

10 killed in road crashes in a day

STAR REPORT

At least 10 people were killed and scores injured in four separate road accidents in Noakhali, Bandarban, Chandpur, Gopalganj and Savar yesterday.

In Noakhali, three people were killed when a bus of Janani Paribahan lost control and veered off into a roadside ditch on Ramganj-Chatkhil road at Parkot union under Chatkhil upazila around 10am.

At least 18 people were injured in the accident.

Two of the deceased were identified as Md Jafar Ahmed, 40; and Nur Alam, 35. The other victim could not be identified.

The injured were undergoing treatment at different hospitals of the area.

Confirming the incident, Anwarul Islam, officer-in-charge of Chatkhil Police Station said though they seized the bus, the driver and his helper managed to flee after the accident.

A mini-truck hit a "tomtom" (locally made three-wheeler) in Saper Ghera area under Lama upazila of Bandarban yesterday evening, killing three persons and injuring three others.

was arrested in this connection, the OC added.

In Chandpur, two CNG-run auto-rickshaw passengers were killed when a sand-laden truck crushed the vehicle at Lebutola-Bagrabazar area under sadar upazila on Chandpur-Faridganj road at around 6am.

The deceased were identified as Mozammel Hossain, 25; and Rafiqul Islam Gazi, 40, driver of the auto-rickshaw.

Bagadi union parishad member Mosharaf Hossain said the CNG was headed to Chandpur when the truck, coming from the opposite direction, crushed. The duo died on the spot.

Locals alleged that people face frequent road accidents due to the illegal sand business on the Bagadi road.

Nasim Uddin, OC of Chandpur Model Police Station said no one was arrested, as the truck managed to flee the scene before police arrived.

In Gopalganj, a woman was killed and four others were injured in a road accident at Kurpara area under Kotalipara under Gopalganj around 1pm.

The deceased was identified as Rasida



Locals carry out rescue efforts after a bus plunged into a roadside ditch in Parkot of Chatkhil.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

The deceased were identified as Md Ibrahim, 16, a ninth-grader; Rahima Katun, 65; and Md Abu Taleb, 28, said Jakir Hossain, chairman of Fashiakhali Union Parishad.

Among them, Ibrahim and Rahima died on the spot while Taleb died in Malumghat Christian Memorial Hospital, said Oppela Raju Naha, officer-in-charge of Lama Police Station.

The injured were receiving treatment at the hospital, said the police official.

Police seized the truck but no one

Begum, 40.

Quoting locals, Md Kamrul Faruk, officer-in-charge of Kotalipara Police Station said, "The accident took place when a three-wheeler lost control and fell into a roadside ditch at Kurpara, leaving her dead on the spot."

Police seized the three-wheeler but the driver fled the scene, added OC.

In Savar, an unidentified motorcycle rider aged around 25 was killed in a road accident around noon.

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Students of Ibn Sina Nursing Institute stage a human chain in Kalyanpur yesterday, protesting the rape and killing of Shahinoor Akhter Tania. The former student of the institute was brought dead at a hospital in Kishoreganj's Katiadi on Monday night, on way to her village home. Family members say she was raped in the bus and then pushed off it.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

WB gives \$165m for Rohingyas

Join hands with govt to improve services, build social and disaster resilience

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday signed a \$165 million grant financing agreement with World Bank (WB) to provide basic services and build disaster and social resilience for Rohingyas.

To help Bangladesh deal with the world's fastest growing exodus, the Emergency Multi-Sector Rohingya Crisis Response Project will build 53 multi-purpose disaster shelters in and around the camps; pave more than 200km roads; provide water and sanitation services for around 2 lakh people and set up 1,500 solar street lights.

The project will also strengthen emergency response services, provide community works, and prevent gender-based violence, said a WB press release.

"The government and people of Bangladesh have generously provided shelter to about a

million Rohingya refugees but the needs of both the Rohingya and host community are huge," said Dandan Chen, World Bank acting country director for Bangladesh and Bhutan. More than half of the Rohingya population is women and girls, and many were exposed to gender-based violence before

coming to Bangladesh. The services delivered under the project will focus on women and children as key beneficiaries and will include measures to prevent such violence, the release added.

The project will build gender-friendly public spaces. All facilities including water and sanitation and

cyclone shelters will cater to needs of women, children and individuals with disabilities. The street lights will improve safety for women.

Under leadership of the prime minister, the government has provided shelter to the forcibly displaced Rohingya population. "But this has placed enormous strain on our resources and infrastructure," said Monowar Ahmed, secretary to the Economic Relations Division (ERD).

