on campus. The dormitories will be reopened for the students on September 17, this month. Classes, exams and office hours will resume from September 20.

Non-communal politics to help develop country

Speakers tell discussion

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a discussion in the city yesterday said practice of non-communal politics could help the country achieve its development goals steadily.

Awami Olema League organised the discussion titled "Non-communal politics and building repression free Bangladesh under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina" at its central office at Bangabandhu Avenue.

Mohammad Nasim, former home minister and centre leader of Awami League, was the chief guest while Mofazzel Hossain Chowdhury Maya, general secretary of Dhaka City Awami League, was the special guest.

Nasim said plotters trying to make the government fail will be identified for the

greater interest of the nation. "The government won't exempt anybody involved in corruption".

Olema League President Moulana Ilias Hossain Bin Helali, in the chair, said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina introduced the practice of non-communal politics in the country.

He urged the opposition leader BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia to practice pro-people politics. "People will not defend you when they can realise your politics only serves the interests of your family and the party".

Molla Mohammad Abu Kawsar, acting president of Shechhasebok League, and Abdul Huq Sobuj, its publicity and publication secretary Dhaka city Awami League, also spoke at the meeting.



Graffiti with some slogans in favour of various Awami League leaders has been scrawled on the divider of toll road of the newly built Karnaphuli Bridge in the port city of Chittagong, staining its beauty. (Related story on Page 3)

PHOTO: STAR

OIC MEETING Bangladesh to celebrate 1,400 years of Quran

BSS, Dhaka

State Minister for Religious Affairs M Shahjahan Mian said Bangladesh is fully prepared to celebrate the commemoration of the 1400 years of revelation of the Holy Quran this year along with other Muslim countries in the world.

"The government is planning to publish books and magazines, organise seminars and telecast special programmes in media highlighting the significance of the occasion," he said while speaking at the planarity session of OIC meeting in Istanbul on Sunday, said a message received here yesterday.

The state minister said the Encyclopedia of the Holy Quran to be published in three volumes by the Islamic Foundation may be dedicated for the celebration of this year.

He said the revelation of the Holy Quran was truly a momentous occasion unparalleled to human history, not only for Muslims but also for the whole mankind.

"We have been able to ensure security in our country for all our citizens denouncing all forms of terrorism and militancy by highlighting the message of the Quran, Hadith, humanity, brotherhood and tolerance," he said.

He said urged the Muslim countries to work unitedly to face various of poverty, illiteracy, terrorism and extremism for the greatest interest of Ummah.

He also informed the gathering of representatives of Muslim countries that there are about 300,000 mosques, 250,000 government aided Madrasa, 10,000 non-government Quami Madrasa and 13,000 Madrasa for 'Tahfijul Quran' all over Bangladesh.

Islamic Foundation published more than 3800 books on Quran, Hadith, Islamic Encyclopedia, Biographies of Islamic Philosophers, he added. Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) organised the meeting on 'commemoration of the 1400 years of revelation of the Holy Quran' in Turkey.

One killed over toll

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A young man was stabbed to death allegedly by his rival gang over toll collection issue at Nimtoli road of Rayer Bazar in city's Hazaribagh area yesterday.

The deceased, Monir Hossain Kalu, 22, was a resident of Nimtoli road in the area and worked in a local tailor shop there.

Kalu's maternal uncle, Mohammad Sabuj Mian, said a gang of around 20 cadres led by Magura Sumon and his two friends attacked Kalu and his brother Bazar at around 3:30am in the Nimtoli Road area yesterday.

Kalu and his friends, Rajon and Rumon, were out singing songs to awake the area residents for Sahri (a midnight meal ritual of Ramadan) when they were attacked, he said.

He said locals rushed Kalu to Mitford Hospital where he suc-

cumbed to his injuries around 5:30pm.

Officer-in-charge (OC) Enamul Haque Enam of Hazaribagh Police Station said police arrested six youths in this connection.

The OC said the attack on Kalu was a sequel to the incident 15 days back when Kalu and his men allegedly stabbed Rubel of Magura Sumon group over collection of tolls.

Kalu's uncle told The Daily Star that Kalu and his men worked in the area for awaking residents for Sahri during midnight, and he (Kalu) was to collect tolls from the residents for this volunteer work.

He added that, when Sumon and his men tried to get a share of the tolls from the residents, Kalu barred them, which eventually led to his death. Kalu's mother, Rashida Begum, filed a murder case in this connection with Hazaribagh Police Station.

Burglary at 5 TV channel offices in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Unidentified burglars have taken away valuables worth over Tk 3.5 lakh breaking open the bureau offices of five private television channels in Rajshahi city.

Police detained Mohammad Kalu, the night guard of the building, for interrogation.

The burglary took place at the offices of Channel i, Channel 1, Banglavision, ntv and Islamic tv sometime on Sunday night, police said.

All the offices are housed on the 2nd floor of Poura Biponi Market in the city's Sonadighi intersection.

The miscreants took away laptops, computers, cameras, other electronic equipment and Tk 3,50,000 in cash from the offices.

Zahid Hasan, Rajshahi staff correspondent of Banglavision, said he found his office unlocked while he came there at about 9:00am on Monday.

Abu Saleh Mohammad Sattar, Rajshahi staff correspondent of Channel i termed it as a pre-planned incident.

Officer-in-Charge of Boalia Police Station Shahadat Hossain said they detained the night guard of the building to interrogate him in connection with the burglary where valuables worth over Tk 3.5 lakh were looted.

SM Saju, Rajshahi correspondent of ntv, filed a case with the police station in this connection.

UK to announce student visa crackdown

AFP, London

Britain is to outline a crackdown on people arriving on student visas as it bids to tighten its immigration system, described by a minister as "largely out of control".

Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservative party has promised to cut net migration from hundreds of thousands to tens of thousands annually.

Shortly after taking power in May ahead of a coalition government, Cameron introduced an annual cap on the number of economic migrants from outside the European Union.

Immigration Minister Damian Green said the government had inherited a system, which was "largely out of control" and described the number of foreign students being let in as "unsustainable", in comments quoted by the BBC.

In a speech Monday, he is to call for "smarter immigration controls," according to extracts pre-released by the Home Office.

New Home Office research has revealed that of 186,000 foreign students granted visas in 2004, more than one-fifth were still

in Britain five years later. Officials fear many may be working illegally.


The number of visas being issued to students and their dependants had risen to over 300,000 by this year, the figures added.

Green will say that Britain needs "smarter immigration controls -- controls which bear down on the numbers coming and welcome those we really need here."


He will add: "We cannot assume that everyone coming here has skills that the UK workforce cannot offer and we will not make Britain prosperous in the long-term by telling our own workers not to bother to learn new skills as we can bring them all in from overseas."

In separate comments to the Daily Mail newspaper, he added that while the cap on migrants had been "controversial," it was not in itself enough to cut net migration.

He encouraged: "I want a student visa system which encourages the entry of good students to highly trusted institutions but which scrutinises much more closely or cuts out entirely those who are less beneficial to this country."




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