



Four fire service divers from Dhaka carry out rescue operation to find the missing as a launch capsized in Meghna River in Sarail upazila of Brahmanbaria early yesterday. (Right) A relative of one of the missing breaks down in tears at the scene. (Story on Page 1)

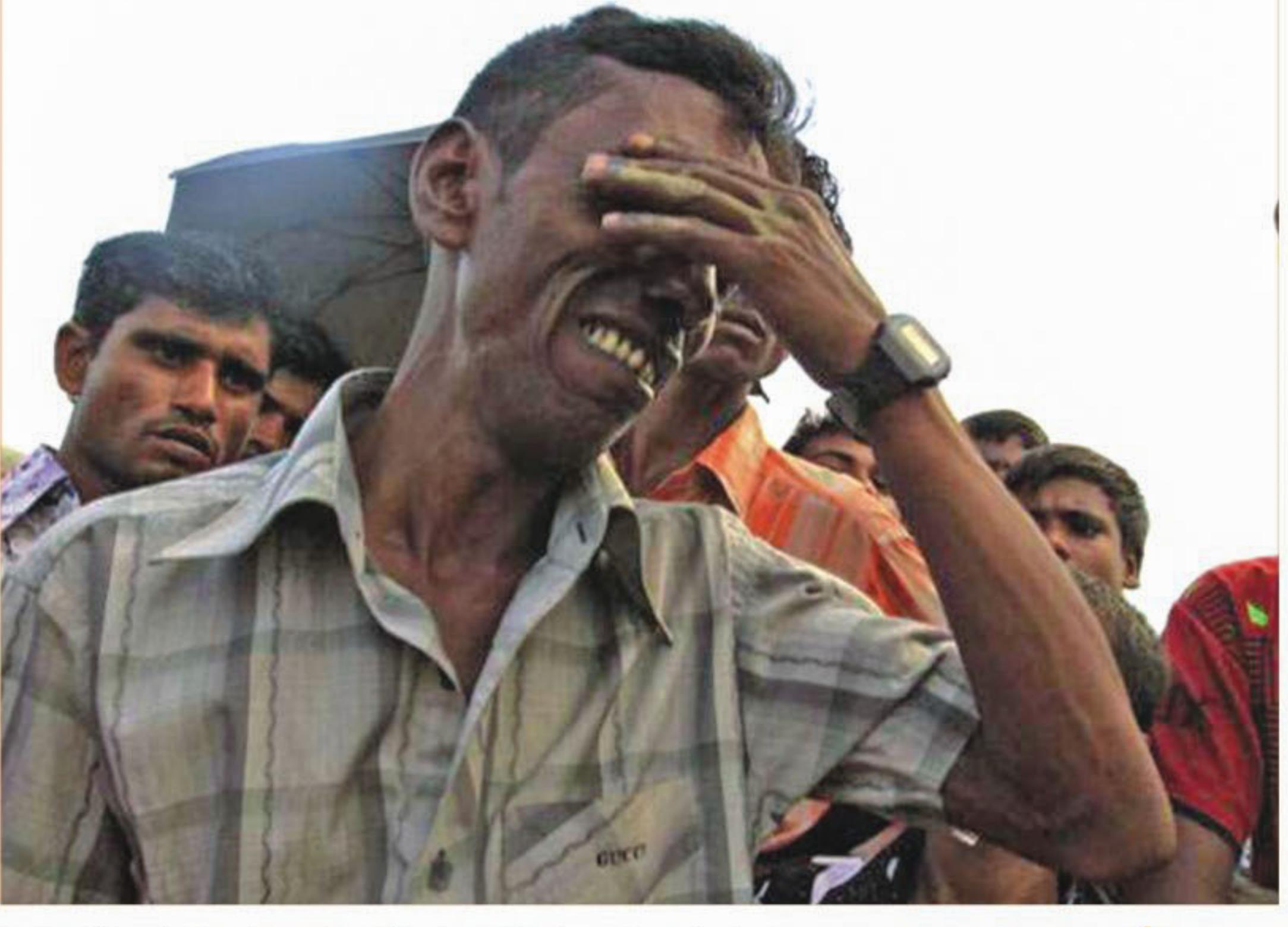


PHOTO: STAR

Multimedia classrooms in schools, colleges from June

UNB, Dhaka

The government has decided to introduce multimedia classrooms in schools and colleges in the country from June next with a view to ensuring quality education.

