

Accidents kill three on Dhaka-Aricha highway

UNB, Dhaka

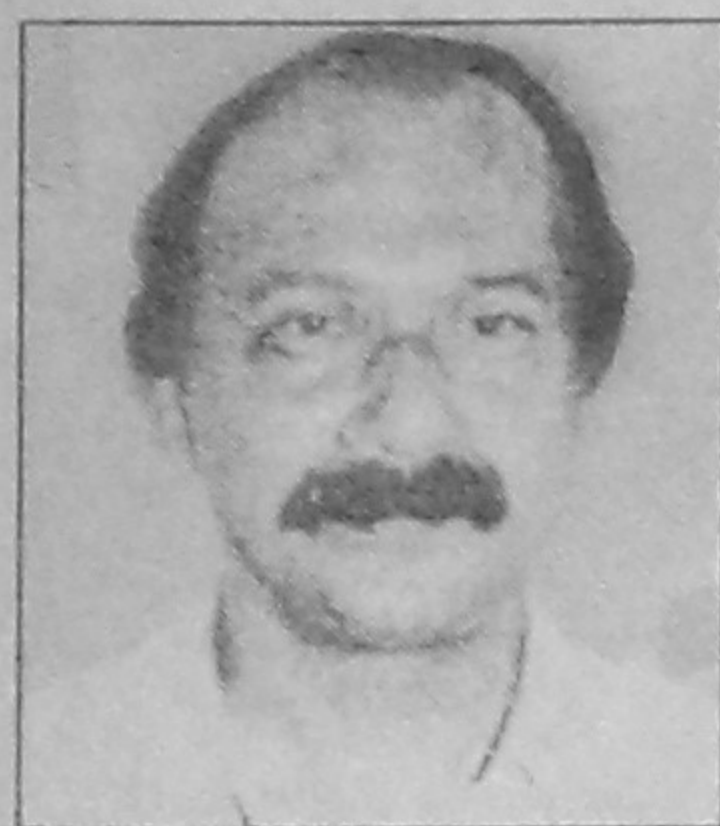
Three unidentified people were killed in separate road accidents on Dhaka-Aricha highway on Sunday.

Police said a man, aged about 60, was injured seriously when a speeding truck at Tora area hit him from behind. He was rushed to the sadar hospital where he died.

In another incident, an old man was run over by a Dhaka-bound bus at Folshatfa bus stand in Shibhalaya upazila in the afternoon.

In another mishap, an insane man, aged about 40, was crushed under the wheels of a truck at Bathuli bus stand in Dhamrai upazila.

The bodies were sent to hospital for autopsy. Separate cases were filed.



Altaf Mahmud



Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan

Altaf, Jalil reelected DUJ President, Gen Secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Altaf Mahmud and Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan have been reelected president and general secretary respectively of the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ).

The election was conducted by a five-member election commission led by Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury at the Jatiya Press Club on Sunday.

Altaf Mahmud bagged 735 votes while Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan 463 votes.

The others elected are vice presidents: Zafar Wajed (645) of Dainik Mukhtakantha, Faijuz Salehin (533) of Dainik Provat and Ashraf Ali (453) of Bangladesh Observer, organising secretary Omar Faruque (470) of BSS and social welfare secretary Mafid Akbar (642) of Dainik Ittefaq.

Those elected unopposed are joint secretary Mollah Jalal of Daily Rupali; treasurer Tarun Tapan Chakraborty of Bangladesh Observer; publicity secretary Jaharal Chandra Das of Dainik Sangbad; sports and cultural secretary Salimullah Selim of New Nation and office secretary Hasan Arefin of Dainik Jugantar.



PHOTO: STAR

The Indian film Taal was screened at Modhumita Cinema Hall yesterday as part of the International Film Festival ongoing in the city. Although tickets were supposed to have been aplenty, cinema-goers had to buy them from ticket touts (picture above) who had a brisk business from reselling the tickets at a higher price. It is a shame that even at time of such a festival, authorities could not ensure smooth availability of tickets for the people.

Doctors formulate guidelines for treatment of snakebite

NURUL ALAM, Chittagong

Doctors have formulated a national guideline, first of its kind in the country, in a bid to provide uniform scientific treatment to cure snakebite, sources said.

