



Doctors for Health and Environment and Nagorik Sanghati form a human chain at Shahbagh in the city yesterday protesting Israeli attack on Lebanon.

Five killed in road accidents in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Five people were killed and five others injured in four separate road accidents in the district here yesterday.

Sources said the first accident took place when a truck collided head-on with a motorbike carrying two people from opposite direction at Alampur Munshi Masjid area near Mirerhat under Hathazari upazila at

around 8:00am.

In the accident, motorbike riders Anwarul Islam and Hafizur Rahman, programme organisers of Brac, Hathazari branch, were severely injured.

They were rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where Anwarul succumbed to his injuries at around 11:00am.

Anwarul, 30, son of Hasmat Ali Molla hailed from Bengula of Gopalpur union under Tangail.

A case was filed with Hathazari Police Station in this connection, sources said.

Two people died on the spot in another road accident when a CNG-run auto-rickshaw collided head-on with another auto-rickshaw at Baro Dighirpur area under Hathazari upazila.

The victims were identified as Shah Alam, 60, son of Abdul Jalil of Hathazari and Shamsu, 25.

Meanwhile, another road accident occurred when a tempo skidded off and fell into a roadside ditch at Giri Chowdhury Hat area under Patiya upazila at 1:30pm leaving one person dead on the spot and four others injured.

The dead was identified as Barek Mia Faruq, 25, and the injured were Arati Sarker, 25, Ratan Sarker, 30,

Tapan Sarker, 35, and Rasheda Khatun, 32.

BSS adds: Purbani Das, 7, daughter of Nukul Das of Jahanabad in Sitakunda upazila and a student of class two, was run over by a tempo on her way to school. She was rushed to CMCH where doctors declared her dead at around 11:00am.

Govt urged to appoint ombudsman for RMG sector

UNB, Narayanganj

Speakers at a roundtable here yesterday urged the government to appoint an ombudsman for the garment industry to look after the interests of the highest foreign exchange earner.

They also underscored the need for changing the mindset of garment owners for restoring a production-friendly atmosphere in the apparel industry.

Samomona, a platform of former members of Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU), organised the roundtable titled 'Crisis and Prospect of RMG Sector' at the conference room of Narayanganj Club.

Noted economist Dr Atiur Rahman was the main speaker at the roundtable, chaired by Abdus Sobhan of Samomona.

Vice president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Lutfar Rahman, vice president of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) Kashem Jamal and labour leaders Shirin Akhter and advocate Mahbubur Rahman Ismail also took part in the discussion.

DU exams postponed

UNB, Dhaka

All the examinations of Dhaka University, scheduled for July 31, have been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances.

Fresh dates for the postponed examinations will be announced soon, said a press release.

However, the schedules for other examinations will remain unchanged.

6 students held with firearms in Rajshahi

BSS, Rajshahi

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested six students of Rajshahi Polytechnic Institute (RPI) with firearms and ammunitions yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, Rab-5 members raided Shah Niamatullah Hall at around 2:30 am and picked up six residential students from room no. 212 and 214.

The team recovered one country made pipe gun, one foreign revolver, six bullets, three cocktails, eight iron pipes, six iron rods and some other lethal weapons from the rooms.

The arrestees are Liton Chandra Das, 21, Mehedi Hassan, 20, Afzal Hossain, 20, Mahbub Russell, 20, Sirajul Islam, 19, and Belal Hossain, 20.

Zone introduces Shahadat Chy Memorial Award

Zone, a monthly magazine, honoured Shahadat Chowdhury, an eminent journalist and freedom fighter, posthumously at the launching ceremony of the magazine in the city on Friday, says a press release.

The magazine also introduced Shahadat Chowdhury Memorial Award, which will be given under six categories – best fashion magazine, best editor, best designer, best graphics, best model and best photographer.

Paying tribute to Shahadat Chowdhury, editor of the weekly magazine Shaptahik 2000 and the pioneer of lifestyle journalism in the country, speakers at the programme said the full extent of his contribution to culture and the media cannot be measured by only this generation.

His legacy will live on in generations to come and it is for him that we now live in a more habitable and liberal Bangladesh.

Rokia A Rahman, former advisor to the caretaker government, was present as the chief guest while Geeteera Shafia Chowdhury as a special guest.

They handed over a crest and a cheque for Tk 20,000 to Selina Chowdhury, wife of Shahadat Chowdhury.

Kawshiki Tupa Naser, editor-in-chief of the Zone, said, "It's our privilege that we are today formally starting our journey with Zone by remembering and honouring Shahadat Chowdhury, who has always been and will always be an inspiration."

Cultural personality Sara Zaker and Selim Khan also spoke on the occasion.

Shahadat Chowdhury's daughters, Sasha and Esha Chowdhury, journalist Shaymol Dutta, Shafikul Islam, fashion designer Mahin Khan, Zone Editor and Publisher Faqur Chowdhury were present at the programme held at the Spectra Convention Centre.

