

3 killed, 3 hurt in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Three people were killed and three injured in road accidents in two districts yesterday, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Madaripur, two people were killed and another was injured as a bus hit a battery-run rickshaw-van on Dhaka-Barishal highway in Bhangabridge area under Dasar upazila, said police.

The deceased are Amir Bapari (35) and Sukur Ali Gazi (30), the rickshaw-van driver.

Sukur died on the spot and Amir was declared dead at Madaripur General Hospital, he said.

After the accident, locals blocked the highway for an hour. Police seized the bus but its driver fled the scene.

In Rangpur, a man was killed and two were injured as an overhead transformer fell on them after their tractor hit a roadside electric pole in Kaunia upazila.

Monwar Hossain (30) from Haragachh municipality died instantly, said police.

The injured -- Shah Alam and Jewel Mia -- were undergoing treatment at Kaunia Upazila Health Complex.

INTERNATIONAL VULTURE AWARENESS DAY

Vanishing vultures

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Long considered ominous creatures in our culture, vultures, in reality, play one of nature's most crucial roles and keep the ecosystem in order.

By disposing of carcasses, they help keep their surroundings free of fatal diseases. Yesterday was the International Vulture Awareness Day, a day to remember their significance and raise awareness of the species' dwindling numbers.

In Bangladesh, the number of vultures is decreasing by the day. If no initiative is taken, they may soon go extinct in the country, experts said.

According to the Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Department, the number of vultures in the country was 1,972 in 2008, which has come down to just 260 in the latest survey conducted in 2015-16. The government has allocated two spaces for their conservation, one in Habiganj's Rema Kalenga forest and another in the Sundarbans.

Tofazzal Sohel, general secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon Habiganj unit, said, vultures have virtually disappeared from Bangladesh. The species is faced with the same fate in other South Asian countries too.

"Ninety-nine percent of vultures have vanished from Bangladesh and other South Asian countries during this period," he said.

Tofazzal said treating cattle



PHOTO: COLLECTED

with medicines containing toxic chemicals -- like the banned Diclofenac and ketoprofen -- is to blame for this. After these cattles die, the vultures feeding on it fall ill due to the toxicity.

He also pointed out loss of habitat due to rapid urbanisation and deforestation as another reason behind their rapid disappearance.

Bangladesh Bird Club founder and renowned avian researcher Enam Ul Haque said, "Raising awareness among the public, especially school and college-going students, could help mitigate the

situation." "It's great that two places (Rema Kalenga and Sundarbans) have been allocated for vulture conservation, but this might not be a magic cure," he added.

Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, divisional forest officer of the Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Department told this correspondent, the extinction of vultures is bound to adversely affect Bangladesh's biodiversity.

Rabies and anthrax might become endemic due to the disappearance of vultures, as no other species can

- » According to the Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Department, the number of vultures in country was 1,972 in 2008, which came down to just 260 in 2015-16.
- REASONS FOR HABITAT LOSS**
- » Urban sprawl and deforestation
- » Treatment of cattle with medicines containing toxic chemicals
- » Extinction of vultures will have devastating impact Bangladesh's biodiversity
- » Rabies and anthrax may become endemic
- » Awareness needed to protect vultures, their habitat

digest and stop the diseases from spreading, he said.

"We are making sure that the vultures in Rema-Kalenga forest are not disturbed. During the calving period, especially in winter, one cow is fed to them every week or 15 days. However, these animals will benefit only if we protect tall trees," he said.

"For example, vultures used to come and sit in tea garden trees. But as many of them have been cut down, they don't get to do that anymore. This is why we must raise awareness for conserving tall trees as well," he added.

Bangladesh-India

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India from Bangladesh.

The travellers from Bangladesh must test negative for Covid-19 in a PCR test done earlier than 72 hours of the flight and they have to go through tests at their own expenses after arriving in Indian airports.

Besides, 10 percent of the seats in the planes have to be left empty.

CAAB also proposed including "passengers with business visa" to facilitate airlines crew members to travel to India for simulator training.

CAAB primarily accepted India's proposal to operate seven flights a week to India by Bangladeshi airline companies, but proposed to double the number.

Tofail's condition

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Tofail (77), an advisory council member of AL and a former minister, was flown to India in an air ambulance on September 1, after he became ill.

Before being taken to India, the MP from Bhola-1 was taken to the capital's Square Hospital for observation.

2 die, 265 hospitalised

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action earlier against BRTA and the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh for similar reasons," he said.

Over at Dhaka South City Corporation, a group of Dhanmondi residents formed a human chain at Science Laboratory seeking intervention of the prime minister to take necessary steps to contain the dengue outbreak.