"We are going to take initiative to set up modern technology-based multimedia classroom in country's 20,500 schools, colleges and madrasas from next June," said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid at the inaugural session of an orientation workshop in the city yesterday.

The orientation workshop on 'Multimedia classroom set up and the role of the heads of educational institutions' was organised at the auditorium of the Dhaka Teachers' Training College in the morning.

Chaired by national project director, Access to Information (A2I) Programme of Prime Minister's Office Nazrul Islam Khan, the workshop was addressed by Education Secretary Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury and director general of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Directorate Prof Noman Ur Rashid.

Nahid said the government will set up multimedia classroom in all educational institutions gradually.

The government has already taken up a project of Tk 306 crore to set up multimedia classrooms and to provide training to the teachers of 20,500 educational institutions.

'Amini misleads people to fulfil his ill motives'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Speakers at a human chain yesterday urged people not to be misled by Mufti Fajlul Hoque Amini, chairman of Islami Oikya Jote, who is trying to fulfil his "ill motives".

Jatiya Mahila Sangstha, Chittagong district unit, organised the human chain in front of Chittagong Press Club (CPC) demanding immediate implementation of Women Development Act.

Awami League lawmaker Begum Cheman Ara Tayeb, speaking as the chief guest, said if people fail to resist the Amini-led alliance, Bangladesh would become another anarchic state like Pakistan within ten years.

CPC President Abu Sufian, Prof Dr AQM Sirajul Islam and Advocate Abul Hashem also spoke.

BANGABANDHU AIRPORT
Dhaka keen to share expertise with Delhi

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh yesterday showed keen interest to share expertise and experience of India in building the proposed mega Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib International Airport in the country.

The interest was shown while visiting Indian Overseas Affairs and Civil Aviation Minister Vayalar Ravi paid a courtesy call on Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister G M Quader at the Secretariat in the city.

"We would like to share the Indian expertise and experience in establishing airports as they set up several mega airports in their country," G M Quader told BSS after the meeting.

Ravi said India is keen to provide expert or technical support to Bangladesh if Dhaka seeks assistance in this regard.

Kali O Kalam will organise an award presentation ceremony; Venue: Bangladesh National Museum; Time: 6:00pm.

Ceremony

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Discussion

Amra Muktijoddhar Santan will organise a discussion; Venue: Dhaka

Encouraged by the success of the project, the WB has agreed to provide the financial support to expand the implementing areas to 90 upazilas from the existing 60, a WB spokesman said.

More than 2.5 lakh disadvantaged children, who had missed out schooling at the right age or had been forced to drop out mainly because of poverty, went to 15,000 'Ananda Schools' (learning centres) in the last six years under the project.

The project that began in 2004 reaches out to the poorest, particularly female children, of upazilas with high rates of poverty and low enrollment.

The main objective,

being implemented by the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, of the project is to cut the number of out-of-school children through access to quality primary education.



Society for Bangladesh Development Strategy honours Kazi Fazlur Rahman, former secretary and adviser to a caretaker government, with life time award at a restaurant in the city recently.

KADOMTOLI TRIPLE MURDER

Feud over drug, extortion money triggered killings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Feud over illegal drug trade and extortion triggered the sensational triple murder in the city's Kadomtoli six weeks ago, said Detective Branch (DB) officials at a press briefing yesterday after they arrested two suspects.

Mohammad Habibur Majhi, 50, was arrested from Mendiganj of Barisal district on April 17 and Jahangir, 40, from a house at Sabujbagh of the area on Wednesday as per Habibur's information.

DB police said Habibur admitted slaughtering Jony, his brother Babu of Sabujbagh, and their friend Hasan of Rasulbagh in Kadomtoli, with the help of four others while Jahangir was the mastermind.

Police on March 7 recovered the three bodies with their throats slit and mouth, hands and legs roped, floating on a wet-

land at West Mohammadpur in the city.

DB Assistant Commissioner (AC) Mohammad Abdul Ahad said the murdered youths were wanted criminals, accused in a number of cases including murder, drug trade, extortion and mugger. Jony was held accused in the charge sheet of a double murder case filed in 2005.

