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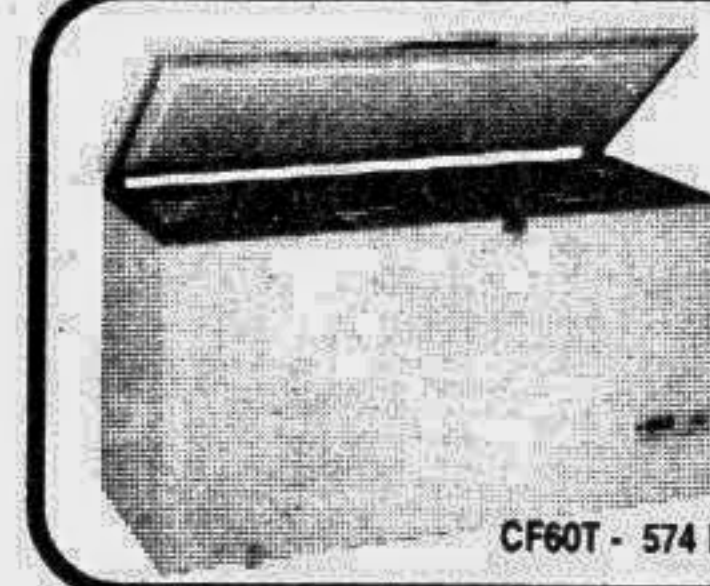
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Road accidents kill 7 in N'ganj, Sherpur

By Staff Correspondent

At least seven people were killed and 40 others injured in separate road accident in Narayanangj and Sherpur yesterday.

Of them, three were killed in Narayanangj and four in Sherpur.

Our Narayanangj correspondent reports: Three people were killed and 15 others injured, two of them seriously, in a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Dewanbag in front of 'Cute pally' under Bandar thana at about 3:30 pm yesterday.

The accident occurred when a Noakhali bound passenger bus from Dhaka collided with a private car coming from the opposite direction.

All died on the spot. Of the dead, two were identified as: Sohel, 27, of Panchabati under Fatullah and Mizan, 35, of Masimpur under Luxmipur thana. The 25-year-old woman in the private car could not be identified immediately.

Two of the injured were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where attending doctors stated their condition to be critical. Others were released after first-aid.

Police seized the bus. The driver, however, managed to flee.

The bodies were sent to Narayanangj general hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was registered with bandar thana in this connection.

UNB adds: At least four people were killed and 25 others injured in a road accident at Jhenigati thana on the Sher-

pur-Jhenigati road in Sherpur yesterday.

Three of the deceased were identified as Shafi, 15, Abul Kalam, 45 and Lutfar Rahman, 26. Two died on the spot while a 12-year-old unidentified boy succumbed to his injuries on way to hospital.

All the victims were enroute to Sherpur from Jhenigati by bus to watch BNP's long-march led by Khaleda Zia.

Police said the accident took place at about 2:45 pm when the goods-laden truck hit the passenger bus at Koari. The bus fell into a roadside ditch.

Of the injured, four were admitted to Sadar Hospital while two others admitted to Jhenigati thana Health Complex.

Drivers and helpers of both the vehicles managed to flee the scene.

Mannan Bhuiyan indisposed

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan fell sick and drove back to the capital from the ongoing road march yesterday evening, reports UNB.

He is suffering from viral fever, party sources said.

They said the party secretary general returned with permission of the party chairperson, Begum Khaleda Zia, who is leading the three-day political campaign against the government.

President

From Page 1

The President said the principal objective of learning was to acquire knowledge and build up a strong character. He said if a student graduating from a university is devoid of these qualities, then the whole objective of education becomes meaningless.

He said the education sector of the country was being given the highest allocation in the national budget. But, he said, bulk of the budget allocation was being spent for constructing buildings, procuring educational inputs and paying salary to the teachers. As a result, he observed, the primary objective of such allocation to produce educated workforce with strong character was not being attained.

Kader Siddiqui

From Page 1

ership of the party, he said it is representing 'rich upper-class' and 'they don't have any connection with the grassroots level workers'. In this respect, he demanded proving of the popularity of the present party General Secretary through proper election.

He also renewed his demand for providing monetary benefit for freedom fighters and the families of affected soldiers.

