

17 killed, 54 hurt in road accidents

METRO DESK

Seventeen people were killed and fifty-four others injured in separate road accidents in Comilla, Gazipur, Sirajganj, Tangail, Joypurhat, Pabna, Chittagong, Thakurgaon and Laxmipur on Saturday and yesterday.

A correspondent from Comilla reports, five people were killed instantly and 20 others injured in a bus-truck head-on-collision on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Daudkandi upazila yesterday morning.

One of the dead is Lutfar Rahman, 40, of Laksham. Highway police said following the collision the bus fell into a roadside ditch at the eastern side of Eliotganj Bridge around 9:30am.

The injured were rushed to Daudkandi Upazila Health Complex. Two were, later, sent to Dhaka.

UNB from Gazipur says, two people died as a bus hit an auto-rickshaw on Dhaka-Tangail highway at Chandara in the district yesterday.

The deceased are Ramzan Ali, 22, the auto-rickshaw driver, and his passenger Shahidur Rahman, 52.

In Sirajganj, two people died as a bus rammmed a CNG-run auto-rickshaw at Koiddar crossing in the sadar upazila yesterday.

Julhas, 35, is one of the deceased.

In Tangail, two people were killed and five others injured as an auto-rickshaw hit another auto-rickshaw on Dhaka-Bangabandhu Bridge link road at Char Bhabla in Kalihati upazila yesterday.

The deceased are Abdul Based, 45, and Mohaimin, 35.

In Joypurhat, two people died and two others were injured as a pick-up van hit a rickshaw-van on Joypurhat-Bogra highway at Balait in Kalai upazila yesterday.

The deceased are Bablu Mondol, 39, the rickshaw-van driver, and Mosiruddin, 55, his passenger.

Our Pabna correspondent says, Moin Uddin, 70, of Athgoria upazila, died when a truck hit him in Debottar Bazar area of the upazila on Saturday.

In Chittagong, vegetables trader Biplob Nath, 27, died instantly as an unknown vehicle hit him on Dhaka-Chittagong highway near Grameen Bank office in Mirsarai upazila yesterday morning.

In Thakurgaon, at least 25 people were injured as a passenger bus fell into a ditch beside Thakurgaon-Pirganj road at Shenua village in Pirganj upazila yesterday.

Of the injured, five were taken to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital.

BSS from Laxmipur adds, two motorcyclists were killed and two others injured as two motorbikes collided on Ramganj-Paniwala road in Rongerbazar area of Ramganj upazila on Saturday.

The deceased are Jafar Ahmed, 25, and Abdul Hannan, 23, of Padmabazar area of the upazila.

The injured were taken to Ramganj Upazila Health Complex and Dhaka pongu hospital.

Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus with late litterateur Humayun Ahmed's family members at the residence of the latter's mother in the capital's Pallabi yesterday. About Humayun's last wish to build a cancer hospital, Prof Yunus said there, "If I have any role in turning his dream into reality I will gladly accept it."



PHOTO: STAR

Tougher agitation after Eid: Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Urging parties under the 18-party alliance to prepare for a harsher agitation, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday said the alliance would go for a tougher movement after Eid-ul-Fitr.

"We will forge a movement to protect the countrymen and that is why all the parties under the 18-party alliance must take preparations from now on," she said.

Khaleda was addressing an Iftar party organised by Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) at a hotel in the capital.

Hoping that their movement would be successful, Khaleda said they would win against all sorts of misdeeds by making the anti-government movement successful.

LDP President Oli Ahmed MP delivered the welcome speech while senior leaders of BNP and the 18-party alliance attended the programme.

5 held for blackmailing MP with video

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) of police have arrested five persons in the capital on charge of extorting money from people by videographing them in compromising situations.

The arrestees Meherunnesa, 50, Shahhaj Zaman Jui, 42, Kohinur Aktar Bristi, 20, Sohrab Hossain Apu, 35, and Asaduzzaman, 32, were arrested from the capital's Malibagh, Pallabi and Mirpur areas on Saturday.

Police also recovered a pendrive with porno video, three mobile sets, a laptop, a video camera and Tk 1.86 lakh from Apu's possession.

Md A Ahad, senior assistant commissioner of DB, said the arrestees were

involved in blackmailing different industrialists and businessmen by videographing them in compromising situations.

The gang recorded a video of a lawmaker with Kohinur naked next to him, and tried to blackmail the lawmaker in paying Tk 50 lakh, he said.

