

3 killed in road, train accidents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three people, including a teenage boy, were killed in road and train accidents in the capital yesterday.

In one of the incidents, a furniture trader, Nazrul Islam, 34, died after he was hit by a private car around 3:00pm at Uttara.

The car was at high speed and it hit Nazrul when he was crossing the road in front of BNS Centre Market at Uttara sector-7, where he ran a furniture showroom, said Officer-in-Charge of Uttara Police Station Khandokar Rejaul Hasan.

The victim died on the way to a local hospital. Relatives took the body to his village in Kishoreganj without an autopsy.

The OC said the car had managed to flee the scene.

Following the accident, traders of nearby markets blocked the Dhaka-Mymensingh road for an hour and vandalised a few cars. Later, Uttara police rushed to the spot, dispersed the crowd and took the situation under control.

Meanwhile, a teenage boy, Shaheen, from Tazumuddin of Bhola, was knocked down by a vehicle near TV Bhaban at Rampura around 1:00am. He used to work at a nearby restaurant.

Sub-Inspector of Rampura Police Station Motiur Rahman sent the body to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

In the train accident, the victim was hit on the railway track near Uttara, sector-4, said Shafiuddin, who found the wounded victim, aged around 40, and brought him to DMCH around 7:45am. Doctors declared the victim dead, who could not be identified immediately.

Sub-Inspector Rafiqul Islam of Government Railway Police said they visited the spot but could not get any further details as the accident happened early in the morning around 6:00am.



Paribesh Bachao Andolon (Paba) and Bangladesh Centre for Human Rights and Development (BCHRD) yesterday form a human chain in front of the Wasa Bhaban in the city protesting commercialisation of water supply.

PHOTO: STAR

Pry teachers' recruitment exam begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The recruitment examination for the post of assistant teachers in the government primary schools begins today with over 10 lakh candidates of 61 districts against 10,650 vacant posts.

The candidates will sit for the written examination in 1,415 examination centres. In Dhaka, around 21,971 candidates will take the exam from 12 centres.

Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) is holding the examination.

The DPE officials said they have taken all necessary preparations for the examination. They have also opened two control rooms so that the candidates can inform any exam related allegations.

The result of the test will be published next month and viva voce will be held later on.

BCL leader arrested on charge of extortion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested a Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader and also a student of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) in connection with an extortion case filed against him around three months ago.

The police arrested Mustakin Murshed Limon, BCL deputy secretary for science affairs, from the city's Palashi intersection.

The police also recovered a toy pistol from his possession, said Mohammad Ali, officer-in-charge of Chakbazar Police Station.

Country's first digital topographic map 45pc complete

HELEMUL ALAM

The country's first complete digital topographic map, presenting a detailed and accurate graphic representation of cultural and natural features on the ground, is 45 percent complete.

The Survey of Bangladesh is scheduled to finish the mapping by 2016 under a Tk 181 crore project initiated in 2007.

The map will make baseline surveys for alignment, layouts and design sketches of projects like Padma bridge, nuclear power plants, pipelines and drainage systems easier, quicker and precise, said Survey of Bangladesh Director Colonel Mahmudun Nabi recently.

It will prove to be immensely useful for agencies like Roads and Highways Department,

Bangladesh Water Development Board, Bangladesh Forest Department, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, Department of Environment and Department of Land Record and Surveys.

"A precise map helps us in precise planning and execution of complicated development projects," said Mahmudun, adding that the map will save Tk 374 crore of the Annual Development Plan 2010-11.

The map will be scaled 1:5,000 for the five divisional cities of Barisal, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi and Sylhet and 1:25,000 for the rest of the country.

"We will compose 954 sheets of the national map, all to be available online," he added. As part of the project, a Digital Mapping Centre will be set up in the city's Mirpur this year.

Uniform nationwide topographic information

is essential for the country's development, aiding people from all walks of life, especially over land demarcation disputes, said Mahmudun.

"Once we have the system, the digital map can be precisely updated," he said.

He, however, expressed concern over budget constraints on the upgrading process. The Survey of Bangladesh drew a detailed map of Dhaka city in 2004 but it was never updated for fund constraints, he added.

The Survey of Bangladesh, the sole national topographic mapping authority, started the project with technical and financial support from Japan International Cooperation Agency.

"We did not have any previous experience to carry out the huge task. Our staff were trained in Japan and Thailand," said Mahmudun.

Water crisis protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a human chain yesterday alleged that the management of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) for supplying water has virtually collapsed that has caused water crisis as well as different diseases, says a press release.

They also alleged that the mismanagement and failure of the Wasa encouraged a section of people to do water business in the name of supplying pure water.

Paribesh Bachao Andolon (Paba) and Bangladesh Centre for Human Rights and Development (BCHRD) organised the human chain programme in front of the Wasa Bhaban in the city.

They also submitted a memorandum to the chairman of the Wasa.

Paba Chairman Abu Naser Khan chaired the programme while BCHRD Executive Director Mahbubul Haque, Aslam Khan, and Prof Kamal Ataur Rahman were present.

