



A section of a miles-long tailback on Dhaka-Tangail highway yesterday, in Bhatkura area of Tangail sadar upazila. It was triggered due to dense fog and weekend traffic pressure, but the situation was exacerbated by two accidents in one hour's succession (which killed one person) and a bus catching fire. Sub-inspector Tarikul Islam, in-charge of Elenga Highway Police, said the tailback was around 20km long, and it went as far back as Tangail sadar upazila from the east end of Bangabandhu Bridge. PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

ROAD ACCIDENTS Cop, singer, student among 9 killed

STAR REPORT

A policeman, a singer and a student among nine people lost their lives in road accidents in the country during the last two days.

Our Munshiganj correspondent reports, two people were killed as a truck hit them in Ramgopalpur area of Sadar upazila last evening.

Mohammad Sohag, 32, an honours third year student of Government Harganga College; and Jekrul Islam, 30, were chatting on the road after stopping their motorbike, said police.

Angry locals vandalised the truck.

UNB from Chuadanga reports, bicyclist Amirul, son of Sona Sheikh from Kushtia, was killed when a tractor hit his bicycle in Osmanpur village of Alamdanga upazila Thursday night.

Our Faridpur correspondent reports, two people, including a singer, were killed and two others injured as a microbus carrying them fell into a ditch beside Dhaka-Khulna highway after hitting a road divider amid dense fog in Uttar Bramonpara area of Bhanga upazila yesterday, said police.

The deceased are Wahid Sujat, 38, and Mosharaf Hossain, 37. Wahid was a co-singer of Nokul Kumar Biswas and Mosharaf the microbus driver.

Our Bagerhat correspondent says, motorcyclist Abu Bakar Siddique was killed and his wife injured when a bus rammed their bike on Khulna-Bagerhat highway in Kaltaltala area of Fakirhat upazila yesterday.

Our Magura correspondent reports, a police constable was killed as his motorcycle was hit by a truck on Dhaka-Jhenidah highway in Sadar upazila on Thursday.

Amirul Islam, 30, was returning to Magura Police Lines after night duty, said Abdul Mobin, sub-inspector of Magura Sadar Police Station.

Our Bagerhat correspondent says, a Jubo League leader has been killed after a vehicle hit his motorbike in Sadar upazila of Gopalganj.

MA Daud Sheikh, 40, was a joint convener of Fakirhat upazila unit, said the unit Convener Wahiduzzaman Babu.

BSS from Madaripur adds, a bus driver was killed and 12 others were injured as the driver lost his control over the steering and the vehicle fell into a ditch in Notunpat Hat area of Kalkini upazila yesterday.

Freedom fighter Nasir passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Freedom fighter Nasir Uddin alias Nannu Miah died of a stroke at Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka on Thursday morning.

He was 84.

He left behind his four sons including Lt Col Mesbah Uddin Ahmed and headteacher of Bashudeb High School Kamal Uddin Ahmed.

The freedom fighter took part in the Liberation War under sector 8.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at Bashudeb Eidgah Maidan after Juma prayers yesterday. He was buried at Bashudeb village graveyard with full state honour.

Death anniversary CITY DESK

Today is the 15th death anniversary of former minister M Mansur Ali.

He served as the textile minister in 1979 and was the president and general secretary of Khulna Bar Association, says a press release.

M Mansur Ali Smrity Sangsad will hold a discussion and a doa mahfil at the auditorium of Dhaka Ahsania Mission in the capital's Dhanmondi at 4:00pm today.



Hunger strike rolls on amid cold 108 madrasa teachers fall ill; 9 hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a thin blanket tucked in, Mohammad Ismail was lying on the road in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday afternoon amid icy wind.

It was the fourth day the teacher of an ebteday madrasa in Bogra stayed there to press for one demand -- nationalisation of the registered madrasas.

"Four days have passed by, no one from the government came to us... But we will not return home without realising our demand. We'll die on the road if needed," he said.

The indefinite hunger strike of the madrasa teachers rolled onto the fourth day yesterday.

A few hundred teachers under the banner of "Bangladesh Swatantra Ebteday Madrasa Shikkhak Samity" started the strike on Tuesday, demanding that the government nationalise the ebteday madrasas that teach students from class I to V.

Earlier, they staged a sit-in for eight consecutive days at the same place.

At least 108 teachers fell ill yesterday and nine are now receiving treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Qazi Ruhul Amin Chowdhury, president of the organisation leading the demonstration, told The Daily Star last night.

"It seems that the government does not treat us as teachers. We have been remaining on the street for the last 12 days, but no one from the government could spare time to meet

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

Foreign student flow on the wane

UNB, Dhaka

The country's public universities are lagging far behind private universities in terms of attracting foreign students for a lack of promotional activities and various facilities.

The overseas students are now choosing private universities over the public ones as those offer many opportunities, including scholarships.

There are 37 public and 95 private universities in the country.

A few years ago, a large number of foreign students used to get admitted to public universities to pursue higher education, but the situation is quite different now.

According to the last annual report of the University Grants Commission (UGC), only 355 foreign students enrolled in 19 public universities in 2016 while the number of overseas students getting admitted to private universities was 1,927.

The report also said 359 foreign students got admitted to public universities in 2010 while 210 in 2011, 525 in 2012, 326 in 2013, 432 in 2014, 593 in 2015.

