

Man, son killed in Sylhet road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A man and his son were killed and two people injured in a road accident on the Sylhet-Biyaniabazar road in Phulbari area of Golapganj upazila in Sylhet yesterday morning.

The deceased were identified as Eklas Uddin, 70, and his son Altaf Hossain of Borolekha upazila of the district.

Witnesses said the accident occurred when a Sylhet-bound car carrying the victims collided head-on with a pick-up van around 8:00am, leaving Altaf dead and three others injured.

The injured were admitted to Osmani Medical College Hospital where Eklas was declared dead.

The two vehicles were seized.



The coastal embankment suffered further damage at Chhara Para in Cox's Bazar's Pekua upazila yesterday, as strong tidal surges and heavy rainfall continued. All seven unions of the upazila were flooded. Inset, people waded on a flooded street in Bakgojara Purba Meher Nama area.

PHOTO: STAR

Only textbooks not enough to create great minds

Award ceremony for schoolteachers, librarians told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Economic emancipation and professional success can be achieved through reading textbooks but creative and sophisticated non-textbooks written by great authors help to create great minds, speakers said at an award ceremony for schoolteachers and librarians yesterday.

"Ninety-nine percent of great human beings may or may not have studied textbooks but they definitely read books outside the curriculum," said Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, founder and chief executive of Bishwo Shahitto Kendro, giving examples of Poet Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam, both of whom did not complete formal education.

A total of 672 schoolteachers and librarians, who successfully helped students develop reading habits, have been awarded this year under the government's Secondary Education Quality and Access Enhancement Programme (SEQAEP), currently being implemented by the Kendro.

Developing Reading Habit is a component of the programme, starting in 2010.

The ceremony was held at BSK's office in the capital.

The awardees were chosen from 6,668 teachers and librarians from 9,618 secondary government and non-government schools and madrasas of 215 upazilas of the country.

Yesterday, 121 from Dhaka division received the award.

Under this project, students from class-VI to X get the opportunity to read 10 to 16 Bangla and four English books every year. The students also sit for an assessment examination once they complete reading the books.

The chief guest, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, said, "We can't prepare our children for the modern world by imparting the usual, traditional education."

Sharif Md Masud, core team leader of the project of the Kendro, said, "Many of the teachers, who also work as librarians, do not get enough time to perform this task. Besides, there is no library hour for the children to borrow and return books. They have to do it between two classes or during the tiffin break or after the end of the day's classes."

He also said many librarians were treated as class III employees by teachers of non-government schools, although their pay-scale equalled that of a junior teacher.

Government schools and madrasas do not have a librarian post yet, he said. Prof Fahima Khatun, director general, Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, promised to keep one hour per week for library use for each class.

CDA RESIDENTIAL AREA IN CTG CITY Waterlogging never ends

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN, Ctg

For the low-lying parts of Chittagong waterlogging is a serious problem especially during the monsoon, but in the city's Agrabad CDA Residential Area it persists almost all year round. And when it rains, things get worse there.

Local residents and the ward councillor said due to the perennial waterlogging, around 70,000 people living in the area had been suffering immensely for the last seven to eight years.

Water stays in the streets and adjoining areas for about nine months a year due to regular tidal surges, said Salamat Ali, 53, a tea shop owner.

During the monsoon, the volume of water increases flooding houses, shops, and educational institutions in the residential neighbourhood, he said.

"I never saw this before. It has been happening for the last seven to eight years," he added.

"In the past, there were huge open spaces in the area and tidal water would move away soon."

During high tides, water enters the city through Maheshkhal, flowing from the Karnaphuli River.

Ali said, "The rise of residential buildings and other structures and a lack of proper maintenance of the adjacent Maheshkhal and drains are among the reasons behind the present situation."

Safia Akter, a class II student of Sulatn Al-Nahiyen Government Primary School of the area, was seen returning home wading through knee-deep water yesterday.

"Our classes did not take place today because water entered the classrooms," she said.

HM Sohel, councillor of 27 Dakkhin Agrabad Ward of Chittagong City Corporation, claimed that he started cleaning the drains after taking charge.

C&B Colony, Sonali Bank Colony, and Bepari Para also get inundated by tidal water, but the people of CDA Residential Area are the worst sufferers, he said.

"To get out of this problem, there is no alternative to constructing sluice gates at the mouth of Maheshkhal," the councillors said.

Sudip Basak, assistant engineer (mechanical) of CCC, said they started dredging different canals including Maheshkhal at the instruction of the new mayor.



