



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Children in old Dhaka, taking advantage of the weekend, play in makeshift swings made of ropes in front of closed shops yesterday. Absence of proper playgrounds and entertainment facilities in the city deprive these children of their healthy development.

10 killed, 100 injured in road accidents

METRO DESK

Ten people were killed and 100 others injured in separate road accidents in Mymensingh, Tangail, Netrokona, Thakurgaon, Barisal and Chittagong yesterday.

Our Mymensingh Correspondent reports: Three people were killed and 30 others injured, 18 of them critically, in a road accident on Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway at Nishindha in Bhaluka upazila yesterday.

The dead were identified as Ibrahim, 12, son of Hossain Ali, Reaz Uddin, 40, son of Hazrat Ali and Mobarak Hossain, 42, son of Hasmat Ali of Dhalia village of the upazila.

Police and hospital sources said the accident took place around 12.30pm when a bus carrying a bridal party from Dhalia village collided head-on with another bus bound for Mymensingh from Dhaka, killing Ibrahim and Reaz Uddin on the spot and injuring 30 others.

Nineteen of the injured persons were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where Mobarak died. Other injured were given treatment at local clinics.

Our Tangail Correspondent adds: Four people were killed and 10 others injured when a cement-laden truck skidded off the Bangabandhu Bridge Link Road in Tangail yesterday.

Police said the accident occurred

around 7:00am when the driver of a North Bengal-bound truck from Dhaka lost control over the steering after its front-left tyre busted and the truck later fell into a ditch at Dhalatengur near the bridge East Police Station, leaving three people dead on the spot and 11 others injured.

Eight of the injured were rushed to Tangail General Hospital where one of them died.

The identities of the victims who were rickshaw pullers travelling on the cement of the truck could not be known immediately said Helalul Islam, officer-in-charge of the police station.

Our Correspondent from Netrakona reports: A man was killed and 30 others people were injured in a road accident on Netrakona-Kendua Road at Tanguri in Kendua yesterday.

Mahbubunnabi, 32, of Chorpora area of Mymensingh died on the spot.

Police said the accident happened at about 6:00am when a district-bound bus fell into a ditch beside a road after its driver lost control over the steering.

Seriously injured Alaf Khan, Rajab Ali, Jasmod Ali, Khadija Begum, Lotifa Begum and Sohal Miah were sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital while others to Kendua Upazila Health Complex.

Our Thakurgaon Correspondent adds: At least ten people were injured in a road accident on Thakurgaon-Dinajpur Highway at Bus Terminal in Sadar

upazila yesterday. Police said the accident occurred at about 9:00am when a Dhaka-bound bus hit a motorbike and rammed three fuel delivery machines of a filling station.

Seriously injured eight persons were admitted to the Sadar Hospital.

A correspondent from Barisal reports: A man was killed and 20 other people were injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Barisal Highway at Gainerpar in Gouranadi upazila yesterday.

Siddikur Rahman, 40, died instantly.

Police said the accident occurred around 12:00 noon when a Dhaka-bound bus from Vandaria fell into a roadside ditch while its driver lost control over the steering.

The injured were admitted to Gouranadi Upazila Health Complex and Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

BSS from Chittagong adds: A shop employee was run over by a bus in the city's C&B crossing under Chandgaon Police Station yesterday morning.

The victim was identified as Abu Sayed, 20, son of Kala Mia Sawdagar, an employee of a furniture shop at Chandgaon area.

Sayed received head injuries when the bus crushed him under its wheels in the area while he was crossing the road.

Locals rushed the victim to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Bangladesh may face big quake any time, says expert

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh is at the threshold of a large scale earthquake that might happen anytime, a seismic expert has predicted.

Syed Humayun Akhter, professor of Geology Department of Dhaka University, said the recent small scale tremors signal big earthquakes ahead and it is imperative to take immediate precautions to face such a calamity.

In an interview on Thursday, Prof Humayun said building up mass awareness about the earthquake hazard could help to keep the losses to a minimum level.