On March 7, a night guard named Hasan called the victims out of their homes around 12:30am. Habibur with the four -- Yunus, Liton, Zakir and Masum -- took them to the wetland and murdered them, said the AC.

He said the feud arose when a gang led by Joni sent Younus, a member of Jahangir's gang, a piece of shroud with a message that they would kill him if they did not share their illegal money.

Police were looking for the others accused, he added.

CU students' memo to VC

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University (CU) students of 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 academic sessions submitted a memorandum to acting Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Mohammad Alauddin containing a two-point demand yesterday.

The demands include mentioning the actual score from improvement examinations in transcripts and certificates and excluding the word "improvement" from them.

CU sources said the authority formulated a new examination system where students sitting for improvement and supplementary examinations would not be awarded more than B grade (60% marks) and "improvement" will be mentioned in the transcript and certificate.

'Anti-liberation forces against women policy'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The people who are demonstrating against the Women Development Policy are mainly anti-liberation forces, leaders of Sachetan Nari Samaj said at a press conference yesterday.

Lutfunnahar Moni, convenor of the organisation, in her written statement said the proposed Women Development Policy is not contradictory to the Holy Quran.

The Women Development Policy is formulated in line with the Beijing conference, which was signed by the then prime minister Khaleda Zia.

She urged the government to implement the policy removing all the obstacles to it.

Yasmin Chowdhury Linda and Anisa Parveen were present at the press conference.

Koica clean environment programme held at DU

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

On the eve of World Earth Day 2011, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Koica) in association with Environment Society and Department of Korean Language of Dhaka University (DU) held a day long awareness programme on clean environment yesterday.

Titled "We help clean Bangladesh", the programme was inaugurated on the campus to promote awareness on the environment and assist in cleaning the country, says a Koica press release.

Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Treasurer Prof Mijanur Rahaman, Korean Ambassador in Dhaka Cho Taiyoung and Resident Representative of Koica Bangladesh office Lee Jung Wook jointly inaugurated the event.

The programme began with a discussion followed by a colourful procession by the participants from in front of the senate bhaban. DU students and Korean Overseas Volunteers collected garbage from the campus.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Arefin said this type of initiative would contribute to keep the environment clean and address climate change issues in Bangladesh.

Taiyoung said the world is striving to protect the environment. Since Bangladesh is most vulnerable to climate change, it is high time to be aware of the consequences and prepare to combat them, he added.



PHOTO: COURTESY

(From right) Korean Ambassador in Dhaka Cho Taiyoung, Dhaka University (DU) Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique and Resident Representative of Korea International Cooperation Agency (Koica) Bangladesh office Lee Jung Wook at an awareness programme on clean environment yesterday at DU campus organised by Koica.

\$35m WB support to bring more children to school

BSS, Dhaka

The World Bank (WB) will give 35 million US dollars for the project titled 'Reaching Out-of-School Children (ROSC)' to bring more children in poverty-stricken districts under education.

Encouraged by the success of the project, the WB has agreed to provide the financial support to expand the implementing areas to 90 upazilas from the existing 60, a WB spokesman said.

More than 2.5 lakh disadvantaged children, who had missed out schooling at the right age or had been forced to drop out mainly because of poverty, went to 15,000 'Ananda Schools' (learning centres) in the last six years under the project.

The main objective, being implemented by the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, of the project is to cut the number of out-of-school children through access to quality primary education.

Road crashes kill three in city

One crushed under train's wheel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least three people were killed and two others injured in three separate road accidents in the city while another person was crushed under train wheels yesterday.

A youth was killed and another injured as a speedy covered van rammed their carrying rickshaw van at Kawla Bridge of Airport road early yesterday.

The deceased was Zakir Hossain, 21, driver of the rickshaw van, of Jatrabari.

Police said the accident took place when an unidentified vehicle hit their carrier while they were returning home after delivering goods.

Meanwhile, a readymade garments shopkeeper was killed and another injured as their motorbike hit a roadside divider at the city's Kakrail area.

The deceased was identified as Uzzal Biswas, 26, a shopkeeper at Elephant road in the city.

