

3 killed, 38 injured in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least three people were killed and 38 injured in separate road accidents in Gaibandha, Noakhali and Netrakona yesterday.

Our Gaibandha Correspondent adds, one woman was killed and three others were injured when a speedy police van hit them on Gaibandha-Fulchhari road yesterday.

The victim Ajrunnessa, 50, of David Company Para under Gaibandha pourashava was riding a bicycle with her son toward Fulchari. The speedy police van hit the bicycle when they reached Board Bazar. Ajrunnessa died on the spot and her son and two other pedestrians were rushed to hospital with injuries.

UNB adds, two people were killed and 10 injured in a collision between a bus and a pickup van at Kendua on Choumuhani-Laxmipur road yesterday.

Police said the Choumuhani-bound bus collided with the soil-laden pickup van, leaving day labourer Ruhul Amin, 50, and helper of the bus driver Fakhru Islam, 32,

dead on the spot.

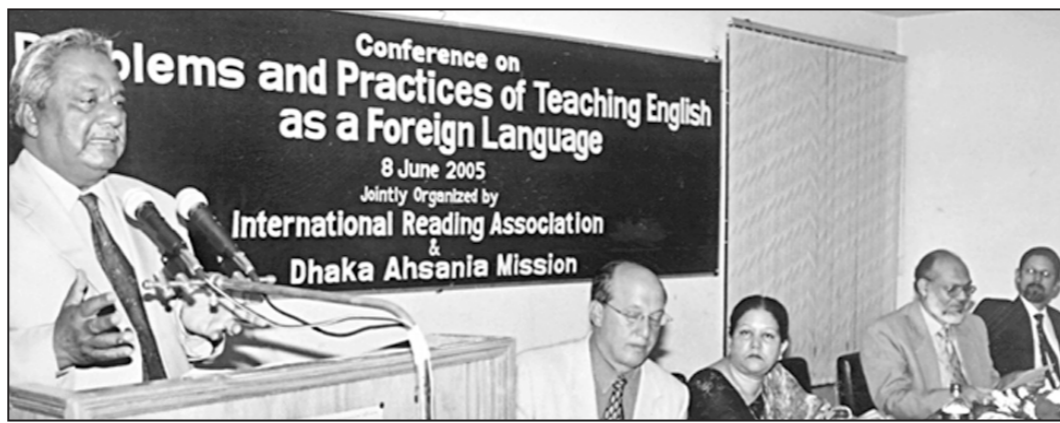
At least 10 passengers of the bus and pickup van were injured in the accident.

Meanwhile, a taxi carrying school children fell into a ditch at the same spot while its driver and children watching the ill-fated bus and pickup van, leaving six students injured.

Our Netrakona Correspondent adds, at least 25 were injured, of them 12 seriously, in a road accident at Hironpur under Purbadhala upazila on Netrakona-Mymensingh highway in Netrakona district yesterday.

The seriously injured were sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in a critical condition. Of them, four were identified as Shafiqul Islam, 23, Ishaque, 25, Mafizuddin, 40, and Nazimuddin, 35. Others were admitted to Netrakona Sadar hospital.

The accident occurred when a Netrakona-bound bus from Mymensingh hit a tempo.



Education Minister Dr M Osman Farruk speaks as chief guest at the inaugural session of a conference on 'Problems and Practices of Teaching English as a Foreign Language' at the Dhaka Ahsania Mission auditorium yesterday.

Four members of Film Censor Board relieved

UNB, Dhaka

The government has relieved four members of Film Censor Board for various reasons, says a PID hand-out.

The Censor Board members are Wahida Mollik Jolly (representative from DU's Theatre and Music Department), Shahidul Islam Khokon (former president of Bangladesh Film Directors' Association), Enayet Karim (film producer and distributor) and Ahmed Sharif (former president of Bangladesh Film Artistes' Association).

Expert teachers a must for dev of English teaching

Minister for Education Dr M Osman Farruk said properly trained expert teachers are needed for the development and expansion of teaching English as a foreign language in the country.

"The government has already taken a number of initiatives and projects to promote this vital sector," he said.

He was speaking as chief guest at the inaugural session of a daylong conference on 'Problems and Practices of Teaching English as a Foreign Language' held yesterday at the auditorium of Dhaka Ahsania Mission in the city.

Jointly organised by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and US based International Reading Association (IRA), the session was chaired by DAM President and Chief Executive Kazi Rafiqul Alam, says a

press release.

It was attended, among others, by Prof Dilara Hafiz, director general, Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education and Jonathon Cebra, director, American Centre Dhaka, as special guests.

