

3 killed in
Savar road
mishap

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Manikganj*

Three persons were killed and 15 others injured in a road accident near Savar Telegraph and Telephone Office on the Dhaka-Aricha Highway on Friday.

All the victims were fish traders. They were going to Karwan Bazar in Dhaka with fish from Faridpur. Nothing more could be known about them.

According to Savar police, the accident occurred at about 4.30 am when a Dhaka bound truck coming from Faridpur collided head-on with another truck coming from the opposite direction. Two victims were killed on the spot while the rest one was shifted to Savar Rabeysa Clinic.

Earlier, nine critically injured victims were shifted there for treatment.

SNAPS

Teenage girl kidnapped

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Jessore*

A teenage girl was kidnapped when she was going to her college from her mess on Thursday. Rabeysa Khatun Lucky, 17, a first year student of Dr Abdur Razzaque Municipal College was taken to an unknown destination after being kidnapped by a group of criminals.

Hailing from Benapole, lived in the mess adjacent to her college, according to Kotwali police. One person named Tariqul Islam Toton of Barandipara area in the town was arrested.

Distinct Women Affairs Directorate and local NGO Gano Unnayan Kendro jointly organised the programme.

There are over 2000 matchmakers in seven upazilas in Gaibandha district.

It is a hard task to resist the deep-rooted vices from a society where literacy rate is poor and age old superstitions still prevail, said M Abdus Salam, Chief Executive of Gano Unnayan Kendro.

"But we must remove these", he said. "Organising such a conference was also a difficult task", he said thanked the matchmakers and mar-

riage registers for their positive response in the noble goal.

Women repression because of early marriage and dowry is a common incident in the country. Lack of women's education, consciousness and self-reliance are the reasons for early marriage and dowry said District Women Affairs Officer Dil Afroz.

"We often fail to resist early marriage in remote areas where literacy rate is too low. Matchmakers and local UP members can help us a lot in this regard", said Abdul Hye Khan, a marriage registrar from Sadullapur

upazila.

He also criticised a section of marriage registrars for registering early marriage showing fake age of bride and bridegroom in exchange of money.

Halima Begum, a female matchmaker in Gaibandha municipal area, said poor matchmakers try to arrange marriage to earn money. A massive campaign can only curb early marriage and dowry. There should be some legal bar also, she said.

Mofizul Hoque, a marriage registrar from Bharatkhan, narrated his experience. A few days back he refused to register marriage of a 12-year-old bride. But the marriage was solemnised and registered by another marriage registrar. Cooperation from administration is necessary to curb early marriage, he said.

Presided over by Gaibandha Deputy Commissioner Tapon Chandra Majumder, the conference was also addressed by, among others, Police Superintendent Bhanu Lal Das, Public Prosecutor Jahangir Alam Jinnah and Gaibandha Mohila Paishad President Rowshan Ara Farid.



PHOTO: STAR
United on a noble mission... A partial view of the meeting of matchmakers and marriage registrars held in Gaibandha.

Vow to resist early marriage, dowry

Matchmakers, marriage registrars, UP leaders, NGOs join hands in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Gaibandha*

Matchmakers, marriage registrars and some NGOs in the district have joined hands with a noble aim—to eliminate early marriage and dowry.

At a meeting on Thursday, first such event in the district, they vowed to resist the social vices and sought cooperation from the administration to realise the goal.

This is a "revolutionary" decision that will free the society from many ills and incidents of violence against women, said Salima Rahman, State Minister for Culture, who attended the conference as chief guest.

The initiative taken in Gaibandha will soon spread all over the country she hoped and assured all cooperation from the government in the noble initiative.

About 1,600 people including 80 matchmakers, 87 marriage registrars, Union Parishad chairmen, social workers, NGO representatives and the elite attended the conference, held Gaibandha public library hall.

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3 bodies exhumed after 40 days in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rangpur*

Three bodies were exhumed after 40 days of their burial at Damuderpur-Balapara in Sadar upazila on Thursday.

Magistrate Abdur Sabur was present when police lifted the bodies from the burial ground for a *autopsy*. Four members of a family died at home and hospital following intake of poisonous food on January 16.

A professional beggar, Arzina Begum got contaminated food from Babul's wife, according to family sources.

On arrival at home, Arzina distributed the food among 12 other family members.

All of them fell seriously ill within 20 minutes and were shifted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital. Arzina's husband Achhir Uddin, 85, died in the hospital after two days. As the condition of three others became serious, Babul and other influential villagers got their release from the hospital and brought them to home. Ultimately, Arzina, Alema and Belly died.

Following publication of news in

The Daily Star and two other Bengali national dailies on January 30, the higher authorities ordered to exhume the bodies, a sub-inspector of police told this to this correspondent on condition of anonymity.

