

CNG owners protest tollbooths burning

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Shyampur Kadamali Auto-rickshaw Malik Oikya Parishad at a human chain at Postagola in the city yesterday protested against burning down of tollbooths of Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge in the area.

Shaleh Ahmed, a lessee of the bridge, claimed that around Tk 44 lakh was burnt during the incident.

About Tk 7 lakh was looted from the booths and a police box was vandalised, said another lessee Nuruddin Tawfiqul Islam.

Earlier on Thursday, over 300 people, allegedly backed by the local lawmaker and upazila chairman, blocked the bridge and burnt down two booths following an altercation over realising toll.

However, the lawmaker Nasrul Hamid Bipu denied such allegation.

Meanwhile, Nuruddin alleged that as the police were not taking case in this connection they would go to the court.

Road crashes kill 3

METRO DESK

Three people were killed and four others injured in separate road accidents in Chuadanga and Bogra on Friday.

UNB report from Chuadanga says: A motorcyclist Padda Islam was killed and two other co-riders Ibrahim Hossain and Titu Miah were injured as a bus rammed into their bike on Chuadanga-Jhenidah Highway at Chhoymille in the sadar upazila on Friday.

In another incident, a man was killed and two others were injured as a sugarcane-laden tractor hit their motorbike on Hijalgari-Darshana road in the upazila the same day.

The news agency from Bogra adds: A youth Selim, 26, son of Shahadat Hossain, was killed when a goods-laden truck hit him on Bogra-Joypurhat Highway at Amtoli village in Shibganj upazila on Friday morning.

Local people seized the truck while its driver managed to flee.

Nokia project to enhance skill of pry teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nokia Corporation has taken a pilot project titled "Nokia Education Delivery" (NED) to enhance primary school teachers' skills via mobile technology in Bangladesh by providing training to 600 teachers in next 3 years.

Nokia officials said, under the project, major problems of teaching and learning process of language will be identified in 300 primary schools. At the same time, training of trainers will be conducted to develop 20 Master Trainers.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday launched the project at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in the city.

The minister said that students need to learn through technology-based method.

There is scarcity of teachers for e-learning, he added.

The project is supposed to be started at Mymensingh and Jamalpur.

Nokia officials said the same project is going on in Chile, Colombia, India, Tanzania, Nigeria and the Philippines since 2003. The work is currently underway to start the project in Kenya, Egypt, South Africa, Bangladesh and Indonesia.

Through the project Nokia will implement a hybrid model providing face-to-face training and virtual mentoring programme using Nokia mobile and Nokia Education Delivery (NED) system, said the officials.

The Directorate of Primary Education is supporting the project.



Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid launches a project titled "Nokia Education Delivery" at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

MEGHNA-GUMTI BRIDGE

Bar on overweight vehicles from December 25

BSS, Dhaka

The authorities have prohibited plying of overweight vehicles over the Meghna-Gumti Bridge from December 25.

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday inaugurated an overload control machine near Daudkandi toll plaza of the bridge to this effect.

Speaking on the occasion, Quader said the people have responsibility, along with the government, to preserve the roads and bridges as they are the assets of the country.

He said the weighing scale has been set up at Daudkandi to preserve the risky Meghna bridge and keep the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway fit for communication.

The minister said the government has already allocated Tk 150 crore for renovation of the Meghna bridge.

During the renovation work, ferry service would continue to keep the movement of heavy vehicles normal, he added.

Quader asked the authorities concerned to remain alert to control weight of vehicles, particularly those coming from the Chittagong port.

He asked the authorities concerned to enhance monitoring at the Chittagong port connecting point, Alonkar Crossing, Sitakunda Bazar, Baraihat Bazar, Mohipal in Feni and Comilla Bishwa Road.

Maj Gen (Retd) Subid Ali Bhuiyan, MP, Home Secretary M Manzur Hossain, Road Division Secretary MAN Siddique and senior officials concerned were present during the inauguration, said an official release.

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Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Joynal Abedin Faruque, younger brother of Bangladesh Awami Jubba League Chairman Md Omor Faruque Chowdhury, died yesterday in Chittagong at the age of 55.

He left behind his seven brothers, four sisters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was buried at his village home at Sultanpur in the district after namaz-e-janaza, said a press release.

His family members requested all to pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

Kasir Uddin

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Kasir Uddin, a freedom fighter, of village Katlamari in Fulchhari upazila, passed away due to cardiac arrest yesterday at his village residence. He was 65.

He was laid to rest with state of honour at his family graveyard.

Local elite, political personalities and freedom fighters attended the burial programme.

On the occasion of
Qatar National Day, 18th of December
and in remembrance of the historic day in 1878
when Sheikh Jassim Bin Mohammed Bin Thani,
founder of the State of Qatar,
set up the pillars of the Modern State of Qatar.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations and greetings to

His Highness
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Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani
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and to all the honourable people of Qatar.

We hope for more returns of this memorable
occasion and wish that Qatar always enjoys
security, welfare and prosperity
under the wise leadership of His Highness The Emir.

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