To another question on opposing Ganges Water Sharing Treaty, he said that he would have supported the treaty 'unconditionally even if it was signed during the tenure of Begum Khaleda Zia'.

Replying to another question on his controversial statements and alleged ties with the main opposition BNP, he said, 'I am not doing anything behind the screen. I am doing everything openly'.

Without elaboration, Siddiqui said he will speak 'everything' to the press at the Jatiya Press Club in the first week of August.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her entourage march in the funeral procession of the late King Hassan at Rabat on Sunday. —PID photo

Bangladeshi gets Magsaysay award

MANILA, July 26: The Ramon Magsaysay Awards, Asia's version of the Nobel prizes, were Monday shared between leading Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Taiwanese and Philippine figures, reports AFP.

Angela Gomes, who heads Bangladesh's women's organization, Banchette Shekha, won the prize for community leadership while Cloud Gate Theater of Taiwan founder Lin Hwai-min bagged the prize for journalism, literature and creative communication arts.

The award for government service went to Tasneem Ahmed Siddiqui, head of Pakistan's Sindh Katchi Abadi Authority, while Rosa Rosal of the Philippine National Red Cross won the prize for public service.

Philippine publisher Raul Locsin, who runs Manila's BusinessWorld economic daily, shares the award with Lin.

The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation said no award was being given this year for international understanding, although no reason was given.

One shot dead in Pirojpur

PIROJPUR, July 26: A middle-aged man, defeated in the last UP chairman election, was killed by rivals in Bhandaria this morning, reports UNB.

The police said Salam and Babul along with their supporters attacked Abu Talukder of Gouripur Union when he was returning home from nearby Folk Khali Bazar after having breakfast at about 6:30 am.

Sex workers allege torture at govt homes, officials deny the charge

By Nazmul Ashraf and Ehsanul Haque

Sex workers, sheltered in two government homes, have complained that they have been subjected to physical torture after their eviction from two Narayanangj brothels Thursday, their relatives and human rights activists said.

When their relatives, a number of activists and some journalists visited the government homes for sex workers where 267 sex workers had been housed since Thursday, they were told of stories of torture.

But government officials said the 267 sex workers at the two homes at Gazipur were undergoing a 'motivational' programme.

According to the officials, seven counsellors have been engaged for 227 sex workers at Kashimpur home and 40 at Pubail home, both in Gazipur.

Primarily, they said, the counsellors were trying to change the pattern of living of the sex workers, who had long been habituated to a life style suited to their profession.

'You know, they used to have sleepless nights to entertain their clients. Many of them are smokers and have other forms of addiction,' one official said. In the past three days, most of them had been 'tamed'. Others were refusing to come to terms with the changed course of life. 'They would just roam around, gossip, smoke, and sometimes shout before going to the bed late at night.'

'Our plan is to continue counselling for 10 to 15 days. Then we'll list those willing to go through the rehabilitation process and offer them various vocational courses. Those unwilling to be rehabilitated would be free to decide their fate,' said Mir Shahabuddin, Director General of Department of Social Services, who is supervising the project. 'There will not be any coercion.'

Unocal takes over

From Page 1

Magurchara gas explosion, the company chief said he had already met the Environment Secretary on the issue. 'I told we want to arrive at a solution accurately and rationally.'

Termining the Tk 603 crore environmental loss claim scientifically baseless, the Unocal chief said the accidental had done a study and the Department of Environment should do a separate one.

'If there is a significant difference, we have agreed to accept a third party to settle it.'

Replying to a question whether the Unocal has any differences with the Petrobangla on takeover of the Occidental in Bangladesh, Terry Budden said there are times when friends disagree.

'We have some problems now, but we are resolving those. It's like marriage. Learning from living together, learn to cooperate and make the relationship stronger,' he told newsmen.

The Bangladesh assets involved in the transaction include two production-sharing contracts covering Blocks 12, 13 and 14 (3.4 million acres) in northeastern Bangladesh in which Unocal already held 50 per cent working interests.

The Jalalabad Gas Field, located in Block 12, currently produces 60 to 100 million cubic feet of gas and 1,000 to 1,600 barrels of condensate per day from four wells and an associated gas plant.

