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PROLONGED WAIT FOR BUSES

The bustling Farmgate road seems deserted yesterday afternoon and people's wait prolongs as recent mobile court drives to check overcharging triggered bus crisis in the city. 2) Police intervention in a squabble between a passenger and transport owner at Manik Mia Avenue. 3) Commuters in a mini-race to get on the bus. 4) A passenger queue at Farmgate. 5) Buses dumped in Agargaon on charge of forcing people to pay extra fare.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN AND RASHED SHUMON

Road accidents kill 12

METRO DESK

Twelve people were killed and 18 others injured in separate road accidents in Rangpur, Faridpur, Brahmanbaria, Chittagong and Cox's Bazar yesterday.

Our Rangpur correspondent reports: Three people were killed in a head-on collision between two trucks on Rangpur-Bogra highway at Pakapul in Mithapukur upazila.

Our Faridpur correspondent says: Two people were killed and six others injured as a speeding bus collided head-on with a tempo on Dhaka-Kulna highway at Madhabpur of Bhanga upazila.

The deceased are Rawshan Matubbor, 45, and Mabia, 30.

Our Brahmanbaria correspondent adds: A man was killed as a speeding truck hit his bicycle from opposite direction while he was passing a turning point on Akhaura Port road.

The deceased is Subhash Barmon, 45, of Bhabanipur village of Akhaura upazila.

Our staff correspondent from Chittagong says: A police staff was crushed under the wheels of a minibus in Dampara area of Khulshi yesterday.

The deceased Abdul Mazid Sarkar, 48, is a cook of Dampara Police Line, of Muradnagar of Comilla.

In another accident, four people were

injured as a microbus and an auto-tempo collided head-on at Vellapara of Patiyahera.

The injured Nurul Alam, 60, Shahin, 17, Syed, 35, and Jahangir Alam, 23, were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Our Cox's Bazar correspondent adds: Five people were killed and eight others injured in separate road accidents in Ramu and Chakaria upazilas.

In Chakaria, locals blocked Cox's Bazar-Chittagong highway for nearly three hours after a seven-year-old girl was killed by a human hauler, locally known as Chader Gari.

Police said the vehicle ran over Sipa, daughter of Md Morshed and a class three student, while crossing the highway near Rashid Ahmed High School, leaving her dead on the spot.

In Ramu, four people were killed and eight injured as a Chittagong-bound bus of Saudia Paribahan collided head-on with a jeep on Cox's Bazar-Chittagong highway.

Two of the deceased were identified as Nurul Islam, 50, son of Fazal Karim of Lambabili in Nikhonchhari upazila, and Nurul Islam, 55, son of Taiam Golam. The rest two could not be named.

Injured were admitted to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital.

Faruk for action against food adulteration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Commerce Minister Col (retd) Faruk Khan yesterday in parliament said the government should be more sincere and take action against fruit and food adulteration.

He said the government is very much aware about the issue and is taking immediate action on information.

During question hour, Awami League lawmaker Apu Ukil said country's people are living in great anxiety as carbide-mixed fruits are flooding markets causing serious threat to public health.

She said different foods are also coming without any test by the government's respective surveillance organisations.

Admitting the fact, Faruk said, "I will talk to the industries minister."

9 more detected with anthrax

STAR REPORT

Nine more people in Sirajganj and Pabna have been diagnosed with anthrax, district health officials confirmed yesterday.

In Sirajganj, three people -- Abdul Quader, 28, and Aser Ali, 32, of Sharatoil village and Zakirul, 26, of Chawk Haripur village in Shahjadpur upazila -- contracted anthrax, reports our district correspondent.

The three have been infected after locals slaughtered a sick goat a few days back and distributed its meat among the villagers, Sirajganj Civil Surgeon Nazimuddin Khan told The Daily Star.

A team of Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), led by Dr Apurba Chakraborty, left Dhaka for Sirajganj yesterday to provide medical care to the infected villagers, added the civil surgeon.

The disease has infected a total of 33 people in Shahjadpur and Ullapara upazilas since Friday.

Our Pabna correspondent adds, six anthrax cases have been confirmed at Raut village in Faridpur upazila during the last two days.

Bachchu, 30, was diagnosed with the disease on Sunday while Zakir Hossain, 54, Shahid, 50, Shahida, 42, Champa, 40, and Mamata, 22, yesterday.

They are suffering from cutaneous anthrax, mentioned Khalilur Rahman, upazila health and family planning officer. They got infected after processing the meat of a sick cow.

The patients have been undergoing treatment at the local upazila health complex, he added.

CASE AGAINST KOKO
Statements of two PWs recorded

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday recorded statements of two more prosecution witnesses in connection with a money laundering case filed against Arif Rahman Koko, younger son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Judge Mohammad Mozammel Hossain of the Special Judge Court-3 recorded statements of Abdul Awal, a law officer of telecom company Robi, and Ekram Ullah, ex-manager of Janata Bank of Dubai branch.

The court fixed today for the next hearing.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the case against Koko on March 17, 2009.



Special envoy of the Iranian government and Deputy Minister for foreign affairs on Asia and the Pacific Fathollahi calls on President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

ALMOST READY APARTMENTS at LAKE CIRCUS, KALABAGAN

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