The lawmaker instantly gave them Tk 18 lakh, but then they demanded Tk 2 crore, the police official said.

The lawmaker informed it to the police and filed a case with Gulshan Police Station, which led to the arrests.

In primary interrogation, the arrestees confessed to their involvement in the crime, Ahad said.

A Dhaka court yesterday granted two days remand of the arrestees.

Moudud slams PM over Padma bridge

UNB, Dhaka

Slating the prime minister for her continued World Bank (WB) bashing, BNP stalwart Moudud Ahmed yesterday doubted the premier's intention of building the Padma bridge.

"A confusion has created in public mind whether the prime minister at all wants to build the Padma bridge as she is trying to foil the finance minister's efforts to revive the loan deal by making remarks against the World Bank," he said.

"There's no doubt that the entire government is involved in the bridge project graft," Moudud said adding that he has heard that the relatives of the prime minister are returning to the country from Canada fearing that the authorities there may take action against them.

He also demanded an explanation from the Prime Minister's Office in this regard.

The BNP leader was speaking at a discussion titled 'Government's Intolerant Politics, Unbridled Corruption and Duties of Patriots' organised by Jatiyatabadi Sangskritik Dal at the Jatiya Press Club.

He said it is difficult to understand what the prime minister actually wants. On the one hand, the finance minister is trying to woo the World Bank and the prime minister is calling Abul Hossain a patriot on the other.

Moudud, a BNP standing committee member, said it seems that the prime minister does not want to resolve the problem with the WB. Instead, she prefers the conflict to continue. "The people of the country want to know what she actually wants."

He said the government apparently confessed to indulging in corruption in the Padma bridge project after taking action against Abul Hossain.

Rejecting the PM's remarks on the next general election, the senior BNP leader said there is no democratic country in the world where general election is held without dissolving

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Lutfar Rahman, former inspector general of police (IGP), passed away at National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases in the capital Saturday night. He was 61, said a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons, two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.



Obituary

METRO DESK

Nasreen Hye, wife of eminent writer Hasnat Abdul Hye, died of cancer in the capital on Friday.

She was 58, said a press release.

Nasreen left behind her husband, a son, a daughter and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

Her namaz-e-janaza was held at Masjid-e-Taqwa in Dhanmondi of the capital on Saturday. She was laid to rest at Banani graveyard.

Her qulkhani will be held at house 25/2, road 15(new), Dhanmondi after Asr prayers today.

BMET wants agent's licence cancellation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) yesterday recommended cancelling the licence of recruiting agency Raj Overseas for its involvement in trafficking five Bangladeshis, who are now languishing in a Tanzanian jail.

Following a hearing at the BMET office in the capital, Selim Reza, additional director of BMET, asked the officials concerned to write to the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment suggesting cancellation of the agency's recruiting licence.

Using the security money Raj overseas had deposited to the BMET, the five Bangladeshi jobseekers should be brought back home, Selim Reza told the complainant.

According to a complaint made to the BMET, Shahab Uddin, a broker of Raj Overseas, charged Tk 5.5 lakh from each of the jobseekers to send them to South

Africa in January last year.

The victims are Jahinur, Kalachan and Biltu Mia, all hailing from Manikganj, Rasel of Gazipur and Shafiq Hawlader of Munshiganj.

Complainant Ataur Rahman, Jahinur's father, said these jobseekers, however, were initially taken to Uganda and then to Kenya, where they were kept hostage. When the victims' relatives went to Shahab Uddin for help, the broker charged additional Tk 4 lakh each to send them [Job seekers] to South Africa.

But the five were instead sent to Tanzania without passports where they were arrested and put in jail.

In another case, guardians of seven Bangladeshis jailed in Tanzania submitted Tk 88,500 each in May for their return, but they are yet to come home.

According Bangladesh high commission in Kenya, that oversees consular affairs in Tanzania, there are now a total of 19 Bangladeshis in two jails in Tanzania.



The price of eggplant, used in making different Iftar delicacies, has jumped up from Tk 1,200-1,400 to Tk 1,800-2,200 per maund in Rajshahi markets with the advent of the month of Ramadan. A substantial amount of eggplants found in the markets of the capital and other parts of the country come from Rajshahi. The photo was taken from Rajshahi's Puthia upazila on Friday.

PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Numerous potholes filled with stagnant water have been covering Love Road in the capital's Tejgaon Industrial Area for the past six months. The photo was taken yesterday.

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