

7 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least seven people were killed in separate road accidents in the city, Tongi, Brahmanbaria and Chittagong yesterday.

Our Staff Correspondent reports: Four people were killed in separate road accidents in the city and Tongi yesterday.

An elderly woman, around 50, was injured seriously when a Mishuk turned upside down in front of the Mirpur 14 Police Camp at about 1:30pm yesterday.

The accident occurred when Lily Islam accompanied by her grand daughter Fabiha, 4, was going to Mirpur 6 from Kachukhet riding the three-wheeler. Fabiha was also injured.

They were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where on duty doctors declared Lily dead.

Fabiha said her father's name is Abu Hanif Sarkar and mother's name Monia and hails from Mirpur 6.

Meanwhile, Zakir Hossain, an employee of Uttara Bank Motijheel Branch and a resident of Mirhazirhagh, was run over by a bus while he was crossing a road at Mirhazirhagh at about 8:30am. He succumbed to her injuries at DMCH at about 11:30am.

Ahsanullah, 28, a driver and resident of Khilgaon, was run over by a three-wheeler auto-rickshaw on Saturday evening when he was returning to his residence at Khilgaon from his workplace at Dhanmondi riding a bi-cycle.

He died at DMCH early hours of yesterday.

Sharif Ahmed, 30, was run over by a bus at Board Bazar area in Tongi on Saturday night.

He was rushed to DMCH at about 12:30am yesterday where on-duty doctor declared him dead.

Our Correspondent from Brahmanbaria adds: Two people were killed in road accidents on Dhaka-Brahmanbaria highway in last two days.

A bicycle rider was crushed to death by a BRTC bus at Ghatara yesterday.

The victim was identified as Khokon Mia, son of Yousuf Mia of Hariandi village under sadar upazila.

According to eyewitness and police, Khokon was going to Brahmanbaria at about 11:30am when the BRTC bus bound for Dhaka dashed his cycle and crushed him under the wheels.

He died on the spot. The angry locals blocked the road for two hours.

On information police rushed to the spot and restored the road communication at 1:30pm.

The body of the victim was sent to sadar hospital for autopsy.

No case was filed till filing of this report.

In another incident on Saturday night, a van driver was killed when an ambulance rammed into his van at Shuhilpur village under sadar upazila.

The dead was identified as Osman, 35.

Police seized the ambulance but the driver and helpers managed to escape.

The autopsy of the body was done at sadar hospital.

A case was filed in this regard.

CU Correspondent reports: One person was killed in a road accident at Tigerpass Intersection in the port city yesterday.

The victim identified as Mohammed Karim, 35, was a rickshawpuller.

The accident occurred when a bus knocked Karim's rickshaw at around 7:00am, leaving him seriously injured, sources said. He succumbed to his injuries on the way to hospital.

Police seized the bus while the driver managed to flee.

Check rapid population growth at any cost: PM

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said there is no alternative to check rapid population growth calling the phenomenon as the main obstacle for "national progress and prosperity and threat to social balance".

"We will have to check it (rapid population growth) at any cost," she told a rally of field level officials and employees of Family Welfare Department at Paltan Maidan here.

The Prime Minister apprehended that unless effective steps could be taken the existing trend of population growth would make the population size 17.20 crore in 2020 dwindling further the cultivable land, squeezing the living space for people and endangering further the already endangered environment.

Besides, she said, such a situation would also make it difficult to offer the basic healthcare for the people.

According to official estimates, the current population growth rate is 1.43 percent against 2.01 percent in 1991.

Khaleda Zia appreciated the family planning officials and employees for their efforts to check the growth rate but simultaneously urged them to intensify their initiatives to bring down the growth rate further.

"There is no room for self-complacency with this level of success," she said.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharruf Hossain, State Minister of the same ministry Mizanur Rahman Sinha and Director General of Family Welfare Department Abdul Mannan, among others, spoke at the rally chaired by Health and Family Welfare Secretary AKM Zafarullah Khan.

