

Road crashes kill at least 31

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Siraiganj), one each in Laxmipur, Gazipur, Munshiganj, Narail, Rajshahi, Natore, Khagrachhari and Dinajpur.

Talking about the issue, Kazi Md Shifun Newaz, assistant professor of Buet's Accident Research Institute, mainly blamed an increased number of motorcycles and three-wheelers on roads and poor monitoring of the traffic system following Eid for the loss of lives.

At least six people, including two women, were killed and two others injured as a bus collided with a CNG-run auto-rickshaw on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Feni Sadar upazila yesterday.

The identities of the deceased could not be known immediately.

Locals said the accident took place around 5:00pm when a Chittagong-bound bus hit the auto-rickshaw on the highway in Lemua area, leaving three auto-rickshaw passengers dead on the spot and four others injured.

The injured were taken to Feni Sadar Hospital where doctors declared three dead, Nazmul Hasan, residential medical officer of the hospital, said.

Quoting witnesses, Lemua Union Parishad Chairman Mosharraf Hossain said the accident happened when a team of Highway Police was chasing the three-wheeler as it was plying violating traffic rules.

Contacted, Abdul Awal, officer-in-charge of Mohipal Highway Police Station, denied the allegation that the vehicle was being chased by police.

He said the accident occurred as the auto-rickshaw was hit by the speeding bus while trying to take a u-turn.

In Gopalganj, three people were killed and 20 others injured when another speeding bus hit a roadside tree on Dhaka-Barishal highway in Maksudpur on Tuesday, the first day of the Eid vacation.

Sheikh Mahfuzur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Bhangra Highway Police Station in Faridpur, said the bus hit a roadside tree after the driver lost control of the steering around 11:30am, leaving three passengers dead on the spot and 20 injured, UNB reported.

In Gopalganj Sadar upazila, two people, including a banker and an engineer, were killed and a woman was injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Khulna highway near Gopinathpur area on Tuesday.

The deceased were identified as SM Arafat Hassan Prince, 36, a senior principal officer at Rupali Bank's Motijheel branch, and his cousin Shimul, 40, an engineer from Sonadanga area of Khulna city.

Police said the accident took place around 6:00am when their home-bound microbus was hit by a Dhaka-bound bus, leaving the two dead on the spot and another injured. The injured, Jahan Ferdousi Keka, wife of Prince, was admitted to Gopalganj General Hospital.

In Bogra, three people were killed and one was injured in a head-on collision between a bus and a CNG-run auto-rickshaw on Dhaka-Bogra highway on Wednesday.

All the victims were from Shahjahanpur upazila of Bogra and passengers of the three-wheeler.

Sushanta Kumar Saha, sub-inspector of Shahjahanpur Police Station, said the Bogra-bound bus from Dhaka collided head-on with the auto-rickshaw near Majhira bus stand area.

In another incident, two engineers died in Sherpur upazila of the district on Wednesday after their motorcycle hit a roadside tree in Salpa area, police said.

The deceased were identified as Shamim Reza, 28, a textile engineer, and Shohel Rana, 27, an architect from Siraiganj's Kazipur upazila.

In Comilla, a person was killed and 20 others were injured in a road accident on Thursday.

Abul Kalam Azad, officer-in-charge of Daudkandi Highway Police Station, said a car fell into a ditch along the Dhaka-Chittagong highway after being hit by a Dhaka-bound bus from Chandpur, leaving one dead.

The accident occurred as the bus driver lost control over the wheels, the OC said. The injured were sent to Daudkandi Upazila Health Complex, headed.

In another incident, a woman and her daughter were killed on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Burichang upazila on Wednesday, after a microbus hit them while they were crossing the road.

In Laksham upazila, a biker was killed when a bus rammed his bike in Bizra area, police said on Wednesday. Another biker was killed in Kotbari Crossing area on Dhaka-Chittagong highway the same day.

In Kushtia, at least three people, including a child, were killed in a head-on collision between a truck and a three-wheeler on Kushtia-Jhenaidah highway in Bottala area on Wednesday, reports UNB.

In Chittagong, a biker was killed as his motorbike turned turtle in Ranirhat area on Chittagong-Rangamati road on Thursday.

Two more motorcyclists were killed in separate road accidents in Bahaddarhat area of the port city and Anwara upazila of the district on Tuesday, reports BSS.

At least two people were killed and eight others were injured on Wednesday after a driver of a truck they were travelling lost control of the steering and skidded off into a road-side ditch near Bangabandhu Bridge in Siraiganj, police said.

