

Three killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

Three people were killed in separate road accidents in Dinajpur and Sirajganj in last two days.

Our Dinajpur Correspondent reports: At least two people were killed in separate road accidents at Nawabganj in Dinajpur on Friday.

The dead were identified as Fazlu Miah, 65, of Kanchandop village and Monwara Begum, 70.

Police quoting locals said that a speeding motorcycle hit Fazlu on behind at Habaughat village on Nawabganj-Birampur road on Friday night leaving him critical injured. Locals rushed him to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

In another accident on Birampur-Nawabganj road at Monirampur village on Friday evening a speeding motorcycle hit Monwara Begum leaving her dead on the spot.

Our correspondent from Sirajganj adds: One person was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Bonpara road in Sirajganj yesterday morning.

Police said the accident occurred when Khaybar Hossain, 50, of Nadossydepur village in Tarash upazila crossing the road, a Dhaka-bound truck crushed him under its wheels.

Police recovered the body and sent it for autopsy.



Participants of a workshop for radio journalists pose for photograph with the guests at the certificate giving ceremony at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

Media should address needs of ethnic communities

Speakers tell roundtable

METRO DESK

The media should address the genuine needs of the indigenous people in a proper way through detailed and objective reports, speakers said at a roundtable at Kamalganj in Moulvibazar yesterday.

Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) organised the roundtable with the support of the Delegation of the European Commission to Bangladesh under the project titled 'Bridging Media and Ethnicity'.

The speakers at the roundtable on 'Bridging the gap between media and ethnic communities' said there are so many issues concerning the ethnic people's rights and the media hardly highlight them.

They suggested that the media should focus on the indigenous people's rights rather than portraying just their livelihood and cultural activities.

They stressed the need for ensuring greater representation of the indigenous people in the media so that their genuine problems and issues can be addressed.

However, journalists participating in the discussion said they need adequate and reliable sources of information for reporting the issues of ethnic communities. They sought cooperation from the members of the ethnic community in this regard.

Journalist Quratul-Ain-Tahmina presented the keynote paper at the roundtable. Tahmina in her paper said journalists must maintain objectivity in reporting the ethnic issues and play a proactive role in bridging the gap between media and ethnic communities.

Hasibur Rahman, executive director of MRDI, stressed better understanding of human rights of the ethnic communities through a shared upbringing so that the media can cover appropriate and accurate news in time.

Shahana Huda, manager (Media and Communication) of Manusher Jonno Foundation, moderated the roundtable attended by 24 community/NGO representatives and local journalists.

Role of radio journalists in restoring democracy underscored

UNB, Dhaka

Lauren Kahea Moriarty, former US Ambassador to Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec), yesterday said the role of radio journalists is very important in restoring democracy and building a new democratic foundation in Bangladesh.

"The work of radio journalists is vital in a democracy. Their reports are very important to facilitate the free flow of ideas which can help build a democracy," she said.

Kahea Moriarty, wife of US Ambassador to Bangladesh James F Moriarty, was addressing the certificate distribution ceremony of a workshop at the National Press Club in the city. Radio Today and Voice of America (VOA) jointly organised the two-week workshop with 36 staff of Radio Today taking part in it.

Kahea Moriarty said journalists with their objective reports could shape the way of people's view about an election candidate and an issue, and under an emergency most people tend to know the truth.

She said the journalists, who successfully completed the workshop, would help their country build a new democratic foundation.

Kahea said radio journalists can help change the world and also the way of life. "There are so many examples in the world about it."

