



The manhole has been without a lid for about a week at Sholoshahar No 2 Gate intersection in Chittagong city. Pedestrians and vehicles often fall into the manhole at night. Yet the authorities seem blind to the situation.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

CASE FOR BLAST AT SECRETARIAT Hearing deferred to Oct 31

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday deferred until October 31 hearing on charge framing against BNP acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir and 28 others in connection with a blast case.

Shahbagh police filed the case against them for aiding and abetting the bombings inside the secretariat during a hartal on April 29.

Judge Mohammad Zahurul Haque of Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order after defence lawyers submitted a petition seeking an adjournment of the hearing.

In the petition, defence lawyer Advocate Sanaullah Miah told the court that seven accused including Col (ret'd) Oli Ahmed did not appear before it as they were busy with parliament session.

Detective Branch of police submitted the charge sheet on May 31.

Unknown people burn RU bus on campus

RU CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified criminals set fire to a students' bus on Rajshahi University campus in the wee hours of yesterday.

The entire bus was damaged before firefighters reached the spot.

Two night guards at the bus stand Saidur Rahman and Obaidur Rahman said the suddenly saw the bus in flames around 12:10am.

Firefighters said the criminals used gunpowder to burn the vehicle.

Meanwhile, pro-Awami League student body Bangladesh Chhatra League accused Jamaat-e-Islami backed Islami Chhatra Shibir of the arson.

Chhatra League men also demonstrated on the campus yesterday noon protesting the attack.

Chhatra Shibir leaders, however, denied the allegation and instead pinned the blame on Chhatra League men.

RU Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Muhammad Nurullah and Proctor Prof Chowdhury Muhammad Zakaria visited the scene around 12:15am and said the authorities would form a committee to investigate the incident.

Motihar Police Station OC Anisur Rahman said they would investigate the incident after receiving complaint from the RU authorities.

DEFAMATION Judge dismisses case against Suranjit

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday summarily dismissed a defamation case against minister without portfolio Suranjit Sengupta hours after it was filed against him on charge of making "derogatory" remark about lawyers and courts on September 16.

The judge passed the order saying that there was no sufficient ground to take the case into cognisance.

Advocate Sultan Mahmud, a lawyer of Dhaka District Judge's Court, yesterday filed the case against Suranjit with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

Mahmud alleged that Suranjit, who was talking about the lawyers and courts at a programme titled 'Law and Human Rights' organised by South Asian Lawyers' Forum at Jatiya Press Club on September 16, said money makes everything possible. Suranjit also said majority people are now deprived of rule of law. The news was published the following day in a Bangla daily.

ASK wants law for domestic workers' protection

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights body Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) yesterday urged the government to formulate a law to recognise domestic workers' employment and ensure their protection.

With the assistance of Save the Children, ASK prepared a draft proposal titled 'Domestic Workers Registration and Protection Act' with some recommendations including implementation of the National Child Labour Elimination Policy 2010.

Sultana Kamal, executive director of ASK, handed over the draft to Law Minister Shafique Ahmed at Child Domestic Workers Convention 2012 in Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital.

The ASK and Save the Children jointly organised the convention where 750 domestic workers attended. Save the Children is working with 45,000 domestic workers across the country to ensure their education.

The law minister said the government would consider framing the law for welfare of child domestic workers so they can both study and work.

Sultana Kamal, also former adviser to a caretaker government, said it is the duty of the government as well as the society to ensure protection of child domestic workers who have taken the responsibility to feed themselves.

Mikail Shipar, secretary to the labour and employment ministry, among others, spoke.

BANGLADESH MISSION IN SOUTH AFRICA Armed robbers storm envoy's house

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Armed robbers stormed the residence of the Bangladesh high commissioner in Pretoria, South Africa in a failed attempt early yesterday.

They broke the main gate and created panic among the family members but could not loot the house for the envoy's chauffeur who started shouting after sensing their presence.

Talking to The Daily Star on phone, the newly appointed Bangladesh High Commissioner Touhid Hossain said several armed robbers attacked his residence at 254 Aquila Avenue Waterloof Ridge in Pretoria around 3:30am (local time), broke the main gate, and attempted to break into his bedroom.

During the attack, the high commis-

sioner, his wife and daughter were asleep.

Touhid Hossain said the robbers attacked three more neighbouring houses at that time and looted valuables at gunpoint.

He said the South African government did not provide any security to the diplomatic zone, which caused serious insecurity.

"I have yet not hired any private security as recruiting private security is highly expensive here. Now I am thinking of recruiting private security on an urgent basis as I and my family are feeling seriously insecure," he said.

Police visited the house after the high commissioner called for help and a case has been lodged with the local police station.

Previously, an armed robbery had occurred at Bangladesh High Commission office in Pretoria.

