

Woman meets tragic end during tremor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman yesterday succumbed to head injuries that she suffered while hurrying down the staircase of a building during the earthquake that hit the city on Sunday.

The deceased, Momela Begum, 40, wife of Johir Uddin, lived at Korail slum in the city and worked as a cleaner at JR Tower in Mohakhali.

Her colleague Mobarrak Hossain, an eyewitness to the incident, said, "When the quake started, Momela panicked and rushed to the staircase along with other employees."

However, her legs got caught in her Sari and she fell down the stairs, he added.

She was immediately admitted to the neurosurgery unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where she died yesterday.

The 4.6 magnitude earthquake jolted the Dhaka city and other parts of the country around 8:56am Sunday morning.

ROAD ACCIDENT ATN News, CRP to launch awareness campaign

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ATN News, a private satellite TV channel, and Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) will launch a road accident awareness campaign next month.

Over one year, campaigners will personally approach pedestrians, passengers, and drivers on Sundays to aware them to cut road accident deaths.

The campaign will start on April 1 at 11:00am in Karwan Bazar and Farmgate areas, Munni Saha, head of news of the TV station, told a press conference.

CRP founder Valerie A Taylor also spoke.

DoE fines two restaurants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined two restaurants, KFC and Pizza Hut, in Uttara Tk 21.50 lakh on a charge of running restaurants in residential areas without having permission from DoE.

DoE Director (Enforcement) Mohammad Munir Chowdhury fined them and directed them to remove all irregularities and mismanagement, said a press release.

A DoE team during a visit on Sunday night found the noise pollution rate at 75.4 decibels where the permissible level is 45 decibels during daytime and 40 decibels at night.

Akku Chowdhury, managing director of Transcom Foods, said the restaurants try their best to control noise pollution and also try to keep control of the smoke so that it does not go outside.

He said the management of the restaurants always try to go by compliance and also try to ensure quality service to the community but this move has really depressed them.

There were many renowned restaurants in the area but they faced the fine, he said.



PHOTO: STAR

Shakhipur Upazila Awami League holds a rally before Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday demanding implementation of the pledges made by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in 1995 and 1999 and collection of taxes as per the state acquisition (S/A) record carried out in 1962.

15 Savar cops sued

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A union parishad chairman yesterday sued the officer-in-charge (OC) of Savar Police Station and some other colleagues on charges of extortion.

They are OC Mohammad Asaduzzaman, Sub-Inspector Zobaidul Haque and Assistant Sub-Inspector Kaiser Matbar. Twelve other unknown constables were also made accused in the case.

Mohammad Golam Mostafa, chairman of Savar Sadar Union Parishad, filed the case against them with the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

After the hearing, Judicial Magistrate Tayebul Hassan recorded statement of the complainant, took into cognizance the charges against them and directed assistant police super (ASP) to submit a report by May 20 after investigating the matter.

In his complaint, Mostafa, also an assistant teacher of Ganobidhya Pith at Nayarhat, alleged that on March 17, SI Zobaidul, ASI Kaiser and 12 other unknown constables went to his Savar residence and demanded Tk 1 lakh as extortion, otherwise he will be implicated in different criminal cases.

But the chairman refused to pay the amount of the money. Being angered, the team of police dragged him and attempted to take him into their van that led it into a scuffle. Later, police assaulted him.

Meanwhile, an OC of Ashulia Police Station and his five other colleagues were sued yesterday in connection with an attempt to rape a woman of Gazirchat in Ashulia.

The accused are OC (investigation) Mostafa Kamal, SI Illias and three others.

Bid to steal child at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth was detained while he was allegedly stealing a four-year-old child of a patient admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) on Sunday.

The boy's father Ruhul Amin said at around 5:00pm his wife Koli Akhter, 20, was admitted to ward No. 210 on the first floor with liver disease.

Amin said he was sleeping beside his wife. At one stage he came to know that the boy, Hridoy, was missing.

When Koli raised a scream her husband and hospital staff ran to different gates of the hospital.

A hospital attendant of the ward, Parveen, who saw the boy on the lap of a young man, shouted for help. Amin, his wife, some of the hospital staff and local people then rushed to the place and caught him near the emergency department gate and rescued him.