UNB adds: "If the business of bottled water continues, the control over water will go to private sector, which will escalate water price. It will then trigger a social disorder," Abu Naser Khan said.



President Zillur Rahman receives the annual report (2010-2012) of Bangladesh National Museum and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad at Bangabhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Call to ensure training, job for lepers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Due to superstitions and lack of government initiatives, most lepers remain segregated from job opportunity, said lepers' leaders, urging the government to provide them with loan and technical training for their rehabilitation.

They put forward the demand at a press briefing organised by The Leprosy Mission International (TLM), an organisation working for lepers, at YWCA Auditorium in the city's Mohammadpur yesterday.

A misleading concept regarding leprosy still prevails in the society, so lepers cannot have spontaneous association in the society, making them alienated and consequently jobless, they said.

Their other demands included arranging treatment of leprosy at all public and private hospitals, ensuring equal rights for lepers in jobs, removing discriminations in academic institutions towards the children of lepers and incorporating lessons on leprosy in textbooks.

Though some government and non-

government hospitals give them treatment and medicine free-of-cost, but no government organisation came forward with monetary assistance or training to bring back the lepers to normal life, they added.

Contacted over phone, Dr Safir Uddin Ahmed, deputy program manager of National Leprosy Elimination Program, said, "The government and eight other NGOs are providing medicare to lepers. As we work under Health Ministry, we have no arrangement for rehabilitating them."

He added that, at current, more than 20,000 lepers became disabled due to the disease.

Dr Safir said, in 1991, in every 10,000 people, 13.6 were affected with leprosy where as, in 2011, the total number of fresh cases of leprosy was only 3,800 out of the total population. This shows that leprosy has declined over the time in Bangladesh.

Project Manager Jewel Baidya of TLM, Manger Mallica R Halder of DCBRP and Dr Aprue Mong of LEpra, among others, attended the briefing.

NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 'Biggest success of govt'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Termining National Education Policy the biggest success and achievement of the present government, politicians and educationalists at a seminar yesterday stressed the need for integrating the existing three streams of education and increasing budgetary allocation in this sector.

Ensuring quality education at all levels especially the primary level will be a major task, they said, emphasising on elimination of discrimination in education sector and development of infrastructure of educational institutions.

Awami League (AL) organised the seminar styled 'Three years of grand alliance government: Success and achievement in education sector' at Cirdap auditorium in the city.

Yesterday's seminar was the first one among a series of seminars to be organised by AL highlighting its achievements and successes in the last three years.

Currently, the country has three streams of education -- Bangla medium, English medium and Madrasa.

In the keynote paper, Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad said, "Adopting a national education policy is the biggest achievement of the government."

getary allocation in education sector will have to be increased gradually.

Giving an overview of the government's three years initiative, he said ensuring a corruption-free education administration would pose a big challenge for policy implementation.

"No country in this world except Bangladesh has education system divided into three streams. These three streams consider each other as enemies," said Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam.

"We have to bring these three streams into one mainstream. Ensuring quality education would be easier once we integrated the streams," he said.

Describing the government's initiative, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said building a modern Bangladesh with the existing education level is not possible thus they are trying to reorganise the whole education system in light of the education policy.

Primary and Mass Education Minister Afsarul Ameen said the enrolment rate is 99.4 percent and the dropout rate is 27 percent at primary level.

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Motahar Hossain, AL Advisory Committee member Dr Anupam Sen, Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Workers Party Chairman Rashed Khan Menon, former chairman of University Grants Commission Prof Nazrul Islam also spoke.

MISAPPROPRIATING Tk1.39CR Woman gets 10 yrs' RI

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced the wife of a former official of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited to ten years' rigorous imprisonment for misappropriating Tk 1.39 crore of the bank.

Judge Mohammad Abdul Majid of the Special Court for Dhaka Division handed down the verdict in the presence of Shahanur Begum, wife of former vice-president of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited Sirajul Islam.

The court also fined her Tk 60 lakh, in default of which she will have to suffer five years more in jail and ordered the authorities concerned to confiscate in favour of the state Tk 59 lakh which she deposited in different banks in her name.

Following the judgement, Shahanur broke down in tears. The court cancelled her bail and ordered sending her to jail with a conviction warrant.

The court acquitted Sirajul Islam of the charges as he died on November 23, 2004.

Earlier, prosecution and defence completed their arguments and the court recorded the statements of 17 prosecution witnesses.

According to the prosecution, Sirajul Islam, while he was a vice-president of the bank sometime between 1988 and 1998, opened a fake savings account at his own bank and transferred Tk 1,39,31,000 to the fake account from the bank on different dates.

Later, his wife Shahanur Begum withdrew 1,39,31,000 from her husband's account and deposited that amount of money into her account.

After an investigation into the matter, a manager of the Islami Bank filed a case against Sirajul and his wife Shahanur with Motijheel Police Station on April 2, 1998.

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