

Three killed in road crash

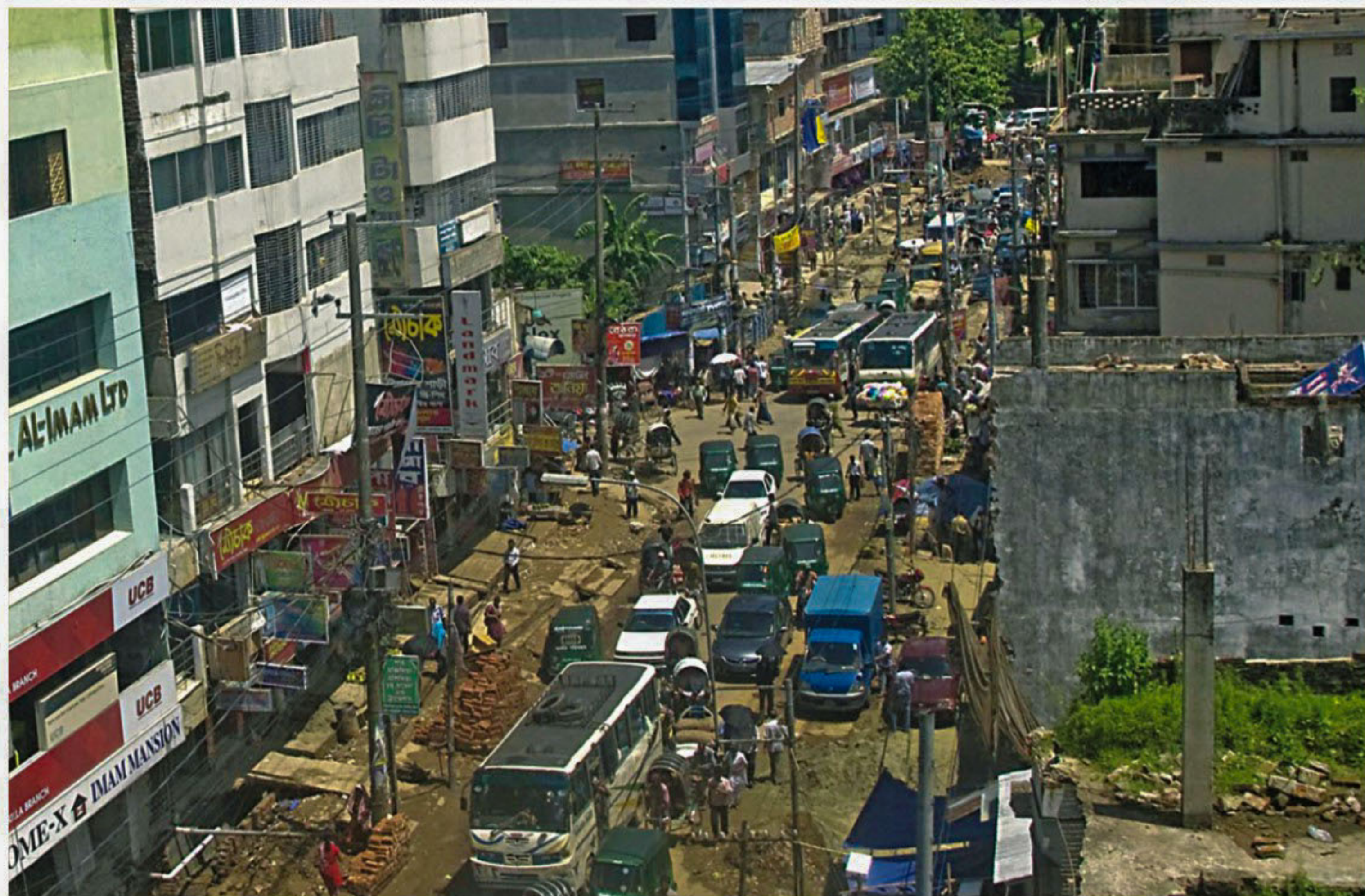
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Three people were killed and three others injured when a Dhaka-bound private car collided head-on with a recklessly driven truck coming from opposite direction on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Dhum Ghat Bridge in Mirsarai upazila yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Kazi Badrunnesa, 32, of Naya Bazar in Dhaka, her domestic help Khatiza Akhtar, 12, and car driver Jamal Hossain, 25.

The injured including twin babies of Badrunnesa and her husband were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital and Mirsarai Health Complex.

