

20 hurt as bus overturns in Jatrabari

5 killed, 6 injured in other road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least 20 people were injured after a bus overturned in Bishwa Road area in the capital's Jatrabari yesterday, UNB reports.

The accident occurred around 6:30am when the driver lost control over the speeding bus of Bandhan Paribahan, said Monir Hossain, one of the injured.

The injured were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said Bacchu Mia, inspector in-charge of DMCH police outpost.

Seven of the injured are Omar Ali (30), Monir Hossain (35), Md Shahique (32), Shahnaz Begum (35), Md Rafi (7), Md Jony (25) and Munny Akter.

Our Dinajpur correspondent reports, two people were killed and two were injured in separate road accidents in Rangpur and Dinajpur yesterday.

The deceased are Rafiqul Islam (48) of Rangpur's Kaunia upazila and Saleh Begum (67) of Dinajpur's Ghoraghat upazila.

Kaunia police said Rafiqul was driving his auto-rickshaw to Kurigram from Rangpur. Around 6:00am, a bus driver lost control and hit the auto-rickshaw at Shahidbagh, killing him instantly.

After hitting the auto-rickshaw, the bus rammed into a roadside shop, injuring two.

Ghoraghat police said Saleh Begum was heading to work in the morning, and a truck hit her on Dinajpur-Gobindaganj road.

UNB from Feni reports, an auto-rickshaw driver and a woman riding it were killed and four of its

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Padma Bridge tour package launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation's (BPC) "Padma Bridge Visit" tour package was launched yesterday.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism M Mahbub Ali inaugurated the bus-tour package at a programme at the Parjatan Building.

The package titled "Dream Padma Bridge Visit" will be operated every Friday and Saturday.

Through this trip, tourists will be able to enjoy a ride on Padma Bridge in daylight, as well as in the evening and night. Bookings can be confirmed by reaching BPC at 01941666444, 01300439617 and 02-41024218.

While inaugurating the package, the state minister said using Padma Bridge, domestic and foreign tourists will now be able to visit Kuakata beach, Sundarbans and other tourist spots in the southern region in a short time.

"Various tourism facilities will be created on both sides of Padma Bridge through Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation," he said.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry Secretary Md Mokammel Hossain, BPC Chairman Md Ali Kadar, Bangladesh Tourism Board Acting Chief Executive Officer Abu Tahir Jaber and different stakeholders of the tourism sector were present at the event.



Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-15	12-45	5-00	6-54	8-15
JAMAAAT 4-50	1-15	5-15	6-58	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



This road of Mirpur-10 stays full of garbage vans, parked under the flyover. And so, traffic congestion has become a staple for commuters going through.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Mirpur-10 MIRED IN GRIDLOCKS

Commuters point to hawkers, chaotic parking as reasons

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Mirpur-10 roundabout has become a nightmare for commuters, as parked vehicles, hawkers and garbage have made gridlocks a constant presence there.

Due to the abundance of motorbike garages and spare-parts shops around the area, hundreds of two-wheelers stay parked on the roads and alleys haphazardly, and so, moving through the area in cars and rickshaws is an ordeal.

On top of that, the footpaths are occupied by hawkers, so even pedestrians are not spared from the misery.

The Daily Star came across this scenario after visiting the area recently and talking to the people.

Meanwhile, owners of street shops are regularly extorted, according to them. A major share of the money allegedly goes to police and a section of local leaders and activists of the ruling party's front organisations.

Talking to a number of shop owners, who would not be identified on grounds of security, they said each owner has to pay between Tk 100 and 500 daily, depending on how much space they have occupied on roads and footpaths.

For some lucrative spaces, the amount can go up to Tk 1,000 daily, they added. Each owner also has to pay Tk 50 as electricity bill to designated people, known as linemen.

The situation around Falpatti Road, which connects commuters to Mirpur Road, is even more appalling.

The important road remains almost blocked from morning till late night, as cargo



trucks of courier and parcel services load and unload goods haphazardly by parking on the road. If that was not bad enough, they keep their stuff on footpaths. Parked cars and shops on the road add to the problem.

Dumped garbage and vans to collect it also keep a major part of the road unusable during the day and causes severe traffic congestion. "Often, it takes me 10 to 20 minutes to pass the area... Sometimes, it even takes half an hour," said Abdullah Al Mamun, employee of a private bank, who lives just 100 metres away from Falpatti Road.

He said many locals have been enduring the situation, but no one looks into the matter.

Regarding the allegation of police taking extortion money from shops, Deputy Commissioner of Mirpur Division ASM Mahtabuddin said, "Did anyone who paid the money lodge any complaint with the police station?"

