

Seven killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

Seven people were killed and 35 others injured in separate road accidents in Comilla and Gaibandha yesterday.

A correspondent in Comilla reports: Five people were killed and 35 others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Nalgor at Chouddagram early yesterday.

vehicular movement on Dhaka-Chittagong highway was suspended for one and

half hours due to the accident.

The dead were identified as Upen Chandra Das, 45, and his son Nani Gopal Das, 8, Dina Rani Ray, 38, Litu Khandaker, 22, and Kanai Biswas, 55.

The accident took place when a passenger bus collided head-on with a covered van.

The injured were admitted to Chouddagram Health Complex and Comilla Medical College Hospital.

Of them, condition of an unidentified person was stated to be critical.

Our correspondent in Gaibandha adds: A motorcyclist and his wife were killed in a road accident on Rangpur-Bogra highway at Kalitola yesterday.

Police said Sohrab Ali, 38, and his wife Hosne Ara, 30, were going to Shibganj in Bogra when a speeding bus hit the motorcycle from the opposite direction.

Sohrab died on the spot while Hosne Ara succumbed to her injuries on the way to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.



PHOTO: STAR

Children are engaged in painting pictures at a drawing competition at the National Press Club in the city marking the International Mother Language Day. Bangladesh Shishu Sangathan Shamannay Parishad organised the event.

EDUCATION SECTOR

High-powered committee to probe corruption

Nahid tells parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday told the House the government would form a high-powered committee to investigate large scale corruption in education sector during the past BNP-led alliance government.

"We will make the investigation report public, the education minister said.

"The government will also investigate other forms of irregularities if those are brought to our notice," Nahid said replying to a query of AL

lawmaker Shajahan Khan.

On textbook crisis, the education minister said the government is yet to decide on printing textbooks open to tackle the persisting crisis.

"The policy of making textbook printing up-to-date is under active consideration of the government," Nahid said replying to another query of AL lawmaker Iqbalur Rahim.

While responding to a question by ruling alliance legislators Nahid said his government would look into the irregularities of BNP-led alliance government while

bringing educational institutions under monthly payment order (MPO).

In replying to Workers Party MP Rashed Khan Menon's query, the minister said the government does not allow private educational institutions to take donation in the name of development funds from guardians while getting their kids admitted.

"However, private schools can take a maximum of TK 5, 000 from a student during the admission. Formulation of a policy on admission is now under process," Nahid added.

HEALTH POLICY

'Consider people's view in formulating policy'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should formulate a health policy considering the fact that health is people's right, not a chance, speakers said at a roundtable yesterday.

The speakers at the roundtable titled 'Our expectations from national health policy' at Cirdap auditorium also said that the government must pay heed to the expectations of the people.

National Health Rights Movement Committee organised the roundtable.

The speakers at the roundtable placed some

recommendations before the government. They had prepared the recommendations following discussions with different stakeholders.

Leaders of the committee said health service cannot be privatised or commercialised in any way and healthcare should be ensured for all irrespective of their socioeconomic condition and geographical location.

They stressed the need for mobilising the management of the healthcare system as well as making it effective and modern.

They also spoke on activating the drug administration and

Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council (BMDC), providing priority-based services, modernisation of health education, providing health information to the people, ensuring food, nutrition, sanitation and safe drinking water and ensuring quality control through establishing transparency and accountability and proper monitoring.

President of the committee Prof Rashid-E-Mahbub, Member Secretary Dr Nitai Kanti Das, Prof ABM Faruque of Dhaka University, Dr Zafur Khan of Gonoshasthya Kendra and Farida Akhter of Ubinig also spoke.

Indian visa office at Banani to end peaceful living

Say residents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local residents yesterday said relocation of Indian visa office to Banani would destroy residential character of the area and deprive them of a peaceful life.

They said this at a press conference organised by Banani Society at the National Press Club in the city.

State Bank of India that operates the visa processing is planning to transfer the visa office from the residential area of Gulshan section-1 to Banani Block-F at house-98/A of Road No.7.

General Secretary of the society Shah Abul Kahsem said the visa office, where hundreds of applicants crowd every day, will turn the core residential neighbourhood into a market place with round-the-clock public chaos, traffic congestion and unwanted elements.

Banani residential area is already spoilt by various unauthorised commercialisation, he said, adding that the locals appealed to the authori-

ties, including Indian High Commission, not to set up the visa office in the area.

Kashem further said that the situation around visa office in Gulshan at present is already exactly the same as apprehended with long queue of visa applicants, brokers and traffic congestion.

Hundreds of brokers and visa seekers stand in queues for hours, block pedestrian passage, litter at will and respond to the call of nature openly on the sidewalks and drains, he added.

He said the society has

already contacted the foreign ministry, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) and State Bank of India to stop the move.

"Though a residential building cannot be used for non-residential purposes without due permission, Rajuk has not yet taken any action in this regard," said Kahsem.

Rajuk has so far not taken action against other unauthorised commercial uses of the residential neighbourhood, he said, adding that the high commission owns a two-bigha

plot near the US embassy at Baridhara where it can set up its offices.

