

3 killed, 11 hurt in road crashes

METRO DESK
Road accidents killed three people and injured eleven others in Jhenidah and Netrakona yesterday. Our Jhenidah correspondent reports, microbus driver Hanif, 34, of Khulna, was killed instantly and eleven others were injured as an oncoming truck rammed his vehicle on Jhenidah-Kushtia road at Bardah bus stand in Shoilkupa early yesterday. The injured, of them ten are Khulna University of Science and Technology (Kuet) students, were undergoing treatment at Khulna Medical College Hospital and Rajshai Medical College Hospital. Our Netrakona correspondent reports, Abu Siddik, 45, died instantly as his motorbike plunged into a roadside ditch at Jamdhola in Purbadhola upazila yesterday morning. Meanwhile, Smriti, 4, daughter of Hossen Ali, died as a human hauler hit her while she was playing in before their house on Purbadhola-Gagra road at Bodhi in the upazila yesterday.

**FEAR OF ATTACK BY JAMAAT-SHIBIR
Chhatra Moitree president seeks security**

DU CORRESPONDENT
Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree President Bappaditya Basu yesterday sought security from the government for himself and his family members, stating that he has become a target for Jamaat-Shibir attacks due to the daily Amar Desh's smear campaigns. Addressing a press conference in Dhaka University's Madhur Canteen, he demanded immediate arrest of the daily's Editor Mahmudur Rahman and removal of the daily's office from a government building in the capital's Karwan Bazar. Bappaditya also filed a general diary with Shahbagh police accusing Mahmudur of publishing "false", "fabricated" and "motivated" stories and editorials labelling him as a "killer, activist of Purbo Banglar Communist Party and a fascist". He said Amar Desh, Diganta Television and Naya Diganta started a smear campaign, trying to portray activists at the forefront of the Shahbagh movement as atheists and to mobilise public opinion against the movement. The daily published a news on February 12 which roughly translates as "killer Bappaditya in leadership of Shahbagh movement" and another as "Bappaditya and BCL cadres threaten Mahmudur Rahman from February 15 grand rally", he said. The second news read that BCL President Bodiuzzam Sohad threatened Asif Nazrul with death from the grand rally at Shahbagh on February 15. Bappaditya urged the media to recheck video clips to see if Sohagh even spoke at the rally. The daily also published one editorial and a post editorial on February 17 and 23 respectively, branding him a fascist. Bappaditya termed the publication of these motivated stories a plot of Jamaat-Shibir. Days before blogger Rajib Haidar's killing on February 15, anti-Islam blogposts were published in his name, he said. Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree will bring out countrywide rallies on February 26 protesting the smear campaign. The rally in Dhaka will be from TSC to Shahbagh at 4:00pm, he said.



Sylhet District Committee of TV Camera Journalist Association stages a sit-in in the city's Zindabazar yesterday protesting Friday's attacks on camerapersons of TV channels, photographers of newspapers and reporters of both electronic and print media. Jamaat-e-Islami had carried out an attack before the capital's Baitul Mukarram Mosque in the morning and Bangladesh Chhatra League had carried out an attack in Sylhet city in the evening.

