

Two killed in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Two people were killed and 16 others injured in a road accident in Dinajpur yesterday.

Most of the injured were candidates of yesterday's teacher registration examination, police said.

One of the dead was identified as Rabin Chandra Barman, 32, but the identity of the other, aged around 30, could not be known immediately.

The accident occurred when a Dinajpur-bound bus lost control near Dinajpur Government College intersection and fell into a roadside ditch before hitting a tree.

The injured were rushed to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital.

Eight of them left the hospital after receiving first aid.

However, Md Rabiul Alam, 30, Al Mamun, 25, Sayedee, 20, Babul, 30, Afsana Begum, 30, Adam Sufee, 22, Arfan and Biplob, 25, were undergoing treatment at the same hospital till filing of the report.

BDR recovers motorbike, phensidyl

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) yesterday recovered a motorbike and 105 bottles of phensidyl from a gang of smugglers in Benapole.

The gang left the things when they were challenged by BDR personnel

at Puthkhal Balurmath border.

Acting on a tip-off, a BDR team took position in the area and challenged the gang on their arrival.

The gang comprising 15 smugglers all on a sudden attacked BDR members prompting them open fire.

At one stage the smugglers managed to escape the scene leaving the motorbike and phensidyl.

Eyewitnesses said in the attack two BDR personnel were injured but the authorities concerned denied it.



Indigenous people perform a traditional Garo dance to celebrate 'Wanna', the Garo thanksgiving, at Askipara village close to Garo hills under Haluaghat upazila in Mymensingh yesterday.

Garos celebrate Wanna festival

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The indigenous people of Haluaghat upazila in the district celebrated the daylong programme 'Wanna', the Garo thanksgiving, yesterday at Askipara village amid huge festivity and enthusiasm.

The remote village, close to Garo hills, shook with the sounds of traditional Garo songs and a number of cultural activities in presence of high-profile foreign dignitaries.

Nakma, Garo priest, started

the celebration offering vegetables, fruits and other things produced in nature to the god to express their gratitude for their survival on earth. He also offered 'Chu', a kind of locally prepared drink, marking Wanna.

A total of 19 cultural groups, including two from Kalmakanda in Netrokona and Madhupur in Tangail, took part in the programme.

The performances of the groups were the chronological description of everyday life of Garos, the largest ethnic group

living in plain land.

EC Head of the Delegation Ambassador Dr Stefan Frowein, EC First Secretary of the Delegation Charles Whiteley, Royal Danish Embassy Deputy Ambassador Gacob Dal Winthal, Danida Senior Adviser Hans Hoffmeyer and cultural personality Mamunur Rashid were present, among others, at the ceremony.

The dance sequence of the programme started with the theme of cleaning the jungle to prepare land for cultivation.

The most romantic dance sequence was to select life partner.

Earlier, the guests were received at the main entrance offering 'Wanchi Thakka', a pest prepared by mixing water with rice dust, on their forehead and Kathup Dami and Rickmabu, the traditional headwear.

Adivasi Forum General Secretary Sanjeeb Drong at the programme said Garos used to thank god and other necessary things of the nature needed for their survival.

'Reject corrupt candidates'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Around 400 people, including students, formed a human chain and organised a rally yesterday urging the voters not to vote corrupts, muscle-men and black money holders who are contesting the next general polls.

They also vowed to root out corruption from the society once and for all.

District Anti-Corruption Resistance Committee organised the human chain with the

slogan 'Join hand in hand, shoulder to shoulder -- down with corruption' in the New Market area.

It also organised a rally to create awareness among the people about corruption as well as to take a firm stance on the corrupt candidates who are contesting the polls.

With President of the committee Prof Matiur Rahman in the chair, it was addressed by Satkhira Sachetan Nagorik Committee President Principal Asit Kumar

Majumdar, advocate AKM Shahidullah and Abul Kalam Babla.

They called on the students to come forward with a view to rooting out corruption which is leading the country towards an economic disaster.

Widespread corruption in every sphere of life is largely threatening the growth of development in the country, they said, adding that they want to make the next generation aware of the vitiating influence of corruption.

Man run over by train

UNB, Comilla

A young man was crushed to death under the wheels of a train at Laksham Railway Junction on Thursday night.

The dead was identified as Helal Uddin, 30, of Bornaiya village in Monohorganj upazila.

Railway police said Helal was trying to get on the running train 'Meghna Express' but slipped and went under the train. He died on the spot.

'Next govt should be fully briefed on state of economy'

Civil society task force on financial crisis to be formed

METRO DESK

Civil society members at a meeting yesterday hoped that the newly elected government would undertake various measures to address the impact of ongoing financial crisis and global recession on the country's economy, says a press release.

Taking account of the transitional state of governance, they felt that it was particularly important that the incoming government should be fully briefed on the state of the economy and implications of the crisis on various sectors of the economy.

Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan moderated the meeting held at the CPD office in the city.

The meeting discussed ways to protect the economy and the people from the adverse impact of the crisis.

The participants observed that the incoming government should have, at their disposal, concrete recommendations and actionable agendas to

address the emerging situation on a continuing basis.

The objective of this civil society exercise will be to facilitate and contribute to such initiatives, they added.

The group decided that a Task Force may be formed to coordinate these initiatives to oversee the work to be undertaken in the above context. Specific responsibilities were to be shared by the CPD, BIDS and other relevant stakeholders who will monitor the impact of the ongoing crisis and suggest appropriate policy interventions to the government.