On the other hand, 1,548 foreign students enrolled in private universities in 2015 while

the number increased to 1,927 in 2016.

UGC Chairman Prof Abdul Mannan attributed the decline in the number of foreign students in public universities to the lack of publicity and promotion.

"Most public universities don't update their websites. They don't provide any information about foreign student admissions on their websites and don't take any step to promote their university internationally," he said.

On the other hand, private universities conduct strong campaigns, and offer scholarships and facilities to attract foreign students, he said.

Mentioning that many countries are now focusing more on vocational and job-oriented education, the UGC chairman said that also discourages students of those countries to pursue higher education elsewhere.

In 2017-18 session, only two foreign students got admitted to Dhaka University, while a few years ago, a significant number used to enroll in the country's leading university.

According to sources at the university, 16 foreign students enrolled in DU in 2016-17 academic session while four in 2015-16, eight in 2014-15 and 11 in 2013-14 academic calendar for higher study.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

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Govt can't destroy BNP Says Noman

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League is the beneficiary of the 1/11 political change-over and they are now out to re-establish one-party rule with their unilateral control over politics, BNP senior leader Abdullah Al Noman alleged yesterday.

"There's no democracy in the country now," he said.

Noman made the comments at a human chain organised near the capital's Jatiya Press Club by Jatiya Ganotrik Mancha demanding the withdrawal of all "false cases" filed against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and the party's Senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman.

The BNP vice chairman also said, "We are ready to engage in talks for the restoration of democracy. We'll also wage a movement, if necessary, as we won't make any compromise on the issue..." The government will neither be able to eliminate BNP nor will it be able to suppress people with its repressive acts, Noman

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (পূর্ব) এর কার্যালয়
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১	CE/E-Rev-TS-10/E-Tender/2017-18/KA(7)	152112	Between AKA-SYT Section: Thorough Sleeper Renewal of girder bridges with SPL sleeper and all fittings, fastening including aligning leveling etc. with other allied works [Bridge No. 26 MCR-HPX Section, Bridge No. 27 MCR-HPX Section, Bridge No. 30 HPX-MNT Section, Bridge No. 31 HPX-MNT Section, Bridge No. 33 HPX-MNT Section, Bridge No. 35 HPX-MNT Section, Bridge No. 37 HPX-MNT Section, Bridge No. 40 HPX-MNT Section, Bridge No. 50 MNT-IKA Section, Bridge No. 51 MNT-IKA Section, Bridge No. 58 IKA-NOP Section, Bridge No. 61 IKA-NOP Section, Bridge No. 63 NOP-SHB Section, Bridge No. 65 NOP-SHB Section, Bridge No. 66 NOP-SHB Section, Bridge No. 67 NOP-SHB Section, Bridge No. 68 NOP-SHB Section, Bridge No. 69 NOP-SHB Section, Bridge No. 72 NOP-SHB Section, Bridge No. 73 NOP-SHB Section, Bridge No. 74 NOP-SHB Section, Bridge No. 75 NOP-SHB Section, Bridge No. 90 SHB-SSJ Section, Bridge No. 91 SHB-SSJ Section, Bridge No. 93 SHB-SSJ Section, Bridge No. 93A SHB-SSJ Section, Bridge No. 99 SSJ-LSP Section and Bridge No. 99A SSJ-LSP Section]	OTM, NCT	30 January 2018, 12:00 Noon

বিঃদ্রঃ
১. শুধুমাত্র ই-জিপি সিস্টেমে নিবন্ধিত Eligibility শর্তাবলী পূরণকারী দরদাতাদের সরাসরি অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন।
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Japan to give \$3m

FROM PAGE 3

the area freely.

More than 650,000 Rohingya have fled to neighbouring Bangladesh to escape a brutal crackdown in which security forces have been accused of systematic abuses tantamount to ethnic cleansing.

During a meeting yesterday, Kono asked Suu Kyi's government to allow humanitarian and media access to the affected area, the resettlement of returned refugees, and the implementation of recommendations made by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Kono also said Japan plans to give further aid of \$20 million to improve humanitarian conditions and development in Rakhine state.

"We are thankful to Japan for its willingness to support the needs both for short term and long term," Suu Kyi said at the joint news conference.

Yamaguchi stressed that Japan will monitor how the repatriation will be carried out. "The money will be paid in a timely manner based on the progress of repatriation," Yamaguchi added.

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e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of the following listed tenders.

Re-Tender ID	Description	Online tender publication date	Online tender closing date
150704 (OTM)	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 135/1400 KG Passenger Lift Brand & Manufacturing Country Otis China Schindler China Mitsubishi China XIZI Unite China or equivalent Standard with certificates issued by internationally recognized authorities like TUV/DNV for the products of the manufacturer as per relevant Standard for the Building No. 3A & 3B under the Project of Construction of Residential Apartment Building for Low & Middle Income Group of people at Sector -18 of Uttara Model Town 3 rd Phase Dhaka.	03-Jan-2018 17:00:00	18-Jan-2018 13:00:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for last selling/downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank within office hour on or before 17-Jan-2018 15:00. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

A. S. M Raihanul Ferdous
Chief Engineer (Project & Design)
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