PHOTO: STAR

**KAMARUZZAMAN'S WAR CRIMES TRIAL
ICT-2 closes prosecution witness' cross-examination
Defence counsels fail to appear again**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The war crimes case against Muhammad Kamaruzzaman reached a new stage yesterday when the International Crimes Tribunal-2 closed the cross-examination of the last prosecution witness for repeated failures of Kamaruzzaman's counsels to appear before the court. The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan took the stern stance as a senior defence counsel, who used to cross-examine the prosecution witnesses, remained absent for three days, including yesterday, during the cross-examination of this witness. The tribunal, the second of two set up to deal with war crimes committed during the Liberation War, also asked the defence counsels to start adducing their witness from tomorrow. After recording the testimonies of the defence witnesses, the tribunal will hear the closing arguments of both the defence and prosecution before delivering the verdict, as per the related law. On February 11, Abdur Razzaque Khan, the 18th prosecution witness and the case's investigation officer, gave his three-hour-long testimony. In the next four days, he faced nine hours and 50 minutes of cross-examination. Yesterday was fixed for the fifth day of the cross-examination. Razzaque, three prosecutors and two junior members of Kamaruzzaman's defence were present in the court. Kamaruzzaman, assistant secretary general of Jamaat-e-Islami, was also brought to the tribunal during a daylong countrywide hartal enforced by eight Islamist parties. The tribunal then asked about the senior defence counsels, including Kafil Uddin Chowdhury, who usually cross-examined prosecution witnesses. Tarikul Islam, a junior member of Kamaruzzaman's defence, said they could not appear before the tribunal for the daylong strike and sought adjournment. The tribunal then said it would close the cross-examination because it had earlier expressed its stance about the absence of defence counsels. On February 13, a section of defence counsels, including Kafil Uddin, remained absent and the tribunal had to adjourn the case. On that morning, Jamaat-Shibir men unleashed terror in the capital and the defence lawyers remained absent before the two tribunals citing "security reasons", leading the courts to defer case proceedings. On February 18, no senior counsel of Kamaruzzaman, including Kafil Uddin, appeared before the court citing security reasons. Jamaat-e-Islami had enforced a hartal on that day. Apparently being annoyed by the absence, the tribunal that day warned Kamaruzzaman's counsels that it would close the cross-examination if the defence remained absent during future hartals. Yesterday, when the tribunal stuck to its stance, Tarikul sought adjournment of at least up to 2:00pm and the tribunal allowed his plea. After lunch, when the tribunal started its proceeding at 2:25pm, no senior counsel appeared before the court. Even, Tarikul did not appear before it. Shazzad Ali Chowdhury, another junior member of Kamaruzzaman's defence, sought adjournment, stating that they conveyed the message to the senior members but they could not come. Then the tribunal said, "Cross-examination is closed." Shazzad said if the tribunal allowed time for the defence, none would be prejudice but if the tribunal closed the cross-examination, the defence would be prejudiced. The tribunal said, "We gave you directives but you did not show respect to it. Is it not the same as disobeying the court? So order is passed." On June 4, last year, the tribunal indicted Kamaruzzaman with seven charges, which include murder and torture of unarmed civilians and complicity in other crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War. According to the indictment order, Kamaruzzaman, as the top leader of Islami Chhatra Sangha, the then student wing of Jamaat, played the key role in the formation of Al Badr force in Mymensingh during the Liberation War. A total 18 prosecution witnesses, including the investigation officer, testified in the case while the tribunal allowed the defence four persons to testify and defend the Jamaat leader.

Mayhem by Islamist parties condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Different political and social organisations yesterday condemned the vandalism at Shaheed Minars and desecration of the national flag during countrywide violence by Jamaat-Shibir and some other like minded Islamist parties. They also rejected yesterday's hartal, called by the Islamist parties, after holding rallies and human chains at different parts of the capital. At a discussion in Islamic Foundation auditorium, Environment and Forest Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud said those who entered the mosque with cocktails and firearms insulted Islam. Leaders of Sammilito Ainjibi Samannay Parishad, at a rally at Supreme Court Ainjibi Samity Bhaban, urged everybody to be united to prevent the anarchy of fundamentalist groups who were against the country's independence. RU correspondent reports, over one hundred teachers and students of Rajshahi University under the banner of Kendrio Sangskritik Jote brought out a protest procession on the campus. At a rally, they termed Jamaat-Shibir as "terrorist organisations" and demanded banning of the organisations soon. Bishwabidyalaya Swadhinata Shikkhak Parishad, Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote, Bangabandhu Krishi Parishad, Jatiya Ganotantrik League, Bangladesh Nari Mukti Andolon, and Bangladesh Awami Muktijoddha Projammo League and Sammilito Awami Samarthak Jote also condemned the attacks.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Aminul Islam, deputy managing director of Bank Asia; SM Shan Shah Alam, chairman of Gazipur Sadar Pourashava; Rakhi Sarkar and Nazrul Islam, ward councillors of Tongi upazila; and Ibne Md Shamsuzzaman, head of Asia Bank's Tongi branch, with 11 recipients of Bank Asia Higher Studies Scholarship-2012. Bank Asia recently provided 11 poor meritorious students of Tongi with scholarships for higher studies.

VACANCY

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