

Road crashes kill three, injure two

CITY DESK

Three people were killed and two others injured in road accidents in the country yesterday and Friday.

Our Moulvibazar correspondent reports, a person died when a CNG-run auto-rickshaw hit him as the driver lost control over the vehicle near Kodomhata Bazar area in Moulvibazar Sadar upazila.

Somoy Deb, 60, son of late Sosi Mohan Deb in Donasree village of the upazila, was crossing the road.

Our Pabna correspondent reports, a boy was killed and another injured when a truck hit them in Chala area of Belkuchi upazila in Sirajganj on Friday.

The deceased was Abdul Hannan, 14, son of Abdul Jalil of Chala village.

Our Gaibandha correspondent reports, a woman, aged around 26, died and her daughter was injured when they were hit by a truck while crossing the Bogra-Rangpur highway at Howyakhana yesterday.



The Jamuna river yesterday devoured about 30 metres of the embankment in Guthail Bazar area of Jamalpur, leaving the residents of Islampur in fear of the river eroding the entire area. Since the advent of monsoon this year, rivers all over the country have been wreaking havoc on their banks, making a large number of people homeless, while the authorities concerned seem to have no interest in finding any permanent solution to the annually recurring destruction.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Southern region farmers switching to maize farming

UNB, Bagerhat

Higher profit at relatively lower production expenditure is shifting attention of the farmers in the southern region away to farming of maize from other crops.

Apart from cultivation of the cereal item being cost-effective, the cereal item is selling at better prices in the local markets compared to other crops.

Sources concerned said farmers of the southern districts started cultivating maize on salty soil of the coastal region in 2012 on a test basis.

They became motivated in cultivating the crop after achieving good yield.

This year, some 1,200 farmers, including 200 female ones, cultivated maize on 650 hectares of land in four upazilas--Sadar, Kachua, Morelganj and Fakirhat--of Bagerhat.

Brac, an NGO, is encouraging farmers of the district in maize farming and providing them with all-out support for this.

While visiting maize fields in different areas recently, this correspondent of the news agency found that growers were passing very busy time with not only harvesting but also threshing maize.

Maize fields at different places were giving very captivating looks.

The growers said they had got bumper yield of maize this year cultivating it on their lands.

Farmer Saidur Rahman of Shialkathi village in Kachua upazila in Bagerhat said he cultivated maize on his one acre of land this year.

He spent Tk 16,000-17,000 in the cultivation and now hopes to get profit of Tk 50,000 by selling the crop.

He expressed gratitude to Brac, saying that the NGO had provided financial and technical support to him.

DHAKA-ARICHA HIGHWAY Garbage dumping killing trees

Savar municipality responsible

RASHAD AHAMAD, Savar

Trees beside Dhaka-Aricha highway, from Savar to Dhamrai, outside the capital, are dying as Savar municipality is dumping garbage next to the trees for not having any designated dumping ground.

From Nabinagar to Aminbazar, The Daily Star correspondent found 18 garbage mounds, each covering 200 yards, around half a kilometre apart within a distance of 21 kilometres.

Over two hundred trees, mainly Koroi and Akashmoni, on both sides of the highway, have already died while the remaining ones are dying.

From Genda station to Savar station, the roadside which used to be with trees, is now almost bare of trees. Makeshift tea stalls, which have grabbed the roadsides, are dumping hot water and rubbish directly at the base of the trees, claimed locals.

Ulail, a busy area with a huge number of garment and

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Air, sound pollution intolerable in Ctg

BSS, Ctg

Air and sound pollution in Chittagong city has reached an intolerable level, making the city dwellers suffer from different complicated diseases.

Air pollution caused by emission of black smokes from unfit vehicles and dust from open space result in the increase of bronchitis, asthma and respiratory related diseases among the city dwellers for years.

Physicians fear that if the situation continues, respiratory diseases will increase manifold among the city residents.

Besides, people of different strata in Chittagong are passing hard time tolerating sound pollution created by the hydraulic horns of vehicles, power generators and welding engineering workshops located in and around residential areas.