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

School children waded on a submerged street in Chittagong city's Agrabad CDA Residential Area where the year-round waterlogging problem, caused by regular tidal surges and a poor drainage system, gets worse during the monsoon, flooding houses, markets, educational institutions, and offices. The photo was taken yesterday.

BNP again calls for talks

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Pointing to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's recent remark that the polls must be held under a neutral government irrespective of its name, he said BNP reiterates the call upon the government to quit being stubborn and restore people's voting rights.

Ripon, also the international affairs secretary, said it has been proven that the election could not be free and fair under the ruling party.

"We want to say that discussions can be held with the political parties and civil society members about the framework, nature and responsibilities of the polls-time neutral administration. The government can arrange roundtables to this end," he said.

Khaleda

FROM PAGE 3

got back their citizenship following the Indian parliament's ratification of the historic land boundary agreement," he said.

Ripon said Khaleda has also urged the government to immediately undertake development projects to ensure all civic amenities and government facilities, including education, healthcare and economic development, for the new citizens.

Commuters suffer

FROM PAGE 3

seems justified, we would propose to the finance ministry for exemption and they would take a decision," he added.

Non-motorised vehicles are charged to discourage their presence on highways, he said. Aftab, however, said, "I can not respond, it is a policy-level issue."

On how they would resolve the blockade, he said, "We have nothing to do; higher authorities have to take a decision."

The OC said the new toll for long trailers is Tk 750, heavy trucks Tk 280, medium trucks Tk 275, big buses Tk 75 and mini-trucks Tk 170. Previously it was Tk 30 for all.

The toll was raised from Tk 20 to Tk 25 for minibuses and to Tk 75 for microbuses.

Our Comilla correspondent reported that vehicle drivers are trying to increase fares citing the new rates on the Meghna-Gomoti bridge.

NEWS IN brief

Non-govt educational institutions demand national payscale

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Teachers and employees of non-government educational institutions yesterday held an agitation rally demanding that their job be nationalised and bringing it under the national pay-scale.

The programme in front Barisal Ashwini Kumar Hall in the city was organised by Jatiya Shikshak Karmachari Front, Barisal divisional-unit.

They also threatened to lock the institutions to realise their demand.

Mentionable, the institutions have been organising agitation programmes demanding national payscale from May this year.

Man arrested with Yaba tablets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested a man with 1,310 pieces of Yaba tablets, worth Tk 4 lakh, after searching a bus in Karnaphuli Shah Amanat Bridge area of Chittagong city yesterday morning.

The arrestee is Nur Alam, 50, of Teknaf.

Tipped off, police halted the Dhaka-bound bus coming from Cox's Bazar around 8:00am and recovered the Yaba tablets from Nur, said police.

Dubai-Sylhet flight escapes crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A Dubai-Sylhet flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines narrowly escaped an accident after a bird ended up inside the plane's engine during landing early yesterday.

The incident took place at the runway of Osmani Airport around 7:15am. Four blades of the plane broke down, airport officials said.

Selim Uddin, has been appointed to scare off birds with a gun there, was absent from scheduled duty, they added.

Four held with firearms, ammo

BSS, Rajshahi

The Detective Branch (DB) of Police detained four alleged criminals and seized a firearm with ammunition in Court Station area under Rajpara Police Station in the city yesterday.

The arrestees are Biddut Hossain, 26, Mehedi Hassan, 25, Shaheen Kadir, 33, and Shahidul Alam, 28.

Tipped off, a DB police team conducted a drive in an auto-rickshaw and arrested them with the firearm and ammunition. A case was filed.

State minister for foreign affairs leaves for Saudi Arabia today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam will leave for Saudi Arabia today on a bilateral tour.

He will meet Saudi State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Nizar Bin Obaid Madani, President of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Dr Ahmad Mohamed Ali Al-Madani and Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Iyad Ameen Madani, foreign ministry officials said. He will attend a reception programme to be hosted by the Bangladesh community in Saudi Arabia and return on August 6.

Minister asks officials to improve livestock sector for food security

BSS, Rajshahi

State Minister for Fisheries and Animal Resources Narayan Chandra Chanda asked the field level officials concerned and other dairy and poultry farmers to boost the livestock sector for ensuring food security.

He was speaking at the "2nd Livestock Award Presentation and Annual Conference and Livestock-Poultry Fair-2015" held at Rajshahi University yesterday.

Bangladesh Livestock Society (BLS) organised the event.



Guests and winners of an award for school teachers and librarians at Bishwo Shahitto Kendro in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

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