Police seized the truck though its driver and helper managed to flee away.



Necessary works to widen the Andarkilla-Laldighi road in Chittagong city are in progress with the construction materials lying right on the road, which make it even narrower and inflicts serious suffering on the commuters during the prolonged extension work. PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

CLIMATE PLANS Listen to grassroots people's concern Stress environmentalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists at a dialogue yesterday emphasised that the opinions of the grassroots people should be considered before taking any steps and plans to combat the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation.

Saber Hossain Chowdhury, chairman of the parliamentary committee on climate change and environment, said the culture of giving importance on the grassroots people in development projects is absent in our country, which causes failure to many projects.

"We need to prioritise projects to combat climate change. Rivers and forests should be saved, and grassroots people's opinions should be given due importance," he said, also suggesting establishing a research centre for climate researches.

Saber was addressing as the chief guest the dialogue on "climate crisis and people" jointly organised by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (Bapa) and Bangladesh Resource Centre for Indigenous Knowledge at Chhayanaut Bhaban in the city.

Bapa President Muzaffer Ahmad, who chaired the dialogue, said environmental impact assessment should be emphasised most in every development project. "True development is possible only if we take the opinions of the grassroots people for their development".

"We are causing environmental catastrophe by building dams on the rivers without proper planning," he said.

Former adviser to a caretaker government ASM Shahjahan also addressed the dialogue moderated by Bapa General Secretary Md Abdul Matin.

Adel Uddin's anniversary of death today

METRO DESK



Today is the 30th death anniversary of Adel Uddin Ahmed, a former central minister of Firoz Khan Noon's cabinet, member of the East Bengal Legislative Assembly and member of the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan, says a press release.

He was a founder member of the Faridpur district Awami League. He also served as a member of the Bangladesh Public Service Commission.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his Dhanmondi residence after Asr prayers today.

Putul Rani Das

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg



Today is the first death anniversary of Putul Rani Das, a social worker and wife of late advocate C R Das, says a press release.

She had a distinctive role in cultural front of the War of Liberation. She was also involved in Rotary Club, Ladies Club, Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad, Fulki and Inner Wheel.

On the occasion, special programmes will be held at Sharanika Community Centre in the port city today.

DRUG ADDICTION

Law enforcers' failure blamed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said drug addiction is slowly gripping the young generation of our country and the problem is becoming acute due to failure of law enforcers to eliminate illegal drug trade.

They emphasised the need to raise awareness among parents and amend Drug Control Act to ensure highest punishment for illegal drug traders.

The discussion titled "Our duty to prevent crime and drug" was organised by Association for Law Research and Human Rights (ALERT) in the city's Cirdap auditorium.

Addressing the programme, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-3 Director Lt Colonel Rafiqul Islam said law enforcers could not stop spread of illegal drugs due

to some loopholes in Drug Control Act.

"We arrest drug traders every month but they get bail from court and start the business again," he said.

He also pointed out that law enforcers could not continue drives in full swing due lack of funding for informants.

In many cases, law enforcers pay informants with a portion of the confiscated illegal drugs instead of money, which the informants ultimately sell, he added.

The speakers stressed the need for increasing manpower, modern equipment for Narcotics Control Department and campaign against illegal drugs to create awareness among adults.

Deputy Inspector General (Dhaka Range) of Police Asaduzzaman Miah said police often could not bring illegal drug traders under trial for their political

identity.

He said every anti-illegal drug organisation should come under a banner to build a strong platform against such influential drug traders.

He claimed that introduction of mobile courts for drives against illegal drug trade proved effective in stopping the trade.

Inspector General of Police Hassan Mahmood Khandker said police are trying to stop the trade and hopes that the government would take steps to provide police with modern equipment for such drives.

Home Minister Advocate Shahara Khatun said the government would hopefully be able to stop illegal drug trade soon.

ALERT Chairman Advocate Mohammad Jahangir Alam chaired the programme.

1,883 students get DBBL scholarships

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 1,883 meritorious and poor students passing Higher Secondary Certificate examination in 2010 and studying at graduation level at different educational institutions in the country were awarded scholarships yesterday.

Each student will get Tk 36,000 per annum for two to five years for their educational expenses. Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited (DBBL) is awarding the scholarships worth Tk 102 crore.

Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith handed over the scholarships at Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in the city's Mirpur.

Expressing her gratitude to DBBL, Lipika Biswas, in her first year at Faculty of Social Science of Dhaka University, said economic crisis obstructs one's path to education.

