

# Road crashes kill 9, injure 55

## STAR REPORT

At least nine people were killed and 55 others injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka, Netrakona and Jhenidah yesterday.

Our correspondent from Manikganj reports: At least four people were killed and 50 others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Aricha highway in the Balitha bus stand area under Dhamrai Police Station yesterday.

Three of the dead were identified as Majbar Rahman of Tearipur village under Bhandaria Police Station in Pirojpur, Masum Billah of Imandia village under Savar Police Station in Dhaka and Abdul Karim Khan of Tangbari Khanpara village under Bera Police Station in Pabna. The identity of another could not be known immediately.

Dhamrai police said the acci-

dent occurred at around 5:00am when a Dhaka-bound bus from Mothbaria of Jhalakathi collided head-on with a truck coming from opposite direction.

Two bus passengers -- Majbar, Masum Billah and truck driver Karim -- died on the spot while an unidentified man succumbed to his injuries on the way to hospital.

The injured were taken to defunct clinics and hospitals at Dhamrai and Savar.

The bodies were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

A case has been filed with the local police station in this connection.

Our Correspondent from Netrakona adds: Three people, including the wife and son of Netrakona Roads and High Department engineer Md Rafiqul

Islam, were killed and five others seriously injured in a road accident on Netrakona-Mymensingh highway in Parla area under Netrakona Sadar Upazila yesterday.

Police said the accident occurred when a Netrakona-bound truck hit a jeep carrying engineer Rafiqul Islam's wife, three children, two maids and a relative.

Rafiqul Islam's wife died on the spot and his son Tahar Islam, 9, and unidentified person succumbed to their injuries at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

Rafiqul Islam's son Tanjit Islam, 12, a daughter aged about 6, driver Abul Kalam, 35, two maids and the relative were rushed to the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

The names of the Rafiqul Islam's wife, daughter, maids and the relative could not be known immediately.

diately. OUR CORRESPONDENT from Jhenidah adds: Two timber traders were killed in a road accident on Jibannagar-Kaliganj highway near Ishwarba village in Kaliganj upazila.

The dead were identified as Basiruddin, 40, son of Badaruddin of Ganna village under Jhenidah Sadar upazila and Rezaul Islam, 38, son of Nur Mohammad of Madabpur village of the same upazila.

Police and locals said the accident occurred when a Jibannagar-bound passenger bus hit a motorbike, leaving Basir and Rezaul dead on the spot.

They were going to Kaliganj from Kotchandpur riding the motorbike.

The bodies have been sent to Jhenidah Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy.



Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain speaks at a discussion titled 'Climate Change Adaptation Financing' at Hotel Sonargaon in the city yesterday. Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihood (CSRL) and People's Empowerment Trust (PET) jointly organised the discussion.

## 'Stick to decision of starting SQ system in 2010'

### DU CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Protagisthil Shikshak Chhatra Obhikhabak Forum, a platform of progressive teachers, students and guardians, yesterday urged the government to be strict to the decision of starting structured question (SQ) system from the SSC examinations in 2010.

They also demanded implementation of the decision of taking first-term examinations of class nine in SQ system in all schools across the country.

The demand was articulated at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city.

Leaders said they will declare peaceful and logical demonstration programmes across the country if their demands are not met within next week.

"We along with teachers, students and guardians will go for action programmes including forming human chains, boycotting classes and examinations and filing cases to meet losses if our demands are not fulfilled in time", said Convener of the forum Dr Sadul Amin.

President of Bangladesh Publishers, Printers and Sellers Association Abu Taher also spoke.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

# Bangladesh deserves foreign funds

## Speakers tell discussion

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday emphasised optimum usage of climate change adaptation fund by finding out an effective way to mitigate the worst effects of climate change.

Bangladesh deserves sufficient funds to recover from the worst effects of climate change, the speakers said adding that this fund is not a grace but it is a right since Bangladeshis are victims of others' activities.

The speakers also urged the government to engage commoners to make a long-term effective work plan to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change.

The discussion on 'Climate Change Adaptation Financing' was jointly organised by Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihood (CSRL) and People's Empowerment Trust (PET) at a local hotel yesterday.

Former adviser Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud was present at the meeting as special guest.

Mentioning Bangladesh as one of the worst victims of global warming, Prof Mahmud said climate change is one of the serious disasters in human civilisations.

Expressing his concern over getting climate change adaptation fund properly, Prof Mahmud said earlier we had heard about much funds on different issues including millennium development goals but Bangladesh did not get them all.