After this correspondent told him that the allegation was made by locals, he replied,

Have you taken any measures... What's the point of complaining to you?"

Local councillor Humayun Rashid Johny said, "I have tried several times, but just an hour after eviction, they occupy the road, and the situation becomes the same."

To address this, authorities are going to initiate a programme involving different government and non-government organisations for six months on a pilot basis, he said.

Under the programme, places will be marked for parking and hawkers, he added.

"When I try to remove occupiers, a quarter gets in the way. So, we need support from all," Johny said.

About garbage being dumped on Falpatti Road, the councillor said they have already made a garbage station at Shewrapara. Garbage from different areas will be dumped there initially and will then be carried to Aminbazar dumping ground.

New dengue variant found

Repeated infections involving different variants may lead to severe cases

HELEMUL ALAM

Bangladeshi researchers have detected a new variant of the dengue virus in the country. This implies that dengue patients are at higher risk of severe conditions, due to repeated infections involving different variants.

According to the experts, the dengue virus has four variants – DENV-1, 2, 3, and 4.

DENV 1, 2 and 3 were detected earlier, but DENV-4 has been detected in Bangladesh for the first time this year, said an official of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

"We have tested samples from the dengue patients and found them carrying DENV-3 and 4 variant," said Prof Tahmina Shirin, director of Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR).

However, she did not disclose the total number of samples tested, as this is an ongoing process.

Besides, DENV-2 was found in a Rohingya camp earlier this year, said another DGHS official.

According to HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital, if a person who was previously infected with one of the variants contracts dengue through a different variant, risk of mortality can also go up. But early detection of the infection and

“We are getting patients suffering from three diseases – Covid-19, dengue and influenza. So, there is no chance to take it lightly if anyone has a fever.”

HM NAZMUL AHSAN
Associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital

immediate hospitalisation can significantly lower the risk.

Nazmul found that most patients requiring hospitalisation this year had been infected before and are coming to the hospital in critical condition with haemorrhagic or plasma leakage and diarrhoea.

"In our country sore-surveillance is low. If we could conduct this properly every year, then we would be able to accurately determine which variants are affecting people," he said.

Patients who are coming to the hospital are secondary patients, and the number of primary patients are few, he said, adding that everyone will have to focus on preventive measures.

"We are getting patients suffering from three diseases – Covid-19, dengue and influenza. So, there is no chance to take it lightly if anyone has a fever," he opined.

Emphasising on conducting Covid and dengue tests after fever, Nazmul said, "Severity of such diseases can be avoided if diagnosed early."

For dengue, a person will have to do an NSI test on the first day of fever, he added. High fever, body pain and headache are some common symptoms of dengue.

"If the amount of sneezing and cough remains high, then we think it is influenza, and if there is less cough and sneezing with high fever, then we think it is dengue," Nazmul explained.

Dr Md Niyatuzzaman, acting director of Mugda Hospital, however, said most of the patients they are getting have the "classic" dengue. These cases are less severe, but every patient with dengue symptoms has to come to the hospital, and doctors will decide whether the patient needs to be admitted.

According to DGHS data, 35 dengue patients were hospitalised across the country in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday. With this, the number of confirmed cases this year reached 2,014. Five died of dengue so far.



Abandoned tyres collected from different parts of the city are being separated by a worker according to size. Materials extracted from these are sold for Tk 40 to 42 per kilo at different scrap shops. The remaining tyres are sold to different companies, which turn them into bitumen used for road repairs. The photo was taken in Mohammadpur's Beribadh area yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Mass awareness crucial for safe migration: speakers

UNB, Dhaka

Speakers highlighted the importance of creating mass awareness in preventing human trafficking to encourage citizens for safe migration at a meeting in Shariatpur yesterday.

Politicians, media, NGOs, mosque imams and teachers have been requested to play an active role in this regard.

The town hall meeting on "Preventing Human Trafficking and Encouraging Safe Migration", held at the Pourashava auditorium of Shariatpur, was arranged by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with cooperation from Shariatpur District Administration.

Nahim Razzaq, lawmaker and member of the parliamentary standing committee on foreign affairs ministry, spoke as the chief guest.

During the event, foreign secretary Masud Bin Momen moderated a session on lessons learnt related to illegal migration to Libya, Italy and other countries.

Secretary of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Dr Ahmed Munir Saleheen moderated another session on recommendation and way forward.

Bangladesh has made key progress in combating human trafficking by increasing investigations, prosecutions, and convictions against human traffickers, according to the US State Department's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report 2022 published recently.

However, there is still much work to be done to identify and care for trafficking victims and eliminate the exploitation of workers seeking to work overseas, according to the report.