Help ensure quality edn

Speakers urge corporate houses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Country's corporate business houses can play effective role in ensuring quality education if the government plays the role of facilitator and NGOs the role of catalysts, said the speakers at a view exchange meeting yesterday.

The meeting titled 'Corporate engagement and government facilitation: Corporate social responsibility for quality basic education' was organised by Bangladesh Parliamentary Caucus on Education in co-operation with People's Empowerment Trust (PET), Advancing Public Interest Trust (APIT) and MRC-MODE at the National Press Club in the city.

Although the business houses and other benevolent persons have long been contributing to the spread of education in the country, the culture of corporate responsibility is yet to be popularised here, said General Member of APIT Maliha Shaha while presenting her paper on 'Corporate Engagement and Government Facilitation: Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Education.'

PET Research Co-ordinator Moin Uddin Ashraf in another paper titled 'CSR and parliamentarians' role: A way forward' said the business houses can form 'umbrella group' for their co-ordinated efforts to turn country's youth into skilled manpower.

The government, on the other hand, should amend and eventually make laws to assist business corporations in their activities on quality education, he suggested.

He also laid emphasis on specific government policies and suggested formation of regulatory body to supervise corporate house-sponsored activities on education.

As incentive for business houses that contribute to education sector, Nazmuzzaman Bhuiyan of Dhaka



Prof Muzaffer Ahmad speaks at a view exchange meeting titled 'Corporate engagement and government facilitation: Corporate social responsibility for quality basic education' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

University in his paper propounded for tax exemption.

As recognition of their contribution he also suggested giving award to the highest contributing house in the sector.

The government should specify the core areas of education first and then welcome the business houses to come forward to work in those particular areas, said Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, an eminent economist.

Vice-chairperson of Parliamentary Caucus on Education Faruk Khan MP urged the NGO-people to launch social movement against all evils prevailing in the society.

State Minister for Education AN M Ehsanul Hoque Milon said the parliamentary caucus on education is first of its kind in the world.

With members from all political parties the caucus has been formed

to forge united movement to ensure education for all, he added.

Any business house seeking name, fame and advertisement can come forward to set up new educational institutions or develop the institutions which are lagging behind, he said, adding, "The government would make necessary arrangement in this regard."

Chairperson of the caucus Abu Eusuf Muhammad Khalilur Rahman MP presided over the programme which was addressed by Gulam Habib Dulu MP, Shajahan Khan MP, DR Abdur Razzaque MP, Khaleda Rabbani, Rasheda Begum Hira MP, Khelada Panna MP, Tawfique Ahmed of MRC-MODE, Arfan Habib of Bank Asia, Rubina Faruk and Hasina Newaz from corporate sector and dabbir Bin Shams of APIT.

Hasina to meet Kushtia, Jessore leaders today

BSS, Dhaka

As part of the ongoing meetings with grassroots leaders, Awami League (AL) President and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina will exchange views with AL leaders of different district and poura units under Khulna division from today.

Hasina will exchange views with the leaders of Kushtia and Jessore from 9:00am to 2:00pm today and Meherpur, Chuadanga and Narail tomorrow.

Besides, the AL chief will exchange views with the leaders of Khulna district and city units on August 2 and Jhenidah district on August 3.

She will also meet the leaders of Satkhira on August 4 and Bagerhat and Magura districts on August 6.



Justice Sultan Ahmed and Justice Noyeemuddin Ahmed discuss a point at a meeting titled 'Corruption and price hike of essentials are major obstacles to establishing human rights', organised by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.



Chittagong Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury speaks at a press conference, organised by Nagorik Committee, at Chittagong Press Club in the city yesterday.

Build suspension bridge

Mohiuddin reiterates demand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury yesterday reiterated his demand for constructing a suspension bridge on the river Kamaphuli.

He said people of Chittagong would accept no other bridge than a suspension one with a view to protecting the country's premier port.

The mayor was speaking at a press conference organised by the Nagorik Committee on this issue at Chittagong Press Club.

He threatened to announce an agitation programme from a rally at Laidighi Maidan on August 5 to press home the demand.

Mohiuddin said he was pursuing for a suspension bridge to protect the riverbed from serious siltation that would ultimately harm the port.

The mayor denied the allegation of making a conspiracy to obstruct the development of Chittagong.

He said despite the opinion of Chittagong Port Authority, Water

Resource Division, BRTC, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology and River Research Institute in favour of a tunnel or suspension bridge the government is going ahead with pillar-based bridge.

The mayor said he would meet the experts and members of civil society at a view exchange meeting at Hotel Imperial in the capital on August 3.

Mohiuddin said he would also request the communication minister to stop the launching ceremony of the project on August 7.

The Roads and Highways Division has fixed August 7 as the date for starting physical construction work of the proposed Third Kamaphuli Bridge through a ceremony at the project site.

Nagorik Committee Convenor Dr Abu Yusuf Alam, city Awami League General Secretary Kazi Inamul Hoque Danu, and Secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh Chittagong unit Shah Alam were present at the press conference.