They also burnt an effigy of the DSCC mayor at the programme.

They asked the mayor to take responsibility for DSCC's inability to contain dengue outbreak.

Among others, president of Nagorik Udyog Mohammad Nazim, co-ordinator of BD Tourist Cycling Ashik Uddin Soinik, Manob Adhikar chairperson Samity Manzur Hossain, and Bangladesh Sacheton Nagorik Samaj's Rana Rahman addressed the human chain.

Hotlines

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Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur. In recent times, Bangladeshis in various parts of the world reported troubles in securing renewed passports. It took four to five months to get the much-sought after document that's very important for them while working abroad.

Many said they were facing risks of getting undocumented or losing jobs and even losing the scope of getting regularised in the foreign land.

Khastagir said due to the pandemic, the high commission has introduced online system for passport application and delivery through post offices.

"We have introduced the phone numbers so that instead of going to the brokers, migrants can directly call the high commission for getting their problems addressed," he said.

Bar council

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The attorney general shall be one of the members of the ad-hoc bar council and shall also be its chairman, it said.

"Notwithstanding anything contained in any other provision of this order, the ad-hoc bar council shall exercise such powers and functions of the Bar Council as specified in this order and the rules made thereunder," it added.

COX'S BAZAR EVICTION DRIVE

12 forest staffers hurt in attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 12 forest department staffers were severely injured in an attack while coming back from an eviction drive in Cox's Bazar yesterday morning.

The incident happened in Juariyana union of Ramu upazila, said police.

Two range officers of Juariyana Range and PM Khali Range are among the injured, said Anup Kumar Chowdhury, acting OC of Ramu Police Station.

They were taken to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital. Touhidul Islam, divisional forest officer of Cox's Bazar, said they went to demolish illegal structures built on forestland, when miscreants attacked with sharp weapons.

The forest department filed a case with Ramu Police Station, said the OC.

Dolphin found dead near abandoned ship

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A dead dolphin with injury marks was found near an abandoned ship at Chattogram's Parki beach on Friday afternoon.

It had several injury marks on its body, said Md Delwar Hossain, Anwara upazila livestock officer.

He said they could not identify the species of the dolphin and buried it near the seashore.

Shekh Jobaer Ahmed, Anwara upazila nirbahi officer, said they found the dolphin near the "Crystal Gold" ship, which has been left abandoned in Parki beach area for the last four years.

A man of originality

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interest to East Bengal. Throughout his political life, he advocated for provincial autonomy and the political, economic and cultural rights of the Bengali people.

Abul Mansur Ahmad's publications include great satires like Aina, Asmani Purdah, Gulliver Safar Nama, and Food Conference.

His works also include important writings on social and political history of Bengal. He has two autobiographical writings -- Atma Katha (About Myself), and Amar Dekha Rajniti Panchash Bachhar (50 years of politics as I saw it).

Abul Mansur Ahmad always propagated secularism in a manner unparalleled in the forties, fifties

and sixties. His contribution towards opposition movement in the early days of Pakistan was extremely significant.

As in previous years, to mark his birth anniversary, an essay competition was held this year. Ten participants won in three categories.

Rabindra University former vice chancellor Prof Bishwajit Ghosh said, "Abul Mansur Ahmad was a multi-talented man. We can learn a lot from his life and work. It is undoubtedly a great initiative to organise an essay competition on his achievements. I hope this endeavour will inspire future generations to grow an interest in history."

Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star, Mahfuz Anam, said

Friendly competition brings delight to anglers

2-day fishing festival concludes in Cumilla



PHOTO: STAR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

A two-day fishing festival in Cumilla city ended yesterday night, with participation from over 500 amateur anglers from all over the country.

The festival took place at the historic Dharmasagar Dighi in the town.

Monjur Kader Moni, a ward councillor of Cumilla City Corporation, said, "The festival began on Friday. Over the two days, we saw anglers come in from Dhaka, Sylhet, Chattogram and more regions, with their fish hooks to try to catch the biggest fish they can."

Around 90 fishing platforms were made out of bamboo on the banks of the dighi, with wood surrounding their edges, festival sources said. Each platform was rented for Tk 17,000, with 10 of them being sponsored by the district administration, police, and others.

Anglers caught fish from all sizes and shapes, including rui, bighead and carp.

Thousands of city dwellers visited the festival to watch the anglers have a go at it. Locals said the occasion brought a vibrant mood to the area. The gathered audience cheered together every time someone caught a big fish, they said.

