

Two killed, six hurt in Ctg Hindu pilgrimage stampede

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two Hindu pilgrims were killed and six others injured in stampedes at Shibchaturdashi Fair in Chandranath Dham in Chittagong's Sitakunda upazila on Monday night, said the civil surgeon.

The deceased were Bidyut Dash, 45, of Habiganj; and Manoranjon Dash, 70, of Chittagong's Fatickhari, said Mohammad Fakhruddin, inspector of Sitakunda fire service.

Of the sick, five people were admitted to Sitakunda Upazila Health Complex, he said.

On information, a team from Sitakunda Fire Station took the seven to the health complex where the two were declared dead, said Fakhruddin.

Chittagong Civil Surgeon Azizur Rahman Siddique said following dehydration the seven fell to the ground while climbing a 1,250-foot hill through a huge crowd to worship in a temple.

Meanwhile, another pilgrim Bakul Rani, 48, was also taken to the health complex due to diarrhoea yesterday morning, Fakhruddin said.

Tariqul Islam, senior assistant superintendent of police of Sitakunda Model Police Station, told The Daily Star that many pilgrims fell sick due to severe heat and dehydration.

The venue of three-day fair had been abuzz with footfalls of lakhs of Hindus since Sunday. On Monday, the pilgrims worshipped lord Shiva, which was the main attraction of the fair.

Sitakunda Shrine Committee organises the festival in Bangla month Falgun on the spot every year.

Organisers said around 40 lakh pilgrims from different parts of the country gathered there this year.



One of the canals of the Karnaphuli River, which has already been filled in many areas with heaps of garbage, blocking drainage system and causing huge water logging during the rainy season in the port city. The sufferings of the city dwellers are compounded with some businessmen with ill intention keeping these logs in the canal, which might even be seen occupied completely someday by land grabbers. The photo was taken at Firingi Bazar canal near Karnaphuli River yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Men's mindset towards women needs to change

SP Shamsunnahar tells discussion while sharing her experiences as a female police officer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

No matter how far ahead a woman is in her career, she has to prove her capabilities at every step while the capabilities of men are taken for granted, said Shamsunnahar, police superintendent of Chandpur yesterday.

Being in a position widely considered to be suitable only for men, she talked about what it was like to be a police officer as a woman at a discussion.

"Whenever a question of giving responsibilities to a female member of police force pops up, my male colleagues ask whether a woman is fit for the job; sometimes my male subordinates raise questions about the capabilities of their female colleagues in front of me," she said.

As a rights activist brought up the topic of sexual assault on women on Pahela Baishakh, last year, she admitted, "Even I would feel helpless in a situation like that. Is police protection enough in such situations? The mindset of boys needs to change. Until then, I think girls would have to be careful."



The discussion titled "Experience of Professional Women" was organised by United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) at an auditorium of Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BLIA) in the capital.

Shamsunnahar led the Police Week 2016 parade on January 26. She was the first woman to do so.

Commenting on her personal experience in the police force, she said she always strived to do her job with perfection. "I don't want anybody pointing fingers at me and say that I had got the job because I am a woman but didn't have the efficiency to do it."

She added that women had successfully defied traditional gender roles, but it is the perspective of men that needed to change.

She also initiated the Women and Children Repression Prevention cell in the district police office. "About 10-15 women with different crises come to our cell everyday. Seeing the distressed women trusting me is a fulfilling experience," she added.

Road crashes kill four

Including three of family CITY DESK

Three members of a family were killed and six people injured in a head-on collision between a jeep and a battery-run auto-rickshaw on Patuakhali-Barisal highway in Shially area of Patuakhali Saded yesterday.

The deceased were Anwara Begum, 40, of Pangashia village, her son Mamun, 15, and three-month-old daughter Marium.

In Jamalpur, Abdul Hai Akanda, 60, of Beltoil village was killed and three people were injured when a human-hauler hit a battery-run auto-rickshaw carrying them on Hajrabari-Melandah road in Kother Bazar area of Melandah upazila yesterday.

NEWS IN brief

Imran-led Gonojagoron Mancha hails Mir Quasem appeal verdict

DU CORRESPONDENT

A faction of Gonojagoron Mancha yesterday hailed the verdict of upholding the death penalty of war criminal Mir Quasem Ali.

Sector Commanders Forum-Liberation War'71 also expressed satisfaction as the Appellate Division upheld the death sentence of the Jamaat leader for his crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971 in Chittagong.

"Justice has been established through the verdict," said the forum.

"Those who tried to foil Mir Quasem's trial have failed... We demand an immediate execution," said Imran H Sarker, spokesperson of the faction.

He said they will bring out a procession protesting today's dawn-to-dusk hartal enforced by Jamaat.

DSCC introduces e-tendering

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To ensure accountability and transparency in tender processing, Dhaka South City Corporation from yesterday introduced an e-tendering process.