Considering the poverty level and disaster-proneness, Bangladesh is one of the most successful countries in the globe in attaining various social developments, he added.

"But actually Bangladesh is getting less foreign aids than she deserves," he told the journalists in reply to a question.

In the international forum, Raja Devasish Roy, special assistant to the chief adviser, said the Bangladeshi delegates should raise the issue properly.

"Once we get the fund, it should be used properly so that we can

mitigate long-term effects of climate change in Bangladesh," said Raja Devasish.

He also emphasised technical research about the climate change effects and its mitigation and adaptation.

AHM Rezaul Kabir, secretary to the ministry of Environment and Forest, said the country has to take long-term and short-term work plans to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Awami League presidium member Suranjit Sengupta said climate change has made the country most vulnerable in many ways.

"Every year the country is facing several destructive natural disasters. Nothing can be as worst as this," Suranjit said.

He called for mass campaign among the commoners about the climate change and its impact on them.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, programme director of Bangladesh Environment Lawyers' Association (BELA), also spoke on the occasion.

Chairperson of CSRL Khushi Kabir chaired the session while Shishir Sheel, executive director of PET, was the moderator.

## 30 injured in RMG worker-taxi drivers clash in N'ganj

### OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

At least 30 people were injured when police charged baton indiscriminately to put down a clash between

garment workers and taxi drivers at a local stand at Balurmath near Chasara in the district yesterday.

During the clash that brewed from an altercation over a rickshaw fare, the garment workers also vandalised 20 taxis and microbuses.

Police swooped on the feuding groups charging batons indiscriminately to disperse the clashing garment workers and drivers. Police also fired two blank shots at that time, witnesses said.

Workers said a taxi driver scuffled with a worker of Pacific Sweater Garments when he was quarrelling with a rickshaw puller over fare on Tuesday night. Later, the incident turned into the clash yesterday noon although the officials of the garment factory tried to settle down the matter.

## Three cheats arrested in city

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested three alleged frauds who have become millionaires and owners of even houses in the city by cheating people.

The arrestees are identified as Tofail Ahmed Ratan, Shamsul Haque and Ashrafur Karim.

Shamsul Haque admitted to the Rab officials that he earned Tk 1.49 crore, two buildings including a six-storied structure, at Mirpur in the city. He is also a major shareholder of a market in the same area. He has been involved in the illegal activities since 1983.

According to the Rab officials, another arrestee Ashrafur Karim owns three buildings at Pallabi in Mirpur area.

The arrestees also admitted to the Rab that more than 50 such gangs are now operating in the city. Rab personnel, however, said the number is exaggerated.

As part of their secret activities, the frauds first rent a flat in the posh areas like Gulshan, Baridhara, Banani, Uttara and Dhanmondi and announce it through their brokers to potential targets.

## 'World Biggest Lesson' taught across country

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

'World Biggest Lesson' was taught yesterday globally along with Bangladesh where millions of children, teachers, parents and campaigners participated in highlighting 'Quality Education to End Exclusion'.

Around 30 lakh people including students and teachers of 25,000 schools participated in the 30-minute programme from 10:00am to 10:30am in Bangladesh, according to Campaign for Popular Education (Campe).

More than 200 organisations

including Campe, Bangladesh Primary Teachers Association and different teachers and professional organisations, NGOs and civil society groups celebrated the programme in the country.

Globally Unesco, Unicef, ILO and different international organisations celebrated the programme as part of Global Action Week to observe Global Campaign for Education (GCE) initiative.

The lesson was taught at 50 places including Ramna Batamul in the city and different educational institu-

tions.

Primary and Mass Education Adviser Rashida K Choudhury at a programme at the Cirdap auditorium said millions of children and adults over 120 countries including Bangladesh have taken the same lesson at the same time, which is a world record.

She also said time has come to emphasise the mainstream primary education so that quality education can be ensured.

The programme was organised to launch a series programme titled

'The Condition of Education' which will be telecast on Channel-i from May 6 on every Tuesday and Thursday at 6:20am. The programme was designed for 30 episodes where 120 intellectuals and educationists have given interviews focusing on condition of the country's education.

Presided over by TIB Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, the launching programme was attended by Dr Badiul Alam Majumder of Sushasner Jonno Nagorik (Sujan) and Channel-i Director and Head of News Shykh Seraj.

