Three killed as microbus rams human hauler

UNB, *Gopalganj*

Three people were killed as a microbus rammed into a human hauler at Fulbaria in Kashiani upazila yesterday morning.

Police said the Dhaka-bound microbus from Khulna collided with the human hauler, locally called Nasimon, at about 9:30am, killing two passengers and the driver.

The passengers were identified as Akbar Ali Mridha, 42, and Islam Mridha, 40, of Barasur village. However, the identity of the driver could not be known immediately.

Police recovered the bodies and sent them to hospital morgue for autopsy.

PHOTO: STAR

A pottery exhibition titled 'Rabikar' began at the Zainul Gallery of Fine Art Faculty on Dhaka University campus yesterday.

Goods train derails

UNB, *Comilla*

Two wagons of a container train derailed near Gunobati rail station in Chouddagram yesterday, disrupting train communications on Dhaka-Chittagong route for four hours.

The two wagons of a Chittagong port-bound goods train skidded off the track at about 8:30 am. A relief train from Laksham salvaged the wagons at about 12:45pm.

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Fazlur Rahman School at BDR HQ reopens April 15

DU CORRESPONDENT

Classes of Bir Uttam Fazlur Rahman School and College inside the BDR headquarters at Pilkhana in the city will resume on April 15.

Students have been asked to enter Pilkhana using BDR Gate No. 4 (beside Rifles Square) and 5 (Hazaribagh area) at 8:00am.

Teachers of the institution will remain present at the gates, says a press release signed by Farzana Ahmed, acting vice principal of the school.

Students are asked to leave Pilkhana using the same gates.

Vehicles carrying students are asked to use Gate No 4.

However, vehicles need to collect new stickers. Application forms for new stickers are available at the information centre at Gate No 4.

Guardians are requested to be present at the gates 15 minutes before the end of the school hours.

Solar power system can be best option to address power crisis

UNB, *Dhaka*

Solar power system can be the best option to mitigate the country's worsening power crisis, said experts.

They think the country's vast rural areas can easily be brought under solar power system, minimising the mounting pressure on the national power grid.

Managing Director of Grameen Shakti Dipal Chandra Barua said 50 percent people of the country could be brought under power supply network through solar power system within the next seven years if the government wants.

"Solar power system has a bright prospect in Bangladesh, but the country's potential still remains untapped simply for lack of proper government initiative," he told UNB.

Dr Md Rashed Chowdhury, a faculty of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Hawaii, USA told UNB that solar power system can make a big difference, especially in rural areas of Bangladesh, in resolving its chronic power crisis.

"Another alternative is nuclear power system, which is relatively more expensive but achievable," said Dr Rashed, also Principal Research Scientist of the Pacific ENSO Applications Centre (PEAC).

"The rural areas of Bangladesh can be brought under this service very quickly and efficiently. There is a perfect environment in Bangladesh for solar water heating. As the sun shines most of the day here, we don't have to worry about freezing. It's relatively less expensive and our local utility supports the purchase and installation of solar systems. All we need is to have a bill passed making it mandatory for all new homes to have solar water heaters," Dr Rashed said.

He suggested that at this initial stage, rebates and solar tax credit system will encourage people to accept this system quickly.

"Given the socioeconomic choices and constraints in Bangladesh, the government should think about it seriously."

Barua, who has 13 years of experience in the field, said the price of solar panels has come down on the global market recently, which will help people get it at lower prices.

"The government has decided to withdraw tax on equipment of solar panel but it's yet to be implemented. Once it is implemented, people will get solar panel at the minimum cost," he said.

He suggested subsidy for it, loan and allowing installment for buying solar panel. "We've a plan to introduce the system in the country's telecom sector, too. We would set up 75 lakh more solar panels in the country by 2015. The government should encourage it, as rural people are getting power because of it," he added.

Referring to rise in energy prices and rising awareness about global warming, sea-level rise and air pollution, the experts said free source of solar energy have an excellent solution to the environmental effects of fossil fuels with residential solar panels and solar power systems.

Describing how the solar panel works, a Grameen Shakti official said solar panels use the sun's energy to produce electricity to power-driven lights and appliances or in any use that requires electricity.

"Energy is created when sunlight strikes the solar panel's crystals and causes some electrons to break loose," he said.

The amount of power production largely depends on the quality of solar panels and technology. Panels of special semiconductors like silicon convert the sun's energy directly into electricity.

He said Solar Home Systems (SHSs) are highly decentralised and particularly suitable for remote, inaccessible areas, and their solar programme mainly targets those areas, which have no access to conventional electricity and little chance of getting connected to the grid within 5-10 years.

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Tribute paid to Justice Morshed

BSS, *Dhaka*

Speakers at a memorial meeting yesterday said Justice Syed Mahbub Morshed was a humanist and a progressive personality.

They said he had set up an example in the judicial arena in this subcontinent through his verdicts and writings.

Manabadhikar Paribesh Sangbadik Society (MPSS) organised the memorial meeting to mark the 30th death anniversary of the former chief justice.

Justice Habibur Rahman Khan addressed the function as the chief guest and distributed Memorial Award-2009.

Awami League leader Mozaffar Hossain Paltu spoke as the main discussant while former secretary and MPSS adviser Syed Margub Morshed presided over the meeting.

The speakers urged the authorities concerned for publishing an edition of his verdicts and for inclusion of his works of life in the textbooks.

Justice Habibur Rahman Khan said Justice Mahbub delivered many important verdicts, which are widely discussed at courts in the subcontinent.

Qirat, Azan contest of Navy ends

METRO DESK

Annual Qirat and Azan competition of Bangladesh Navy concluded at the Sailor's Colony Mosque, Mirpur in the city yesterday, says an ISPR press release.

MA Layes, AB of BNS Abu Bakr secured first position in Qirat while MM Zaman, L/ROG and MZ Hossain, ROG-1 of BNS Haji Mohshin became second and third respectively.

In Azan competition, M M Zaman, L/ROG and M M Rahman, CK-1 of BNS Haji Mohshin became first and second respectively while M Al-Amin, L/ME of BNS Shaheed Ruhul Amin secured the third position.

Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Z U Ahmed distributed prizes among the winners as the chief guest.

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