

Road crashes kill 4

CITY DESK

Four people were killed and five others injured in road accidents in the country yesterday. Our Jhenidah correspondent reports, a person was killed and four others were injured when a truck collided head-on with a bus on Magura-Jessore road. The deceased was Nazrul Islam, 35, of Sadar upazila. A Comilla correspondent reports, a truck driver, Nurul Islam, 25, of Chittagong, died when the vehicle hit a roadside tree near Raipura bridge on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Daudkandi upazila. Our Dinajpur correspondent adds, a motorcyclist was killed while his co-rider was injured as their motorbike collided head-on with a truck at Raniganj village in Ghoraghat upazila of Dinajpur. The deceased was Ziaur Rahman, 42, of Joypurhat. Monorwar Hossain was admitted to Ghoraghat upazila Health Complex. Our Pabna correspondent adds, Saiful Islam Atu, 59, postmaster of Dobila Post Office, died when a truck hit him at Mahishluti Bazar on Hatikumrul-Bonpara highway in Tarash upazila in Sirajganj.



Unauthorised clothing shops have sprung up right on the road in the ever-bustling Karwan Bazar of the capital, leaving little space for vehicular movement and thus causing gridlocks every now and then. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

ACC to sue three former Sonali Bank officials

UNB, Dhaka

The Anti-Corruption Commission is set to file two cases against five people, including three former officials of Sonali Bank, for allegedly swindling over Tk 26.5 crore from the bank, said the commission's Public Relations Officer Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya. The accused are former deputy general managers of Sonali Bank's Narayanganj corporate branch Syed Ahmed Miji and Chowdhury Abdul Mannan; former principal officer M Nuruzzaman; owner of M/s Siam Knit Wear Habibur Rahman; and owner of Taha Knit Concern Khandaker Harun Ur Rashid.

WAR CRIMES IN KISHOREGANJ One more points Hasan as killer of FF's father

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



After two sons, a neighbour yesterday testified on the murder of a man by Syed Hasan Ali while the victim was fleeing home in Kishoreganj during the Liberation War. Tofazzal Hossain Bhuiyan alias Lalu Bhuiyan was shot dead on August 24, 1971, Mohammad Hadis, the 21st prosecution witness, told the International Crimes Tribunal-1. He said the Pakistani army and Razakars attacked their Konabawal village in Tarail upazila on the night of August 23 and he heard gunshots from their neighbouring 'Bhuiyan Bari'. The next morning, Hadis heard about the killing from his son Emdad Hossain Bhuiyan. Emdad testified on the murder earlier, saying his brother Shahjahan Bhuiyan served in the police force before joining the War of Independence and their father Lalu Bhuiyan imparted training to local freedom fighters as an Ansar commander. Arriving around 2:00am on August 24, Hasan started dragging his father out of bed after he denied knowing his son Shahjahan's whereabouts, Emdad said, adding that when Emdad begged for his father's life, Hasan slapped him hard. Lalu started running, when brought out of the room, before he got shot and dived into a pond, he said. The body was recovered after the attackers had left. Freedom fighter Shahjahan Bhuiyan also testified on the killing. Hadis said he also heard that the Razakars took Lalu's uncle Zahid Bhuiyan and his wife to Kishoreganj but let the

Maize farming makes Rajshahi growers happy

BSS, Rajshahi

By dint of its gradually increasing demand and lucrative market price, scores of growers have become happy over maize farming both in rainy and winter seasons in Rajshahi region, especially Barind tract and Chalan Beel areas. Farmers are switching to maize cultivation in increasing numbers because of better prices of the cereal and high demand by feed and flour mills. The shift in cultivation from other crops such as wheat and rice has raised maize outputs, reducing the country's dependence on import. Stakeholders linked the shift in farming with higher prices of maize than that of rice and other crops. Future growth in cultivation, however, will largely depend on the market price and poultry sector. The farmers got fair prices of maize during the last couple of years inspiring them to cultivate more maize as its farming is risk-free. There are brighter prospects for increasing maize production and the government has put due emphasis on the issue. "A rise in temperature affects the production of wheat in winter. But maize can

tolerate high temperatures," said Dr Israil Hossain, chief scientific officer of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI). So, a section of farmers prefers growing maize to wheat and winter crops as there is a demand for maize at the feed mills, he said. Dr Israil Hossain said the farmers, both small and marginal, cultivate the cash crop in more lands including the vast Barind tract and char areas in the region. Availability of quality seeds, including hybrid varieties, a huge demand of the commodity in the country and maximum profits have encouraged them towards the farming remarkably. Hazrat Ali, deputy director of Department of Agriculture Extension, said the field level DAE officials and staff are working relentlessly to overcome the existing obstacles being faced by the farmers relating to the maize farming. Dr Ilias Hossain, senior scientific officer of Regional Wheat Research Centre, said various steps have been adopted to increase the acreage of maize along with boosting its yield as the crop diversification has been given top priority in the existing water-stressed condition.

Only two run Barisal medical college forensic department

Hampering academic activities, autopsies

SUSHANTO GHOSH, Barisal

The forensic medicine department of Sher-e-Bangla Medical College in Barisal has been run by only three or two doctors for around 47 years, hampering the academic activities, autopsies as well as examination of rape victims. Although there has been a total of ten posts, eight of them are lying vacant, said Dr Akhtaruzzaman Talukdar, assistant professor and acting head of the department which started in 1968. The vacant posts are of a professor, an associate professor, an assistant professor, three lecturers, a male medical officer and a female medical officer. Currently, Dr Akhtaruzzaman and Dr Shammi Aktar, a lecturer, are serving the department. Of them, Dr Shammi has been on a three-month training leave since February 1, exacerbating the crisis. These two teachers have to run the academic activities and conduct the tests at the same time, said Dr Kamrul Hasan Selim, director of Sher-e-Bangla Medical College and Hospital. On an average 350 postmortems and more than 100 rape tests are conducted annually under this department, said Dr Akhtaruzzaman, adding that the figures were increasing. It takes three to four months for delivering reports of autopsies and one to two months for other tests due to the shortage of manpower, he said, adding that there was no

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HC halts earth filling

FROM PAGE 3

remove the soil piled in the water-bodies and wetlands in the project. Secretaries to the ministries of environment and forest, and land and Rajuk, director general and director (enforcement) of the Department of Environment (DoE), deputy commissioner of Dhaka, Eastern Housing Ltd, and officers-in-charge of Rampura, Khilgaon, Badda and Sabujbagh police stations have been made respondents to the rule. The HC bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice Abu Taher Md Saifur Rahman came up with the order and rule after hearing the writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh. The organisation submitted the petition on March 5 seeking a necessary order from the HC on the authorities to protect the natural water-bodies and wetlands in the housing project. During hearing, Manzill Murshid told the court that the DoE has approved the Aftabnagar Banasri housing project on condition that its water-bodies, wetlands and canals will be protected, but plots are being made through earth filling in water-bodies and wetlands, which is illegal.

Woman's dismembered

FROM PAGE 3

Police sent the body parts to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy. Police said the woman wearing salwar-kameez is aged around 20 to 22 years. Locals could not tell police anything about the incident but police suspect that the body parts were scattered there after killing her somewhere else.

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