

National



Audacity of transport workers

(L) Overloaded buses still plying on Bogra-Dhaka highway in Sirajganj district even after the recent worst ever bus accident at Konabari point killing 53 people, injuring over 150 and turning many disabled. Members of law enforcing agencies are allegedly encouraging the foul practice in exchange of bribe. (R) Dead victims of road accidents inside police vans which is a regular scene in Sirajganj district.

Establishment of hospital, fire station at Konabari sought

Suggested steps to minimise death toll in road mishaps

From Akhteruzzaman Bablu

SIRAJGANJ, May 6: Poor rural people in the northern region usually travel from one place to another by bus to earn their living. This area is a neglected area as there are no major mills and industries here. Job opportunity is very limited. Vast majority of rural people have to depend on mainly farm work.

mode of easy transport. They travel from here and there frequently on rooftops of buses as they have to pay less amount to the bus people. Bus drivers and conductors also grab this opportunity of their poverty and dump these simple souls on rooftops of their buses. Most often they face accidents due to reckless driving of these overloaded buses by the drivers. Time is more valuable to these drivers than lives of passengers in the northern districts.

homes. Relatives eagerly wait for their near ones who are yet to arrive with a good amount of money which they had earned in exchange of hard toil in distant places. But alas in many cases on way they have to embrace death due to such frequent road accidents. Now-a-days roads and highways have become death traps for the travelling passengers in the northern region. But there is none to check this trend. Transport workers carry on there bad practise of carrying overloaded passengers by bribing the members of law enforcing agencies regularly.

Dhaka-Bogra highway from Jamuna Bridge West area to Chandaikona area claiming over 300 lives since commissioning of this major bridge. Government sources, however, showed fewer number of accidents during the period. The latest worst road disaster occurred on April 28 afternoon at Konabari point killing 53 lives, injuring over 150 passengers. Many of the ill-fated passengers have already turned disabled. Two overloaded buses collided resulting in this worst road disaster. Most of these ill-fated passengers were travelling on the rooftop of both the buses. Many of them are still undergoing treatment in hospitals. Eleven unclaimed bodies out of 53 dead victims were buried at Sirajganj Malshapara graveyard by local Ekota Sangha, a humanitarian organisation. A few days before this road disaster another road accident occurred on the same highway at

Horiganti point claiming 10 lives and injuring over 50 ill-fated passengers. But unluckily no appropriate measures have yet been taken to curb road accidents. The bad practice of travelling on rooftops of buses is going on unabated. Drivers of buses, trucks and other vehicles are driving their vehicles reckless caring less for passengers and passers-by. Moreover, unfit vehicles are also plying along the northern region route. There is none to check these unfit vehicles emitting black smokes threatening environment. When approached, some leading political leaders, social workers, Union Parishad chairmen of Sirajganj district opined that the death toll could be lesser if the injured persons were treated sooner. The death toll was bigger because there is no hospital or fire station along the highway near Bangabandhu

Jamuna Bridge area or in other areas in the northern region. As a result many highway or road accident victims had to shift to hospitals or clinics far away from the accident spot. The leaders opined if hospitals or fire stations are set up on emergency basis the death toll could be reduced a lot. They demanded establishment of a hospital and a fire station initially in Nalka or Konabari area on emergency basis just after the worst road disaster of the country. Afterwards similar hospitals and fire stations can be created in other important points. The leaders are Abu Yusuf Surja, General Secretary of Sirajganj District Awami League, T M A Mannan, MP, Convener of Sirajganj District BNP, Abdul Hye Talukder, President of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), Sirajganj district unit, Namder Ali, Chairman of Jawil UP, and Mozammel Haque, Chairman of Bhadrachal UP.

News snaps

Osmani Airport safe for smuggling

SYLHET, May 6: Osmani International Airport has become a safe route for smuggling of various goods including gold due to its weak security arrangements, reports UNB. Airport sources said the lone black and white scanning machine of the airport often remains inoperative and cannot identify all smuggled items. The machine was brought from Tejgaon Airport seven years back. Smuggled gold worth about Tk. 2.60 crore was seized here in last two years but security personnel failed to arrest anyone in this connection. At present, 32 security personnel and 11 guards assisted by 9 police and 37 Ansar members are deployed at the airport, which is insufficient to cover the entire area. To contain smuggling, Customs officials suggested for installing modern scanning machine, introducing 'green' and 'red' channels and increasing number of security personnel.