A training module was also prepared to ensure proper training to students of all medical colleges in the country in this regard.

The alarming number of deaths from snakebites, mostly in the rural areas, prompted the doctors to formulate such a national guideline for treatment and scientific studies, a senior doctor said.

A group of doctors from 13 medical college hospitals under

the banner of 'Snakebite Study Group' led by Prof Dr M Abul Faiz, head of the department of medicine in Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), played the key role in formulating this national guideline.

"The stage is now set for providing uniform scientific treatment for snakebite in all hospitals of the country," said Prof Dr M Abul Faiz while talking to this correspondent.

"We organised a day-long training programme on January 20 at Chittagong Medical College with the participation of experts and doctors from 13 medical colleges in the light of the guide-

lines," Dr Faiz added.

"We also supplied snakebite-related slides and study guides for the students in all medical colleges," he said. Prof Faiz received an award in May last year from the Ministry of Science and Technology for his pioneering work in the field of snakebite treatment at CMCH.

Dr Faiz said a survey conducted in 21 districts in 1995 and '96 found that 4.3 people in every 100,000 were bitten by snakes and the mortality rate was 20 per cent. And the villagers often seek help from "Ojhas" or 'snake doctors' which is a major cause behind deaths from snakebite, doctors said.

Opposition indulging in foul play to come to power: JS told

UNB, Dhaka

Treasury bench members yesterday accused the opposition political parties of indulging in foul play to come to power through the back door.

Participating in the discussion on thanksgiving motion on the President's new year speech in Parliament, Forest and Environment Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury expressed her confidence that the "vested quarters, out to foil the next general election, will not be successful."

Saying that there had been conspiracy whenever the Awami League government tried to ensure socioeconomic development, she smelled foul play again in the name of "movement" by the opposition parties.

The vested quarters stopped the process of development in 1975 by killing the father of the nation and are again trying to halt the democratic process, restored after 21 years by the present Awami League.

Sajeda Chowdhury said the repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance paved the way for bringing the killers of Bangabandhu and other national leaders to book.

But the vested quarters are out to protect the killers by creating terrorism, she alleged. "It is the people's demand that the killers are tried," she said.

The Environment Minister said people all over the country are today once again ready to vote for the 'boat' and elect the party of Sheikh Hasina to power.

In her deliberation, she further alleged that the opposition in its 21 years had utilised the country's armed forces to cling to power. "Sheikh Hasina now utilises them (armed forces) for the welfare of the people," she said.

The minister accused the pro-opposition lawyers of obstructing the functions of the Supreme Court. She also criticised the five senior lawyers of the country for taking side with the "trouble-makers" who, she said, had "laid siege and kicked at the door of the Chief Justice's office."

She reminded that during its rule, the previous BNP government had appointed one of its district presidents as a judge of the High Court, but the lawyers supporting the Awami League had said nothing.

Referring to the achievements of the last four-day-and-a-half-year as depicted by President Shahabuddin Ahmed in his new year's speech, Sajeda Chowdhury said today Bangladesh is able to hold her head high in the world for its achievements in various sectors under the present Awami League government.

Participating in the discussion, Health and Family Welfare Minis-

ter Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been given a number of awards for restoring peace and democracy in the country.

In this regard, he mentioned the historic Peace Treaty of the Chittagong Hill Tracts and the Ganges Water Sharing Agreement with India.

Lauding the role of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in enhancing the country's prestige, Selim said Bangladesh is now being properly evaluated across the world.

"Even former US President Bill Clinton, during his visit to Bangladesh, had admitted that the role of the US in 1971 was not proper," he pointed out.

Dealing with local politics, the Health Minister said the Awami League is not afraid of the opposition unity. "These forces had once united against Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib, but failed. Today the same forces have united again, but people will once again prove their allegiance to Sheikh Hasina."

He expressed his belief that the anti-liberation forces would never be able to stand on the soil of Bangladesh if the killers of Bangabandhu are duly punished.

Selim also mentioned the developments in various sectors, particularly in health, ensured by the present government.

