



PHOTO: STAR

Authorities removed the lid of a manhole on a stretch of Bishwa Road near Kuril bus stand in the city to clean the sewerage line about a month ago, but left the work unfinished making the passers-by vulnerable to accident.

ROAD ACCIDENTS ON DU CAMPUS

Authorities seem indifferent to problem

KAMRUL HASAN KHAN

As frequent road accidents occur on and around Dhaka University campus causing deaths and injuries to students every year, the authorities concerned seem to be indifferent in taking steps to prevent the accidents.

At least six students died in separate road accidents and about 10 others injured on the campus in last seven years.

During all these years, the university authorities constructed only a road divider and an island on campus roads and took some measures to bar heavy vehicles from entering the campus which is yet to be safe for about 30,000 students.

The latest victim Mobarak Hossain, a first year student of management, who was severely injured in a road

accident at Shahbagh intersection on Monday afternoon, is now fighting for life in intensive care unit of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, said on-duty doctors.

After every road accident, students demonstrate against the failure in taking preventive measures by the authorities who renew their pledge to meet their demands and after some days they send the matter to cold storage, alleged some students.

"If the authorities would have taken appropriate steps to prevent road accidents, Mobarak might not be one more victim," said a student.

On May 28 of last year, Shammi Akhtar Happy, a third year student of psychology department and a resident of Rokeya Hall, was killed in a road accident at Shahbagh intersection.

Hundreds of students were injured by brutal police attack on the demonstration that took place to protest the death of Happy.

The students protested the authorities' failure in ensuring their safety and demanded ban on the movement of heavy vehicles on campus roads and foot over-bridges on the intersections.

The demand for ban on heavy vehicles and foot over-bridges at six entrances to university came forefront after Saiful Islam Riad, a BBA student, was killed in a road accident in front of the Teachers Students Centre on March 24, 1999.

Chaman Ara Parvin Champa, a second year student of philosophy department, was killed in a road accident at Palashi intersection on October 30, 2001.

On the same day of next year when

students were observing Champa's first death anniversary, another student Rubel Sarwar of geology department died falling from a bus as the helper pushed him out of the running bus in front of Fazlul Haq Hall.

Before the completion of one year, Rafiqul Islam Sagar, a biochemistry student, was killed when a bus hit him at a place adjacent to Chankarpul area on September 23, 2003.

Proctor Prof AK Firoz Ahmed said the authorities are always careful about students' security.

"We have taken many steps to avert road accident on the campus and we are thinking of further steps in this regard," he added.

MATERNAL, CHILD HEALTHCARE

Professionals not performing duties to achieve MDGs

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh possesses adequate infrastructure to achieve millennium development goals (MDGs) in maternal and child health sector, said the speakers at a seminar yesterday.

They said creating awareness among the stakeholders and performing of assigned duties by the professionals concerned could help achieve the targets.

The seminar on 'Achieving Millennium Development Goals on Maternal and Child Health in Rural Bangladesh: Lesson Learnt from GK Programme Villages' was organised by Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) at its conference room at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city.

Presenting the keynote paper Dr Rafiqul Huda Chowdhury, adviser of Gonoswasthya Kendra (GK) and director of GK Population and Health Economics Research Unit, said in order to achieve MDG maternal mortality rate (MMR), we have to bring down the MMR to 143 per lakh.

The GK has already brought down the MMR to 186 at 592 villages under 31 unions in 11 districts where it is now working, he added.

He said according to national data the current MMR is 320 which was 570 in 1990.

Dr Rafiqul said in order to

achieve MDG infant mortality rate (IMR), we have to bring down the IMR to 32 per thousand.

The GK has already achieved 30.3 IMR in their project area, he added.

He said according to national data the current IMR is 56 and it was 94 in 1990.

Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, executive director of GK, said there is adequate infrastructural facilities in the country to achieve the goals

but the professionals are not performing their duty properly.

He said most of the physicians of public hospitals are busy in private practice and that's why general patients are not getting their service.

Dr Zafrullah said the GK has achieved the two targets by creating awareness among the local people and using the prevailing infrastructures.

He urged the professionals and authorities concerned to discharge

their duties properly to help achieve the MDGs.

Presided over by BIDS Director General Dr Quazi Shahabuddin, the seminar was participated by BIDS Research Director Dr Asaduzzaman and different NGO representatives.

ARMS CASE

Hearing on govt petition for withdrawal of case held

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday heard the government petition for withdrawal of the arms case against three low-profile criminals of infamous Six Star Group.

Judge Mohammad Nuruzzaman of the Special Tribunal-7 did not pass any order on the issue.

The prosecution and the defence made submissions on the issue saying that the home ministry had earlier decided to withdraw the case filed against them.

The case was filed against Abul Baqui Khan Shipon, Mohammad Shariful Islam Uzzal and Abul Kalam with Motijheel Police Station on August 21 in 2001 during a caretaker government rule.

The home ministry in a letter in March, 2003 informed the district magistrate of Dhaka that it wants to take back the charge against Uzzal as it was "politically motivated".

The ministry asked the magistrate to hand over the matter to the district public prosecutor (PP) who it said will arrange withdrawal of the case with permission from an appropriate court.

PP Abdullah Mahmud Hassan on May 17, 2003 filed a petition with the Seventh Special Tribunal, Dhaka along with a photocopy of the home ministry's missive.

After hearing both the sides, the judge on October 6 the same year rejected the petition.

The home ministry again in a letter on February 6 informed the district magistrate of Dhaka that it still wants to have the arms case against Uzzal, Shipon and Kalam withdrawn, as it was "politically motivated".

On February 28, PP submitted another petition to the same tribunal.

A team of Detective Branch (DB) police arrested the three on August 21, 2001 at South Shahjahanpur in the city's Motijheel area. They seized two pistols and one rifle and 73 bullets from them.



PHOTO: STAR

14-party stages a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday protesting price hike of essentials.



PHOTO: STAR

Food and Disaster Management Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf speaks at a policy roundtable on 'What More Can We Do to Reduce Hunger and Malnutrition' at CIRDAP auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right are Dr Atiur Rahman and Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman and on his left is Douglas Broderick. World Food Programme (WFP) and The Daily Star jointly organised the roundtable.