The victims -- all goat traders -- were returning home from Dhaka.

In Gazipur, a woman was killed on Wednesday after a bus hit her near Tongi area when she along with her two children was crossing the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway

Victim Bithi Akhter, 30, was returning home from her sister's home at Dattapara in Tongi around noon, police said. The two kids were safe.

In other incidents, a man was killed and 20 others were injured in two accidents in Dinajpur, a 80-year-old man was killed in Munshiganj, a motorcyclist was killed and another injured in Laxmipur, a local BNP leader was killed in Rajshahi, a bus passenger was killed and 20 others were injured in Natore and a bus passenger was killed in Khagrachhari in separate accidents.

Suu Kyi's comments draw flak

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with Bangladesh in order to do that," she said, reports AFP.

"Bangladesh would also have to decide how quickly they want the process to be completed," she added.

Analysts, however, say safe and voluntary return of Rohingyas largely depends on how Myanmar creates conditions for it.

"The first and foremost issue is guaranteeing citizenship to Rohingyas; recognising them as Rohingya and then ensuring security in Rakhine," said Asif Munier, an independent researcher on refugees and migration.

According to him, Myanmar made a little progress on these aspects.

Over 720,000 Rohingyas have fled to Bangladesh since August 25 last year escaping a brutal military campaign in Rakhine which has been described by the UN and the USA as ethnic cleansing having hallmarks of genocide.

'TORTURED, JAILED ON RETURN'
Human Rights Watch (HRW) in a report on August 21 said the Myanmar authorities tortured and imprisoned Rohingya refugees who returned to Rakhine from Bangladesh.

Six Rohingyas who fled to Bangladesh last year told HRW that Myanmar's Border Guard Police apprehended them when they

returned to Rakhine and tortured them during pretrial detention. Each was summarily tried and sentenced to four years in prison, apparently for illegally crossing the border.

The Myanmar government later pardoned them along with several dozen others. On June 1 this year, the authorities presented them to visiting journalists in an attempt to show that they were treating Rohingya well and that it was safe to return. Following the visit, the six fled to Bangladesh again.

"The torture of Rohingya returnees puts the lie to Myanmar government promises that refugees who return will be safe and protected," said Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director of HRW.

"Despite Myanmar's rhetoric guaranteeing a safe and dignified return, the reality is that Rohingya who go back still face the persecution and abuses they were forced to flee."

In her speech in Singapore, Suu Kyi said, "The danger of terrorist activities which was the initial cause of events leading to the humanitarian crisis in Rakhine remains real and present today."

"Unless these security challenges are addressed, the risk of communal violence would remain."

Analysts say Rohingyas lived in Rakhine for generations, and it was Myanmar authorities' responsibility to

address any challenges, not of Bangladesh.

Asif Munier said Myanmar has always denied Rohingya ethnicity, and now want removal of the words "Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals" from their identity cards. This proves lack of Myanmar's sincerity in taking back Rohingyas, he said.

Early this year when Bangladesh handed over a list of some 8,000 Rohingyas to Myanmar for verification, they objected that there were no proofs of voluntariness or signatures etc.

Asif Munier said there must be a third party like UN and Rohingya representatives who can say that the situation in Rakhine is secure for their return. "Only then the Rohingyas can voluntarily agree to return home."

Rohingyas demanded UN-led security arrangement for them in Rakhine, but no initiative was taken in this regard, he added.

Prof Mizanur Rahman, an expert on refugee law, of Dhaka University said the crux of the Rohingya issue was statelessness. The problem would not be resolved unless it was solved, he added.

He said Myanmar has been trying to shrug off its responsibility about the repatriation as the UN Security Council takes no concrete action against it due to China and Russia's opposition.

World leaders

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Myanmar."

According to a report of the CBC News of Canada yesterday with the headline "Shameful milestone for Rohingya crisis as new worries surface about refugee children", homes were burned, women raped, and there were several large-scale massacres. By some estimates, more than 40,000 Rohingyas died in the violence. The UN's human rights chief called it a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing."

HRW

The New York-based Human Rights Watch on August 21 said international monitoring was vital in the repatriation of thousands of Rohingyas as the Myanmar authorities have tortured and imprisoned returnees from Bangladesh.

"The torture of Rohingya returnees puts the lie to Myanmar government promises that refugees who return will be safe and protected," said HRW's Deputy Asia Director Phil Robertson.