Bangladesh's position is now 88th in the list of 190 countries of the world ahead of India, Pakistan and Nepal," he said.

Awami League presidium member and Food Minister Amir Hossain Amu alleged that the past BNP regime, like the Ziaur Rahman and Ershad administrations, had wanted to ruin the democratic process of election.

"The governments in 21 years since 1975 were not committed to doing people's welfare and hence overlooked the rights and basic needs of the people," he told the House taking part in general discussion on the President's speech.

The ruling party stalwart hailed the President's New Year speech as a document reflecting overall development done by the present government.

Amu alleged the opposition BNP was born out of conspiracy. He said the trial of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman should be completed properly so that no one in future dares to come to power through the process of killing.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury said the focus of the international community today is not on lectures by political leaders but on the welfare and achievements done by a government.

Seminar on banking tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

A national seminar on "Only Profit or Development: Which way Bangladesh Banking?" will be held at the auditorium of Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIMB) on Wednesday.

Governor of Bangladesh Bank Dr Mohammad Farashuddin will preside over the seminar, organised by BIMB. Prof Dr Ananya Raihan and Prof M Saidur Rahman of BIMB will present the keynote paper, said a press release.

Ex-governor of Bangladesh Bank Lutfar Rahman Sarkar, Finance Secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan, ex-vice chancellor of Jahangirnagar University M Amirul Islam Chowdhury, FBCCI president Yussuf Abdullah Harun and Managing Director of Uttara Bank M Aminuzzaman will be present at the seminar.

City residents clash with Titas employees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Residents of the city's Tejkunipara area clashed with the Titas Gas employees at its office at Karwan Bazar yesterday over poor gas supply in their area.

However, none was injured as police immediately stepped in and brought the situation under control around midday yesterday.

Witnesses said a chaos developed in the office after the affected people were denied access to the Titas Gas Managing Director.

At one stage, the Titas Gas employees and agitating people, including some Jubo League activists had a scuffle.

Later, they also staged a demonstration in front of the office.

Factory owner seeks protection against extortionists

UNB, Dhaka

Terrorists failing to extort money from the owner of an under-construction biscuit factory at Savar have forcibly occupied the site and threatened to kill him.

The victim, Rabinranath Sarkar, on January 25 submitted a written complaint to the Police Super against the terrorists and sought protection for him and his family members.

Sarkar said a gang of terrorists

came to his under-construction factory near the Savar Bazar bus stand and demanded Tk 5 lakh. On refusal, they attacked the factory on January 20 and 23 and looted the construction materials worth Tk 1.5 lakh.

Terrorists also occupied the factory and put up a name-plate inscribed "Rana Oil Mills."

Sarkar filed a case with Savar police against Abdul Khaleque, Rana, Yusuf, Shahid and their

accomplices, but no action has been taken against them as yet.

He said the accused had been asking him to withdraw the case, otherwise, they threatened to kill him and the members of his family.

Sarkar in his petition to the Police Super, copy of which were also given to the Prime Minister and the Home Minister, appealed for immediate steps to ensure security of his life and property.

Valuables worth Tk one lakh looted in Barisal

UNB, Barisal

A gang of dacoits looted valuables and gold worth Tk one lakh and injured a young woman seriously at Mushuria village in Babuganj upazila Sunday.

Family sources said the armed bandits stormed into the house of Abdus Sattar Hwalader and looted gold and valuables injuring the family members.

Injured Rina, 25, daughter of Abdus Sattar was admitted to the Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

Another report from Laxmipur adds: Valuables worth about Tk 5 lakh were looted in two daring robberies in Sadar upazila on Saturday night.

Local people said a gang of 25/30 robbers raided the houses of Murad Bepari of Uttar Panchpara and Abbas Ali of Palpara and injured six people of the two families.

Report from Mymensingh adds: Dacoits looted cash and valuables worth Tk one lakh leaving house owner Bozul Haque injured seriously at Bokhura village in Gafargaon upazila on Saturday.



PHOTO: STAR

Residents of Tejkunipara demonstrated in front of the Titas Gas office in Karwan Bazar yesterday demanding smooth supply of gas in their area.

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