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The Golden Jubilee Celebration Committee and the Old Faujians Association cordially invites all ex-cadets to the 50th Founding Anniversary Program of the first Cadet College of Bangladesh on April 28, 2008

Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed, ndc, psc has kindly consented to be the chief guest on the occasion and be present at the seminar: 'Celebrating 50 Years of Cadet College Education - A Legacy of Learning' at 11.30 AM at the ballroom of Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel. The martyrs of cadet colleges in the Liberation War of Bangladesh will be honored.

Your gracious company will make the program memorable.

O.Fn. Obaidur Rahman Khan  
Chairman  
Old Faujians Association

O.Fn. M Anwarul Haq  
Convener  
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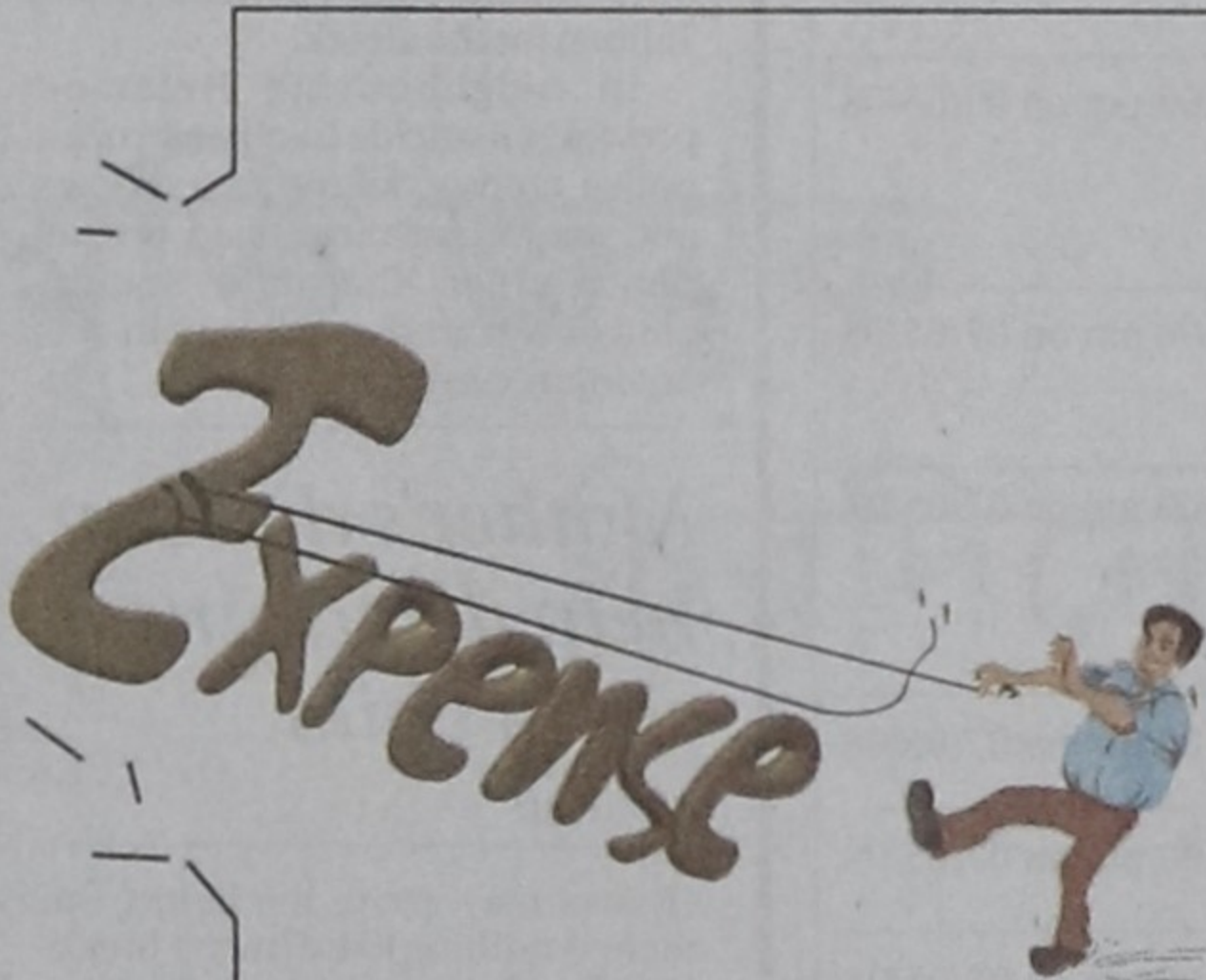
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