The prime minister identified the previous Awami League government's policy to stall several family planning programmes which have caused a major setback for the campaign.

"They had stopped the door to door motivation distribution of contraceptives causing severe stalemate for the family planning campaign," she said.

She, however, said with the reintroduction of the campaign under her government, the family planning campaign now got a momentum reducing the mother and newborn mortality rate.

Khaleda said as part of her government's commitments, the jobs of all levels of family planning officials and employees have already been transferred from development sector to revenue head.

This action, she said, removed the uncertainty from the minds of 44,000 family planning officials and employees about their service.

"We expect this action of ours will create fresh inspiration in you in discharging the duties in a rejuvenated manner," she said.



Chief Secretary to the Treasury of the UK Stephen Timms MP calls on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office in the city yesterday.

Ensure rights, welfare of children: Khaleda

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon all to come forward at individual and organisational levels side by side with government initiatives to protect child rights and ensure their welfare.

"Upholding child rights and ensuring their welfare will be possible only if we all make meaningful contributions to child development," she said while inaugurating World Children Day and Child Rights Week 2006 at Osmani Memorial auditorium here.

The Prime Minister said all will have to be devoted in building a child-friendly society to ensure a bright future for them.

She recalled her address at the special UN session on children on May 10, 2002 and said, "Children are our greatest resource and the source of delight. They are the future of the country, the nation and the world."

She said children are the centre of her government's development efforts. "We have proved it through our works during the past years. The trend will continue in future too," she added.

Referring to the importance of the role of families to protect rights of children, she said behaviours of family members have impact on their physical and mental health.

"Therefore, the family members will have to be conscious while dealing with children. They will have to listen to the children," she added.

The Prime Minister said a supportive and congenial environment will have to be created for children where they will feel comfortable and their talent will flourish.

Chaired by State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Alamgir Kabir, the function was also addressed by the Ministry's Secretary Kamal Uddin Ahmed, Bangladesh Shishu Academy Chairperson Prof Zubaida Gulshan Ara and child representatives JSA Marshal and Mehruma Tabassum Sejuti.

Unicef country representative in

Dhaka also spoke on the occasion.

The function was rounded off with a cultural show presented by the child artistes of Shishu Academy.

Ministers, lawmakers, representatives of international development agencies, officials and a large number of children were present at the function. The theme of the day was "We will hear the children and groom them up - the world will cheer."

Stressing the need for ensuring health and education, the Prime Minister said Bangladesh has ratified the UN charter on child rights and the Saarc charter on children. Keeping them in view, the government has been implementing various programmes, she added.