Experts said sound pollutions had reached nearly 200 decibel (dB) against its tolerable level of 60 (dB).

Meanwhile, environmentalists said air pollution from thousands of unfit vehicles reached 100 percent against 65 percent, the maximum tolerable level of Hartridge Smoke Unit (HSU).

ENT specialist Dr Abdus Sattar said continuous sound pollution might deafen the children as well as the adults.

According to government guidelines, welding engineering and lead machines, iron factories and generators must be set up at least one kilometre away from residences and power generators must be set up underground, which remain unheeded.

Over 32,000 unfit light and heavy vehicles have been plying the roads of Chittagong

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Dried fish trade boosts livelihoods in Sylhet

UNB, Sylhet

A good number of people at Mahtabpur village in Biswanath upazila of Sylhet have been able to develop the standard of their livelihoods through dried fish business.

The business centring dried fish, which has a huge demand in the domestic market, has created wide employment opportunity for many people of Mahtabpur.

While visiting the village recently, the news agency correspondent found that dried fish traders and workers were passing very busy time.

They were either collecting fishes from wholesale fish markets or drying those under the open sky or loading dried fishes onto vehicles to transport those to Sylhet city.

Some traders said dried fish production began in November and it continued till pre-monsoon period. Tengra and puti are among the main varieties of dried fish, they added.

In the village, there were 40 dried fish traders who employed some 200 workers for processing dried fish, said locals.

Around Tk 2 lakh is provided to all the workers per

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A few skeletons of trees stand surrounded by garbage beside the Dhaka-Aricha highway in Savar, on the outskirts of the capital. Even just three months back the scenario was completely different with rows of trees lining the highway. However, continuous dumping of household garbage there by Savar municipality have left many trees dead and many others dying.

PHOTO: STAR

Battery-run rickshaws

FROM PAGE 3

additional deputy commissioner (traffic) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP), said they have not started taking any measures against the battery-run rickshaws.

"We are waiting for the copy of the High Court order. Once we get the copy, we will start taking action against the unauthorised rickshaws," he said.

According to sources, there are around 50,000 unlicensed battery-run rickshaws plying across Chittagong city now, which is a very high number compared to 300 in 2012.

These rickshaws also tend to get in more accidents than the paddle-run rickshaws as the drivers of motorised rickshaws have more speed but less control of their vehicles.

Subrata Das, a resident of Kapasgola area,

was injured recently when he fell off a motorised rickshaw. The rickshaw was going too fast and could not stop in time to avoid a road divider.

Another resident, Jewel Shil, was injured similarly in Chittagong College Road area.

Initially in 2012, people were glad when the motorised rickshaws began plying the city streets as commuters could reach their destinations faster than using paddle-run rickshaws, and at a cheaper rate than CNG-run auto-rickshaws.

However, the number of these vehicles increased rapidly adding to the traffic congestion. Moreover, the battery-run rickshaws cause more accidents than the traditional paddle-run rickshaws.

Tarique should have sent

FROM PAGE 3

getting the copy.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on June 27 said the government would retrieve and bring back the money deposited by some Bangladeshis in Swiss banks.

Fakhrul then said the AL leaders had kept the money in those banks.

Later, at a meeting at Dhaka Reporters'

Unity, Hasan Mahmud commented that BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's sons Tarique and Arafat Rahman Koko deposited the money with Swiss banks.

"I just expressed my suspicion; the suspicious attitudes of some BNP leaders made me believe that there was something fishy on their part", he said.

Implementation of master

FROM PAGE 3

The waterlogging problem in the port city is becoming acute due to hill cutting, unplanned development, encroachment of canal, and lack of water bodies like ponds, the experts said.

They also underscored the need for creating awareness among the city dwellers

about waste management and taking adequate measure for the protection and preservation of the existing canals by the authorities concerned.

Prof Sayedur Rahman Chowdhury of Chittagong University, and town planner AKM Rezaul Karim presented two keynote papers.

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