



Two killed, 8 hurt as bus hits truck

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

The driver of a truck and an assistant of a BRTC bus were killed and around eight passengers injured after the bus hit the truck in Gaibandha yesterday.

The accident occurred on Bogura-Rangpur highway in Gobindaganj upazila around 4:30pm, confirmed Mahbur Rahman, officer-in-charge of the Gobindaganj Highway Police Station.

Monju, 32, the truck driver from Taluk Kanupur village, died on the spot while the bus helper, who could not be identified immediately, succumbed to his injuries on the way to a hospital, said the OC.

"The truck and the bus were heading towards the same direction. In Masta area, the truck had to make a hard stop seeing a child crossing the road. At that time, the bus hit it from behind."

The injured were in the bus, he said.

Production at Barapukuria Coal Mine suspended

UNB, Dinajpur

The production at Barapukuria Coal Mine has been halted from December 29 due to maintenance work, said mine authorities.

The production will resume within February after relocating all equipment, said Rashed Kamal, deputy general manager of the coal mine.

A total of 2.71 lakh tonnes of coal were extracted under the current phase, he added.

Vulture falls prey to electioneering

The endangered bird was mistaken for eagle, symbol of Habiganj-2 independent candidate



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulibazar

With election knocking at the door, candidates and their supporters are trying to come up with various strategies to woo voters.

One such gimmick at Mokar haor in Habiganj, however, went a bit too far.

On Sunday, locals caught an endangered vulture in the area.

As news spread, supporters of an independent candidate for the Habiganj-2 constituency seized the opportunity, campaigning day and night with the bird, mistaking it for an eagle -- the electoral symbol of their candidate Abdul Majid Khan.

Hundreds gathered to witness the "spectacle". After two days of exposure, the vulture fell ill.

To make things worse, the vulture was not fed in the meantime, according to Upazila Livestock Officer Md Saifur Rahman.

The forest department intervened on the third evening, and the endangered vulture was rescued from the clutches of its captives on Tuesday.

Tofail Ahmed Chowdhury, range officer of the forest department,

said it is a rare species of vulture from the Himalayas. "The bird is currently sick, it will be released when it fully recovers," he added.

Contacted, independent candidate Majid Khan said, "I don't know about the matter. I don't have any involvement in it."

Programme Manager of International Union for Conservation of Nature Sarowar Alam Dipu, said,

"Catching a wild animal, be it a vulture or an eagle, is punishable as per Wildlife Conservation Act."

"Moreover, vultures are a near threatened species. The one caught in this case was a migratory bird, which fell on the ground after becoming sick. Despite that, they campaigned with the bird for two days, violating related laws," he added.

Tofazzal Sohel, general secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon's Habiganj unit, said it is a matter of regret that the administration played a silent role in this matter.

Contacted, Md Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, former divisional forest officer in Sylhet, said the vulture population in our country is 260 as per a report of 2015-2016. No further census has been conducted since then.

Manoj Dutta no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalist Manoj Dutta passed away on Friday due to old age complications. He was 70.

Manoj breathed his last at a city hospital.

He left behind his wife, daughter and son.

Manoj had been working in the editorial section of the Weekly Chitrali and Daily Destiny for a long time.

The family members have requested all to pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

Will close polling centres if fake votes cast

Says EC Ahsan Habib

UNB, Dhaka

Election Commissioner Ahsan Habib Khan yesterday said any polling centre where fake votes are cast will be shut down, and the presiding officer of the centre will be fired.

He made the remark at a training workshop of election officers ahead of the 12th parliamentary election at Sharsha upazila auditorium in Jashore.

"Everyone, including locals and foreigners, is looking forward to the next election," he said.

The administration and all units of law enforcement agencies are working to set an example in the January 7 election, learning from the past, he added.

4 of a family die from electrocution

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Four of a family were killed after being electrocuted in Mymensingh's Nandail upazila yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Anwara Begum, 55, her son Jamal Uddin, 35, and Jamal's daughters Faiza, 6, and Faria, 4.

Police and locals said Jamal was an auto-rickshaw driver by profession and had been living with family members at Birghoshpala village in the upazila, reports UNB.

Jamal plugged his battery-run auto-rickshaw into an electric board to be charged at his house on Saturday noon. The vehicle somehow got electrified.

At first, Jamal was electrocuted as he stepped into the vehicle. Hearing his screams, his daughters rushed to save him and met the same fate. When Anwara tried to save them, she also got electrocuted.

Hearing the news, locals rushed to the house just to find all the family members dead.

Local Union Parishad Chairman Shahab Uddin Bhuiyah said the electrocution happened when Jamal was bringing out the vehicle which got electrified earlier.

Nandail Model Police Station's Officer-in-Charge Abdul Majid said they recovered the bodies from the spot after hearing about the incident.

'BGB to ensure peaceful voting atmosphere'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Border Guard Bangladesh will work to ensure a peaceful voting atmosphere, said its Director General Maj Gen AKM Nazmul Hasan yesterday.

