

Road accidents kill seven

STAR REPORT

At least seven people were killed in separate road accidents in Tangail, Sirajganj, Faridpur and Satkhira yesterday.

Our correspondent from Tangail reports: Four motorbike riders, including three friends, were killed in separate road accidents at Kalihati and Dhanbari upazilas in Tangail district yesterday.

The victims were identified as Mohammad Solaiman, 28, of Alipur village, Abdul Kaddus, 35, of Ballabhbari village at Kalihati upazila, in Tangail district, Mohammad Dulal, 32, of Kokilaka Jagaddal Bazar village in Panchagrath district, and Mohammad Muchha Miah, 26, of Rupshanti village at Dhanbari upazila in Tangail.

Police and witnesses said an accident took place at around 4:30pm when a Dhaka-bound passenger bus from Sirajganj crushed a motorbike coming from

the opposite direction under its wheels on Dhaka-Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Highway at Salla area under Kalihati upazila, leaving the motorbike riders Solaiman, Kaddus, and Dulal dead on the spot.

The passenger bus, however, managed to escape.

On information, police rushed to the spot recovered the bodies and sent them to Tangail General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Another accident took place when at around 5:00pm when a Dhaka-bound passenger bus from Sarishabari hit a motorbike on Tangail-Jamalpur road at Rupshanti area under Dhanbari upazila, leaving the motorbike rider Muchha Miah dead on the spot, police and witnesses said.

BSS from Sirajganj adds: A former army personnel was killed and four others including a truck driver were injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Bogra highway at Kachiyabari under Royganj Police

Station yesterday.

The accident took place when a Borga-bound truck turned upside down as its driver lost control over the steering.

The dead was identified as Dulal, 48, a former soldier of Bangladesh Army and resident of Kamarkhan upazila in the district.

The injured were rushed to a local hospital.

A correspondent from Faridpur adds: One person was killed in a road accident at Shibrapur area under sadar upazila in the town on Saturday night.

The dead was identified as LiakatAli, 50, a truck driver.

Police said the accident took place on Saturday night on Faridpur-Dhaka highway at Shibrapur area when a passenger bus collided head-on with a truck coming from opposite, leaving truck driver Liakatdead on the spot.

Our correspondent from Satkhira says: A man was killed in a

road accident on Satkhira-Khulna road at Nikaripara in Tala upazila yesterday.

The victim was identified as Sarajit Kumar Karmakar, 32, son of Anil Kumar Karmakar of village Prasadpur in the same upazila.

Quoting local people police said a Khulna bound pick-up van knocked him down at Nikaripara while Sarajit was crossing the road, leaving him injured seriously. He succumbed to his injuries on the way to Satkhira Hospital.

Need for social afforestation underscored

CU CORRESPONDENT

A 15-day 'Tree Plantation Movement and Tree Fair - 2007' began here in the port city yesterday as part of National Tree Plantation Movement.

Chittagong Forest Department (North), District Administration and Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) jointly organised the fair at Laidighi Maidan.

Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Mokhesur Rahman inaugurated the programme through planting a tree at Circuit House Premises in the morning.

Mokhesur Rahman was the chief guest in the inaugural ceremony held on the fair premises with Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Ashraf Shamim in the chair.

Speakers in the inaugural ceremony emphasised the need for social afforestation to fight the natural disasters, including landslides and develop the country's economy and protect environment.

They called upon all to come forward and be aware of protecting the forest and environment.

Chittagong Region Forest Conservator M Atiqul Azam, CCC Chief Executive Officer Mohammad Imtiaz Hossain Chowdhury and Divisional Forest Officer (North) Dr Tapan Kumar Dey also spoke.

A procession was brought out on this occasion that paraded different thoroughfares of the city.

A total of 49 nurseries and different government and non-government organisations took part in the fair.



PHOTO: STAR

Intermittent rain increases sufferings to the city dwellers. The picture was taken at Palashi yesterday.

Adviser blames high society for misusing power

UNB, Dhaka

Finance Adviser AB Mirza Azizul Islam yesterday flayed the high society for misusing power for their own pelf and pomp that put the vast multitude of others to trouble.

The extent of power is determined by the extent of "nuisance we can create in society", observed the adviser.

He was addressing a scholarship-awarding ceremony at Osmani Memorial Hall in the city and told the awardees to avert nurturing such attitude when they would reach such levels on completion of their studies.

Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited organised the ceremony to award certificates to 200 HSC- passed poor, but meritorious, students as part of their corporate social responsibility.

The awardees will get a monthly stipend of Tk 2,000 and an annual lump allocation of Tk 5,000 each to meet their academic expenses up to postgraduate level.

The adviser told the function that the government has given the highest priority to education sector, but it's not yet possible for the government to meet the entire demand for the development of the education sector.

He called upon various organisations to emulate the DBBL gesture of benevolence through taking similar initiatives so that meritorious students do not drop out from their studies.

"A nation cannot prosper without development of its human resources. Even natural resources- be whatever the amount- cannot develop a nation," said the adviser, adding that a country like Bangladesh has the potential to climb onto the level of rich nations within a short period of time if its human resource can be utilised

properly.

He said there are many instances that many countries, having almost no natural resources, have developed only by properly developing and utilising their human resources.