The mob beat the youth, identified as 'Nadim', and handed him over to Shahbagh police.

The youth said he came to the hospital to take a stroll. When he went out of the hospital the minor boy was following him. He claimed that he asked the boy whether he would like juice. When the boy replied positively he took him on his lap and was taking him to buy juice for him.

Amin filed a case with Shahbagh Police Station accusing 'Nadim'.

The police station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Sirajul Islam said they were investigating the incident.

Prevent child mortality with mass vaccination

Says MR Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Prof MR Khan yesterday said infectious diseases, the major cause behind child mortality, must be prevented through mass vaccination against diseases like pneumonia, rubella, rota virus and typhoid.

Vaccines for these diseases, being expensive, remain out of reach of low income people or the destitute and so the authority concerned should come forward in this regard, he said.

The professor was speaking at a discussion, "The need of research to reduce childhood mortality and morbidity: Opportunities and challenges in Bangladesh", in University of South Asia in the city.

Child Sight Foundation and Centre for Global Child Health, Bangladesh jointly organised the discussion where the university Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof MA Muhit was present.

Speakers at the discussion underscored the need to explore effective ways of tackling child

mortality and morbidity from infectious diseases.

Prof Robert Booy, head of the Clinical Research team at National Centre for Immunization Research and Surveillance of University of Sydney, Australia, presenting a keynote, shed light on the current and future challenges of vaccination.

He said developed countries have a greater access to vaccines for rota virus, typhoid and hepatitis but ironically developing countries can not afford these much needed vaccines.

He also underscored the need to implement vaccination programmes for influenza and tuberculosis in Bangladesh while increasing research to discover a vaccine for malaria.

An announcement was made on the opening of "Centre for Global Health, Bangladesh", which would address the above mentioned issues and conduct research and utilise the results in advocating the right policies, at the discussion.

ASK protests police attack on journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) yesterday protested the incident of police attack on a journalists' rally at Sitakunda in Chittagong, which left 10 newsmen injured on Sunday.

Issuing a press release, ASK said such attack and threat to journalists will harm the freedom of expressing opinion and right of holding peaceful rally.

ASK urged the administration to take effective steps against those responsible on the basis of the report of a transparent probe and play effective role to preserve the rights of holding rally.

Referring to the newspaper reports, it mentioned that the police suddenly attacked journalists while the latter were holding their peaceful rally protesting the killing of the journalist couple--Sagar Rumi--and a local journalist.

At the time, officer-in-charge of Sitakunda Model Police Station used abusive language and threatened the journalists.

Road crashes kill 18, injure 37

METRO DESK

Eighteen people were killed and 37 others injured in separate road accidents in Sunamganj, Tangail, Brahmanbaria, Jhenidah, Satkhira, Dinajpur, Jessore and Rangpur early Sunday and yesterday.

Staff correspondent from Sylhet reports: Two human haulers collided at Sadarpur in Dakshin Sunamganj upazila in Sunamganj at around 11:30am, leaving two people dead on the spot and four others injured. Later, the injured died on the way to Sylhet MAG Omani Medical College Hospital.

The dead are Samir Uddin, 30, Sushil Paul, 60, Masum, 10, Russel, 12, Kanailal Baidya, 40, and Maya Rani Baidya, 35.

In Tangail, a private car knocked an elderly woman and her daughter while they were crossing the approach road of Bangabandhu Bridge in Kalihati upazila at around 9:30am, leaving them dead.

The victims are Sona Banu, 85, wife of Abul Sheikh, and her daughter Golap Begum, 55, of Salla village in the upazila.

In Brahmanbaria, two people were killed and three others injured when a pickup van collided head-on with a CNG-run auto-rickshaw on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Kuttapara in Sarail upazila at about 12:30pm yesterday.

One of the deceased are Taslima Akter, 20, while the injured is Shamsunnahar Begum, mother of Taslima, of Shahbazpur village in the upazila.

In Jhenidah, Antor Hossain, 7, son of Oliar Rahman, was killed instantly as a three-wheeler hit him while he was crossing the Jhenidah-Horinakundo road at Bhoitapara in Horinakundo upazila at around 12:00 noon

yesterday.

