

# 12 killed in road accidents

METRO Desk

Twelve people were killed and 14 others injured in separate road accidents in Bogra, Narayanganj, Sirajganj, Rajshahi and Brahmanbaria in the last two days.

Our staff correspondent in Bogra reports: Five people were killed when a speeding passenger bus hit a three-wheeler and a rickshaw van at Mirzapur Bazar in Sherpur upazila yesterday evening.

One of the victims was identified as Abul Kalam Azad, a Grameen Bank official.

The identity of the other victims could not be known immediately.

Meanwhile, one Aghrayan Chandra Dev, 55, was run over by another bus at Adamdighi upazila in the district.

Our correspondent in Narayanganj reports: Three people were killed on the spot and four others injured when a passenger bus turned turtle near Kanchpur Bridge at Shimrail under Siddhirganj upazila yesterday.

All the victims were truck drivers who were taking rest there. The dead were identified as Mohammad Manik, Monir Hossain and Mozammel. The injured were rushed to a local clinic.

Witnesses said the passenger bus overturned when it was running through the bypass road under the bridge.

Angry drivers put up a barricade on the road and vandalised several vehicles.

Our correspondent in Sirajganj reports: Two people were killed and 10 others injured in a road accident

on the Dhaka-Bogra highway at Pachilia Bazar in Sirajganj in the early hours of yesterday.

The accident took place at around 4:30am when a bus hit a truck from behind while trying to overtake the truck.

The dead were identified as bus driver Jahangir, 23, and Rafiqul Islam, 25.

The injured were rushed to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital. The condition of three of the injured was stated to be critical.

Our RU correspondent adds: A boy was killed in a road accident at Jagirpara crossing under Puthia upazila in Rajshahi yesterday.

The victim was identified as Jamil Ali, 12, son of Jamshed Ali.

The accident took place at around 9:00am when a Rajshahi-bound speeding microbus

knocked his bicycle.

Police sent the body to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) for autopsy.

Our correspondent in Brahmanbaria adds: A man was killed in a road accident on Brahmanbaria-Comilla highway at Nayanpur village under Kasba upazila in the district on Sunday night.

The victim was identified as Tara Mia, 50.

The accident took place when a speeding bus knocked him down while crossing the road.

Seriously injured, he succumbed to his injuries on the way to hospital.

Mob seized the bus and handed over to police. But, the driver and the helper of the bus managed to flee.



Workers of Mega Text Ltd stage a demonstration at Jatrabari in the city yesterday demanding payment of arrears of salary.

## 'Raise awareness to ensure safe migration of female workers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday called for creating awareness at grassroots level about job procedures and requirements to ensure safe migration of female workers.

The roundtable on 'Awareness Development for Female Migrant Workers' was organised jointly by the Unifem (United Nations

Development Fund for Women) and BMET (Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training) at the National Press Club in the city as part of their project titled 'Establishment of Resource Centre for Female Migrant Workers'.

Speaking as chief guest, Secretary to the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Mohammad Abdul

Matin Chowdhury underscored the need for avoiding middlemen and said, "It is our aim to enable the workers contact directly with the recruiting agencies."

"Women, who migrate for housekeeping and cleaning jobs, often become involved in unsocial work and become the victims of sexual harassment," he added.

Matin said migration must be choice-oriented and not need-oriented.

He also called for coordination of all stakeholders for safe migration of women.

BMET Director Mohammad Nurul Islam presented a paper on the awareness development of female migrant workers.

According to BMET report, 4.75 lakh people from Bangladesh got overseas employment from 1976 to June 2008.

Of them, four percent are women whose main professions are housekeeping, garments and nursing.

The UAE, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Oman and Bahrain are the major countries for migration of female workers from Bangladesh, the presentation added.

Unifem National Programme Manager Naheed M Ahmed said establishing resource center for female migrants is a long process which should reach grassroots level to create awareness for female migrants.

BMET Director General and Additional Secretary Mohammad Abdul Malek said migration of female workers with the job of housemaid should be discouraged.

"When a female worker is employed to a family, it becomes difficult even for the embassy to trace and communicate with her," he added.

Malek suggested sending of skilled and semi-skilled female workers.

Dr Mohammad Nazrul Islam moderated the open discussion session.

Two female migrant workers Farzana Akter and Tohura Begum took part in the discussion and shared their experience on going abroad.

Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Nahida Sobhan and Bangladesh Ombudsman Mahila Sramik Association (BOMSA) Representative Sumaya also spoke on the occasion.

The president, in a message to the Saudi King, expressed his confidence that the bilateral ties that exist with friendship and fraternity between the two countries would flourish in their manifold dimensions in the coming years.

The CA in a separate message, said the bonds of friendship and fraternity between the two countries would continue to grow in all spheres of cooperation to the mutual benefits of the two peoples in the days ahead.

