

11 killed, 52 hurt in road accidents

METRO DESK

Eleven people were killed and 52 others injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka, Chuadanga, Gaibandha, Tangail, Chittagong, Jhenidah, Jessore and Dinajpur on Thursday and yesterday.

Our staff correspondent reports, bus helper Abdul Halim, 23, son of Tamiz Uddin of Narayanganj, died as the bus ran him over after he fell off it in the capital's Motijheel yesterday.

Motijheel police said Halim fell off the Malibagh-bound bus while he was counting money standing at its gate around 10:45am.

Police seized the bus while its driver managed to flee.

Meanwhile, nine people were injured when a bus hit a roadside pillar at Joar Sahara in Khilkhet around yesterday afternoon.

They took treatment at different city hospitals, including Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

UNB from Keraniganj reports, two people died and five others injured as a bus hit a CNG-run auto-rickshaw on Dhaka-Maowa road at Teguria yesterday afternoon.

The deceased were Khuki, 55, and CNG driver Majnu, 28.

In Chuadanga, Mitu, 12, granddaughter of Rafiqul Islam, died when a train from Rajshahi hit a human hauler while crossing the level crossing at Utholi in Jibonnagar upazila on Thursday afternoon.

Injured Khodeza Begum, 60, wife of Rafiqul Islam and Rabeel, 42, driver of the human hauler, were rushed to Sadar hospital.

In Gaibandha, some 20 people were injured when a bus collided with a truck on Dhaka-Rangpur highway at Boalia in Gobindaganj on Thursday evening.

Six were admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

In Tangail, Shafiqul Islam, 35, of Barshila in Gopalpur, died and 15 others were injured as a bus fell into a roadside ditch at Palima in Kalihati upazila yesterday afternoon.

Our staff correspondent from Chittagong reports, 18-month-old Sarika Akter, daughter of Mohammed Munna of Dewanhat area, died yesterday after he was injured when a bus hit a CNG-run auto-rickshaw at Gawsia Circle in Hazipara area of the city on Thursday night.

Sarika's mother Jinia Akter, 22, and her grandmother Jothna Akter, were also injured in the incident.

In Jhenidah, Aynal Hossain, 50, of Kaliganj upazila, was killed as his human hauler overturned at Ishwarba bus stand in the upazila yesterday.

Meanwhile, Rashed Mondol, 19, of Shaikupa, was killed as a truck knocked a human hauler carrying him at Churiarbil in the upazila yesterday.

In Jessore, Jarina Bagum, 50, wife of Sukur Ali of Chougachha upazila, died instantly as a truck hit her in Chougachha Bazar area in the upazila yesterday.

Meanwhile, Ajoy Pal, 17, son of Kishor Pal of Jhikargachha upazila, died after falling from the roof of a bus at Sharsha upazila Bazar yesterday.

In Dinajpur, Monmohan Chandra, an official of Parbatipur upazila Food Control Department, died as a truck hit his motorbike on Parbatipur-Phulbari link road at Kurial village in Parbatipur upazila yesterday evening.

With no regard to the dangers posed by the oncoming traffic in the capital's Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, workers install an electricity pole on the VIP road opposite Wasa Bhaban with the aid of only bamboos, ropes and brute force.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR

A Good Story

Who doesn't love a good story? Some of the earliest stories I enjoyed were long but exciting tales of prophets, kings and villains. My great-grandmother, whom I called Biamma, told them to me and other children gathered around her. Like Scheherazade, she held us spellbound night after night, breaking off at tense junctures to ensure we returned to her the next day.

Biamma, who had married into the family from Dhaka's Nawab Bari, was an extraordinary woman. She was over seventy, but her memory never faltered during her storytelling. With her long white hair she was a picture of grace.

She read voraciously. It is said that when she ran out of books to read, she went around the house looking for children's textbooks.

Her brand of verbal storytelling, called *Kissa*, has almost disappeared from our culture. Our children multitask their way through life with smartphones, ipads and tablets while wrestling gargantuan homework assignments; few have time to listen to long stories.

One of my favourite storytellers today is the American writer Paul Auster. His novels deal with normal, everyday people, often in incongruous or unexpected circumstances. While literary critics love his existentialism, his finely honed style, and his modernist sensibility, Auster says it best: "When I write, the story is uppermost in my mind, and I feel everything must be sacrificed to it."

Why do I like his novels? They take me on a journey full of unexpected twists and turns. After the first sentence or two, I cannot let go.

While I have enjoyed his novels tremendously, recently I came across a different kind of gem from



PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

Stories at Ekushey Book Fair.

Auster. It is a book he edited called *True Tales of American Life*.

The book arose from a weekly radio program that Auster hosted on America's National Public Radio, where he invited listeners to send in stories from their lives. Every week he selected stories and read them out over the radio.

The response was overwhelming. In the next year, over four thousand stories poured in. The stories were usually short. Once he read seventy in one radio program.

They came from all walks of life: from postmen, teachers, salesmen, musicians, doctors.

Many of the stories involve family: childhood memories of parents, Christmas and other festive occasions. Some are of family legends, such as the great-grandparent who fought in a war. Some are about friendship and romance. Some contain pleasant surprises, or fighting and winning against overwhelming odds. Others are heartbreaking in their sadness. Yet others deal with dreams, supernatural occurrences and unlikely chains of events.