Groyen construction in full swing

RANGPUR, May 6: Construction of the groyen in Teesta river at Gangachara Upazila under Rangpur district is in full swing, reports BSS. The work costs about Taka four crore. Water Development Board sources told that 50 per cent work of the groyen construction has already been completed and the rest work will be completed by the end of the current fiscal year. After construction of the groyen, vast areas will be protected from flood and erosion by Teesta river in the right bank would be checked.

Short film festival

TANGAIL, May 6: A four-day national short film festival began here Friday with a fresh vow to resist alien culture and create a healthy trend in films, reports UNB. Elderly dramatist Syed Nurur Rahman inaugurated the festival at Bhasanee Hall in the afternoon by releasing pigeons after a colourful procession paraded the town. Bangladesh Short Film Forum (BSFF) has organised the festival, a regular congregation of the short filmmakers, in cooperation with Tangail Film Society (TFS). The inaugural function was addressed by festival advisor Dr Devpritya Bhattacharya, BSFF president Aminul Islam, festival committee chairman Jamilur Rahman Miron, festival coordinator Tarek Shahriar, TFS president Shabnam Ferdousi and leading short filmmakers Morshedul Islam and Manjeri Hasan Murad.

Clash over poll: 15 hurt

KUSHTIA, May 6: At least 15 people were injured, three of them seriously, on Friday afternoon in a clash between two rival groups over the election of the local Motor Sramik Union, reports BSS. The seriously injured were admitted to Kushtia Medical Hospital. Police used six rounds of teargas to bring the situation under control.

Rly importing new locomotives

LALMONIRHAT, May 6: Bangladesh Railway is going to import 22 new locomotives from India and South Korea to improve rail transportation in the western zone, reports UNB. Railway sources said agreements have already been signed to purchase 12 engines from India and 10 from Korea at a cost of about Tk 125 crore. The Indian locomotives having 2,900 horsepower (HP) capacity will be used in broad-gauge lines while the Korean engines with 1,300 HP capacity in metre-gauge lines.

Man gets 2-yr imprisonment

KISHOREGANJ, May 6: A court here on Wednesday convicted and sentenced a person to two years imprisonment under Narcotic Control Act, reports UNB. According to prosecution, police recovered 15 litres ingredients of country liquor from the house of Takalu Rabidas of Ashutia village in Hossainpur upazila in June 1996. After examining case documents and witnesses, the Additional District and Sessions Judge Akbar Hossain Mridha delivered the judgement.

Mymensingh Medical College Hospital is ailing

From Aminul Islam

MYMENSINGH, May 6: Patients are not getting proper treatment facilities at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) due to shortage of physicians and health-care facilities. According to MMCH sources, on average 110 patients remain in the Paediatric Ward, while only 30 beds are available. About 200 patients remain in the Medicine Ward against 122 beds, 225 patients in the Surgery Ward against 136 beds, 15 patients in the Casualty Ward against 10 beds, 80 patients in the Orthopaedic Ward against 24 beds, 50 patients in the Ophthalmology Ward against 40 beds, 55 patients in the ENT Ward against 24 beds and 190 patients remain in the Obstetric Ward where 96 beds are available. As the hospital has no adequate beds, an average 500 patients are compelled to stay on the floors of different wards in an unhygienic condition. It takes, two to five weeks for a patient to recover. As a result, accommodation problems have become very acute. Because of heavy rush, patients have to crowd side by side here and there on the floors creating unhealthy environment which fills the disinfection measures and thereby increases incidents of infection. Excess patients also create

problems as they stay at the hospital with their attendants causing inconvenience to all. In many cases patients of surgical treatment have to wait weeks after weeks for surgical operation which is also a cause of rush in the Surgical Ward. A post of professor out of two in the Medicine Ward, the only post of professor in Obstetric ward and two posts of professors in Surgery Ward are lying vacant for long. Two Associate Professors and an Assistant Professor are conducting the operations in the Surgery Ward and only an Assistant Professor is conducting the work in the Obstetric Ward. An Assistant Professor is the current incharge of the Anaesthesia Department as the post of Associate Professor is lying vacant here. An Assistant Professor is working as radio therapist in the hospital as the radio therapist had been transferred to another place about a month ago. The ambulance service of the hospital is not satisfactory. Two ambulance out of four are in order which is insufficient to cope with the increasing number of patients. It is also alleged that pregnant women and their attendants at the Obstetric Ward are being harassed by non-appointed nurses (aya). These out-