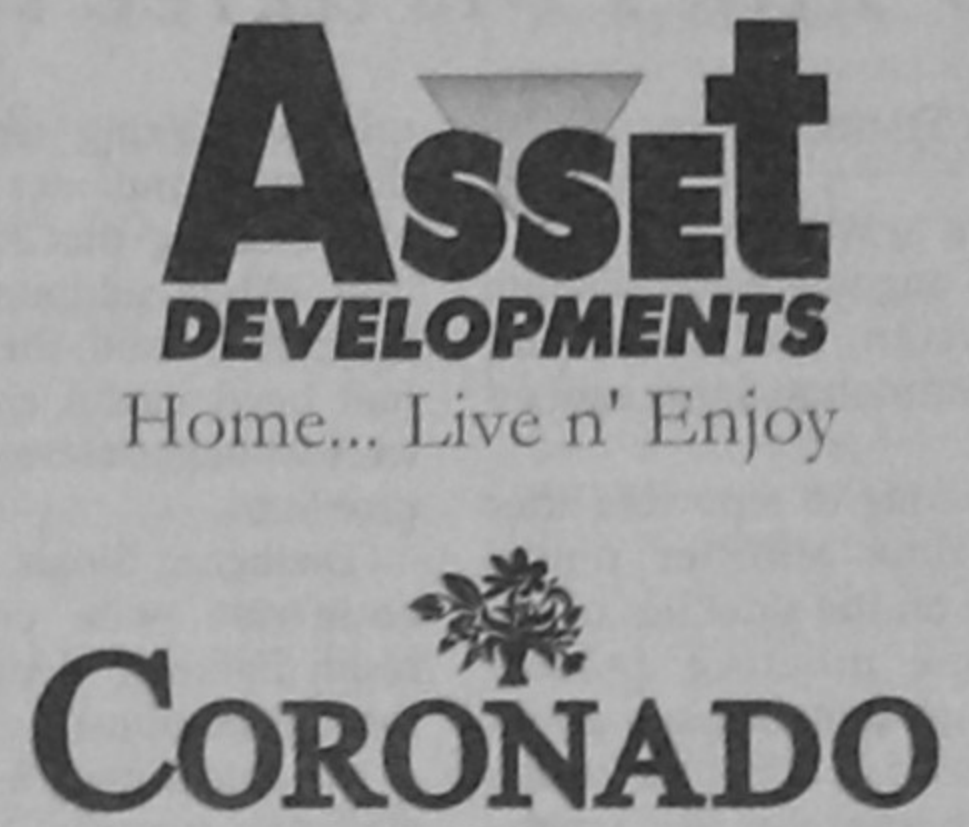
National Press Club President Shaukat Mahmud and Voice of America Regional Marketing Director Neal Lavan also spoke at the function with Radio Today General Manager Rafiqul Haq in the chair.

Indian cloths worth over Tk 1cr seized in Comilla

UNB, Comilla

upazila yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a petrol team of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) recovered 1,792 pieces of Indian saris, 259 sets three-pieces and other cloths from a covered van at Chouara in sadar



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Reinstallation of Baul sculptures demanded

RU CORRESPONDENT

Around one hundred teachers of Rajshahi University under the banner of 'Progressive Teachers Society' (PTS) yesterday formed a human chain in front of the central library protesting demolition of the baul sculptures near Zia International Airport in Dhaka.

They also held a rally where they termed the incident a 'threat' against the Bangalee history, culture, tradition and liberation war.

The teachers also criticised the role of the caretaker government for not taking any actions against the fundamentalist forces.

They urged the students and progressive minded people to launch a tougher movement against the fundamentalists.

They also called upon the government and demanded immediate reinstallation of the sculptures and exemplary punishment to the Islamist groups.

PTS Convener Prof Mozaffar Hossain, syndicate member Prof Abdus Sobhan, Prof Mokhlesur Rahman, Prof Mizan Uddin, Prof Ananda Kumar Saha, Prof Mahabubur Rahman, Prof Fayekuzzaman, Prof Jalal Uddin, Prof SM Abu Bakar, Prof Entajul Haque, Prof Muhammad Nurullah, Prof Shamsuddin Ilias, Prof Chowdhury Sarwar Zahan, Prof Shah Newaz Ali, Prof Dulal Chandra Ray, Prof Molyol Kumar Bhowmik, Tarek Noor, Hasibul Alam and SA Haider address the rally.

Meanwhile, students of the departments of Fine Art, Bangla, Folklore and Mass Communication and Journalism, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU), Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF), Pragatisheel Chhatra Jote (PCJ), Sammilite Sangskritik Jote and Mahila Parishad also formed separate human chains and held protesting rallies on the campus demanding reinstallation of the sculptures.



Vice President of Chevron Corporation Peter Robertson receives a crest of honour from Belal Ahmed, general secretary of Sylhet Samaj Kalyan Sangstha (SSKS), at the launching ceremony of two permanent community clinics in the Bibiyana gas field area recently.

Two community clinics launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two permanent community clinics have been launched in the Bibiyana gas field area recently.

Vice President of Chevron Corporation Peter Robertson during his three-day visit inaugurated the clinics funded by Chevron.

Robertson said Chevron is extremely proud of forging a partnership with the community that has seen some effective results in community development in and around the areas where the company operates, says a press release.

Steve Wilson, president of Chevron Bangladesh, Belal Ahmed, general secretary of Sylhet Samaj Kalyan Sangstha (SSKS), Chevron's partner in the programme, also attended the meeting.

The construction of two permanent Smiling Sun Clinics in the two unions near the gas field began in mid-2008.

They are the result of partnership forged between the community and Chevron Bangladesh. The members of respective communities have donated the land of clinics, one in Inatganj and the other at Dighabak at Nabiganj in Habiganj district.

The Chevron-funded Smiling Sun Clinics are part of a wide network of 318 permanent and 8,212 satellite clinics run all over Bangladesh under a USAID supported healthcare programme.

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