The locals said that most of those owners who rent out their buildings for big commercial and business uses here live abroad.

Several lakh Bangladeshis travel to India every year on medical, education and other purposes.

Banani Ladies Society advisor Momena Ali, Joint Secretary of Banani Society Md Moniruzzaman and former ambassador Abdus Salam also took part.

Purbachal, Uttara plot allocation by this yr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Allocation of plots under Purbachal and Uttara projects will be completed this year while construction of the flats by 2012, State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan told the House yesterday.

Replying to a query from Awami League (AL) lawmaker Mahmud Us Samad Chowdhury, the state minister said the government has also made a plan to allocate plots in Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi and Sylhet, keeping a quota for the non-resident Bangladeshis.

The state minister said construction of 1,020 flats for the people in limited-income bracket will be completed by 2011.

About canceling allocation of plots by the past BNP-led alliance government, Mannan said actions will be taken against those who were involved in canceling the allocations made by the then AL-led government.

"We are also looking into the matter whether the victims can be compensated for their financial damage," the state minister said.

Prof Saleh new VC of SUST

UNB, Dhaka

Prof M Saleh Uddin, head of Economics Department of United International University, has been appointed vice-chancellor of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST).

Prof Saleh Uddin will replace Prof Dr Aminul Islam, who has been removed from the VC post earlier, said an official release yesterday.

Two prime accused on remand again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A Chittagong court yesterday placed two prime accused, Hafizur Rahman and Din Mohammad, in a four-day remand again in the sensational Chittagong Arms Case.

Chittagong Metropolitan Judicial Magistrate Osman Gani granted the remand after hearing.

On Tuesday, Investigation Officer (IO) of the case Md Moniruzzaman, an assistant superintendent of police of Criminal Investigation Department (CID), in a prayer sought four-day remand for the two prime accused in the 10 truckloads of arms smuggling case, court sources said.

Hafizur and Din were earlier taken on five-day remand that ended on Monday, they said.

In the country's largest-ever arms haul, the joint forces seized 10 truckloads of 10,000 arms, including submachine-guns, AK 47 rifles, rocket propelled grenades and their launchers, 2,000 grenades and three lakh bullets in the early hours on April 2, 2004 from Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd (CUFL) jetty.

After the arms haul, two separate cases were filed, one under section-25/B of the Special Power Act for arms smuggling and the other under section-19 (ka) of the Arms Act with the Kamaphuli Police Station.

Of the 43 accused in both the cases, only Hafizur and Din are now in jail while 33 others are on bail and eight others absconding.

BNP leader stabbed to death in Shariatpur

UNB, Shariatpur

A local BNP leader was stabbed to death by the criminals at Dhipur in Gosairhat upazila yesterday.

The dead was identified as M Khalilur Rahman Peyada, president of Idilpur union unit BNP and 4 No UP member.

Local sources said the miscreants hacked Khalil, cut tendons of his legs and broke his hands in the afternoon and then left him in a paddy field.

Villagers rescued him in a critical condition and rushed him to Gosairhat Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

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ASTD/27/09

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Guests hold copies of a book titled 'Shantanke Pitar Kothamala' by Abdul Awal Mintoo at its publication ceremony at ICMA auditorium in the city yesterday. Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, ABM Musa, Dr Enamul Haq, Rashid Haider and Prof Harun-ur-Rashid were present at the programme.

WORLD KIDNEY DAY ON MARCH 12 Awareness campaign begins Mar 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the eve of the World Kidney Day on March 12, Barakah Kidney Hospital and Research Institute Ltd will launch a month-long campaign on March 1 to create awareness in the society.

The programme will include

Australian aid for Rohingyas

METRO DESK

The Australian government will provide A\$12.8 million for overseas assistance projects in 2009 to support displaced people fleeing wars, persecution or political strife in their homelands, says a press release.

The Australian Minister for Immigration and Citizenship Senator Chris Evans informed this recently in Canberra.

Of the allocation A\$4,84,000 will be spent for the Rohingyas refugees in Bangladesh through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

free kidney and urology treatment camp, screening programme of urinary tract infection (UTI) at three education institutions and operation at a package rate.

Addressing a press conference in the city yesterday, Managing Director of the hospital Mohammad Altaf Hossain said some 10 poor people will also be operated free of cost.

Specialised doctors would provide consultation from 9:00am to 2:00pm free of cost, he said, adding that during the campaign, registered patients would be able to go through the tests at 50 percent discount rate.

Free kidney camp will be held at Unique Hospital and Diagnostic Centre on March 10 and 11, at Mirpur Diagnostic on March 18 and 19 and at Al Hera Medical Centre on March 26.

Still a huge number of kidney patients go abroad for their treatment as they are yet to know about the institutions that are giving better treatment now, said Altaf, adding that people should know about the symptoms of kidney diseases and take necessary steps immediately.

ফ্লোরস্পেস বিক্রয়

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৩১ মার্চ '০৯ পর্যন্ত

ইউনিয়ন মেম্বার

সোহরাওয়ার্দী বাসপাড়ার উল্টো দিকে

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- এনজিও
- কর্পোরেট অফিস
- শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান

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