In a story called *Airport*, a woman's uncle has died far away and she decides to fly to the funeral. Unfortunately she drives to the wrong airport. When she finally arrives at the right airport, she discovers she has no money or credit card to buy the ticket. At this point she breaks down. Looking for a private place to cry, she visits the bathroom so she can be alone in a toilet, but it has only pay toilets. Finally, she sneaks under a toilet door only to find another woman using it!

The book reminded me, once again, of the timeless joys of a good story.

www.facebook.com/tangents.ikabir

NEWS IN *brief*

Two special trains for Dhaka-Ctg passengers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A pair of special inter-city trains will run on Dhaka-Chittagong route for one week from today as Dhaka-Chittagong Highway will remain closed for six hours daily during the period for repairs on Meghna and Meghna-Gomti bridges.

The 12-coach trains will stop at Feni, Comilla and Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport rail stations, said assistant chief operating superintendent of Bangladesh Railway, Chittagong, Md Omar Faroque.

One of the trains, the Dhaka Special, will depart from Chittagong Rail Station at 12:00 noon and Chittagong Special will leave Kamalapur Rail Station

Journalist attacked over report

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A journalist in Chirirbandar upazila of Dinajpur was attacked on Thursday night allegedly for writing a report on the August 4 attack on Hindu community over building a mosque on a disputed land.

The journalist Md Morshedul Islam is the Chirirbandar correspondent of Bangla newspaper Daily Karatoa.

According to family members, while returning home, Morshedul was attacked by a group of miscreants.

Hearing his cries for help, locals rushed to the spot, rescued Morshedul and took him to the upazila health complex. Morshedul was then shifted to Dinajpur Medical College and Hospital.

On August 4, more than 50 people were injured as two groups of villagers locked in a series of clashes over building a mosque on a disputed land.

According to Morshedul's report, which was published on August 29, an ASI of Chirirbandar Police Station and a headmaster from Dangarhat were

Anti-corruption cartoon submission deadline Sep 20

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The deadline for submissions in the Seventh Anti-Corruption Cartoon Competition has been extended to September 20.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) is organising the competition on the occasion of the International Anti-Corruption Day 2012.

TIB has invited cartoonists from all over the country to submit their drawings by the deadline, says a press release.

Details of the competition are available on the websites www.ti-bangladesh.org and www.face

Six robbers arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Six robbers were held while taking preparation to commit robbery in Chapainawabganj town on Thursday.

Acting on a tip off, a team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) raided in Boro Indira Intersection area around 3:30pm, and arrested them.

The Rab also recovered a handcuff, sixteen bottles of phensidyle, two knives and a microbus from their possession.



Rally

Bangladesh Peace Council will organise a rally; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:30pm.

Discussion

Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik will hold a discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

National convention

Bangladesh Gram Theatre will organise a national convention; Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy; Time: 9:00am.

Awarding ceremony

Prokriti O Jibon Foundation will hold an awarding ceremony; Venue: Ruposhi Bangla Hotel; Time: 11:30am.

Discussion

Tauri Foundation will organise a discussion; Venue: Bangladesh National Museum; Time: 11:00am.

Memorial lecture

Asiatic Society of Bangladesh will hold a memorial lecture; Venue: its premises; Time: 4:30pm.

Discussion

Lokangon Sangskritik Sangathan will



A few places left!

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HYDRAULIC HORN

Children at risk of losing hearing ability

Says Dr Pran Gopal

BSS, Dhaka

Hydraulic horn is one of the immeasurable mediums of traffic noise as well as sound pollution that cause serious problems, especially in children, said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Vice-Chancellor Dr Pran Gopal Dutta.

"This horn (hydraulic) specially causes serious damage to children...if a child below three years of age hears a horn producing 100 decibels (dB) of noise from close range, he or she might lose hearing ability," he said.

As per World Health Organisation, noise reaching 60 dB can temporarily cause deafness in a man and 100 dB could cause complete deafness. The noise in any busy street in Dhaka has been estimated from 60 to 80 dB, with the sound of hydraulic horns measuring 95 dB.

Dr Pran Gopal, an ear, nose and throat expert, narrating various hazards of hydraulic horns and sound pollution, said, "The most obvious consequence of traffic noise is

hearing loss that is worst in cities where this type of horns and sirens are common."

"Hydraulic horn is very loud and can hurt the eardrums of children. Long term exposure to traffic noise causes irreparable health damages," he told the news agency.

Pediatric expert and in-charge of "Gulshan Ma O Shishu Clinic", Dr Sakil Sarwar, said, "Hearing loss in children can lead to speech problems."

"Excessive noise can cause problems in children including a decrease in school performance, weakening of the immune system and sleep disturbance," he said.

"Excessive traffic noise is one of the most common complaints of the city residents and the sound of hydraulic horn affects people more than any other unwanted noise," said environment expert and a professor of Dhaka University, Dr MA Bashar.

"Though there are sets of laws to prevent sound pollution, people do not know about them because of a lack of concern," he said.

WEATHER TODAY

Change in temperature unlikely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions in next 24 hours till 6 pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places, Met office said.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:16pm and rises tomorrow at 5:41am.

Country's highest temperature 35.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and Tangail and lowest 25.4 degrees at Srimangal.

The highest maximum temperature is likely to be 35-36 degrees Celsius and the lowest minimum temperature may be 25-26 degrees Celsius.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.5	27.5	81	69
Chittagong	31.0	26.0	79	76
Rajshahi	35.5	27.0	81	80
Rangpur	33.2	27.0	84	73
Khulna	33.5	26.8	89	90
Barisal	32.5	26.5	77	89
Sylhet	31.7	26.3	95	81