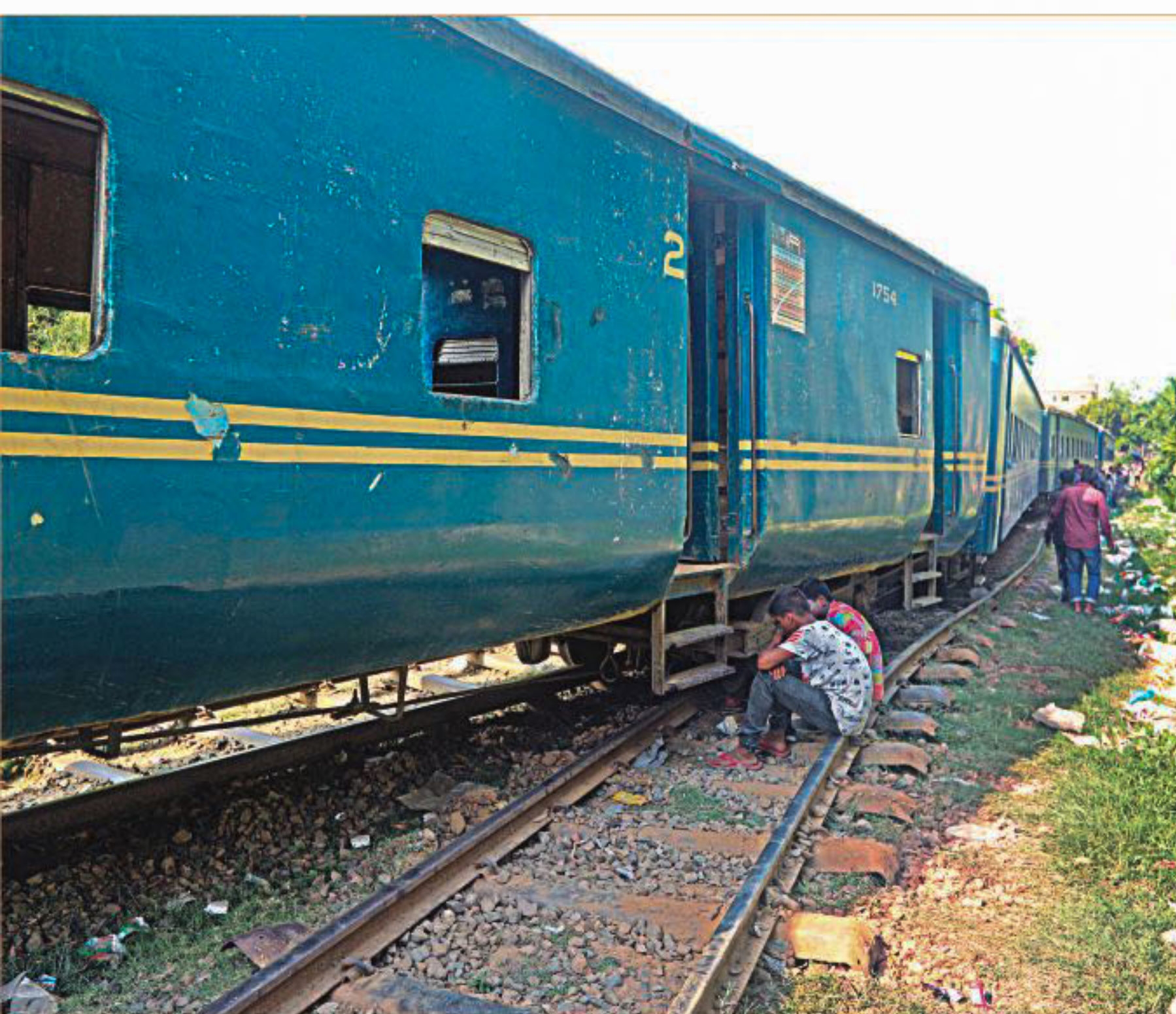
"We are happy that World Bank has joined hands with grant support to build disaster resilience and basic infrastructure and improve service delivery for Rohingyas," he said.

The agreement was signed by Monowar Ahmed and Dandan Chen on behalf of the government and WB at ERD.

This is the third in a series of planned financings of approximately half a billion dollars announced by WB in June 2018.



PHOTO: COLLECTED



A compartment of a Chittagong University shuttle train slipped off the track near the Sholoshohor Forest Gate area in the port city yesterday. No casualties happened as the train was moving slowly at the time, and the compartment was fixed shortly.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

BCC mulls sanctuary for street dogs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Barishal City Corporation (BCC) has planned to set up a sanctuary for street dogs. BCC has already applied to the district administration for allotment of three acres of land for this purpose. This "Street Dog Rehabilitation Centre" will begin operations within three months.