According to a report of the HRW, the Myanmar authorities have tortured and imprisoned Rohingya refugees who returned to Rakhine from Bangladesh. The mistreatment reinforces the need for international protection, including United Nations monitors on the ground, before Rohingyas will be able to return safely to Myanmar.

"Despite Myanmar's rhetoric guaranteeing a safe and dignified return, the reality is that Rohingyas who go back still face the persecution and abuses they were forced to flee," added Robertson.

"The treatment of these Rohingya refugees should be a warning sign to those who believe the Myanmar authorities are ready to ensure safe returns," Robertson said. "Myanmar has a long way to go before it can dem-

onstrate it is serious about making the necessary reforms for voluntary, safe, and dignified returns."

'CALL FOR JUSTICE'

More than 130 Southeast Asian parliamentarians yesterday expressed their grave concern over the ongoing impunity for perpetrators involved in the atrocities committed against hundreds of thousands of Rohingyas and called on the international community to take urgent measures to bring those responsible to justice.

In a joint statement, 132 sitting MPs from five countries --Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Timor-Leste-- including 22 members of ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights, also called on members of the UN Security Council (UNSC) to immediately refer the human rights situation in Myanmar to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

They said the Myanmar government has failed to investigate and prosecute those responsible for the atrocities in a credible and impartial manner and they continue to block almost all access to the affected areas in Rakhine for international human rights observers.

In fact, some of those who try to shed light on these human rights violations now face arbitrary criminal charges.

Recent reports also show that the Rohingya population that remains in Rakhine still face the risk of violence as well as widespread discrimination, which has resulted in appalling living conditions that are unsafe as well as a serious lack of access to basic services and livelihood opportunities. The dignified and voluntary repatriation of refugees from Bangladesh will not be possible as long as these conditions endure, the joint statement reads.

"We also support the call by United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar,

Yanghee Lee, to establish an international accountability mechanism that aims to impartially investigate and provide necessary assistance to future criminal proceedings that are in line with international standards," reads the statement available in aseanmp.org.

The Southeast Asian lawmakers also called on their own governments, fellow ASEAN member states with Myanmar, and ASEAN itself, to accelerate efforts and use its influence on Naypyidaw to press the government and military to end all forms of human rights violations against the Rohingyas.

"This must include abolishing all discriminatory policies and practices in order to address the root causes of the crisis. It is imperative that they also urge the Myanmar government to grant immediate and unconditional access to Rakhine State, particularly for humanitarian aid groups, independent observers, and local and international media."

Fresh campaign

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refugee settlements are divided into 30 camps.

The repatriation process, which was supposed to start long ago, has been delayed due to bureaucratic tangles created by Myanmar.

Construction of a repatriation centre at Kerontoli on the bank of the Naf river in Teknaf is complete. Bandarban district administration has allocated plots demanded by the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commission for setting up another repatriation centre in Naikkhayangchhari upazila.

In 1991-92, Rohingyas were repatriated through Kerontoli.

2 indigenous

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entry of reporters and NGO officials.

Rights activists and community organisers said the girls were virtually confined by police at the hospital.

"As the allegations are against three members of a security force [BGB], we are following a process of investigation," Said Zakir Hossain Majumder, superintendent of police in Mandalbaran.

Civil Surgeon Dr Aung Swi Prue Marma said, "We don't want to make any comment right now.... A medical board will be formed soon."

Grieving family members said the girls were called out of home on Wednesday by their neighbour Jonerun Tripura.

Jonerun, who was also accused in the case, took them to the three BGB men, they added.

After the girls went there, the BGB members took them inside a nearby bush and raped them, said a member of their family.

The accused BGB men also told the girls to keep the incident secret or face grave consequences, said an elder brother of one of the girls.

The accused were in uniform and carried firearms, elder brother of another girl said.

Daw Nai Prue Naly, a rights activist in the district, said, "We are concerned about their safety. Police didn't let us talk to the victims. They are in some sort of confinement in the name of police protection."

Robbers

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According to law enforcers, the two security guards of the bank, housed at an under-construction building on Badda Link Road, were not carrying any firearms.

The robber, who is yet to be identified, also took away the digital video recorder of the CCTV cameras while leaving, officer-in-charge of Badda Police Station Rafiqul Islam said on Monday.

"We have collected the footage of all CCTV cameras set up in nearby areas and showed them to the bank employees but the robber could not be identified," Ashraf said.

Police suspect the robber had recced the area and that's why he could escaped without being caught by the CCTV cameras.