"It is absolutely true that large scale earthquakes may occur in Bangladesh. It can happen any day - today, tomorrow or after 100 years," he said.

Humayun said government should give top most priority to creating awareness among the city dwellers to combat earthquake disasters.

He said people are now in panic following the tremors that shook various districts twice in Bangladesh including Dhaka on the night of September 10.

Humayun said earthquake drills

should be made mandatory in each and every institution. The government should take the initiative to carry out exercises by fixing date and time by playing sirens.

In this regard, he mentioned some tips on safety before, during and after earthquake.

Tips on safety before an earthquake include making a family disaster plan and keeping emergency kit items. These include drinking water, dry food, first aid box, flashlight, portable radio, extra batteries for flashlight and radio, fire extinguisher, hammers, hacksaw blade, rope and shovels in house within ones reach.

The tips suggest everyone must know where the emergency kit items are kept, train family members in 'basic first aid' and 'rescue operations', learn how to stop electric main switch and gas supply and identify emergency exits.

For indoor safety during an earthquake, stay inside and remain calm, secure personal safety based on surroundings. Many injuries occur as people enter or leave buildings.

Never use elevator as one may get

trapped inside. Get under a table, desk or bed to avoid injuries or stand in a strong doorway or take shelter near an inner wall, as maximum damage occurs in outer wall.

Do not stand in balconies. Stay away from glass windows, mirrors, almirahs and heavy objects (hanging & standing). If you are in a high rise building, stand against a support column.

Outdoors safety tips include finding a clear spot away from buildings, trees, and power lines and staying in open places.

Keep the streets clear for the passage of emergency services and help rescue operation.

Humayun said the government has taken an initiative to impart training to 62,000 volunteers in Dhaka, Sylhet and Chittagong to tackle the post-earthquake situation. But there is no thought on the course of action before earthquakes.

He suggested that the government should take initiative to develop mass awareness, saying that only mass awareness can reduce the risk of earthquake in a densely populated city like Dhaka.

Indian cabinet appeals for peace ahead of Babri verdict

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Fearing possible backlash to a court ruling on the ownership to a disputed religious site in northern Indian town of Ayodhya on September 24, Indian government has appealed to the people to maintain peace after the verdict.

A resolution passed at a meeting of Indian cabinet on Thursday said the judgement needed to be treated with utmost respect and called upon the people to remember that the verdict of the Allahabad High Court on Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute would only be a step in the judicial process and "the determination of issues would not necessarily end

with this judgement unless it is accepted by all parties."

The government said if one community is aggrieved, further legal recourse would be open to it.

"In case, any of the parties (to the legal dispute) feels that further judicial consideration is required, there are legal remedies available which could be resorted to," said the resolution read out to the media by Information and Broadcasting Minister Ambika Soni told reporters here.

Since the aggrieved party could appeal in court, it was necessary for all sections of people to maintain equanimity and tranquillity in the aftermath of the judgement, it said.

"There should be no attempt whatsoever made by any section of the people to provoke any other section or to indulge in any expression of emotion that would hurt the feelings of other people," said the cabinet resolution.

Babri Masjid was demolished on December 6, 1992, triggering widespread communal violence across India leaving hundreds dead in the worst carnage since the Partition of Indian subcontinent in 1947.

Meanwhile, authorities in a number of Indian states, including Uttar Pradesh where Ayodhya is located, are taking measures to enhance security to ward off possible communal tension after the court judgement.

Body of a domestic help recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Security guards of an apartment building recovered the body of a teenaged housemaid from a road of the residential building in the city's Wari yesterday morning.

Real-estate businessman Afzal Hossain Dhali, the housemaster of deceased housemaid Sabina, 18, claimed that the girl fell down through a window of his house on fifth floor while she was cleaning the glass of the window at around 10:00pm.

Afzal, a resident of Larmini Street at Wari under Sutrapur Police Station, claimed they picked up Sabina from a street three months ago and since then she was working at their house as a maid.

