



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

Star
Showbiz



VIKINGS BACK

The band releases new album --
the soundtrack of the film "Runout"

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IRAQ PART-II?

Obama once accused his predecessor
of waging a "dumb war"

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Road crashes ruin families

*Analysis shows 73pc of victims
are of most productive
segment of population*

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and FAARIA TASIN

When Khalid Saifullah became a doctor, it was a dream come true for him and his family. He always wanted to work at a government hospital where he can treat the poor. So after completing his MBBS, he took the BCS exam and joined an upazila health complex in his hometown Tangail as a medical officer in 2009.

And as expected of him, Khalid began serving his poor neighbours for free. Eldest of his three siblings, he also took the responsibility of his six-member family after his college teacher father retired in 2011.

The year before, in 2010, he got married, hoping to settle down. And all was well until May 29, 2011, when the 27-year-old was crushed under the wheels of a bus on Dhaka-Tangail Highway.

His friend Shafiqul Islam, 26, was also killed when the passenger bus knocked down their motorcycle. A third friend, Habibur Rahman, was seriously injured. He recovered after months of treatment, but the loss of his two buddies still haunts him and will perhaps do so for the rest of his life.

The story of these three friends and how a single accident can affect dozens of families is not unique in Bangladesh. Statistics are scarce but an analysis by The Daily Star shows about 73 percent of the total road accident victims belong to the most productive segment of the population.

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13 more lives lost in road accidents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirteen people were killed and several others injured in separate road accidents in three districts across the country yesterday.

Of the deceased, six were killed in Moulvibazar, two in Habiganj and five in Chittagong, report our district correspondents.

In Moulvibazar, six people were killed and 12 others injured in a three-vehicle pile-up on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Tulvi area of Bahubol upazila around 4:25pm.

The accident left two motorbike riders and four passengers of a microbus dead on the spot, said Wahidur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Bahubol Police Station.

The dead motorbike riders -- Khokon, 28, and Rukon, 22, of the same upazila -- were siblings, the OC said.

Identities of the other deceased could not be known immediately.

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Begum waits at Pachchar Government Primary School in Shibchar of Madaripur yesterday for the body of her daughter Nishita. Nishita was supposed to start college this week. Recovered bodies of the Pinak-6 disaster were being taken to the school for the families to identify. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

No consolation for victim families

*Launch yet to be located; 4 more bodies
found; 12 bodies buried in mass grave*

PANKAJ KARMAKAR and WASIM BIN HABIB

He grabbed and held on to her hand in the water for several minutes after Pinak-6 went down in the Padma and the siblings struggled to stay afloat in the raging current.

Eight-year-old Irene eventually slipped through Akram's fingers.

Akram, 18, frantically looked for her in the water. Once on dry land, his search continued for his sister, father and mother, who were all on board the vessel.

Five days later, Akram finally got to hold his sister's hand again. He held on to her cold hands yesterday.

Irene, a student of Chandana

Government Primary School, was buried along with 11 unidentified passengers of the vessel at Shibchar Municipal graveyard in Madaripur after Juma prayers yesterday.

A namaz-e-janaza was held at the playground of Pachchar Government Primary School in Shibchar where the dead bodies had been kept.

"How could I take my sister's body home? To whom I take the body?" said Akram, who hails from Barisal.

His father Dulal and mother Taslima are missing. They were returning to Gazipur from their Barisal home after celebrating Eid there.

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RELATED STORY ON PAGE 16

Police foil demo for Tuba workers

*Strike called in garment
industry for today*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcers did not allow garment workers to stage their scheduled demonstrations in Savar and Ashulia industrial areas yesterday.

A group of workers tried to demonstrate at Ashulia around 5:00pm, demanding outstanding pays and Eid bonuses for the staff of five units of Tuba Group.

"Law enforcers beat the workers to thwart the demonstration," alleged Shahidul Islam Sabuj, finance secretary of Garment Workers Unity Forum.

