

3 Bangladeshis killed in Singapore accident

AFP, Singapore

Three Bangladeshi labourers and an Indian worker were killed in Singapore yesterday when a lorry carrying them collided with a trailer, police and hospital sources said.

Police said the three male Bangladeshi workers were "pronounced dead on the scene" of the accident. The fourth fatality was an Indian worker who died in hospital after suffering injuries from the collision, a hospital staff member said.

Thousands of foreign labourers work in Singapore's construction industry, many of them from Bangladesh, India and China.

Housewife held on charges of beating minor domestic help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested a housewife in the city's Mugdipara area yesterday on charges of severely beating a minor domestic help.

The victim was identified as Rubi Akhter, 9, daughter of Samed Siddik hailing from Shariatpur.

Police said on information they recovered Rubi from the house of Tanzila Khanam of the area and sent her to One Stop Crisis Centre (OCC) at Dhaka Medical College Hospital at around 11:00am.

Dr Bilkis Begum of OCC told The Daily Star that there are several marks of injuries all over her body and she cannot even stand straight due to pain.

She added Rubi is suffering from severe headache as her head was very often hit against the wall.

Rubi at DMCH told this correspondent that she was tortured by Tanzila almost every day over trifles.

She was not allowed to go out even to visit her village home for long.

She added that she had been serving there for about a year.

Police said she was severely beaten up yesterday and hearing her screams locals informed police who later recovered the domestic help and detained Tanzila in this connection.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Sabujbagh Police Station said in primary interrogation Tanzila has said she beat up Rubi yesterday, as she could not cut vegetables properly.

Quoting Tanzila he said she used to pour hot water on Rubi's legs as punishment for mistakes.

Dr Wazed's contribution recalled

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a memorial meeting yesterday said the death of eminent nuclear scientist Dr MA Wazed Mia is an irreparable loss to the country's science arena.

Paying rich tributes to the memory of Dr Wazed, the speakers said he had spent his whole life as a very simple person.

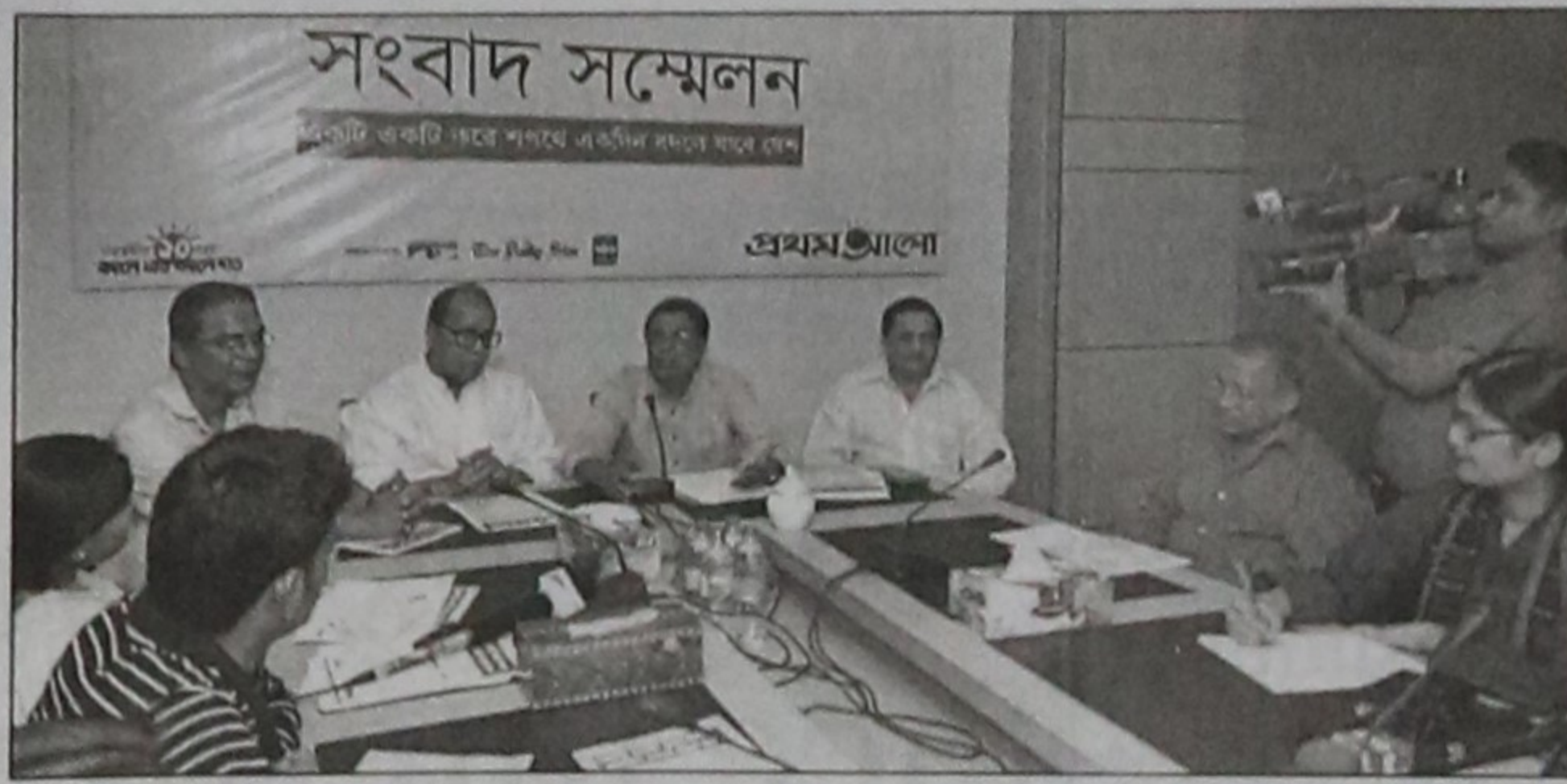
Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Society (BPS) organised the meeting at the National Press Club in the city on the life of late Dr Wazed Mia, husband of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