DBBL Managing Director Yasin Ali

said the bank spends around Tk 4 crore annually for education sector.

They have also similar programmes in health sector as well as programmes of response to natural calamity.



Winners of the second story writing competition titled 'Oitijhya - Gollachhut' pose for photograph with the guests at the prize giving ceremony at the Russian Cultural Centre auditorium in the city yesterday. Popular writer Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, sitting second from right, is seen among the guests.

2ND STORY WRITING CONTEST

Minhaz Tabassum adjudged best storywriter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prize giving ceremony of the Second Story Writing Competition was held at the Russian Cultural Centre auditorium in the city yesterday.

The competition titled 'Oitijhya - Gollachhut' was organised jointly by Oitijhya, a publishing house, and the Prothom Alo.

Popular writer Muhammad Zafar Iqbal and noted Tagore song exponent Rezwana Chowdhury Bonnya attended the programme as chief guests.

The best storywriter award went to Qazi Minhaz Tabassum who received books worth Tk 1 lakh.

The organisers said they have published a book titled 'Shera Golpo' containing the best story of the competition as well as 31 other stories of the participants from all the divisions.

Certificates and prizes were also given to 100 contestants whose stories were selected for the book after a committee reviewed thousands of stories received from all over the country.

Moynul Ahsan Saber, president of the selection committee, Mohammad Arifur Rahman Naim, chief executive of Oitijhya, and Sajjad Sharif, deputy editor of Prothom Alo, were also present at the function.

Thousands cheer sacked Pak judge

AFP, Faisalabad

Thousands of Pakistanis braved the rain here yesterday to cheer the country's top judge, keeping the pressure on President Pervez Musharraf to end a crisis over the chief justice's ouster.

About 5,000 lawyers and opposition party activists camped out through the night to greet Ifikhar Muhammad Chaudhry as he arrived in the eastern city of Faisalabad, completing a two-day journey from the capital Islamabad.

The trip is the latest in a series of processions undertaken by the judge since Musharraf suspended him on March 9 on misconduct charges, sparking the biggest crisis of the military ruler's eight years in power.

"The struggle will continue until we have an independent judiciary," Chaudhry's supporters shouted as his motorcade arrived early Sunday in Faisalabad, to the tune of beating drums and booming firecrackers.

In a speech to the cheering crowd, Chaudhry avoided direct criticism of Musharraf, but made another impassioned plea for judicial independence and urged his supporters to keep up their campaign.

"The organs of the state cannot function properly unless there is separation of powers as enshrined in the constitution," he said.

"You have struggled for the supremacy of the constitution and the rule of law for the past three months and you should remain united and shun your petty differences for this greater cause."

"A society can only be successful when there is supremacy of the constitution," Chaudhry said, citing several cases in which he had helped the country's poor to get justice through the courts.

Nearly 60,000 Pakistanis turned out to support Chaudhry during his 290-kilometre (180-mile) trek from Islamabad to this central industrial city, waving flags and showering him with rose petals during the 22-hour voyage.

Tens of thousands greeted the chief justice along the way when he travelled to the northwestern city of Abbotabad and Lahore in the past two months.

But more than 40 people were killed after clashes between rival political factions broke out when Chaudhry tried and failed to address a meeting in the southern port city of Karachi in May.

In a crackdown ahead of Chaudhry's Faisalabad trip, police arrested about 300 opposition party activists. The Pakistan People's Party of former premier Benazir Bhutto said one of its workers had died in custody.

Send-off ceremony of JDS fellows held

A group of 20 government officials will leave for Tokyo at the beginning of July under Japan Development Scholarship (JDS).

The send-off ceremony for the fellows was held at the residence of Japanese ambassador in Dhaka on June 14, says a press release.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Masayuki Inoue called on JDS fellows to keep in mind that both Bangladeshi and Japanese people expect a great deal from them for the development of their own country through making the best use of knowledge and experience that they will acquire from Japan.

The fellows have already completed a two-month-long Japanese language training programme.

They will study in Japan for two years to get master's degree in six fields- public administration, economics, international relations and environmental policy.

The formal title of Japan Development Scholarship is The Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS).

In the last 5 years, a total of 107 JDS fellows were sent to Japan, and of them 73 fellows have already come back to Bangladesh.

President's Parade at BMA Parade ground in Ctg on Wednesday

UNB, Dhaka

President's Parade will be held at the BMA parade ground at Bhatari in Chittagong on Wednesday.

The parade will be organised on the occasion of the passing out of the cadets of the 56th Bangladesh Military Academy long course and 17th BMA special course.

A special train service will be arranged for the day from Chittagong Railway Station to Bhatari and from Bhatari Railway Station to Chittagong for easy movement of the invited guests.

The special train will leave Chittagong Railway Station for Bhatari at 6.30am on Wednesday while leave Bhatari Station for Chittagong at 2:00pm.

"The invited guests can avail of the facilities of the special train for fixed fares," said an ISPR press release yesterday.

Toxic algae poses health scare in China

AFP, Beijing

Two of China's biggest lakes are under renewed attack from toxic algae that destroy plant and fish life and threaten humans in the country's latest pollution scare, state media reported yesterday.

New satellite pictures of eastern China show the blue-green foul-smelling algae spreading in Taihu and Chaohu lakes, the Workers Daily newspaper said.

5x3

8x4

5x4