হারানো বিজ্ঞপ্তি
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e-Tender Notice 01/2021-2022

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of supply	Last date and time of tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
1.	599751	Procurement of Books and Journals for Seminar and Central Libraries for Govt. Debendra College, Manikganj.	23 September-2021 13:00	23 September-2021 14:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to 22 September, 2021 16:00. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Professor Dr. Md. Rezaul Karim
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GD-1579

Lost lives and abandoned

FROM PAGE 3

We also remove stagnant water from ground floors of the houses voluntarily, even though this hazard has been deliberately created by DSCC," said Ferdous.

"DSCC workers rarely visit this area to kill mosquitoes. They never took any initiative to clean up the sewerage line," he alleged.

"We even get filthy water at our homes, and we don't have gas supply for months. Meanwhile, DSCC is making the entire area unliveable by heightening roads in an unplanned manner.

They often say that our buildings are illegal structures, but they have issued holding numbers for them, and we pay holding tax regularly," said an agitated Ferdous.

WHAT AUTHORITIES SAY
Contacted, Meer Hossain Miru, councillor of ward-53, said DSCC's efforts to control mosquitoes is not sufficient. "We have also asked locals to inform us about mosquito

constraints, DSCC workers cannot visit all parts of the neighbourhood regularly. So, we are focusing more on raising awareness, so that people themselves can maintain hygiene and cleanliness," he noted.

About unplanned road restoration, the councillor said, "I do not support such unplanned heightening of roads. Many people have lost their homes, businesses and income sources due to this road heightening project. This is also one of the reasons behind this deteriorating dengue situation."

However, DSCC has categorically denied the allegations of negligence and blamed the local inhabitants for building illegal structures and causing pollution.

Asked, Abu Naser, public relations officer of DSCC, said, "Our workers regularly visit all the wards to kill mosquitoes and clean up the potential breeding grounds." "We have also asked locals to inform us about mosquito

discussants have analysed different aspects of Abul Mansur Ahmad in a meaningful manner.

"His works were well appreciated. Some participants raised critical questions which are necessary to understand this great thinker better," he added.

Kolkata University's associate professor of Bangla Language and Literature SK Rafikul Hossain said some of the great author's works have been included in the syllabus of the university's Bangla department.

His books on political issues will also be included in the syllabus of the history department. Gradually, his ideas will spread among scholarly classes in Kolkata, he added.

A total of 72 essays were submitted

this year in three categories: "Abul Mansur Ahmad and His Cultural Thought", "Abul Mansur Ahmad and His Nationalism" and "Abul Mansur Ahmad in Journalism".

Ishita Farzana, Aziz Sartaz Zayed and Mohammad Muhibullah won the first prize, while Asmaul Hussaine, Muhammad Nuruddin Shahid and Alif Nur Sharmi were the first runners-up. The second runners-up were Tasneem Tisha, Mostafizur Rahman Safi, Sulaiman Mahmud and Kamrul Hasan Masuk.

Among others, Prof Md Abul Kashem of Rajshahi University's history department, journalist and researcher Kazar Rashid Shaheen and essayist and researcher Quadrat-E-Huda spoke at the event.

'Continue movement'

Says Fakhru quoting Khaleda

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday said their party Chairperson Khaleda Zia asked them to continue the movement to "restore" democracy without losing courage and hope.

"I met our leader Begum Khaleda Zia a few days back. She told me not to lose courage or become demoralised. She said stay strong and keep your morale high as the victory will be yours," he told a discussion.

A faction of Jatiya Party (Zafar) arranged the programme at Jatiya Press Club, marking the sixth death anniversary of its late chairman Kazi Zafar Ahmed.

He died on August 27, 2015, aged 76.

Fakhru urged the youth to come forward to "restore democracy" by "ousting" the current government through a movement.

He said AL leaders are now making remarks about Zia's grave and his role in the Liberation War as they have no other issues to talk about.

"The main issue is now procuring vaccine as it's necessary to save people's lives. But you [AL] still couldn't get it for even four percent people. You've failed to vaccinate people..." said Fakhru.

He said the government is unable to procure the vaccine as it is busy with indulging in corruption in vaccine procurement.

The BNP leader alleged the country's existence and sovereignty are now at stake due to the "misrule" and subservient foreign policy of the Awami League government.

Delimitation bill

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The committee was asked to submit its report before the House within four weeks.

Provisions of punishment have been kept for violating the proposed law. The punishment would be a maximum of two years' jail or Tk 5,000-Tk 5 lakh fine.

The current law, The Highways Act, 1925, which has only five clauses, is not adequate to deal with maintenance, management and construction of highways.