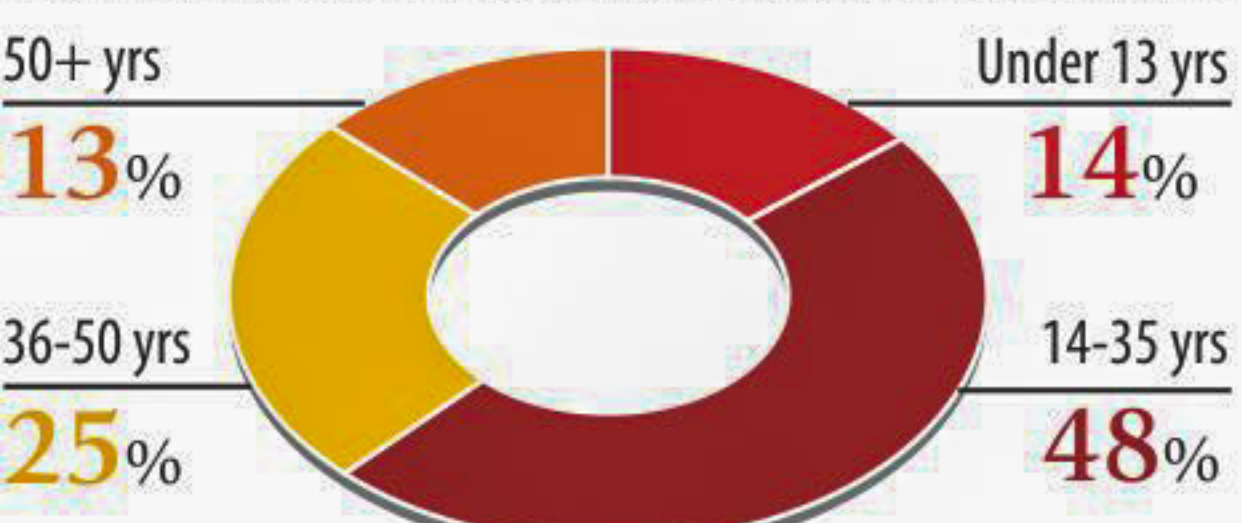
A total of 10 workers were injured in Savar and Ashulia, he claimed.

Police outright denied the allegation.

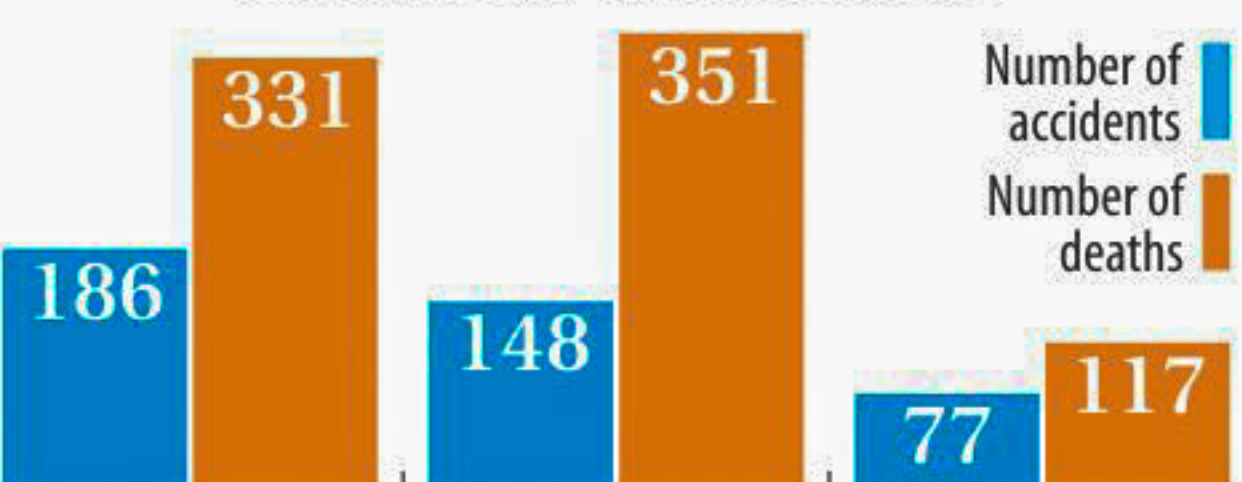
"There's no question of any worker getting injured ... Two

