



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Public transports on the roads of the capital are so inadequate that commuters do not even bother to risk their lives to get on a bus or hang on to its window bars standing on the bumper. They even force themselves on to Dhaka University buses meant for only students and teachers. The photo was taken yesterday on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the capital.

AUGUST 21 CASES Former DMP commissioner summoned

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday summoned SM Mizanur Rahman, a former acting commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), to appear before it today to give his deposition in connection with the August 21 grenade attack cases.

Judge Shahed Nuruddin of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 issued the order following the completion of cross-examination of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) official Abu Hena Md Yusuf.

Mizanur, now on leave preparatory to retirement, was summoned before the tribunal to describe what he knew about the grenade attack on an Awami League (AL) rally at Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital on August 21, 2004.

He was included as a prosecution witness in the supplementary charge sheets submitted by CID on July 3 last year.

Of the 52 accused in the two August 21 grenade attack cases, former state minister for home Lutfuzzaman Babar, Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed and 24 others, who are now in custody, were produced before the court yesterday.

Seven other accused, including former Dhaka City Corporation ward councillor Ariful Islam Arif, now out on bail, were also present.

Tarique and 18 other accused have been shown absconding in the cases.

Share knowledge to cut human deprivation

Experts tell international conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Countries across the world should learn from one another about the best practices and measures to mitigate human deprivation, which is a multi-dimensional issue, said noted economist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud yesterday.

The mitigating measures should be harmonised within the overall development strategies and socio-economic settings of a particular country, while adhering to certain common global standards, he also said while addressing a session on "Mitigating Deprivation" at a two-day conference.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh organised the "International Conference on People's Empowerment and Development" at a hotel in the capital.

"There are many pathways to mitigate deprivation, but there is no unique blueprint for success," said Prof Mahmud while presenting a paper.

Giving instances of some countries in this issue, he said Nepal has made impressive progress in some of the social development indicators in spite of the generally low living standard there while the Indian state of Kerala's effective local governance and decentralisation have played a key role in breaking the old inequalities of class, caste and gender.

Explaining the psychology of deprivation, he said when people feel disadvantaged because of class, ethnicity or other socio-cultural barriers, they respond less proactively to opportunities created by economic development.

Minister for Environment and Forests Hasan Mahmud said, although the least developed countries (LDC) produce only one percent of the greenhouse gases, it is these countries which would be affected first and the worst.

The sea level will rise by 200 feet if the glaciers in Antarctica are melted and the water from it is distributed homogeneously to the oceans, he said, adding that around 17 percent of the land in Bangladesh will go underwater

and 30 million people will be displaced consequently.

He said the global community is not paying proper attention to the people who are innocent victims of the climate change, which is mainly caused by the developed countries producing greenhouse gases.

"This is also a deprivation," the minister said, urging the international communities to take responsibility of the climate change vulnerable countries and people to bring them out of the cycle of deprivation.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Nepal Narayan Kaji Shrestha also addressed the session.

In another working session on "Inclusion of the Excluded People" at the conference, Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Atiur Rahman said the incumbent government has given serious importance towards inclusion of the excluded people specially tenant farmers.

"This is for the first time in the country's history that we are giving agricultural loans to tenant farmers which are a Bangladesh Bank's support to innovative financial inclusion initiatives," he said.

He said small and micro credit loans are also playing a role in changing the fate of farmers and poor people.

In another session on "Reducing Inequality," speakers stressed on expanding social safety nets, ensuring health and education facilities and creating more job opportunities for reducing inequality.

Voicing for improving the socio-economic status of women, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury said women constitute 40 percent of the world's labour force and 43 percent of the agricultural labour force.

Women's empowerment is not an isolated issue and it is absolutely at the centre of achieving people's empowerment, she said, adding that it is essential that this inequality to which women are subjected be reduced.

Works and Human Settlement Minister of Kingdom of Bhutan Lyonpo Yeshey Zimba and Deputy Foreign Minister of Maldives Ali

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muhibunnesa Chowdhury, mother of Ibrahim Chowdhury, Prothom Alo New York correspondent, passed away at her New Jersey residence in the US on Saturday night.

She left behind her six daughters, three sons and 29 grandchildren to mourn her death, says a press release.

Muhibunnesa had been suffering from liver cancer for one and a half years. She was scheduled to be buried in the US yesterday.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



and writer.

To mark the day, Santosh Gupta Smriti Parishad will place wreaths at his memorial at Postagola Crematorium at 9:30am, says a press release.

Santosh, senior assistant editor of the Dainik Sangbad, was famous at home and abroad for his post editorials under the pen name of Aniruddha.

He wrote 16 books on arts, poetry, politics, literature and journalism. He died in 2004 at the age of 80.

Taslimuddin Ahmed

METRO DESK



the second son of late Dr Altafuddin Ahmed.

On the occasion, a daylong program, including Qurankhwani, milad mahfil and special munajat, will be held at his residence. Cooked food will be also distributed at orphanage and mosque, said a press release.

His relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

Mahbub Ali Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Khan, former minister for communications and agriculture.

On the occasion, wreaths will be placed at his Banani grave in the capital. Special prayers will also be offered at different mosques in Dhaka, Sylhet, Bogra and Jamalpur.

A doa and Iftar mahfil will be held today at his Dhanmondi residence on Road-5, House-40.

Road accidents kill six

METRO DESK

Six people were killed in separate road accidents in Dhaka, Natore, Jamalpur and Mymensingh on Saturday and yesterday.

Staff Correspondent reports, an unidentified man was killed after being run over by a bus on Kuril Bishwa Road in Khilkhet area of the capital yesterday.

The accident occurred at Shawra around 8:30am while the man, aged around 25 years, was crossing the road.

He was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he died around 10:10am.

Our Natore correspondent says, a Chapainawabganj-bound truck hit a stationed truck on Bonpara-Hatikumrul highway at Nayabazar in Gurudaspur upazila around 5:00am yesterday, killing two people.

The deceased are Hasan Ali, 55, passenger of the running truck and its helper Badsha Mian, 32.

Badsha succumbed to his injuries at Natore Sadar Hospital.

In another accident, Shafiqul Islam, a madrasa teacher, died as a truck crushed him while he was crossing a road at Madhabpur village in Lalpur upazila at about 8:00am yesterday.

In Jamalpur, a minor girl was killed as a microbus ran her over on Jamalpur-Tangail highway in Dikpait Nafurpara area of the sadar upazila yesterday noon.

The deceased was identified as Mira, 8, daughter of Majibar Rahman of Tulsipur village in the upazila.

In Mymensingh, an imam of a mosque was killed on the spot and another was injured as a speeding microbus knocked them while they were walking beside Gafargoan-Hossainpur road at Dugachia village in Gafargoan upazila on Saturday morning.

The dead is Mahtab Uddin, 75.

Injured Anisur Rahman, 55, was admitted to a local clinic.

Following the incident, local people put up barricades on the road for two hours. Later, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

BCL men abduct train driver at CU Release him after 4 hrs

CU CORRESPONDENT

A driver of a Chittagong University (CU) shuttle train was released four hours after being abducted by the ruling party backed Bangladesh Chhatra League activists yesterday.

The train service remained halted during this time, said CU Proctor Md Siraj-ud-Doula.

Assistant Driver Kamrul Huda was released around 3:00pm, said Station Master SM Fakhru Alam, adding that Kamrul was abducted from the engine room of a train at Sholoshahar Railway Station around 10:45am.

Kamrul could not be reached for comment.

The CU proctor said BCL activists often abducted train drivers to halt the services for some time to pressurise the CU authorities into giving in to their demands.

"This time nobody demanded anything or claimed responsibility for the abduction," he said.

On Saturday, two groups, supporters of CU unit BCL President Mamunul Haque and Senior Vice President Abul Mansur Shikder, clashed leaving one activist, Abul Mansur, injured, he added.

Housewife dies from electrocution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A housewife died from electrocution at Noyabazar in Chittagong city early Saturday.

The deceased was Baby Begum, 35, wife of Md Ismail of the area.

Police said Baby was electrocuted as she came in contact with live wire when tried to switch on a water pump at her house around 8:45am.

She was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where doctors



Discussion

The National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital (NICRH) and the Swadhinata Chikitshak Parishad, NICRH unit will hold a discussion; Venue: NICRH Conference Hall, Mohakhali; Time: 11:00am.

Lecture

The Bangladesh Enterprise Institute and the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) will arrange a lecture; Venue: BISS Auditorium, 1/46 Old Elephant Road; Time: 3:45pm.

Human chain

Bangladesh Projanmo Academy will form a human chain; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Discussion

Adivasi Bishayak Sangsadiya Caucus will hold a discussion; Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Public Library; Time: 3:00pm.

Seminar

Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEB) will organise a seminar; Venue: IDEB Bhaban Council Hall, Kakrail; Time: 3:30pm.

Human chain

Bangladesh Garment Shramik Oikya Parishad will form a human chain; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Discussion

Bangladesh Islamic Party will hold a discussion; Venue: Bangladesh Photo Journalists' Association Hall, Palta; Time: 10:30am.

Human chain

Poribesh Bachao Andolon will form a human chain; Venue: Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University; Time: 11:00am.

Discussion



PHOTO: KAMPS

Prof MA Samad, chairman of Kidney Awareness Monitoring and Prevention Society (KAMPS), addresses a discussion on "Society's role in preventing kidney diseases" in the capital yesterday. The discussants noted that around two crore people in Bangladesh suffer from kidney related diseases while five face untimely death every hour from kidney failure. Yet, the treatment of kidney diseases is both costly and time consuming. KAMPS organised the programme as part of its activities to create awareness about kidney problems and diseases.

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PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

A large number of hawkers selling their items occupying a road in the capital's Gulistan area. The photo was taken yesterday.