James M Wile and Rizalina Cardians Labanda from the IRA spoke on the occasion while Prof Ashraf Ali, principal, KATTC gave the welcome address.

Dhaka University English Department Chairman Dr Sadrul Amin, Prof Dr Khandokar Rezaur Rahman, Rizlina Cardians Labanda and Dr Ambygpathy Pandian of the IRA presented papers and spoke on different aspects of teaching and learning of English in the working sessions of the conference.

The minister also inaugurated an exhibition of recent books on teaching and learning process, organised on the occasion.

The conference is a prelude of a fortnight-long professional development course titled 'Effective Teaching of English as a Foreign Language' for the secondary school teachers sponsored by the DAM and IRA.



Law Minister Moudud Ahmed gives away the Bangladesh Cultural Academy Award to Md Selim Khan, assistant commissioner (land), Tejgaon Circle, Dhaka, recently for his contribution to land management, development and computerisation.

Acid attack on Ctg trader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Miscreants threw acid on a businessman at Asadganj in the port city on Tuesday evening.

The victim, identified as Babul Shil, was admitted to Chittagong Medical College and Hospital with serious burn injuries on his chest and right hand.

The incident occurred when Babul, a trader of GI and CI Sheets, was returning home on foot from his business firm at Asadganj at around 7:00pm, family sources said.

Babul could not identify the attackers as the locality remained in darkness due to a power outage at that time, sources said.

Babul, however, said the attack might be a sequel to a dispute over land with neighbours at his village at Uttar Ichhakhal under Anowara upazila in the district.



State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman launches two books titled "Selected Hindu Temples of Bangladesh" by Babu Ahmed and Nazly Choudhury and "Kantajeer Temple: An Outstanding Monument of Late Medieval Bengal" by Professor M M Hoque, Dr Seema Hoque and Md Montasir Rahman at the Begum Sofia Kamal auditorium in the city yesterday.

12,528 tons Japanese rice for flood victims

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Japan handed over 12,528 metric tons of rice worth over 5 million US dollar yesterday to Bangladesh to help the last year's flood affected people.

Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Matsushiro Horiguchi gave away the documents to Minister for Food and Disaster Management Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf.

This fresh Japanese consignment arrived in Chittagong on 12 May. The rice is a donation to the United Nations World Food Programme's ongoing flood-relief operations, now in its final recovery phase.

Japan gave over 5,000 tons of wheat worth 2 million US dollar to WFP supported Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) activities in Bangladesh in December last year.

At the handing over ceremony, Ambassador Horiguchi said the consignment is a sign of Japan's commitment to the people of Bangladesh in their struggle against natural disasters.

"We hope to reach out and support

the poorest households in their recovery from the last year's floods," he said.

WFP Representative in Bangladesh, Douglas Casson Coutts in a joint statement said, "Japan has emerged as one of the most committed and dependable supporters of Bangladesh for its relief and developmental needs. We, in WFP, recognise the importance of this relationship and will do our utmost to further it."

The donation was scheduled to arrive in January. But following the Tsunami in the Indian Ocean on 26 December 2004, Japan and Bangladesh, on the behest of WFP, agreed to divert the ship, which was just off the coast of Sumatra, to help the millions of affected people.

The Japanese government arranged to replace the rice with a fresh consignment directed to Bangladesh, which arrived on 12 May.

The rice ration will be distributed to some 250,000 households in Sirajganj, Sunamganj, Netrakona, Kishoreganj and Faridpur.

British Council closed on Sunday

The British Council office in Dhaka will remain closed on Sunday for internal electrical work, says a press release.



Photographic Assoc executives

Sheikh Hamidul Haque Kochi and Akkas Mahmood were elected president and senior vice president of Bangladesh Photographic Association for 2005-07, says a press release.

Two other vice presidents are Alhaj Md Abu Siddique Bhuiyan and Mahmud Hasan.

All candidates of Sommlita Parishad panel were elected uncontested on June 7 at the association's office at Hatkhola in the city.

Executive committee members are MA Rahim, Sheikh G Jahangir, MA Hamid, Amir Uddin, A Wahid Sarker, Alhaj Mir Manjur Hossain, Md Zakir Hossain, Moin Uddin M o y e e n, Humayan Kabir Chowdhury, Md Zahirul Islam, Md Tofazzail Hossain, Md Sirajul Islam, Md Sanaur Rahman Patwary, Siddiqui Rahman, Nasirul Islam, Kazi Fazlul Kabir and Badrul Ahsan Sinha.