Doctor jailed for issuing fake certificate

OUR CORRESPONDENT *BARISAL*

Medical officer of Barisal Police Hospital Dr Faruk Alam was sent to jail on Wednesday on charge of issuing fake medical certificate.

Sources said Dr Faruk had earlier received notices from different courts for wrongdoing but was acquitted from charges after he begged pardon.

He was arrested after District and Sessions Judge Md Saiful Islam on January 31 lodged a criminal case (no. CR 22/2005) with Barisal Sadar Upazila Magistrate Court against Dr Faruk Alam as a medical certificate issued by him proved fake during trial.

As he appeared before the Upazila Magistrate Court on Wednesday and prayed for bail the judge sent him to jail.

Blood donation campaign at RU

RU CORRESPONDENT

'Swajon', students' body at Rajshahi University, has launched a seven-day blood group test and blood donation campaign on the campus.

It is also campaigning for creating awareness against AIDS. On the first day on Thursday, over 500 students tested their blood group and donated 90 bags of blood at the ten centres opened by Swajon on the campus.

RU Students Advisor Prof Zahid Hasan Milky inaugurated the programme.

Biochemistry Department

Chairman Prof Razaul Karim and Assistant Proctor Shahiduzzaman Shahid were present as special guests on the occasion.

Swajon General Secretary Rabul Islam is coordinating the programme.

Speaking at the inaugural function, the RU teachers said students have a leading role to play in campaigning for blood donation and creating awareness against AIDS.

Earlier, a colorful procession organised by Swajon paraded the campus.



PHOTO: STAR
RU Student adviser Zahid Hasan Milky speaking after inaugurating blood collection campaign by Swajon.

Husband said 'talak' and she took her life

AMANUR AMAN, *Kushtia*

The husband pronounced 'talak' (divorce) in front of some neighbours and asked his teenager wife to leave his house. She returned to her father's house and ended her life by taking poison.

The incident took place in Gheeghati village in Kaliganj upazila in Jhenaidah district on Tuesday.

Halima, 17, was married to Zohurul Islam, son of Abdul Safi of Pirojpur village in Harinakundu upazila four months back.

Since the marriage, Zohurul often abused and tortured Halima and his family members always tried to find fault with her, police said quoting Halima's father Tajjal Ali.

"They (Zohurul's) family members often told me that my daughter could not manage the house properly", Tajjal Ali told police.

On Tuesday in the morning, Zohurul called some neighbours on the courtyard. He pronounced 'talak' in presence of the neighbours and his wife.

Dejected, she returned to her father's house. Later at night when all others in the family were asleep, the girl took poison and ended her life.

Next morning, police went to the village and sent the body to Jhenaidah Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Tajjal Ali also told police that other members of Zohurul's family forced her to leave their house, saying no woman can stay at husband's house after 'talak' as per Islamic Shariah.

Police however, filed an unnatural death case.

"We filed an unnatural death case as no one filed any complaint", the duty officer told this correspondent over telephone yesterday.

After some years Galib had difference of opinion with Dr. Bari

Most Ahab members in Satkhira hiding

Panic in 40 madrassahs set up by Galib

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Panic has gripped several hundred members of Ahle Hadith Andolon, Bangladesh (Ahab) in Satkhira after the arrest of their Amir Dr Asadullah al-Galib, an Arabic teacher of Rajshahi University.

Most of the teachers and students of about 40 madrassahs in Satkhira, a stronghold of Ahab, have left their institutions and are hiding to avoid arrest. The institutions are virtually closed, police said.

Dr Galib was behind setting up of the madrassahs, it was gathered.

Earlier, on February 21, members of Satkhira Ahab had brought out a big motorcycle rally and held a press conference in the town protesting "distorted" news published in different national dailies about their Amir.

These newspapers published news against Islam they said and urged the government to take action against those.

Dr Asadullah-Al Galib, son of Manlana Ahmad Ali, hails from Bularati village in Satkhira Sadar Upazila.

He passed 'Fazel' from Kakdanga Able Hadith Madrasah and MA in Arabic from Dhaka University in 1979. He joined as Lecturer in Arabic Department at Rajshahi University (RU) in 1980 with the blessings of Dr Abul Bari, the then Vice Chancellor of RU and president of the Ahle Hadith Andolon.

In Bheramara, Rab-6 arrested alleged outlaw Mukul from a house in the town.

Mukul, a BNP leader, was a former ward commissioner of Bheramara municipality. He faces several cases including some for murder, police said.

Police said both are being interrogated.

2 'outlaws' held in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

Two outlaws, one of them having links with ruling BNP, were arrested in Mirpur and Bheramara upazilas in the district on Tuesday night.

Mirpur thana police raided Kursha village and arrested Azizul Gain, 43, an alleged 'regional commander' of outlawed Purbo Bangla Communist Party (PBCP-Janajuddho). Police said he was accused in several cases including four for murder.

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