The BGB chief came up with the remark after visiting the BGB camp in the port city's GEC area.

A total of 177 platoons of BGB have been deployed in Chattogram. Each platoon consists of 30 BGB personnel.

BGB will discharge their duties alongside police, Rab, and armed forces before and after the elections till January 10.

PRAYER
TIMING
DEC 31



	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	5:30	12:45	4:00	5:27	7:00
Jamaat	6:05	1:15	4:15	5:30	7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

DMP issues directives

FROM PAGE 3

Citizens who do not live in Gulshan, Banani, Baridhara, and DU areas are discouraged from visiting these areas on 31st night.

No gathering or event can be held in Hatirjheel after 6:00pm and no vehicle can be stopped or parked there.

No bars in Dhaka can be kept open after 6:00pm on

December 31.

Residential hotels will be able to hold events under their own management on a limited scale.

No licensed firearms can be carried to residential hotels, restaurants, public gatherings, and events in Dhaka from 6:00pm on December 31, 2023 till 5:00am on January 1, 2024, the release added.

We're ready to tackle

FROM PAGE 3

not to participate in it. If they continue in peaceful way, that would not be challenging.

Asked about internet connectivity during the elections, the CEC said internet bandwidth will not be slowed down during the polls. "But if anyone tries to share fabricated information, we will take

stern action," he said.

"There are many propaganda centring the elections. We are warning everyone against those, and assuring that the elections will be held in a free, fair, and credible manner."

Earlier in the day, the CEC met the candidates from all constituencies in Sylhet.

AL, JP can spend up to Tk 4.5cr

FROM PAGE 3

Sangskritik Muktirote 63 and Bangladesh Nationalist Movement 54.

The rest of the 18 parties have fielded less than 50 candidates. According to the RPO, they can spend Tk 75 lakh each.

As per the law, these parties will have to submit the expenditure statement to the EC within 90 days of the election.

In 2018, AL informed the EC their expenditure for the polls was Tk 1.05 crore. In that election, the party fielded 261 candidates. BNP, which fielded 256 candidates, spent Tk 1.11 crore and Jatiyo Party's expenditure was 4.52 lakh for 178 participants.

During that election, Islami Andolan Bangladesh's expenditure was the highest -- Tk 2.14

crore for 298 candidates.

Seven political parties Liberal Democratic Party, Bikalpadhara Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Khelafat Andolan, Gonoforum,

Jatiya Ganotantrik Party and Bangladesh Sangskritik Muktirote informed the EC that they did not have any party wise expenditure for the 2018 polls.

1.89 lakh cops

FROM PAGE 3

At least 125 people were injured in polls violence, 10 election camps were set on fire, and four structures were damaged.

The returning officers in the constituencies are taking measures in case of complaints, and the police are helping them, Anowar said, adding that police will act as per instructions given by the presiding officers at polling centres.

The DIG also said additional forces were deployed in the vulnerable areas.

Asked whether 26,000 leaders and activists of BNP-Jamaat were arrested, Anowar said, "We do not have the number of how many their (BNP-Jamaat) men are among the

arrestees. Police, however, are only arresting those found involved in criminal offence."

Asked whether distribution of anti-election leaflets is being prevented, Anowar said voters have the right to either vote or not, but no one has the right to prevent voting.

"Our special drive is going on to recover illegal weapons. A circular has also been issued banning the display and carrying of legal arms. No one can display or carry legal arms during the election."

"We have received two complaints regarding display of weapons. Investigation, however, found that those were toys," he added.

Expatriates

FROM PAGE 3

Momen said the foreign ministry, through its different missions, has been providing services to Bangladeshi expatriates.

With deeper coordination among relevant ministries, it will be easier to provide better services to the expatriates, he added.

At the programme, the expatriates' welfare ministry recognised expatriates with

"CIP (NRB) Awards" for their economic contributions in three categories -- for direct investment in Bangladesh's industry sector, sending the highest amount of remittance through authorised channels, and importing Bangladeshi products.

A total of 241 expatriates received the award for the years 2021, 2022 and 2023.

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Office of the Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-1)
Soydabad, Sirajganj.

Ref: 27.28.8878.101.07.001.19.384 Date: 30/12/2023

e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tenders have been invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd):

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Brief Description of Tender	Publication Date	Last Selling Date & Time	Opening Date
1	919147	Spare Parts for GT BOP Field Instrumentation and Actuators	27/12/2023	28/01/2024, 15:45	29/01/2024
2	919148	Spare Parts for ST BOP Field Instrumentation and Actuators	27/12/2023	28/01/2024, 15:45	29/01/2024
3	919150	Spare Parts for HRSG Field Instrumentation and Actuators	27/12/2023	28/01/2024, 15:45	29/01/2024

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 (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Engr. Brojendra Kumar Sarker
Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-1)
NWPGL, Soydabad, Sirajganj.

GD- 2032