Tobacco factory fined for pollution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) on Monday fined a tobacco factory in Manikganj Tk19.6 lakh for polluting the environment with tobacco wastes.

Dhaka Tobacco Industries Ltd has been running without environmental clearance from the department for very long, said a DoE press release.

DoE officials found that the factory dumped around 50,000 kilograms of tobacco wastes at Golra and Jagir in Manikganj.

Besides, a fire incident at the factory on September 13 damaged 5 lakh kilograms of tobacco, which were dumped beside the Dhaka-Aricha highway.

The DoE ordered the factory authorities to dispose off the dumped tobacco wastes by tomorrow.

Tridiv Roy passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati



Tridiv Roy, father of Chief of Chakma Circle Raja Debashish Roy,

passed away yesterday morning at his residence at Islamabad in Pakistan at the age of 80.

He was suffering from heart and respiratory complications for the last couple of months.

He left behind his wife Binita Roy, three sons, two daughters and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

Tridiv, son of Nolinashkha Roy, held the throne as the 50th king of the Chakma Circle from May 2 in 1953 till the War of Liberation in 1971.

Members of royal family expressed deep shock at his death.

Raja Debashish yesterday said he might fly to Pakistan to see his late father and try to bring the body back to Rangamati for cremation.

The date for funeral will be decided after discussion among the royal family members, he added.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the fifth death anniversary of Alhaj Foyez Boksh Bhuiya, father of an additional judge.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held today at his village home at Jahanara Manzil in Shaheb Para of Joypurhat district, says a press release.

4 killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

Four people were killed in separate road accidents in Chittagong, Rangpur, Naogaon and Mymensingh yesterday.

Our staff correspondent from Chittagong reports, an elderly man was killed as a pushcart fell upon him after being hit by an unknown speeding vehicle in Chittagong city yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Emran Ali, 55, son of Moazzem Hossain, of Bakalia in the city.

He was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where he was declared dead at around 2:30pm, said the hospital outpost police.

In Rangpur, a union parishad (UP) member died instantly as a brick-laden tractor hit his motorbike in Nagerhat area of Badarganj upazila yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Harun-Ar-Rashid, 45, member of Ward No-9 at

Kutubpur union of the upazila.

Soon after the accident, agitating locals put up barricades on the road in the area for three hours.

In Naogaon, a man was killed on the spot as two three-wheelers (Bhutbhuti) collide head-on at Khattapara village in Sapahar upazila yesterday noon.

The deceased was identified as Motiur Rahman, 34, son Basir Uddin of Mishira village in the upazila.

Motiur was going to Ong Galahat of the upazila from his house.

In Mymensingh, a youth was killed as a Dhaka bound bus from Mymensingh collided head-on with a covered van on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Masterbari in Bhaluka upazila yesterday morning.

The victim was identified as Billal Hossain, 32, of Sonadanga in Kushtia.

Billal was rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.



The remains of a burned-down students' bus on Rajshahi University campus, which was set afire by unknown criminals early yesterday. Inset, the bus in flames.

PHOTO: STAR



Poor cleft-lip and palate children along with their guardians at an operation camp, organised by Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd (DBBL), in South View Hospital in Mirpur of the capital. DBBL Managing Director KS Tabrez on Sunday inaugurated the camp in which 60 patients were enlisted for surgery free of cost.

PHOTO: COURTESY

BRTA, RHD Quader claims he reduced graft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday claimed that 50 percent of the irregularities in the transport regulatory body BRTA and Roads and Highways Department (RHD) had been reduced during the last nine months of his ministership.

"I cannot make any magical change in this sector because garbage has been piled up here over the years," he said, but noted that he was trying his level best to end those irregularities.

"Fitness certificates are given to unfit vehicles through underhand dealings, vehicle inspection centres have been remaining inactive since the last 14 years, and there are many more irregularities out here," he said.

The minister was addressing a programme titled "Promoting Women in Driving Profession" where 21 newly trained female drivers were awarded certificates.

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) and Brac jointly organised the ceremony at the capital's Brac Centre. The 21 women received two months training at Brac Driving Training School in the capital's Uttara.

The female drivers demanded an end to use of fake licences and the practice of driving vehicles without licence.

Replying to reporters' queries, the minister said, "We hope to start construction of Padma bridge by this fiscal year." He also criticised some politicians saying, "Many politicians of our country do not want to quit until death."

Brac Enterprises and Investments Managing Director Muhammad A (Rume) Ali chaired the function.

RISE Stars

It's a tough choice between your kinsman and the rest when it comes to helping them. We take a look at how and why people justify



helping one or the other while taking an aerial view of one of the greatest story tellers to live. Dylan and Sleeping Dogs to entertain.

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