

**Rokeya Sarani road barricaded after car hits schoolgirl**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Locals and guardians of students of a school at West Shewrapara in the city's Mirpur yesterday put barricades on Begum Rokeya Sarani road for nearly three hours after a road accident in the morning left a schoolgirl injured.

The injured Fatema Akhter Chayan, 9, a student of class three of Monipur High School and College, was hit by a Mirpur-bound private car while she was crossing the road in a hurry around 7:15am. Her mother was at that time paying the rickshaw fare, said witnesses.

The locals rushed her to the adjacent Shewrapara Exim Bank Hospital and was later shifted to Orthopaedic Hospital. She was released after receiving first aid.

Locals stopped and kept the car there till police came and took it to Mirpur Police Station, said Officer-in-Charge (OC) Kazi Wazed Ali.

When news of the accident spread, the locals and the guardians barricaded the road, halting traffic movement and stranding hundreds of vehicles on both sides of the road, the OC added.

They demanded construction of a foot over-bridge and a speed breaker on the spot on an emergency basis as around 6,400 school students and their guardians cross the road regularly.

Traffic movement resumed around 10:00am when the protesters were informed that the girl was out of danger and a speed breaker would be constructed within 72 hours, said the school's Principal Md Forhad Hossain.

Humayun Kabir Tipu, one of the guardians, said the guardians gave a written application to the local MP for construction of a foot over-bridge and a speed breaker there when the school opened in January.

Dhaka City Corporation began constructing speed breakers on both sides of the road in the afternoon.



(Clockwise from top left) Injured Fatema Akhter Chayan, a student of class-III of Monipur High School and College, lies in bed at her Shewrapara residence in the city's Mirpur yesterday after she was hit by a Mirpur-bound private car while crossing Begum Rokeya Sarani road in the morning. The locals and guardians of the school's students barricade the road demanding a foot over-bridge and a speed breaker on the spot. Pedestrians cross the road with the assistance of police after the accident. Dhaka City Corporation constructs the speed breaker in the afternoon.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

**WAR CRIMES TRIAL Bar council rejects plea for foreign lawyers**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bar Council yesterday rejected an application seeking permission for three foreign lawyers to defend the five Jamaat-Islami leaders detained in connection with crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

Counsels of the Jamaat leaders on July 17 submitted the application to the Bar Council which has the authority to issue licences to those who have bar council enrolment certificates. The licence is necessary to conduct cases before any Bangladeshi court.

The Bar Council at a meeting yesterday rejected the application.

Zi Khan Panna, executive member of Bar Council, told The Daily Star that the council is not empowered to permit anyone to represent a case if he or she does not have the enrolment certificate.

The British lawyers named in the application are Steven Kay QC, Toby Cadman and John Cammehgh.

The Jamaat leaders are Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami, Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammed Mojaheed, senior assistant secretaries general M u h a m m a d Kamaruzzaman and Abdul Quader Molla, and Nayeb-e-Ameer Delwar Hossain Sayedee.

**'Indo-Bangla ties must for economic gains'**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Journalist Shahriar Kabir and historian Prof Muntasir Mamun at a discussion here yesterday said Bangladesh-India relations are based on the same philosophies of secularism, socialism and democracy and must get friendlier for economic and commercial gains.

Maintaining rivalry would incur more losses to Bangladesh than to India, they said.

The discussion styled "Bangladesh-India relations: From Bangabandhu to Sheikh Hasina" was organised by the district and city units of Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee at a city community centre. Language movement veteran Abul Hossain was in the chair.

The discussion marked Bangladesh's 40th anniversary of independence, the government's presenting Foreign Friends Award to former Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi posthumously tomorrow and the Indian premier Manmohan Singh's

visit to Bangladesh two months later.

Bangladesh suffered trade deficits following increase in illegal businesses when anti-liberation and fundamentalist forces came to power in Bangladesh and Congress Party was not in power in India, they said.

They hoped most of the disputed issues between the two countries in the past 40 years would now be resolved reasonably as relations between Awami League (AL) and Congress Party, now at the helms of the countries, dates back long ago.