Initial gas deliveries to Bangladesh's national energy company, Petrobangla, for domestic use began in February 1999. The field contains an estimated 1.6 trillion cubic feet of gas in place.

Additional Bangladesh assets include the world-class Bibiana Gas Field located in Block 12, discovered in 1998 and successfully appraised with a second well in 1999.

Bibiana Field contains an estimated 3-5 trillion cubic feet of gas in place. These subsidiaries will continue to conduct business as OBL and OEBL until an assignment of a Unocal name is completed and recognized by the government of Bangladesh.

The assets acquired by Occidental Petroleum Corporation include 28.57 per cent working interests in the production-sharing contract of the East Shabwa contract area in the Republic of Yemen, operated by Total.

The three producing fields in the contract area are Kharir, Atuf Northwest and Wadi Taribah. Current gross production from the fields is approximately 15,000 barrels of oil per day.

Responding to a query as to whether Unocal favoured gas export, Terry Budden said it was not the question of export. 'The question is a commercial market... an economic market.'

He said Unocal is in Bangladesh as a contractor company of the Petrobangla. It is not the duty of Unocal to find a market to sell gas as Petrobangla is the buyer.

He told the reporters that they had never pursued Bangladesh to export gas.

Regarding the future of Bangladesh officials and employees of Occidental, he assured there would be no job loss.

But there will be some changes at management and expert levels. Some have already been changed, he informed.

Bid to prove murder a suicide?

By Staff Correspondent

Relatives of the couple who were arrested on charge of killing their house maid Jahanara on Sunday are allegedly trying to prove the murder as suicide with the help of police, said relatives of the victim and local people.

Jahanara, 18, was killed when Faruk Ahmed and his wife Rukhsana, the employer of the dead, allegedly threw her from the roof top of a building after torturing her in the city's Bashabo area in the early hours of Sunday.

Hajera, sister of the victim and also the informant of the Jahanara murder case told The Daily Star yesterday the first information report (FIR) was written by the police and she just put her initials to it.

In the FIR it was not mentioned that Jahanara was thrown from the roof top.

Relatives of the victim alleged that police initially suggested them to reach a compromise over the matter with the accused couple who were later arrested. Police also told Jahanara's relatives that they would not be able to continue the case, but if they do everything as advised they will receive a good amount of money.

Sirajul Islam Khan, the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Shabubagh thana, however, denied the allegations, yesterday.

The deceased's sister, Hajera, alleged that on a number of occasions Jahanara went to her house in Hazaribagh complaining about the landlord's torture on her. Each time Faruk used to go to her house and persuade her to come back.

Neighbours alleged that Faruk and his brother, who also used to live with him, are basically rude and unsociable persons and they used to torture the girl, regularly. Jahanara left the house on several occasions but later they brought her back.

They also said that Faruk's spouse was away from the house for more than one and a half year following a family feud. During the period Jahanara took care of the couple's lone child.

They alleged that she was working in the house for more than six years and her salary was not paid for a long time, that is why she was forced to come back, repeatedly.

Faruk's mother said that Jahanara was ill tempered and unpredictable. She alleged a hat on the night of the occurrence she hit Faruk on the forehead with a one litre coca cola bottle after an altercation as the maid had cooked too much vegetable for dinner.

When this correspondent visited the house of Faruk at the city's Bashabo area two bottles were found missing from the bottle cage. Pieces of broken glass were strewn under the wardrobe but there was no blood stain in the house or the spot where she reportedly fell.

Faruk's mother explained that Jahanara was so emotional after she hit Faruk and at one stage at about 4 a.m. she jumped from the third floor rooftop.

When asked, why the incident of suicide was not included in the FIR she said that she was astonished that it was so. Narrating the reason why the victim was taken to the hospital two hours after the incident, she replied it was not true and that she was taken to the hospital immediately after the incident had occurred.

Except the family members

none in the area said, the girl fell from the building. Several neighbours when contacted said they had not heard anybody fall from the rooftop that night.

Officials at the forensic department at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) said that an official of the medical college who also happens to be a brother of Faruk's wife, tried to influence the doctors.

Meanwhile the forensic department has sent the physical alama (evidence) to examine whether she was raped before being killed.

