

'Include women dev issues in election manifestos'

RU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a view exchange meeting yesterday urged the political parties to incorporate the issue of women development into election manifestos.

They also underscored the need for political empowerment of women and expressed their solidarity with the Election Commission's proposal for involving women in the policymaking level of the political parties.

The speakers urged the political parties to reserve 33 percent of the party nominations for women candidates for the general and union parishad (UP) elections.

The Rajshahi district unit of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) organised the meeting

at GDRC auditorium yesterday.

Kalpna Roy, general secretary of BMP Rajshahi district unit, read out a written statement at the meeting while Abeda Raihan Buli, president, presided over the meeting.

Kalpna called for establishing the constitutional rights of underprivileged women.

The speakers also urged the government to implement the National Women Development Policy 2008.

The speakers also urged the political parties not to nominate war criminals and fundamentalists in the upcoming parliamentary elections.

Lailun Nahar Baby, vice president of Rajshahi BMP, and its Secretary for Legal Affairs Shakila Islam Juthi also spoke.



Visitors take a look at memorabilia of the liberation war put on display at Liberation War Museum in the city. Several freedom fighters handed over the memorabilia to the museum authorities at a function yesterday.

Link road project in Bogra faces uncertainty

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, Bogra

Although Tk 2 crore has already been spent on the purchase of land for a link road to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College, the project now faces uncertainty.

The Roads and Highways Department (RHD), Bogra Division had launched the project to improve communication between Mohammed Ali Hospital in Bogra town and Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital on the outskirts of the town.

Convinced by locals' appeal, the RHD authorities and district administration had urged the higher authorities to reduce the width of the road to 13.72 metres from 18.30 metres last August, but the authorities are yet to respond in this regard.

Abul Hossain Pramanik,

executive engineer RHD Bogra Division, told The Daily Star Friday over telephone that people have to travel at least seven kms more for want of a link road.

A senior official of the division said the five-year project was scheduled to be completed between fiscal years 2004-2005 and 2008-2009 at a cost of Tk 13.70 crore.

The government released Tk 8 crore to continue the project but the achievement of work is still zero, said Pramanik.

He said the approved project's cost increased by more than Tk 3 crore as the work was not started on schedule.

If the authorities fail to spend at least Tk 4 crore in the current fiscal year, the project may be cancelled, said another official of the department.

For the 4.5-km-long road, the

authorities have completed surveys and other preliminary work, RHD Bogra officials said.

They said out of the Tk 8 crore sanctioned, Tk 6 crore is lying idle in the bank and Tk 2 crore was given to the deputy commissioner as compensation for acquiring land.

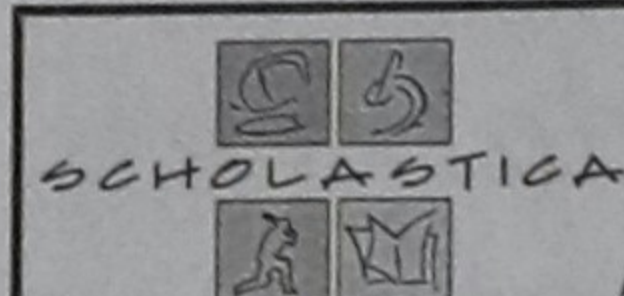
2 killed in Trishal road accident

UNB, Mymensingh

Two motorcyclists were killed when a bus rammed their vehicle on Dhaka-Mymensingh road at Kanhar in Trishal upazila yesterday.

The dead were identified as Kabir, 30 and Jonny, 29.

The police said the bus hit the motorcycle from behind at about 3:00pm, leaving two motorcyclists dead on the spot.



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Call to make NID a success

BSS, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday urged all, including government, non-government and international organisations to make the National Immunisation Day (NID) a success.

In a message on the occasion of the 17th National Immunisation Day, he said, "I am very happy to know that 2.4 crore children under 0-5 years of age would be administered polio vaccine from 1.40 lakh centres of the country on the day."

The president hoped that the immunisation programme would be successful to make the country polio-free.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed in a message yesterday also expressed his optimism that the country will move forward towards achieving polio-free target through a successful immunisation programme.

He said, "I am very happy that the first round of the 17th NID will be launched tomorrow and the second round on January 3, 2009 to check the spread of polio."

Fertiliser-laden boat sinks in Jamuna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A fertiliser-laden engine boat sank in the Jamuna river on Thursday afternoon.

The boat was carrying over 1,000 bags of fertiliser from a stranded vessel MV Mostafa-1

at Hariampur point under Bera upazila.

Sources said when the boat reached Panchakola point, it hit dredger pipes and capsized in the river.

The boatmen, however, managed to swim ashore.

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