Shahriar said water sharing of 54 trans-boundary rivers and 261 enclaves of both the countries remain a long-standing problem and can be solved diplomatically if the countries maintain honest intention and friendship.

He informed that the Indian government already agreed to Bangladesh's proposal to return its enclaves to Bangladesh in exchange for those in Bangladesh, as mentioned in the

Indira-Mujib pact.

He strongly criticised people who are raising voice against Farakka and Tipaimukh dams and are silent about China's initiative to erect a dam on Brahmaputra river.

He said Bangladeshi television channels are not being broadcast in India as the owners are not getting adequate number of advertisements to cover their broadcasting expenses abroad.

He also underscored the need for a government initiative for the access of Bangladeshi books in Indian markets.

Muntasir said friendly relations between the countries have now become an economic compulsion.

He said pro-AL businessmen and even pro-BNP-Jamaat businessmen want to develop this relation to expand their business.

Prof Abdul Khalek, Dr Sayed Shafikul Alam, Nawsher Ali, Abul Kalam Azad, Mustafijur Rahman Khan, Abdul Mannan, Abdullah Al Masud and Entajul Haque also spoke at the programme.

**CLIMATE CHANGE, TERRORISM Expand security talks to fight challenges**

Dipu Moni tells Bali meet

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday called for expanding security discourse to face the challenges of climate change and terrorism.

She was speaking at the 18th Asean Regional Forum (ARF) in Bali. Twenty-six foreign ministers from the participating countries attended the meeting.

The foreign minister highlighted the nexus between climate change challenges and security and called for expanding the security discourse in the AREF.

Dipu Moni in her speech highlighted the security implications from global warming and its resultant sea-level rise that could cause extensive climate change induced displacements.

She also urged the member states to address the root cause of terrorism and underscored the need for pro-active initiatives such as promoting a culture of peace and ethnic and religious inclusion.

**RIVER FAIR STARTS AT JU 'Protect rivers from land grabbers'**

A CORRESPONDENT, JU

A three-day long national river fair-2011 titled "Chhoto Nodi Chhoto Noy" began at Jahangirnagar University (JU) in Savar yesterday.

Freedom Fighter Ferdousi Priyovashini inaugurated the fair while Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Sharif Enamul Kabir spoke as the chief guest.

Dr Sharif said rivers have a strong impact on biological diversity. They work like vein to human being, he said, adding, "We will lose our civilisation if we cannot protect our rivers".

He urged the government to take immediate steps to protect rivers from the land grabbers.

The fair was organised by Department of Geography and Environmental Science of JU and Disaster Forum.

River related slide show, painting competition for the children, film and documentary shows, songs, recitations, mime and discussions are included in the fair.

Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Muniruzzaman and Prof Dr Farhad Hossain and Treasurer Prof Dr Md Nasir Uddin were present at the function.

**Pubali Bank has donated Tk 10 lakh to the families of the victims of Mirsarai road accident as a part of its corporate social responsibility. Bank Deputy Managing Director Safiul Alam Khan Chowdhury distributed the money at a function on the Abu Torab High School premises at Mirsarai in Chittagong.**

PHOTO: PUBALI BANK



**Convention**

Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit will organise a convention; Venue: RC Majumder Auditorium, Dhaka University; Time: 9:30am.

**Seminar**

Equitybd will hold a seminar; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

**Workshop**

Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme will organise a workshop; Venue: Press Institute of Bangladesh auditorium; Time: 10:00am.

**Seminar**

Association for Land Reform and Development will hold a seminar; Venue: House #3/23, Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur; Time: 10:30am.

**Launching programme**

International Organization for Migration will launch a programme; Venue: Begum Fazilatunnesa Women's Technical Training Institute, Mirpur; Time: 10:00am.

**Discussion**

Economic Reporters Forum will organise a discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

**Discussion**

Aamader Kotha Nagorik Parishad will hold a discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:00pm.

**Discussion**

Bangladesh Awami Shishu-Jubo Sangskritik Jote will organise a discussion; Venue: Central Public Library; Time: 10:00am.



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