"We do not know about her address and details as we picked up her from the street," said Afzal.

Christian family members beaten up in Gazipur

STAR REPORT

A group of land brokers backed by local ruling party leaders yesterday allegedly beat up members of a Christian family when the family intercepted them from grabbing their land at Mirer Bazar in Pubail union of Gazipur.

The group of around 40 people led by Juba League leader Shubhash Chandra Hawalader, brokers Thakur Das and Shadhan Chandra Mandal started digging the family's land to take control of it at around 9:00am, said Swapan Rozario, a member of the family.

Swapan, son of Francis Rozario, one of the land owners, filed a general diary (GD) with Joydevpur Police Station in this regard.

On information, the family members rushed to the spot and stopped them from digging the land. The alleged grabbers beat up Swapan's brothers Nirmal Rozario, Augustin Rozario and uncle Michael Rozario. They threatened them of dire consequences if they did not leave the place, Swapan said.

The men also attempted to beat Swapan's sisters-in-law--Deepekha Rozario, Mala Rozario and Shanchita Rozario, Swapan said.

On information, police went to the spot and asked the alleged grabbers to leave the place, saying there is a case regarding the land with Gazipur district court, Officer-in-Charge (OC) Abdur Rashid of Gazipur Police Station told The Daily Star.

About the beating by the alleged grabbers, he said he has no knowledge of it. He also said he did not know the people who tried to take control of the land.

In the GD, Swapan said the land grabbers were threatening to grab their 324 decimal of land in Mirer

Bazar and Vadun areas though they have all the documents and were paying taxes for decades.

Francis Rozario, Michael Rozario and Nirmal Rozario of Noipara in Pubail Union own the land, Swapan said.

However, in 2006 Shadhan, Kabir, relative of Pubail Union's Chairman Sultan Uddin Ahmed and Thakur made fake documents and were trying to take control of the land, said Swapan.

"We then challenged the documents and got court verdict in our favour in 2008," Swapan told The Daily Star.

Shadhan and the others again filed case with the district judge's court, which again gave verdict in favour of

Francis Rozario and others.

Shadhan again filed an appeal on which the court is yet to give any verdict.

In this context, Shadhan and his men tried to grab the land on July 23 this year, Swapan said.

"We came to know that Subhas Chandra Hawalader bought parts of our land from Shadhan and is trying to occupy it," Swapan said.

"We are passing our days in insecurity," he added.

Shubhash could not be reached for comments despite several attempts. Former chairman Shirish denied backing Subhas in grabbing the land. However, he said there was no court injunction on the land.

2 policemen closed for illegal activities

BSS, Rangpur

Two policemen of Badarganj Police Station have been closed to Rangpur Police Line here for their alleged involvements in corruptions, extortions and other illegal activities, said police sources.

They are constables Abdus Salam of Badarganj Thana and driver Jamil Uddin.

After investigation against them, Officer-in-Charge of the police station Tobarak Ali Sarker informed Rangpur Police Super about their illegal activities when the SP closed the two policemen on Wednesday night, said the sources.



PHOTO: STAR

A guard at a rickshaw garage in Tejgaon dozes while the vehicles lay idle as most of the city's rickshaw pullers are away to their village homes on Eid vacation.

The Daily Star Coming out tomorrow - Star Campus

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The Daily Star offers campus based weekly magazine 'Star Campus' - the ultimate magazine for the young generation - a common platform for the college and university students and academicians - to share their ideas, thoughts, dreams, opinions and views. Star Campus is an endeavour to bring into the center stage the visionary aspects of our college and university students, alongside their lifestyle, cultural trends and their multidimensional talents. Star Campus is a magazine based on campus life! It contains articles, academic news, achievements, travelogues, interviews, book reviews, quiz, milestones, academic tips, profiles of educational institutes, cultural and extra-curricular activities in campus, jokes, cartoons, photographs and much more. This is a magazine Of the Students, By the Students and For the Students. Star Campus helps link young minds together.