With BPS acting President Selim Azad Chowdhury in the chair, the meeting was addressed by lawmaker Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, former vice chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Dr AK Azad Chowdhury, Chief Reporter of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Azizul Islam Bhuiyan, Joint Secretary of the Independence Doctors Parishad Dr Rokeya Haque and Prof ABM Faruk of Dhaka University.

Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin said Dr Wazed was not only a scientist but also a courageous student leader while the Bangladesh national movement was at its peak during the 1960s.

He said steps would be taken to build a science building in the country as Dr Wazed Mia had dreamt of such an establishment.

Though Dr Wazed was very close to the state power, he never hankered after power, said AK Azad Chowdhury, adding that his professional excellence and academic feat made him president of Bangladesh Association of Sciences (BAS) twice.



Prothom Alo Editor Matur Rahman speaks at a press briefing at the newspaper's office in the city yesterday. On his left is Managing Editor of The Daily Star Syed Fahim Munaim and on his right is Managing Director of Channel I Faridur Reza Sagar.

Prothom Alo to launch campaign for change May 21

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a view to bringing about positive changes in society, the Prothom Alo is going to launch a fortnight-long campaign on May 21 to encourage individuals across the country to make pledges to change themselves or others.

Three teams, each comprising five people, will start visiting different parts of the country by cars on May 21 and collect pledges from individuals at 64 points in the 64 districts in the next 15 days, the organisers said at a press briefing at the newspaper's office yesterday.

Six chief coordinators will conduct the programme under the banner 'Change yourself, change others', with the slogan 'Every single pledge will contribute to the change in country'.

Individuals will put their pledges on banners, which will be exhibited at the Cox's Bazar sea beach later. Any individual can sign a 'pledge' either to promote good work or do something to eliminate bad practices.

Any individual can also make a pledge through SMS. To do so, one should type Pro<space> the pledge <space> his/her name <space> name of the town, and send the SMS to 2221.

"A society or a nation cannot change unless the people change at their individual level on their own and make a pledge to bring about a positive change in the country," said Prothom Alo Editor Matur Rahman at the press briefing.

Each worker of the Prothom Alo has pledged to bring about a single change in society, but this is not enough. If we want to turn it into a social movement, we must spread the message across the country," he said.

"Nothing is going to change unless we change ourselves," he added.

Managing Editor of The Daily Star Syed Fahim Munaim said, "In many countries of the world, a model must use the products he or she models in the advertisement and they are legally bound to do so. We can also play a role in changing society this way."

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Managing Director of Channel I Faridur Reza Sagar also spoke.

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