DBBL helps to remove these obstructions, she said.

DBBL Managing Director KS Tabrez and Deputy Managing Director Md Sayedul Hasan addressed the programme, presided over by DBBL Executive Committee of Board of Directors Chairman Sayem Ahmed.

Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

Modan Mohan Goshwami, former head master of Elasin High School of Delduyar upazila of Tangail, passed away at his residence at Hinganagar village due to old age complications on June 17 at the age of 95, says a press release.

He left behind his wife and one son.

Goshwami was one of the founders of Nasimin Nesa Girls High School and Maulana Bhasani College.

His Shraddha will be held at his residence at noon tomorrow.

Bill placed in JS to scrap CG provision

FROM PAGE 1

Fifteen years later, the two arch rivals have swapped positions. The BNP is now agitating on streets to keep the provision of non-party caretaker government system in place.

With the BNP-led opposition lawmakers abstaining, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday piloted the 15th constitutional amendment bill but had to face the objection of independent lawmaker Fazlul Azim.

Azim suggested that the law minister withholds the bill and place it after getting the consent of all political parties. Mentioning the proposal for scrapping the provision for caretaker government system, the independent MP said if the bill is placed now, all the doors for talks with the main opposition will be closed.

In response, the law minister said Azim's demand was not based on facts. He said the 13th amendment to the

constitution that introduced the system, was scrapped by the Supreme Court.

The lone independent lawmaker's objection was rejected in voice vote and the bill was placed amid desk thumping of treasury bench lawmakers.

The law minister, however, placed the bill in short notice after the speaker suspended the rules of procedure for placing the bill. The rules say that a lawmaker desiring to place a bill has to give seven days' notice so that all procedures could be completed.

The law minister sent the notice only Thursday noon.

The Parliament Secretariat could not complete printing the bill that is why it could not be placed Thursday night, officials in the Parliament Secretariat said.

Former BNP law minister Jamir Uddin Sircar also in a short notice piloted the 13th amendment bill that introduced the caretaker govern-

ment system in 1996. He placed the bill the very day he sent the notice.

Meanwhile, the BNP-led opposition parties seem to have opted for street agitations instead of trying to negotiate with the government to resolve the dispute while the ruling Awami League seem to be using the issue to keep the opposition parties busy and under pressure.

It is almost clear that the BNP-led opposition lawmakers will wash their hands of the passage of the 15th constitution amendment bill.

All this signals political unrest in the coming days if the bill is passed without the consent of the opposition.

In defence of the proposal for scrapping the provision for the caretaker government system, the government is depending on the Supreme Court verdict.

The apex court on May 10 prospectively declared the

caretaker government system unconstitutional and void, but observed that the system might be retained to hold two more general elections for the sake of "safety of the state and its people" provided it gets parliamentary approval.

BNP is saying that the constitutional provision for installing a non-partisan caretaker government to oversee general elections remains legal in spite of the recent Supreme Court verdict. It claims that the system will become illegal after the 10th and 11th parliamentary elections are held.

A special parliamentary body for constitutional amendment was formed on July 21 last year to aid the constitutional amendments.

The 15-member committee, headed by Deputy Leader of Parliament Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, has only Awami League-led ruling alliance lawmakers as BNP declined to nominate a representative.

After holding a series of meetings and consultations with political parties representing the current parliament and eminent jurists, personalities and editors of different national dailies, the special committee placed its report in parliament on June 8 with a 51-point recommendation for changes to the constitution.

However, the main opposition BNP and its alliance partners Jamaat-e-Islami and Jatiya Party of Bangladesh did not join the consultation organised by the special committee.

The cabinet on Monday approved the proposals prepared on the basis of the committee's recommendations, clearing the way for placing the proposals in parliament in the form of a bill.

SOME OTHER PROPOSALS Highest punishment for unconstitutional usurpation of state power and aiding and abetting such a crime will be equally punishable.

A ban on amending the constitution's preamble, fundamental structure, fundamental principles of state policy and some other specific provisions.

Constitutional acknowledgement of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as the Father of the Nation and inclusion of his historic March 7 speech, and his declaration of independence in the constitution.

Maintaining Islam's status as the state religion, giving followers of all other religions including Hinduism, Buddhism, and Christianity equal rights and respect from the state.

Keeping the phrase "Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim" above the preamble of the constitution, and relaxing restrictions on religion-based politics.

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