It was also decided that CPD will serve as the secretariat of the Task Force.

The work of the Task Force will be supported by inputs from FBCCI, business chambers and grassroots organisations.

Dr M Asaduzzaman, research director, BIDS; Annisul Huq, president, FBCCI; Khushi Kabir, coordinator, Nijera Kori; Laila Rahman Kabir, former president, MCCI; Salahuddin Ahmed Khan, CEO, DSE; Dr

Mustafa K Mujeri, chief economist, Bangladesh Bank; Kamran T Rahman, president, BEF; Kazi Mahmood Sattar, president, Bankers' Association of Bangladesh; Dr Quazi Shahabuddin, director general, BIDS; M Syeduzzaman, former finance minister; and Prof Mustafizur Rahman, executive director, CPD, were present at the meeting.

Foreign currencies recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday recovered foreign currencies in a bag at Dhanmondi in the city.

The recovered currencies worth about Tk 29 lakh include Singaporean, Hong Kong and American dollars.

Acting on a tip-off, the team took position at Satmasjid Road, but a man left the bag and fled the scene, Rab sources said.



People from all walks of life place wreaths on the coffin of Bangladesh Gonetrantri Party President Nurul Islam at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka yesterday to pay their last respects.

Call to set up separate fund to combat natural disaster

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists yesterday demanded setting up of a separate fund for combating natural disaster.

The demands came from a programme organised by Nagorik Samity in collaboration with Youth in Action on Climate at the base of Raju Memorial on Dhaka University campus.

The programme included discussions, Gono Sangeet and 'Dhak Utsab' (Drum Festival). Sharifuzzaman Sharif, general secretary of the organisation, placed their demands at the programme.

He demanded that the developed countries keep their pledge on the emission of carbon dioxide and a multi-

donor fund be set up without the interference of the World Bank.

Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury demanded the developed capitalist countries compensate the underdeveloped ones for the negative consequences that these countries have been suffering for the developed part of the globe.

The speakers also demanded immediate implementation of the rehabilitation programme of the Sidr-hit area promised by the developed countries.

President of Nagorik Samity Dr ASM Atikur Rahman and Dr Kazi Saleh Ahmed, former vice chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, also spoke at the programme.



The Institute of Hazrat Mohammad (SAW) organised a discussion titled 'Dignity and justice for all of us' to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities at a city hotel recently. From left are former adviser to a caretaker government Rokia Afzal Rahman, National Professor Brig (ret'd) Abdul Malik, President of the Institute Lt Gen (ret'd) M Nooruddin Khan, First Secretary for Education at Indian High Commission Rajiv Chaudhary, Director of Goethe-Institut Torsten Oertel and Charge d'Affaires of Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia Said Ghurmullah Al-Ghamdi.

Election observers take up voter education programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election Working Group (EWG), a platform of 32 local election observers, has taken up several voter education programmes, including distribution of nine million brochures across the country and formation of Citizens' Alliance for Promoting Transparency and Accountability (CAPTA) at every upazila.

With a view to raising mass awareness, especially among the first-time young voters and women, EWG will print a total of nine million brochures on three subjects - next general polls slated for December 29, women voters and youth votes.

Besides, EWG has planned

to distribute their voter informational materials through 428 units of CAPTA across the country.

The speakers said this at a press conference at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city.

EWG Director Zahurul Alam said, "The brochures will be distributed at mosques, campuses, tea stalls, markets and local NGOs. CAPTA will also organise group discussions and debates among candidates."

"EWG has developed three public service announcements. Two of them are already being aired on television and focused on accountability and the rights of women to vote for candidates of their choice, free from

family pressure to vote for candidates they do not wish to vote," he added.

Pointing to EWG's national survey, its member Numan Ahmed Khan said 99 percent voters intend to vote and over 80 percent want to keep an eye on their members of parliament once elected.

Jatiya Nirbachon Parjobbekkhon Parishad (Janipop) Chairman Prof Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah said around two lakh observers under EWG will monitor the elections.

EWG member Harun-or-Rashid hoped that the brochures will push votes to vote for candidates with clear political views to address the problems facing the people.



Barisal City Corporation Mayor Shawkat Hossain Hiron, 3rd from right, lays the foundation stone of Jahanara Israil School at College Row in Barisal yesterday. The school will provide poor but meritorious primary students with free education materials.

আমার ভোট আমি দেবো দেখে শুনে জেনে দেবো

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bd CNG ASSOCIATION

Bangladesh CNG Filling Station and Conversion Workshop Owners Association

205-207, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208.
Ph: 8815592, 01714-200860

NOTICE OF THE 4TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given to all members of the Association that the 4th Annual General Meeting of Bangladesh CNG Filling Station and Conversion Workshop Owners Association will be held at "Dilkusha Hall", Hotel Purbani International, 1 Dilkusha, C/A, Dhaka-1000 on Saturday the 27th December, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. to transact the following business:

AGENDA

- To confirm the minutes of the 3rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association.
- To receive, consider and adopt Audited statement of accounts of the Association for the year ended 30 June, 2008.
- Approval of the Budget for the year 2008-2009.
- To appoint Auditors for the year ending 30.06.2009 and fix up their remuneration.
- Any other business with the permission of the Chair.

Dated: Dhaka 04 December, 2008

On behalf of the Executive Committee

Sd/-
(Shafiqul Islam Kamal)
President

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