## 2 new police stations start functioning in city today

UNB, Dhaka

Two more police stations under Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) start functioning today.

With the new ones, Darul Salam Police Station and Kadamtoli Police Station, the number of police stations under DMP will rise to 35.

Darul Salam Police Station has been set up taking some areas from Mirpur Police Station while Kadamtoli Police Station from Shyampur Police Station.

Inspector General of Police Nur Mohammad will formally inaugurate the two police stations this morning.

## Abduction of RMG worker protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad yesterday formed a human chain in the city protesting abduction of a garments worker by the authorities of the garments factory.

Rozina, 15, a worker of Packers Garments at Mirpur, is missing since August 28.

Rozina worked in night shift at the factory on August 27. In the morning the factory authorities handed Rozina over to other people tainting her character, though her brother went to the factory to bring her.

Her mother filed a general diary in the connection. Later, she informed the matter to Mahila Parishad. Dhaka city unit of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad formed the human chain.



Dutch Ambassador Ten Tusscher and Roslan Ahmed, chief executive officer of United Hospital Limited, Dhaka, exchange documents after signing an agreement to provide healthcare and treatment facilities to the staff members and their eligible dependants in the city recently.

## TRAFFIC CONGESTION 'Impose restrictions on private car use'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a meeting yesterday called on the government to impose restrictions on private car use during the rush hour in the cities in order to ease traffic congestion.

Terming the car an inefficient mode of transport, they said private cars are mainly responsible for the traffic jam in the cities.

"Two private cars occupy almost the same space on the road as a 30-seater bus, but the two cars can carry not more than eight passengers," Save the Environment Movement Chairman Abu Naser Khan said.

The speakers also called on the city dwellers to use bicycle or get into the habit of walking for shorter journeys, which will help reduce traffic congestion as well as prevent air pollution.

Save the Environment Movement organised the view exchange meeting on 'Traffic congestion and ways to resolve it' at Imax Centre in the city to mark the



City Swetchhasebak League forms a human chain in front of Chittagong Press Club in the port city yesterday demanding permanent release of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and release of city mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury.

## Proposed health policy ignores basic issues

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health experts and rights activists at a seminar yesterday rejected the National Health Policy 2008, saying that it has ignored several fundamental issues and that such a policy should be formulated by an elected government, not the caretaker government.

They also announced that they would formulate the draft of a 'people's national health policy' in two months and place it before the next elected government.

Health Movement, a network of organisations working to protect health rights, organised the seminar

## United Hospital, Dutch embassy sign agreement

METRO DESK

United Hospital Limited, Dhaka recently signed an agreement with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to provide healthcare and treatment facilities to its staff members and their eligible dependants.

Roslan Ahmed, chief executive officer of United Hospital Limited, Dhaka and Dutch Ambassador Ten Tusscher signed the agreement on behalf of their respective parties at United Hospital in the city recently.

Jan G Van der Vliet, first secretary and head of administration and consular affairs of Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Faridur Rahman Khan, managing director (MD) of the hospital, Dr Rubaiul Mursheed, adviser to the MD, Dr Enayetur Hossain Sheikh, chief of clinical support, Dr AHM Belal, patient counselling coordinator, and Syed Ashraf-ul-Masum, senior marketing executive, were also present on the occasion.

on 'National Health Policy 2008: A critique and plan of action' at the National Press Club.

The policy is 'more like a strategy paper', the speakers said, adding that no health rights activists were involved in the policy-making process.

It is also not clear whether the proposed 2008 health policy is an updated policy or a new one, they said.

Although the policy calls for health rights of all, it gives priority to private healthcare service, they added.

The experts suggested that the role of the NGOs in the health sector be made specific in the policy.

The policy has given priority to medical technology, whereas prevention of diseases and primary healthcare service should be given priority, they added.

The draft policy does not give the sector-wise coverage; it focuses only on the health ministry, said AM Zakir Hussain, health system management and public private partnership specialist.

The policy also does not have a vision statement, he said.

Former president of Bangladesh

Medical Association Prof Rashid-e-Mahboob, Dr Naila Zaman Khan of Dhaka Shishu Hospital, Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury of Gonoshasthya Kendra, Farhad Mazhar, Farida Akhter, Dr Salek Ahmed of Ubiniq, Dr Mahmudur Rahman of Dhaka Community Hospital, Dr Enamul Hasib, Dr Md Mushtaq Hossain and Dr Mesbahuddin Ahmed also spoke.

## Tk5cr illegal goods seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Bangladesh Coast Guard seized illegal goods worth around Tk 5 crore and arrested two people in different drives in last 30 days ending September 15, says a press release.

The seized goods include 600 CFT Sundari timber, 26400 metre current net, 10 bottles of liquor, steel wire rope and other materials.

The arrestees were handed over to the concerned law enforcement agencies.



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