siders are found in front of the main gate of MMCH and engage themselves in the name of help when matured pregnant women rush here. But during the release period, these outsiders tactfully or forcibly collect a handsome amount of money as remuneration from the attendants of the patients. Most of the patients who need blood are allegedly deprived of blood from the blood bank as the bank at the hospital remains closed at night. But they have to collect it through brokers at a higher rate. In most cases, on-duty doctors ask the patients of the concerned ward to get their tests from particular pathological laboratories and X-Ray clinics in the town though there is pathological and X-Ray facilities with modern equipments at MMCH. Patients coming to the hospital for surgical treatment are often advised to go to particular clinics, it is widely alleged. Atmosphere of the hospital is very poor. No one can easily move in the hospital due to bad odour. It is causing serious threat to the general health and patients. Scarcity of life saving drug is another serious problem for patients. Patients who get themselves admitted to the hospital are to buy medicine from outside. Sometimes surgi-

cal blades, needles, plasters, bandages, gauge, and other necessary medical accessories are not available in the hospital. A total of Taka 1,62,50,000 was sanctioned for Medical and Surgical Requirements (MSR) in the last fiscal (from July 1998 to 30 June 1999). The quality of diet supplied to the patients is not satisfactory. Patients have to depend on food supplied by their families. A total of Taka 72 lakh was sanctioned for diet in the fiscal 1998-1999. But during this period 3,50,000 patients were treated in the hospital. Established in 1962, the 500-bed MMCH is unable to accommodate the increasing number of patients. Still it is the only medical college hospital in Mymensingh region. It is also learnt that patients from different parts of the country and from the neighbouring India come to MMCH for treatment. So rush of patients have been increasing everyday. During its establishment, the population of Mymensingh was 75 to 80 lakh, but now the figure is nearing two crore. So, the increase in population demands more facilities in MMCH. 'Mymensingh Citizens' Movement' demanded recently to increase the number of beds from 500 to 1,000 at MMCH.

Cultural festival at Birishiri Academy

DURGAPUR, (Netrokona), May 6: The annual conference and cultural festival 2000 began at the Birishiri Cultural Academy here on Thursday, reports BSS. State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed inaugurated the festival as the chief guest.

Unruly youths try to attack BNP men in court

FENI, May 6: A gang of unruly youths numbering about 15 to 20 tried to attack nine local BNP leaders and activists arrested under Public Safety Act (PSA) in court premises when the special tribunal was hearing bail petitions for the activists on Thursday. The leaders and activists, including district unit general secretary VP Joyal, appeared before the court in connection with the hearing. The unruly youths started the attack at 11 in the morning. The trial procedure was forced to suspend for a few minutes. However, District and Sessions Judge Khademul Islam rejected the bail prayers and sent accused to Comilla Jail. The next date of hearing was fixed on May 16.

Speaking on the occasion Prof Sayeed said the government is heading towards a developed and enriched nation, ensuring free atmosphere for the betterment of all irrespective of caste, creed and religion. This government, he said, has once again built a bridge between people of all religions which ultimately helped restore solidarity and amity in society. Jhaluddin Talukder, MP, former lawmakers Promod Mankin, Mosharrar Hossain, Director of the academy poet Rafiq Asad, Dilara Hashem, local tribal leaders Bipul Hajong, Pankaj Sangma, Nahush Hajong, James Dharendra and Monindranath Marak spoke on the occasion. The function was followed by cultural soiree. Earlier a 12-member tribal delegation led by chairman of Tribal Welfare Association, Promod Mankin, called the state minister. The delegation apprised Prof Sayeed of their different problems. Prof Sayeed, who was on a hectic schedule in Netrokona, also addressed a public meeting at Shaheed Sontosh Park here.

The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd Gazipur Re-Tender for Supply 40 Pcs Self Adhesive Blanket for Web Fed Machine. Sealed tenders are hereby invited for supply Self Adhesive Blanket for Web Fed Machine from international/local sources for this Corporation. Tender papers will be available from the office of The Security Printing Corporation (Bd) Ltd, Gazipur and its Liaison Office at Manhattan Tower (3rd floor), 83, Siddessari Circular Road, Dhaka during all office days between 2:00 to 4:00 PM from 7-5-2000 to 18-5-2000 on payment Tk 200.00 (two hundred) only (non refundable) per set of tender schedule. Earnest money @ 2% (two and a half per cent) of the total tendered amount shall be deposited in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank Guarantee along with the tender in favour of The Security Printing Corporation (Bd) Ltd, Gazipur. The tender(s) under sealed cover addressed to the Managing Director, The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd, Gazipur will be received in his office chamber up to 3:00 PM on 7-6-2000 and shall be opened at 3:05 PM on the same date at Gazipur in presence of tenderers (if any). Tenders may also be sent through Postal/Courier Services which must reach within the scheduled date & time. Kh Nur Alam Deputy General Manager (P&S) GD-409