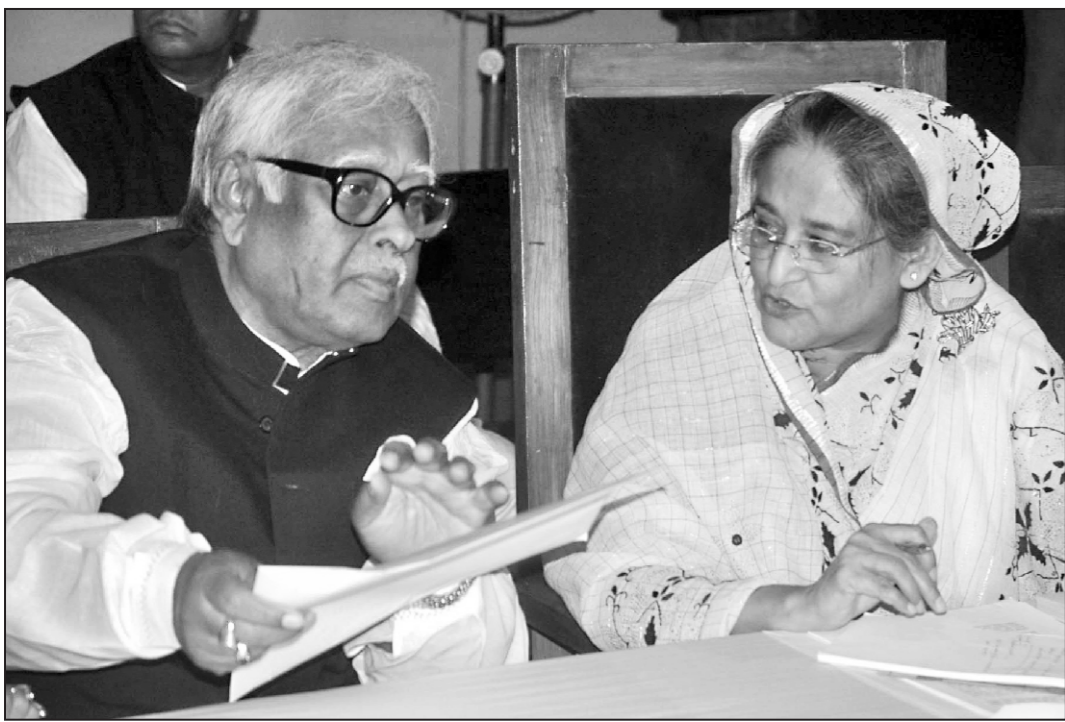
The Prime Minister recalled that Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman established Bangladesh Shishu Academy in 1976 which helped develop the children in cultural field and clinch gold medals in international competitions.

She listed a number of steps taken by the present government for overall development of children and protection of their rights. The steps are in education, health, sanitation, nutrition, immunisation and legal fields.

The PM said measures have been taken for appointment of an ombudsman to protect child rights.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia speaks at the inaugural ceremony of World Child Day and Child Rights Week 2006 at Osmani Memorial Hall in the city yesterday.



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina discusses a point with General Secretary Abdul Jalil at a seminar on "Electoral process and caretaker government: Reforms in the light of experience" at Engineers' Institution auditorium in the city yesterday.

Malaysia proposes joint initiative for tourism dev

BSS, Dhaka

Visiting Malaysian Minister for Tourism Datuk Sari Tenku Adnan Tenku Mansur yesterday proposed joint initiative with Bangladesh in the area of tourism saying Bangladesh can be beneficiary of his country's experiences.

He made the proposal while exchanging views with State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir at his secretariat office here.

The Malaysian minister, who is heading a nine-member delegation, said Bangladesh has vast potentials to attract tourist interests and it can develop them in line with Malaysian experience.

Senior officials of the ministry of tourism, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation and civil aviation department, were present during the meeting.

The Malaysian minister said visit to rural areas and eco-tourism may be some very attractive areas where Bangladesh can generate tourist interest. For that, necessary plans must be implemented, he said.

Tenku said more people from Bangladesh can visit Malaysia and the two-way movement may bring good to both the countries.

He also stressed the need for developing skilled manpower to promote this sector, adding that Bangladesh can take assistance from his country.

The two ministers also discussed on issues of mutual interests, specially about joint initiatives and the areas where it can be taken up.

Death anniversary



Today is the seventh death anniversary of Sheikh Alema Khatun, former chairperson of Solidarity Bangladesh, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at 2/3 Block-A, Lalmitia in the city and at her village home in Satkhira.

224 die in 'crossfire' in 9 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcers killed 277 people across the country in last nine months of whom 224 met their end in "crossfire", says a report of Odhikar, a rights organisation.

Among the victims, 139 were killed by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), 120 by police, six by BDR, four by Detective Branch (DB) of police, four by coastguards, three jointly by coastguards and forest guards and one by forest guards.

Besides, 48 people died in jail custody and 11 others in thana custody during the same period.

For political reasons, Odhikar in its report, based on stories published in 14 leading national dailies and their own investigation, said a total of 243 people were killed, 14400 injured, 3595 arrested and 45 abducted across the country.