"A large number of street dogs are seen in Barishal city. Some have become a hazard to public health, as there were reports of dogs biting people. So, we decided to build a safe space for dogs in the city's Jagua area. Our mayor and high officials already visited the spot and the project will begin as soon as possible," said Ismail Hossain, secretary of BCC.

"We want to accommodate at least 3,000 street dogs here. They will reside here, and we will provide food and treatment," said Rabiul Islam, veterinary surgeon of BCC.

Humayun Kabir, executive engineer of BCC, said they will start with a thousand street dogs from thirty wards of the city. "We will build a shade for them. There will be an isolated area for ill dogs. BCC will spend Tks 15 lakh primarily for this," he added.

Tapan Chakrabarty is a dog lover from Sreenath Chatterjee area. He said, "The High Court has already issued order to the city corporation authorities to not kill street dogs. BCC's project is a great idea, and it is a step towards ensuring animal rights."

Freedom fighters to get digital certificates

Says minister

BSS, Dhaka

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque yesterday said the government is working to provide freedom fighters with digital certificates and identity cards soon.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is working relentlessly to change the country's socio-economic condition. At the same time, she is working to turn the government's working system into a digitalised one," he said.

The minister made the remarks while inaugurating

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AUW Science Summer School begins July 5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The AUW Science Summer School, a residential programme aiming to place aspiring female scientists and mathematicians in top universities and careers, will begin on July 5 in port city.

The five-week-long summer school is being organised by Asian University for Women (AUW) along with Chevron, said a press release.

Each year as many as 80 secondary school students are invited to participate in the school.

Participants will attend maths and physics classes conducted by experts, learning with like-minded peers.

Graduates of the Science Summer School will receive a Certificate of Merit from AUW, the release added.

The top-performer will also receive the AUW-Chevron Emerging Women Leader in STEM Award.

The programme focuses on classical mechanics, electricity and magnetism, bioinformatics, mathematics, and SAT exam preparation.

Classes will be taught by visiting teachers from Stanford University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and AUW faculty members.

Due to the ongoing HSC examinations, application deadline has been extended till May 15, 2019.

Interested individuals can apply online at asian-university.org or by visiting AUW Campus office.

1,200 RMG workers demonstrate in port city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least 1,200 RMG workers staged a seven-hour demonstration in front of BGMEA Bhaban in the port city yesterday, demanding arrears and other benefits.

The workers of Golden Horizon Limited staged the agitation after authorities closed down the factory on May 5 without paying them, said Nazma Begum, general secretary of Golden Horizon Limited Workers' Union.

After holding a meeting with BGMEA, factory owners announced to pay two months' arrears to the workers by May 30, Nazma said, adding that the demonstrations were withdrawn following the assurance.

By-polls to Bogura-6 on June 24

EC announces schedule for Fakhrul's vacant seat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

By-election to the Bogura-6 parliamentary constituency will be held on June 24, the Election Commission said yesterday.

The constituency was announced vacant after BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, who won from the seat in the national election, did not take oath as a member of parliament within the 90 days from the date of the first meeting of parliament.

The 11th parliament, formed through the December 30 general election, went into its maiden session on January 30, 2019. As per the constitution, April 29 was the last date for taking oath.

Election Commission Secretary Helal Uddin Ahmed, while announcing the schedule, said last date for submission of nomination is May 23, scrutiny of nomination on May 27 and last date for nomination withdrawal is June 3.

BNP won six out of the 300 parliamentary seats in the December 30 election. Gonoforum, a partner in the BNP-led Jatiya Oikyafront, bagged two.

On numerous occasions, including on the election day, the alliance rejected the "farfetched" election, demanded fresh polls and said they would not join parliament.

Ending weeks of speculations, five BNP lawmakers took oath in line with the party decision on April 29, the last date for taking oath, although Fakhrul did not do so.

Two Rohingya youths held with yaba

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday arrested two Rohingya youths with 2,000 yaba pills, concealed inside their sandals, from Firingi Bazar area of Chattogram city.

The arrestees are Md Hossain, 20, and Md Sultan Ahmed, 18. Both are Myanmar nationals who live in the Leda refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, said Officer-in-Charge Mohammed Mohsin of Kotwali Police Station.

A team of Kotwali police set up a temporary check post and intercepted a Dhaka-bound bus coming from Cox's Bazar, he said.

Police detained the duo and seized the pills after searching them, said the OC, adding that they were going to Dhaka to sell those.

A case was lodged with Kotwali Police Station.



A man atop a pickup truck wraps a gamchha around his head and torso, seeking shelter from the sweltering heat that continued to sweep through the capital yesterday. The photo was taken at Kakrail.

PHOTO: PRABIR D