



PHOTO: STAR

BCL-given title to a shuttle train compartment of Chittagong University being erased. The photo was taken yesterday.

MV BIPASHA CAPSIZE
Suspend
surveyor
Demand NGOs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some non-government organisation (NGO) activists yesterday demanded suspension of the responsible officer who gave fitness certificate to the unregistered launch MV Bipasha that capsized in river Meghna at Sarail upazila of Brahmanbaria on April 22.

In a joint statement, they alleged that Masum Khan, engineer and ship surveyor of Narayanjanj office of Department of Shipping, gave the certificate.



DU Sociology
Alumni
executives

METRO DESK

CM Koyes Sami and Md Faruk Hossain have been elected president and general secretary of Dhaka University Sociology Alumni (Dusa) for two years.

A 31-member executive committee of Dusa was also elected in its annual general meeting at a city hotel recently, says a press release.

ROAD CRASHES

Target to halve deaths in 9 years

Now 15,000 to 20,000 die each year, says WHO

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh hopes to halve the deaths and injuries in road accidents within this decade.

It wants to prevent over five million deaths and 50 million injuries on roads by joining the programme United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety, along with dozens of countries, said speakers at the launching ceremony of the programme at the Roads and Highways Department auditorium in Dhaka yesterday.

According to a World Health Organisation estimate, Bangladesh sees a loss of 15,000 to 20,000 lives on roads every year. However, the government figure is around 5,000 deaths a year.

Traffic mishaps also cause a loss of \$1.5 billion every year in resources and medical costs, the speakers said.

The UN programme, the first of its kind, was launched simultaneously in over 100 countries yesterday to create awareness among people about road safety. It also aims at helping developing countries attract investments in improving their accident-prone highways.

"This is a historic event to curb road accidents," said Mazharul Hoque, founder director of the Accident Research Institute of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

"Road accidents claim more lives than Malaria does and by the end of the decade it is projected they will become a bigger killer than HIV-AIDS," he said.

The global campaign has been

launched to stabilise and reduce road fatalities and injuries, he added.

Priority has been given to awareness programmes to influence the behaviour of road users and improve care and rehabilitation of people following accidents.

The programme will be marked by special events in Bangladesh, which has a number of high-risk roads.

The highway from the capital Dhaka to the north-eastern city of Sylhet is considered to be one of the most dangerous one for drivers, the speakers said.

However, some sections of the road are rated as safest by International Road Assessment Programme (iRAP), showing that construction of low-risk roads in Bangladesh is possible, said Greg Smith, regional director of iRAP--an NGO working on road safety.

"We hope that by 2020 Bangladesh can eliminate high-risk roads," he said, adding, "Many countries have done it, and so can Bangladesh."

Later, iRAP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with RHD. Under the MoU, iRAP will help RHD identify safety concerns in the country's roads over the next 10 years and will help the department to deal with the problem.

Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain was present at the programme as chief guest.

Joint Secretary to the Communication Ministry Mohammad Mustafa, ASM Quium of UN-ESCAP and Additional Chief Engineer to RHD Mahboob UI Alam also spoke.

Australian equipment for Special Branch

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Australian Federal Police (AFP) handed over a power generator and 10 laptop computer kits worth AUD \$ 38,000 for computer based training facilities of Bangladesh Police's Special Branch Training yesterday.

Australian High Commissioner Dr Justin Lee officially handed them over to Mohammad Javed Patwary, additional inspector general of Special Branch at a programme at Special Branch Headquarters in the city.

The programme marked the inauguration of the second phase of Computer Based Training Project.

Lee said the contribution highlights close working relationship between the two police forces, says a press release.

Ensure transparency in expenditures

President asks CAG

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday urged comptroller and auditor general (CAG) to take appropriate measures with a view to ensuring transparency and accountability of revenue expenditures, including that of development programmes.

"You must remember that people are the owners of the republic's money. So, accounts of public money will have to be given to them. It should be ensured they are not deprived," he said.