In Chittagong Hill Tracts, 24 people were killed, 271 injured, 34 arrested, 21 abducted, three raped and three others went missing.

During this period, one journalist

was killed and 138 others injured, apart from 12 attacked, 35 assaulted, four arrested, 79 received death threats while cases were lodged against 95. Besides, a press club, two printing houses and two newspaper offices were attacked.

The report said 521 women were raped in last nine months across the country. Of them 104 were killed after rape and 12 committed suicide after being violated.

Besides, 122 people including 14 children and 78 women fell victims to acid violence while 275 people faced dowry-related violence and of them 205 were killed for dowry, 55 were tortured, five received acid burn injuries and seven committed suicide.

As many as 813 children also faced torture and 271 of them were killed, 180 raped, 113 injured, 72 kidnapped, 14 sustained acid burn, seven arrested, 115 went missing and 41 took their lives.

One killed as villagers clash in Bhola

BSS, Bhola

A man was killed and 25 others injured in a clash between two groups of villagers at Bilpara under Karimganj upazila in the district yesterday.

Police and locals said the clash erupted at around 11:00am yesterday as two groups of Mathurapara and Bilpara villages locked horns over arresting five villagers last night.

More than 100 villagers locked in the clash using different types of lethal weapons. At one stage Noor Uddin, 40, of Bilpara was wounded as a piece of brick thrown by the rivals hit him. He later succumbed to his injuries.

Twenty five others from both sides were also injured in the clash.

Contribution of journo Sunil Banerjee recalled

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a memorial meeting at the National Press Club in the city yesterday recalled the contribution of journalist Sunil Banerjee to journalism.

They discussed about the illustrious career of Sunil and said in his death the country has lost a talented journalist.

They also condemned the rude behaviour of the management of the Daily Janakantha with Sunil before his death and expressed deep concern over the prevailing situation in the daily.

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) acting President Kartik Chatterjee and Secretary General Abdul Jalil Bhuyian, DUJ General Secretary Omar Faruque, former general secretary of Jatiya Press Club Swapan Kumar Saha, DUJ Organising Secretary Nur-e-Jannat Akter Shima, National Press Club Managing Committee member Kazi Rounak Hossain, Ahsan Ullah and Mirinal Chakraborti spoke at the meeting.

Sunil Banerjee's wife Shikha Banerjee and son Shubhashish Banerjee also spoke.

Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) organised the meeting with its President Altaf Mahmud in the chair.

RU crop science deptt lapses one year

RU CORRESPONDENT

Crop science and technology department of Rajshahi University (RU) which was launched one year ago, is yet to start functioning for want of classrooms.

Teachers, officials and employees of the department are spending lazy time although they have been drawing monthly salary and enjoying other facilities of the university for a year.

The teachers do not have to take classes and examinations and perform other departmental activities for want of students.

Earlier, RU authorities decided to open the department in 2005 and permitted admission of 25 students.

But the admission of students could not take place for want of classrooms, the department sources said.

Teachers of agriculture faculty comprising four departments met with Pro-vice-chancellor Prof Mammunul Keramat at his office last week demanding allocation of class rooms and immediate admission of students in the department under 2006-07 session.

After the meeting, Khairul Alam, a teacher of the faculty, told the reporters that the Pro-VC has assured them of admitting students from the current year and they will attend their classes at other rooms of agriculture faculty.

Meanwhile, several hundred students of four departments under the agriculture faculty have been agitating to press home their 10-point demand including adequate classrooms and laboratories.

They also observed strike on the campus several days in last month to realise their demands. Talking to reporters, RU Registrar Prof Abdus Salam said shortage of classrooms is not a serious problem as students of many departments of the university at the initial stage had taken their classes under the tree or on the rooftop of other buildings.

The authorities of crop science and technology department can start taking classes in the existing classrooms of other neighbouring departments.

He however assured to arrange classrooms for the students.

