

2 killed in city road accidents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A trader and a child were killed in two separate road accidents in the capital yesterday.

The trader was identified as Ezaz Ahmed, 35, of Jigatola while the identity of the seven-year-old boy could not be known.

Ezaz got off from a double decker on a road in front of Matsya Bhaban at 11:30am when a speeding bus from behind ran over him killing him on the spot.

Locals chased the bus and held its driver Gias Uddin.

They beat the driver and handed him over to police.

The other accident took place when the boy was crossing a road near Mirpur Police Station. A human hauler knocked him down.

Police arrested driver Liton and seized his vehicle.

Two separate cases were filed with the concerned police stations.



PHOTO: STAR

Eid shopping remains incomplete without bangles. With Eid only a day away, two girls choose bangles at a shop at Karnaphuli City Garden yesterday.

'Switch on all pay channels before Eid'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cable Operators' Association of Bangladesh (Coab) yesterday at a press conference in the city urged the Nationwide Communications Limited (NCL) to switch on all pay channels of satellite television network, which have been off since October 14.

They also urged the NCL to come to dialogue table in order to solve the present unstable situation in the satellite television channels.

They threatened to take legal action against the NCL if it does not switch on the channels by the Eid-ul-fitr.

SM Anwar Parvez, president of Coab, the major cable TV operators' association in Bangladesh, in a written statement said the NCL had long been doing a monopoly business of satellite pay channels in Bangladesh and since July, 2004 MGH Group has become the distributor of the pay channels of Star TV Network in Bangladesh.

"We have told our associates which control most of the areas of the country to quit pay channels distributed by the NCL, as it has created the crisis only to regain its monopoly business. Still we want a solution to the problem through dialogue."

Answering to a question Coab president said "Since we started cable TV business we are making payments regularly to the NCL, but in the name of dues, the distributor switched off some channels of our associate operators".

He added that the NCL has not given us any payment documents or value added tax (VAT) certificates."

He also said some so-called cable operator associations like Bangladesh Cable TV Owners Association (Cinoa), Dhaka Cable Operators and United Cable Service Forum (UCS) are trying to make a division by creating different associations, which is totally illegal in the country's trade law.

"We will also take action against those so called cable associations," said Parvez.

The cable television viewers in the city are deprived of watching a number of popular channels due to dispute between the pay-channel distributors. Since October 14, the viewers in most parts of Dhaka cannot watch the pay channels of Star TV Network, distributed by MGH Group, while in other areas, they are missing the pay channels distributed by NCL -- Sony, Zee TV, Zee Cinema, Alpha Bangla, Discovery, AXN, Star Sports, Ten Sports and ESPN.

'Coordinated efforts a must to stop child trafficking in Saarc countries'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop in the city have stressed the need for a coordinated efforts among the Saarc countries to prevent child trafficking in this region.

The workshop titled 'Role of civil society for combating child trafficking' was organised by Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) at IDB Bhaban in the city on Monday, said a press release yesterday.

Mohammad Haider Ali, secretary of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, was the chief guest while Mahmudul Kabir, country representative of TDH-Netherlands, was the special guest at the workshop.

BSAF Chairperson Advocate Rokhsana Khandker presided over the workshop.

Prof Ishrat Shamim of Dhaka University presented the keynote paper at the workshop which was

participated by academics, researchers, journalists and different government and NGO officials.

The speakers put forward a set of recommendations at the workshop that included forming anti-child trafficking committee at district, upazila and union level, installing billboards on road sides and staging drama in media to create awareness and framing strict laws to punish the traffickers under the Speedy Trial Tribunal.