The president made the remarks while addressing a function marking the 38th founding anniversary of Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General at Audit Bhaban in the city.

Prime minister's Adviser Dr Mashiur Rahman, US Ambassador to Bangladesh James F Moriarty, Canadian High Commissioner Robert McDougall, Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir MP and CAG Ahmed Ataul Hakkim also spoke.

Addressing the inaugural session, Zillur said stern action would have to be taken against individuals or organisations charged with irregularities to ensure the accountability of government accounts.

He hoped that officials and employees at all levels working in the audit division will correctly complete the auditing of the republic's accounts with utmost honesty and sincerity.

Insurance staff commits 'suicide'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An office assistant of Far East Islami Life Insurance Co Ltd committed "suicide by jumping" from the 9th floor of a building at Karwan Bazar in the city yesterday, suspect police and his colleagues.

But victim's family members alleged that Nasir's senior officials confined him to the building and pushed him down to death in planned way.

The victim was identified as Nasir Hawlader, 30, a resident of Maniknagar under Sabujbagh Police Station.

Nasir fell from the floor of 12-storey Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation (BSEC) building around 3:00pm and died instantly. But none saw the incident.

Police and his colleagues suspected that he committed suicide.

Nasir's younger brother Al-Amin told The Daily Star that he had trouble with his senior officers for quite some time. Nasir told his wife Nazma Khanam Ruma over cell phone yesterday noon that he was in great danger.

He said Nasir during his telephone conversation told his wife, "The sirs have kept me confined. You come here and save me."

Ruma rang a senior colleague and told him that she was going to Nasir's office but on reaching there she found that her husband was lying dead.

Apel Mahmud, senior executive vice president (administration) of the insurance company, denied all the allegations.

OC Mahbubur Rahman of Tejjgaon police said Nasir's family made a verbal allegation of killing him but they heard that Nasir plunged to death after incurring loss in the share market.



PHOTO: PID

President Zillur Rahman inaugurates "Communication and Media Cell" at Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General at Audit Bhaban in the city yesterday.

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Housemaid remanded for killing employer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A young housemaid was arrested on Tuesday night for allegedly killing her 55-year-old employer at Banani in the city the previous night.

Detective Branch (DB) of police detained Liza alias Anjali, 22, daughter of Ranjit of Dhobaura upazila in Mymensingh, at the city's North Badda.

Anjali was placed on a three-day remand after the DB officials produced her before a Dhaka court seeking remand for 10 days.

The housemaid is said to have hacked Nasrin Akhter, wife of a USA expatriate, to death at Nasrin's Banani residence Monday night.

"Nasrin Akhter had beat me up mercilessly often in my minor faults, and my anger got up to the peak after she had kicked me on that day," said Anjali.

The housemaid said she alone had killed Nasrin and later left the house with some cash and gold ornaments.

A detective official said they are trying to unfold whether there is anything else responsible behind the murder or anybody else involved in it.

Anjali had been serving Nasrin's house since last six years.

Implement women policy Demand speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Hundreds of men and women, at a human chain in Rajshahi city, yesterday demanded implementation of the national women development policy.

Rajshahi district unit of Bangladesh Mohila Parishad organised the human chain at Alupatty of the divisional city with the unit president Lailun Nahar Baby in the chair.

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The new logo will be effective from 1st June 2011. If any organization has any legal objection regarding our new logo, please contact us within 7 working days at the following address.

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Bangladesh Services Limited
(Owner of Ruposhi Bangla Hotel)
Ruposhi Bangla Hotel
1 Minto Road, Dhaka-1000

Sub : Price Sensitive Information

This is for information of all concerned that the Management Contract of Bangladesh Services Limited (BSL) with Starwood Asia Pacific Hotels & Resorts Pte. Ltd. has expired on 30th April 2011. The hotel will remain operational under the management of its owner Bangladesh Services Limited (BSL) in the name of "Ruposhi Bangla Hotel" till a new operator is appointed.

Sd/-
Secretary
Bangladesh Services Limited

Dated: Dhaka
12 May 2011