

Despite a countrywide strike of petrol pump stations, traffic jams did not ease in the capital. The photo was taken from the city's Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue.

PHOTO: STAR



3 killed in Dhaka road crashes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three people, including a policeman, were killed in separate road accidents in the capital's Mouchak and Uttara areas, and Ashulia on the outskirts of the city yesterday.

In Mouchak, a police constable was killed as a speeding city bus hit him from behind while he was trying to get on another bus in Mouchak Market area around 5:30am.

The deceased was identified as MdYusuf, 32.

Yusuf was going to his sister's house at Purbo Rajarbagh from Rajarbagh Police Lines, said Abul Kalam, his brother-in-law.

Shah Alam, officer-in-charge of Ramna Police Station said police failed to catch the bus as it managed to escape from the spot.

In Uttara, a helper of a truck was killed on the spot as another truck hit their vehicle at Sector No-4 around 3:00am, said police.

The victim was identified as Minhazul Islam, 28.

In Ashulia, a lawyer died instantly as a truck rammed his car in Ghosbagh area around 6:30am, SM Bodrul Alam, officer-in-charge of Ashulia Police Station, told The Daily Star.

The deceased was identified as Ashfaq Ahmed Rajib, 33.

Ashfaq Ahmed was coming from Manikganj district to his Mohammadpur residence in the capital, the OC added.

5 held with snake venom in Uttara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday seized 12 pounds of smuggled snake venom from a house at Azampur in the capital's Uttara.

The venom was of King Cobra and smuggled from France, said Rab-10 officials.

Tipped-off, Rab-10 personnel seized the venom and held five persons in this connection.

Rab officials did not provide the identities of the detainees but said the five were members of a venom smuggling gang.

Try rapists thru' speedy tribunals

Demand rights activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human rights activists at a demonstration yesterday demanded exemplary punishment of rapists through speedy trial tribunals.

They made the demand at a sit-in arranged by Nari Nirjaton Birodhi Mancha with 86 organisations in front of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises in the capital.

Sultana Kamal, who convened the event, said, "Our society always instructs girls to stay within their boundaries. Through this programme we warn those law enforcing bodies and practitioners who do not play their roles in due manner and help protect the perpetrators."

Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh, said, "Two woman leaders have been ruling this country for the last two decades. So such gross violation of human rights of women in this country is highly unacceptable. Both the government and the opposition should take effective measures to ensure safety of women immediately."

Dilip Sarkar, coordinator of Sammilito Nagorik Parishad, was present among others.

MARTIAL LAW REGIME ORDINANCES

Some of them to remain in force

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved in principle two proposals for keeping in force the necessary ordinances that were promulgated during the martial law regimes but were later nullified through the 15th amendment to the constitution.

"Although all the ordinances of the two martial law regimes became invalid with the nullification of the fifth and seventh amendments, many activities done under the ordinances are essential and need to get legal shape for continuation of the functioning of the republic," Cabinet Secretary Muhammad Mosharaf Hossain Bhuiyan told reporters at the Secretariat.

He said the essential ordinances would

get legal shape through promulgation of another ordinance.

The two amendments, repealed through the 15th amendment, legalised activities of the two martial law regimes between August 20, 1975 and April 9, 1979 and March 24, 1982 and November 10, 1986. A total of 91 ordinances were passed during the first regime and 81 in the second one.

Mosharraf said, "Since the two martial law regimes were declared illegal, all ordinances promulgated under the regimes also became illegal." But some important ordinances like that of land development and public interests should be given legal framework to avoid legal complications, he said.

Govt harassing BNP leaders with cases

Says Zainul Abdin Farroque

UNB, Dhaka

Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abedin Farroque yesterday alleged that the government is harassing the BNP leaders by filing "false" cases to bar the opposition from joining parliament.

"The government doesn't want BNP to join parliament. That's why the charges against Khaleda Zia in a false case were accepted."

"And other BNP leaders, including its acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, were implicated in false cases," he said.

Farroque told a human chain programme in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

He also said they would consider joining parliament if the government withdraws all the cases filed against their leaders and activists, including Khaleda Zia, and takes initiatives to reinstate the caretaker government system through placing a bill in the House.

Swadhinata Forum, a pro-opposition body, arranged the human chain programme.



Nari Nirjaton Birodhi Mancha, a forum of 86 organisations, stages a sit-in before Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban in the capital yesterday demanding an end to violence against women.

PHOTO: STAR

JUDICIAL OFFICIALS Committee formed to hike salary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday formed a high-profile committee, comprising a number of senior ministers, to raise salary and other allowances for judicial officials.

Headed by Finance Minister AMA Muhith, the committee will submit recommendations in this regard to the cabinet, Cabinet Secretary Muhammad Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan told journalists after the weekly cabinet meeting in Bangladesh Secretariat.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presided over the meeting.

Platform stressed for disadvantaged children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday stressed the need for building a common platform of those working for the empowerment of disadvantaged children with a view to ensuring their rights.

Speakers also emphasised on the inclusive development of disadvantaged children to ensure their empowerment.

The national workshop and conference styled "Psychological Support for Disadvantaged Children" was organised by Aparajeyo Bangladesh and ARBAN.

"Most works done for children by NGOs, government or individuals are isolated. Now is the time for a concerted effort and we need a national push for this purpose," said Prof Shaheen Islam, chairperson of educational and counselling psychology department of Dhaka University.

Disadvantaged children should be treated with respect and dignity to make them feel included in the society and only

then will they have a sense of accomplishment and self-esteem, she added.

Md Kamaluddin, coordinator of ARBAN, said poverty, lack of rehabilitation, ignorance and negative attitude were major contributing factors that make disadvantaged children feel excluded.

Inclusive development is of utmost importance for the empowerment of disadvantaged children, he said, adding that concerted efforts are needed for bringing about change in social perception and education system in this regard.

Referring to the incidents of child abuse in the country, speakers stressed the need for ensuring legal support services to the victims and raising mass awareness on the issue.

The event was organised under the framework of the European Union and Terre de homes (TDH) Italia's co-funded project "Developing a safety net for urban marginalised and disadvantaged children."

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