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AGE PROFILE OF VICTIMS WHO DIED IN ROAD ACCIDENTS



TOP 3 ACCIDENT-PRONE HIGHWAYS



DATA CALCULATED FROM THE DAILY STAR REPORTS,
JANUARY 2010-JUNE 2014

Reckless driving,
bad road
condition among
key reasons

Dhaka-Ctg
highway is the
most accident-
prone highway

Rate of accidents
increases during
July-August

Govt call for not using 'Adivasi' term questioned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government's advice to dispense with the word "Adivasi" has drawn criticisms and raised questions about its commitment to the indigenous people.

The indigenous people living in the country's plains and hills have long been demanding constitutional recognition as Adivasi.

Any race or sect has the right to self determination according to the UN declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People and ILO

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A cultural programme of Mro community at Cramadipara of Thanchi in Bandarban. Their culture and livelihood have increasingly come under threat with their farmland and ancestral homes being taken over. The photo was shot recently.

Against all odds

*750 Mro families do not lose hopes
despite eviction; Int'l Day of the
World's Indigenous Peoples today*

PINAKI ROY

They were evicted from their ancestral homes. No steps were taken for their rehabilitation. Most of their farmlands were taken away and no alternative livelihood was provided.

They now live in shacks on the roadsides, eking out a miserable existence.

But despite all the hardship, some 750 Mro families of Bandarban's Thanchi are trying to protect their centuries-old culture.

"We have been forced to change ourselves in many ways. Yet, we simply cannot bear to forget our culture and traditions," said Menleng Mro, a youth from Cramadipara by the Bandarban-Chimbuk road where the families settled after they were evicted from their old villages on the

hill slopes in Kongkabati, Sualok and Kodukhola unions in 2006.

Their life has become harder than before. As most of their Jum land was taken away, they cannot grow enough food to meet their needs. As a result, many of them have become day labourers.

This change in livelihoods is forcing many to learn to speak Bangla alongside their native tongue, said Singpat Mro, a member of the community.

"Besides, these days it has become dangerous to live on the roadsides. Tourist vehicles have increased a lot on this road and every year a few people die in accidents," said the undergraduate student of a college in Dhaka.

"Also, Rohingya people are illegally

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Gaza bloodshed resumes

*Fresh Israeli airstrikes kill boy; Egypt reports progress
in talks for new truce; death toll hits 1,894*

AFP, Gaza City

Deadly hostilities engulfed Gaza once again where a 10-year-old boy was killed yesterday and Israeli warplanes struck targets in retaliation for dozens of Palestinian cross-border rocket attacks.

But Egypt, mediating indirect talks between Israelis and Palestinians, said negotiations were making progress despite the violence and called for an expired ceasefire to be extended.

The head of the Palestinian delega-

tion in Cairo also said they were committed to achieving a truce, while Israel warned that it would not negotiate under fire.

Israel accused Hamas of breaching a 72-hour truce early yesterday after militants fired two rockets.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered the military to retaliate "forcefully to the Hamas breach of the ceasefire".

The violence ended a three-day lull in four weeks of fighting between Israel

and Hamas that has killed at least 1,894 Palestinians and 67 people on the Israeli side, almost all soldiers.

A 10-year-old boy was the latest fatality, and 11 other Palestinians were wounded in Israeli air strikes yesterday, said Ashraf al-Qudra, Gaza's emergency services spokesman.

The United Nations says at least 1,354 of the Palestinians killed in the fighting since July 8 were civilians, including 447 children.

PHOTO ON PAGE 16 SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



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