Morrison

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Turnbull blamed his demise on "vengeance, personal ambition, factional feuding" in his party, led by conservative lawmakers including former prime minister Tony Abbott, the man he toppled in a party-room coup in September 2015.

"Australians will be dumbstruck and so appalled at the conduct of the past week," said Turnbull.

Liberal party member Warren Enserch said after the leadership vote: "This revolving door of prime ministers has got to stop".

The Liberal party is the senior partner in the Liberal-National coalition government that has consistently trailed opposition Labor in opinion polls in recent months. Bookmakers yesterday had Labour a favourite to win the next poll.

Morrison's victory marks the chance for a break from a decade of leadership clashes between Turnbull and Abbott in both government and opposition, but ideological divisions in the party over issues such as climate change, energy policy, immigration and even globalisation remain stark.

Indeed, after Foreign Minister Julie Bishop was eliminated after the first round of the leadership ballot, Morrison only defeated Peter Dutton, his more conservative rival, by 45 votes to 40. Three changed votes would have altered the result.

The fastest car

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to what this car will do to the rest of your senses.

With 759bhp, the 6.5-litre engine is the most potent of all road-legal V12s the brand has ever unleashed onto the streets.

The Aventador SVJ accelerates from 0 to 62mph in 2.8 seconds. If that doesn't squeeze the air from your lungs, it will reach 124mph from a standstill in just 8.6 seconds.

That means you could lose your license for speeding quicker than Usain Bolt can finish a 100-metre sprint.

Take it on track - or to an abandoned airfield - and you can put the claimed top speed of 'in excess of 217mph' to the test, if you've got the nerve.

Just to confirm the mind-boggling speed of this thing, Lamborghini has rubbed every other car makers nose in the dirt with the fastest recorded lap time for a production model around the infamous Nurburgring circuit.

It completed the 12.8-mile Nordschleife route in six minutes and a shade under 45 seconds.

That's two seconds quicker than the previous record holder, the Porsche 911 GT2. And to think, Lamborghini has smashed the German manufacturer's record in its own back yard.

The car was officially revealed at this year's Monterey Car Week in California, along with a limited edition version called SVJ63 - a tribute to Lamborghini's founding year of 1963, with 63 examples being produced.

Heavy blow to seasonal

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and non-operation of a number of tanneries in Savar.

The price of salt-applied rawhide of cows and buffaloes was fixed at Tk 45-50 per square foot in the capital and Tk 35-40 outside. For rawhide of goats, the price was Tk 13-20 per square foot across the country.

Md Shamsuddin, a trader in the capital's Posta, the country's biggest rawhide market, said, "High price of salt and non-payment by tanners are the main problems. I could make a profit of only Tk 50 by selling a piece of rawhide."

There were around 200 traders in Posta but now only half of them run business in the area, he said.

Delwar Hossain, president of rawhide traders' main platform Bangladesh Hide & Skin Merchants' Association, said tanners owe rawhide merchants across the country around Tk 350 crore accumulated over the last four years.

The tanners were supposed to pay at least 30 percent of the arrears to merchants and traders before the Eid, but most of them didn't make any payments, he said.

The small traders were left with no option but to buy rawhide with whatever money they could manage, and they are now trying to sell those to merchants, Delwar said.

"We expect to collect one crore pieces of rawhide this time. Of those, 70 lakh are of cows and buffaloes, and 30 lakh are of goats."

Bangladesh Tanners Association Chairman Md Shaheen Ahamed claimed that only 42 companies could get loans from banks before Eid, and of those, only a few could pay 20 percent of the arrears to merchants.

"Many of the tanneries are yet to start operation at the new site in Savar. As a result, there is no production and no business. This is why they couldn't pay the arrears to the merchants," claimed Shaheen.

He also mentioned that 40 percent of the previous stock of tanned leather remains unsold, which is another major reason for the tanners' inability to pay up.

Shaheen, however, said the tanners will start buying rawhide soon.

STIE Deputy Manager Moin Uddin Ahamed said only a few rawhide-laden trucks arrived in the estate after the Eid as the tanners were yet to start buying rawhide in full swing.

So far, 114 of the 155 tanneries could start full or partial production at the STIE, he said.

Last year, only 25-30 tanneries were in operation there.

Leather and leather goods are Bangladesh's second largest export items after ready-made garments.

In the last fiscal year, the country exported leather and leather goods worth \$1.08 billion, down 12.03 percent year-on-year. The earning was 21.34 percent below the annual target of \$1.38 billion.