In another accident, a housewife, Shanaj Begum, was killed as a truck hit her at Mirpur Beribadh while she was trying to cross the road.

Meanwhile, a youth Abdul Halim, 25, of Dohar was crushed under train wheels around 12:30am while he was trying to board on Tongi-bound Titas Express at Airport railway station in the city.

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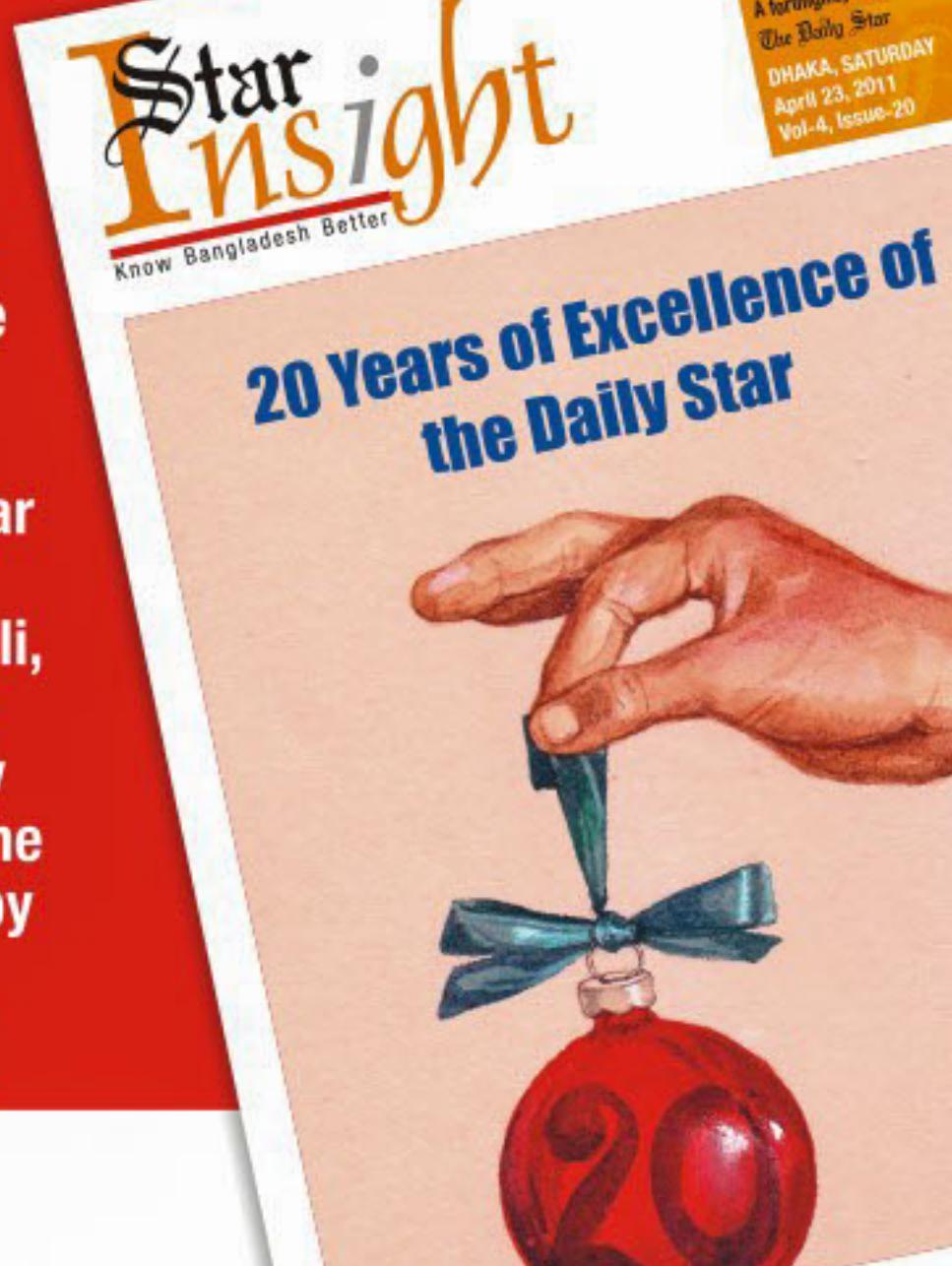
first part of a short story by

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