BCIC Tender Notice. বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিল্পায়নে জাতীয় অগ্রগতির প্রতীক. The Managing Director/General Manager (commercial), Karnaphuli Paper Mills Limited, 92, Sadarghat Road, Chittagong hereby invites sealed quotation for supply of materials at mill stores, Chandraghona by the bonafide suppliers as under: S1 Tender Number Short description of goods Date of opening Cost of tender schedule/non-refundable 1. PD/PT/KPM-59 2(two) Envelope system Leucophor U-liquid Qnty 5000 kgs 16-5-2000 Tk 50/= 2. PD/PT/KPM-60 Kilngerit Asbestos steam jointing sheet -do- Tk 25/= 3. PD/PT/KPM-61 Baling frame qnty 45000 Nos -do- Tk 100/= 4. PD/PT/KPM-62 2(two) Envelope system Telcum powder qnty 200 M/Ton -do- Tk 200/= 5. PD/PT/KPM-65 2(two) Envelope system Rubber Conveyor belt qnty 160 Meter -do- Tk 25/= Tender will be received up to 11:00 AM on the date as mentioned above and will be opened on the same day immediately thereafter in presence of the tenderers representative (if any). Tender document with detailed specification, terms and conditions will be available for sale on cash payment (mentioned the amount against each tender) on all working days from the office of (i) BCIC Accounts Division, BCIC Head Office, BCIC Bhaban, 30-31, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka (ii) BCIC Branch Office, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong & (iii) KPM Sales Accounts Section, 92, Sadarghat Road, Chittagong. No tender document will be sold on the date of opening of tender. BCIC-303-26/4/2000 DFP-10312-2/5 G-840

রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়. বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-১০/২০০০. তারিখঃ ২৭-৪-২০০০ইং. রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে ১ (এক) টি স্থায়ী পরীক্ষা নিয়ন্ত্রক পদ পূরণের জন্য বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাবে। বৈতনিকঃ \$ ১১৭০০-৩০০-১০৫০০/= ও প্রচলিত ভাতাদি। শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতাঃ ক) প্রার্থীর সকল পর্যায় ন্যূনতম দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণীসহ স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি থাকতে হবে। খ) প্রশাসনিক কাজে কমপক্ষে দশ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা অথবা স্নাতকোত্তর পর্যায়ের কমপক্ষে পনের বছরের শিক্ষকতার অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। গ) বয়স ন্যূনপক্ষে ৪৫ বছর। ঘ) অভ্যন্তরীণ প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে যে কোন একটি শর্ত শিথিলযোগ্য তবে মূল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা অবশ্যই থাকতে হবে। আবেদনপত্রের ১ (এক) কপি নমুনা ফরম স্বয়ং অথবা টাকা ৪.০০ (চার) মূল্যের ডাকটিকিটসহ নিজস্ব ঠিকানা উল্লেখপূর্বক একটি বড় খাম পাঠিয়ে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর অফিস হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। অনুরূপ ১০ (দশ) কপি আবেদনপত্র যথাযথভাবে পূরণ করতঃ প্রত্যেক আবেদনপত্রের সাথে শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সকল সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপিসহ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের রেজিস্ট্রারের অনুকূলে ১৬০/= (একশত ষাট) টাকার ব্যাংক ড্রাফট (অফেরতযোগ্য) আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করে ২৯-০৬-২০০০ তারিখ অথবা তাৎপূর্বে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরে অবশ্যই পৌঁছাতে হবে। অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। কর্মরত প্রার্থীদের যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে।

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Ferry Division, Barisal (RHD), Tender Notice. 1. Tender Notice No : 36 of RHD Ferry Division, Barisal/1999-2000. 2. Name of work : As described below. 3. Eligibility of contractor : 'A to E' general category contractor of RHD as per financial capacity and territorial jurisdiction. 4. Availability of tender : 1. Executive Engineer, RHD Mechl Ferry Division, Barisal/Khulna. 2. Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD Mechl Ferry Sub-Division, Barisal (only office hours). No tender will be sold on the date of receiving tender schedule. 5. Tender receiving officer : 1. Superintending Engineer, RHD Mechl Ferry Circle, Khulna. 2. Executive Engineer, RHD Mechl Ferry Division, Barisal/Khulna. 6. Last date of selling tender documents : 10-5-2000 (only office hours). 7. Last date of receiving tender in sealed cover : 27-1-1407 at 12:00 Noon. 8. Date and time of opening tender : 11-5-2000 at 13:5-2000 at 1:00 PM. 9. Date and time of lottery (if applicable) : 31-1-1407 at 3:00 PM.