Ten quota reformists

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Nahar Luma, a quota reformist held on charges of "spreading rumours on social media and inciting violence" during the recent student movement for road safety.

Earlier in the day, another Dhaka court granted bail to 29 students, including quota reformists, who had been arrested on different dates over vandalism, assaulting police and preventing law enforcers from discharging their duties. They include the ten released on Tuesday.

Public and private university students in April took to the streets demanding reforms in the quota system in civil service.

At present, 56 percent of government jobs are reserved for candidates under various quotas and the remaining 44 percent for the merit list.

Of the 56 percent, 30 percent are for freedom fighters' children and grandchildren, 10 percent for women, 10

percent for people from districts lagging behind, 5 percent for indigenous communities, and one percent for people with disabilities.

Amid countrywide agitations, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on April 11 announced that all quotas in civil service would be abolished.

But no gazette notification was issued and the protesters began boycotting classes and examinations at all universities and colleges from May 14.

Ever since the quota reformists started fresh programmes to press home their five-point demand on June 30, they have either been attacked by alleged Chhatra League men or got arrested.

In a latest move, the quota reformists on August 12 threatened the government with tougher agitations from August 31, if the gazette was not published.

Modi-Hasina

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question about Indian PM's bilateral meeting with his Bangladesh counterpart in Kathmandu, Secretary (East) Preeti Saran told a media briefing that "yes, I can confirm the bilateral meeting with the host of the Summit."

But "since such a Summit provides an opportunity to meet with top leaders of other member-countries, we are looking into other bilateral (meets)."

"Exact programmes are being worked out and the External Affairs Ministry's spokesman will let you know when these other bilateral meets are firmed up," she said.

Asked about reports in an Indian newspaper about the possibility of the first-ever joint military exercise to combat terrorism and a meeting of Army Chiefs of BIMSTEC countries—Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand—in India next month, Saran

Market

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Tom Cole, a Republican member of the House of Representatives, warned it was "too soon" to begin impeachment proceedings, but said: "If something comes out that is clear and convincing and impeachable, I think members will act."

Al Green, a Democratic congressman who has previously filed articles of impeachment against Trump, suggested he may do so again following Cohen's guilty plea.

"I think the president has to realise that the countdown to impeachment has already started," he said. "He, at some point, will have to choose if he will face impeachment or if he will resign. It will be his choice. The congress will have no choice but to act."

"At some point, we have to act."

Most Democrats, however, are keeping quiet about the prospect of removing Trump from office, amid fears pushing the issue will fire up the Republican base ahead of the midterm elections in November.

"I don't think that we should be talking about impeachment," Democratic senator Tammy Duckworth said.

Nancy Pelosi, the house Democratic leader, has consistently urged her party not to push the issue, and instead work to uphold special counsel Robert Mueller's ability to investigate potential crimes committed by the Trump campaign.

"The special counsel's team and the prosecutors in New York are conducting thorough and professional investigations, and they must be allowed to continue free from interference," Pelosi told fellow Democrats on Wednesday. "As November rapidly approaches, we must also stay focused on delivering our strong economic message to hard-working families across America."

Trump allies, however, have been discussing impeachment – raising the prospect in an attempt to convince Republican voters to turn out in November.

SESSIONS HITS BACK AT TRUMP

In another development, US Attorney General Jeff Sessions fired back at Trump on Thursday after Trump gave a scathing assessment of his leadership at the Justice Department.

Sessions, a former US senator from Alabama, was one of the first Republican lawmakers to back Trump's presidential election bid and has implemented his headline immigration policies in the role of attorney general.

But Trump has repeatedly criticised Sessions for recusing himself from overseeing a probe into Russia's alleged interference in the 2016 election and whether Trump's campaign colluded with Moscow. Trump denies any collusion and calls the investigation a "witch hunt."

Relatives

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expecting to see other members of the family and wanted to know their whereabouts.

"We told her that only six were allowed to meet while we sought permission for 20."

Wearing a cotton shari, Khaleda came to meet her relatives with the help of two jail guards, said jail sources.

Family members said Khaleda caressed her granddaughter and exchanged Eid greetings with others.

Khaleda used to take her lunch by 1:30pm any other day, but she waited for her relatives to bring homemade food for her that day, said jail sources.

The jail authorities offered Khaleda vermicelli cooked with milk, some sweetmeats and Jarra rice in the morning, but she did not take the food.

On February 8, Khaleda was sent to jail after a special court had sentenced her to five years' rigorous imprisonment in Zia Orphanage Trust graft case