A murder case was lodged with Shabubagh thana in this connection which mentions that she was murdered in a planned way.

However, when contacted OC, Shabubagh thana Sirajul Islam Khan told The Daily Star 'We have not heard of any incident of fighting inside the house.'

He also said that they are investigating the case but they have failed to get any clue 30 hours after the incident.

Three dacoits held with arms in city

By Staff Correspondent

Three dacoits were caught red handed with firearms when the gang tried to flee after looting cash money from a shop in the city's Sayedabad area Sunday night.

According to witnesses, a gang of seven dacoits entered Rupom Food Products at Sayedabad and looted Tk 1.6 lakh in cash at gun point at about 7:45 pm.

When the employees of the shop cried for help, the other shopkeepers rushed to the spot and caught three of the gang while the four others fled with the money.

Mamun, an employee of the shop who was stabbed by the dacoits, was rushed to a local clinic.

Rickshawpullers, transport workers clash at Pabna: 50 injured

PABNA, July 26: About 50 people were injured in a series of clashes as the rickshawpullers tried to enforce a half-day hartal in the town today to protest the death of a rickshawpuller, Manjil by a running bus on Sunday, reports UNB.

The clash erupted at about 10:30 am when three wheelers tempo and other transport workers brought out their vehicles on the road ignoring the hartal.

About a dozen tempos and minibuses were damaged during the clash that continued till 2 pm.

The police fired 10 tear gas shells and used clubs to disperse the clashing groups who pelted stones at each other.

The rickshawpullers also brought out a procession with the body of Manjil, 18.

Manjil and the passenger of his rickshaw, Advocate Shahidullah were fatally injured by a bus allegedly carrying Jamaat activists, Sunday evening in front of the Vocational Training Institute. Both of them died in Pabna general hospital.

Scandal: DU hands over NSU student to police

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University authorities yesterday handed over a student of North South University (NSU) to police and suspended a gardener of Fazul Haq Hall for their alleged involvement in a scandal at the hall.

The student and the gardener were identified as Mohammad Ridoy and Mojibur Rahman respectively.

A press release issued by Provost of the hall Prof M Hosain Monsur said that Ridoy, Mojibur and Mohammad Thakur, a student of Jagannath University College, came to the hall along with a girl at about 1 am yesterday. They entered the hall by jumping over the wall of the Provost's bungalow.

They forcibly entered the room of a hall staff and stayed there for the rest of the night. They compelled the girl to leave the room before morning, the press release said.

On information, the provost managed to catch Ridoy from the hall at about noon, Thakur escaped.

Ridoy admitted his involvement in the incident. But he claimed that the girl is his wife and she came to Dhaka from her village to attend a marriage ceremony, the press release added.

The Provost then handed him over to Ramna police as advised by the university authorities.

A three-member probe body has been formed with Dr Anwarul Islam as its Convenor to investigate the incident.

Hasina is a betrayer, not I, says Ershad

BARISAL, July 26: Ershad Party Chairman HM Ershad has urged the people to build a strong mass movement to free the country from the clutches of the 'failed government', reports UNB.

'Awami League could never form government without the support of Jatiya Party, but Sheikh Hasina called me a betrayer,' the JP leader told the rally at Steamers Ghat ground here today on the second day of his party's launch march.

Ershad is leading a caravan of launches as part of his party's four-day launch-march towards the southern region to rally support of people against the government.

'I am not a betrayer, rather she (Hasina) is a betrayer as her government has failed to fulfil its commitment to the people. We have withdrawn our support from the government for its inability,' Ershad said.

The former president charged Sheikh Hasina with buying out his party's MPs. 'Sheikh Hasina started purchasing MPs from my party through Anwar Hossain Monju to split Jatiya Party and fulfil her evil design.'

Giving a grim economic scenario of the country, Ershad said some 1.5 crore educated unemployed youths, being failed to get jobs, have resorted to terrorism.

Party Secretary General Nazim Rahman Manjil also addressed the meeting.

The JP chief also addressed several other public meetings at Jhalakati and Pirojpur districts.

আধুনিক ডিজাইন ও মনোরম পরিবেশে

সিন্ধেশ্বরী - বেইলী রোড এলাকায়
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