In another incident, an unidentified woman died when a truck ran over her on Jessore-Kushtia highway at Nimtala bus stand under Kaliganj upazila yesterday morning.

In Satkhira, a bus fell into a ditch beside Satkhira-Kaliganj road at Sekendra intersection in Debhata upazila at about 12:45am yesterday, leaving its helper Kabir Hossain, 25, son of Akhtar Ali, dead on the spot and 25 others injured.

The injured were admitted to Satkhira Sadar Hospital.

In another incident, Abdul Khaleque, 45, was injured as a pick-up van hit his bicycle carrying him at Jugibari in Kalaroa upazila yesterday morning.

He succumbed to his injuries at Satkhira Sadar Hospital.

In Dinajpur, a bus ran over Md Rakib, 10, son of Md Shahidul Islam, while he was crossing the Joypurhat-Bogra highway at Nimoti village on Sunday evening, killing him on the spot.

In another accident, a three-wheeler hit bicyclist Biplob Chandra Roy, 16, son of Suvas Chandra Roy, on Dinajpur-Parbatipur road in Bilaichandi area of the district on Sunday morning, leaving him injured critically.

At least nine passengers of the three-wheeler were also injured in the accident.

Biplob died at Dinajpur Medical College Hospital.

Our Benapole correspondent says: Amena Begum, 60, wife of Hasem Ali, was killed as a bus ran over her at Pachbaria in sadar upazila in Jessore yesterday morning.

In Rangpur, Kalamai Begum, 19, died instantly when a passenger bus hit a rickshaw-van carrying her on Betgari-Paglapir road at Dhantola in Gangachhara upazila on Sunday noon.

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Docs narrate Lt Col Kaysar's killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two female army doctors yesterday narrated how Lt Col Kaysar was killed by a shot to the head an hour after the mutiny broke out at the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) headquarters in Pilkhana on February 25, 2009.

Lt Col Yasmin Aktar and Major Farzana Kalam were giving depositions before the Metropolitan Sessions Judges' Court, holding the BDR carnage trial, set up temporarily at the Alia Madrasa playground in the city's Bakshibazar.

Major Farzana said she and other army officers were hiding behind a drapery of the stage at Darbar Hall as the mutiny began when the deteriorating situation compelled them to come out.

"When we reached the middle of the Darbar Hall, the soldiers caught and dragged us out. Then a soldier shot Lt

Col Kaysar on the head and started beating Lt Col Lutfur Rahman," she said.

"Do not kill them. They are female doctors. They will come to our use," said Major Farzana, quoting sepoy Selim Reza, who was passing the orders as the officers were being taken out of

BDR Carnage Trial

the Darbar Hall.

The mutineers told the female officers to board a pick-up truck bound for the BDR hospital. "Lt Col Robi somehow managed to board the vehicle but the mutineers threw him off, hitting him with rifle butts," she said.

The witness mentioned the names of seven mutineers -- sepoyas Hasib, Jasim, Ramjan, Obaidul, Rezaul,

Ibrahim and Rafiq -- whom she treated during the two-day mutiny.

Major Farzana stated that the mutineers looted around 35 tolas of jewellery from her house.

Following her deposition, the prosecution exhibited the jewellery, recovered from the possession of sepoy Rafiq and relatives of the accused, before the court.

The court then returned the jewellery to her and the defence cross-examined her.

The court will resume on March 21 with the recording of the cross-examination of Lt Col Yasmin by the defence counsels.

A total 74 people, including 57 army officers, were brutally killed in the mutiny at the defunct BDR (now Border Guard Bangladesh) headquarters from February 25 to 26, 2009.

DHAKA TODAY

View exchange meet
Campaign for Good Governance will organise a view exchange meeting; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

Discussion
Deshpremik Janogoner Mancha will hold a discussion; Venue: Gono Sangskriti Kendra, Shahbagh; Time: 3:00pm.

Rally
Samrajyabad Birodhi Chhatra Oikya will arrange a rally; Venue: DUCSU Sabuj Chhatra, Dhaka University; Time: 11:00am.

Seminar
Women for Women will organise a seminar; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:00pm.