JCD men beat Bhola AL leader

UNB, Bhola

JCD activists allegedly beat up Doulatkhan Upazila Awami League President Nasir Uddin Khan in Banglabazar area yesterday when he was campaigning for his party's district conference scheduled to be held tomorrow.

Khan was admitted to Bhola Sadar Hospital with severe injuries. Angry AL workers put up blockade on Bhola-Doulatkhan Road and damaged several vehicles including a microbus in protest against the attack.

Witnesses said AL and JCD-BNP

workers also chased each other during the clashes when three JCD workers were injured.

In the evening, BNP local MP Hafiz Ibrahim held a protest rally at Banglabazar area to protest what he called Awami League's attacks on his party workers.

Awami League alleged that JCD launched the attack on Nasir Khan in a bid to disrupt AL Bhola district conference.

Police have strengthened their patrol in Doulatkhan Upazila where a tense situation has been prevailing.



Police intercept a procession of RMG workers at Noor Hossain Square in the city yesterday that was heading towards Bangabhaban to submit a memorandum to the president urging him not to sign the new labour bill.

Husband donates eyes of deceased wife

With noble intentions, a husband donated his deceased wife's eyes to Sandhani International Eye Bank, says a press release.

Rajab Ali, husband of the deceased Angura Begum, has established an example yesterday by donating the eyes of his wife Angura Begum, 45, who succumbed to her injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) on September 30 following a road accident.

Hearing the news, councillors of Sandhani International Eye Bank rushed to the hospital and proposed Rajab to donate his wife's eyes.

Rajab has done a noble job by giving his wife's eyes as a visually impaired person would be able to get his or her sight back now through these eyes, said Sandhani authorities.

They also said they are grateful to Angura Begum and her families.

President fit for normal duties with limited outdoor activities

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed, who has undergone cardiac surgery recently, is "fit for normal duties", with limited outdoor activities.

A medical board, headed by National Professor (Retd) Brig Gen Dr MA Malik, gave the opinion after reviewing the latest state of health of the President at Bangabhaban yesterday.

"Outdoor activities should not exceed once and twice per week, and the duration of such activities should not be more than 30 to 60 minutes," a release from the President house quoting the medical board said.

The physicians expressed satisfaction at the progress of "rehabilitation programme of the President", said M Mukhlesur Rahman Chowdhury, Press Secretary to the President.

Other members of the board are Maj Gen MA Moyeed Siddiqui, Maj Gen MG Rabbani, Prof KMHS Sirajul Haque, Brig Gen Sheikh M Bahar Hossain and Lt Col Mamunur Rahman.

Food shops fined for selling adulterated Iftar items in Chittagong

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A mobile court in separate anti-adulteration drives in different areas of the port city yesterday fined Tk 1 lakh and 52 thousand to seven food shops for producing, preserving and selling adulterated iftar items.

Sources said the court led by Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Magistrate Mohammad Munir Chowdhury in different drives at city's Patenga, Halishahar, EPZ and Saltgola areas fined the amount to seven restaurants, fast food shops and bakeries.

The fined shops are Rajdhani Hotel and Restaurant, New Cafe Rubel Hotel and Restaurant, Arman Cooling Corner, Rosy Hotel and Biriani House, Cafe Al Ajmir Hotel and Biriani House and New Cafe Shukkur Hotel, Biriani House and Moon Bakery.

The mobile court, formed in association of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) and Bangladesh Standard Testing Institute (BSTI), also seized 25 kg of food items, including rotten and impure iftar items, impure palm oil and rotten onion and destroyed them, sources said.

During the drives, the court found that workers in those shops were producing and selling iftar items on the footpath in unhygienic condition.

The court also seized huge quantity of sweets full of insects from Moon Bakery at Patenga area.

Weather Today section with a sun icon and a table showing temperature and humidity for Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, and Cox's Bazar.

Dhaka Today section with a sun icon and text about Human chain, Symposium, and World habitat Day events.