



PHOTO: STAR

Jute mill workers barricade Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Faujdarhat under Sitakunda upazila yesterday demanding salary arrears and reopening of the mills.

3 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Three unidentified people were killed in separate road accidents in Sirajganj and Pabna on Wednesday night and yesterday.

Our correspondent from Sirajganj reports: Two unidentified people, including a child, were killed and two others injured in a road accident on the Dhaka-Bogra highway at Solomile area at Raiganj upazila in Sirajganj on Wednesday night.

Police and witnesses said the accident took place at around 10:30pm when a Sirajganj-bound bus from Bogra hit a rickshaw from behind.

The boy aged about 12 and the old man aged about 55 succumbed to their injuries on the way to hospital. Identities of the two could not be known immediately.

Police sent the bodies to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Our correspondent from Pabna adds: An unidentified man aged about 40 was killed in a road accident in Pabna in the early hours of yesterday. The accident occurred when a Dhaka bound speedy bus ran over a passer-by at Pabna bus terminal at about 6:00am, leaving him dead on the spot.

Enrolment in pry education has increased

Says Unesco report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Unesco estimate suggests that total adult literacy rate in Bangladesh in 2005 was 41.5 per cent. Among them, 47 per cent were male and 36.7 per cent were female. The result indicated that females are yet to enjoy the basic right than their male counterparts although enrolment in primary education has increased.

However, more than 60 million people in the country still remain illiterate. Among them, 40 million are adults.

The concept of Adult Literacy and Learning (ALL) follows the basic understanding of literacy and is applied to people aged from 15 to 45, who never attended schools or have been dropped out or have attended schools but subsequently relapsed because of lack of practice, said Prof SM Mahfuzur Rahman of Finance and Banking Department of Dhaka University.

According to a report by Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (Banbeis), Gross Enrolment Ratio was 43.7 per cent in 2002 and

was 45.19 in 2003. The figure jumped to 64.5 per cent in junior section and secondary level in 2005, said a report by Education Watch.

But the drop out rate still prevails and it is reported 79.9 per cent last year. Drop out rate among men is 73.6 per cent and 74.5 per cent among women. However, the rate was 83.43 per cent in 2003.

As the drop out rate is still high in the country, the adult literacy programme needs attention and if the parents are educated they would be able to guide their children, said Director of Unesco Wolfgang Vollmann at a press briefing at the National Press Club yesterday.

Even after completing primary education for five years, 32 per cent of them are not literate, he said. "Illiterate parents, lack of quality primary teachers, overloaded curriculum for the children, lack of proper equipments in schools and environment are the main reasons behind such illiteracy," he observed.

Though the government has taken various programmes since 1992, the

adult literacy programme is slow for lack of fund.

As the government does not pay heed to the adult literacy programme, the non-government organisations also give less importance in this regard, said Ahmadullah, research director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission.

According to a Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) report published in 2003, the adult literacy rate (above 15 years) was 47.5 per cent in 2001 while it was 38.8 per cent in 2002, reported by Education Watch and 41.5 per cent in 2005, reported by Unesco and Dhaka Ahsania Mission (Dam).

Wolfgang Vollmann said the key benefits of Adult Literacy is that it provides improvement in professional skills, creates opportunities for better employment, increases income, improves quality of living and contributes towards quality primary education.

More donations to AMCH

Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH) has received Tk 1,42,60,000 in donations to its fund in July and August, says a press release.

Those who donated to the hospital in the two months are Wahid, Shahida Begum, Munira Morshed Munni, Nadia Khan, Debabrata Mollick, Mishal Ahmed, Sultanuddin Ahmed, Shaheen Akhtar, Md Badrul Hossain, M Alam Chowdhury, Mohtaseem Karim, Fareen Sultana, Abdullah Al Masud, Dr AFM Kalamuddin, Iqbal Ahmed, Monwar Aziz, Engr. Raiqur Rahman & Brothers, Kaniz Fatima, Hasina Khan, Kafiuddin, Firoz Haidar, Alhaj Md Shamsuddin Mollah, Engr. Harris (Washington), Tawhid Imrose Khalidi, Principal Zeba Ali, Barrister Rafique-ul Haque, Jamaluddin Kader Choudhury and Agrani Bank. Tk one lakh was donated in the name of late Hasina Biswas.

An amount of Tk 1,49,403 was collected from the donation boxes placed at various places in the city.

The construction work of Tk 200 crore hospital at Uttara is going on as per schedule.

GRAFT CHARGE AGAINST ULIPUR POURA CHAIRMAN Contractors continue agitation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Contractors under Ulipur Municipality in Kurigram continued demonstration yesterday for the second consecutive day demanding a fresh bid for construction of roads.

They have staged a sit-in on Kurigram-Ulipur road for one hour in the afternoon to protest what they say the manipulation and corruption of the municipality Chairman Haider Ali in a tender of Tk 56 lakh for road construction under a World Bank project.

They also held a rally on the local press club premises in the morning on Wednesday and asked the municipality chairman to cancel the tender and float fresh tender notice for the works.

They alleged that the chairman unlawfully kept the tender notice hidden with an intention to give the work to his chosen contractors at 15 per cent above the rate.

The contractors observed that the works could be done at least 10 to 15 less than the estimated rate provided the bid was kept open to all enlisted contractors.