DSCC mayor Sayeed Khokon initiated the process while inaugurating a Tk 500 crore project titled "Improvement of Waste Management and Public Service of DSCC," at Nagar Bhaban.

E-tendering is a process where advertising, receiving and submitting tender-related information are done online, which enables firms to be more efficient as paper-based transactions are reduced or eliminated.

DU alumni honour 19 female

FROM PAGE 3

programme held at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Building marking International Women's Day.

The honoured Bir Nari Muktiyoddhas are Nurjahan Begum, Momtaz Begum, Kanchon Mala, Raziya Kahtun Komla, Nazma Begum (Kanon Bala), Saleha Begum, Parbin Banu, Romesa Kahtun, Hafiza Bewya, Fatema Begum, Sheikh Fatema Ali, Jahanara Khatun, Laily Begum, Moymuna Begum, Hasina Banu, Samla Bewya, Jubeda Bewya, Sahara Khatun and Korfuli Bewya.

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque, DU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique and DUAA President Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad were present.

Uttara trees being sacrificed

FROM PAGE 3

owners spent around Tk 3,000 to set up walls around the trees where people used to sit, but the trees were felled. Three coconut, two teak and two jackfruit trees were cut, he added.

Mohammad Tipu Mian, another resident, said they saved two coconut trees after making requests. He said the authorities could save the tree by building a wall, as it happened on many other roads of Uttara.

However, project director of DNCC Arifur Rahman expressed helplessness. "What would we do? If we do not cut the trees, the road could not be widened properly," he told The Daily Star. He said it was sad for them to cut the trees but there was no choice. The official said they were doing the widening work with Tk 60 crore in the first phase and would do the same work in the second phase with the same amount of money. He said they would finish the work by April and gradually do it in all sectors of Uttara, except for sector 2, in the two phases. They will replant trees at suitable points after the development work is complete, he assured.

Siraj, a sub-contractor of the project, said the roads were being widened from 40 feet to 60 feet.

EC likely to postpone polls

FROM PAGE 4

As per law, ministers and MPs can neither join electoral activities nor stay in electoral areas during union polls.

Election to 732 UPs will be held on March 22 in the first phase and 650 UPs on March 31 in the second phase. Over 2,800 more unions will go to polls in four phases till June.

4 JnU students suspended

FROM PAGE 4

A radio station -- over grabbing a seat in the university bus a month ago. Following the altercation Sazida with three others harassed and slapped her in front of the new academic building on Monday.

Police probing into father's

FROM PAGE 4

days, said police. Jonia had been filling in for her sick mother who worked part time for a government official in a flat of Building-3 in NAM Garden.

Kafrul Police Sub-inspector Kamruzzaman, also investigation officer of the case, said if required police would send samples to laboratory for DNA profiling.



Inter-Parliamentary Union President Saber Hossain Chowdhury and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan meet at Al Shatti Palace in Abu Dhabi on Monday. They discussed joint parliamentary co-operation in issues of mutual concern, particularly humanitarian work, security, and peace and development in the world. Views on programmes for developing mechanisms of international parliamentary work and its role in tackling political, social and humanitarian challenges were also exchanged.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Rajuk reclaims more parking lots, roads, footpaths

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajuk yesterday launched simultaneous drives in various parts of the capital to reclaim footpaths, road width and parking spaces.

The Dhanmondi team demolished illegal commercial occupation of parking spaces at four buildings on Panthapath and penalised the building owners Tk 8 lakh, said Md Nasir Uddin, executive magistrate.

The Uttara team knocked down seven shops in place of basements and ground-floor parking at three residential buildings on the Lake Drive Road in sector-7, and dismantled 10 access ramps built illegally occupying footpaths and road width and penalised another building owner for allowing a departmental shop in place of parking both on the same road, said Khandokar Zakir Hossain, executive magistrate.

Rajuk Gulshan team also dismantled nine access ramps built illegally encroaching upon footpaths and public road on Baridhara road-12, said Md Adiluzzaman, Rajuk authorised officer.

The drives resumes tomorrow.

Women's role in agriculture should be recognised

FROM PAGE 3

8 to 64.8 percent due to various reasons; including poverty, changes in society and empowerment of women by different NGOs.

Women are highly engaged in feeding and collecting grass and fodder for domestic animals, putting to and taking out of shelter, cleaning sheds, offering water to animals and selling eggs and milk, she said, adding men are engaged in selling and marketing.

Pointing out Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI), she said though they have a

great contribution in agriculture, 77 percent of rural women in Bangladesh are disempowered.

In Haor area, the percentage of overall participation of men and women in livestock and poultry rearing activities are 39 and 42 respectively, she said.

She also recommended strictly following the national policy for advancement of women at institutional level and providing them friendly environmental and facilities like toilets, office room arrangements and daycare centre.

Former member of Planning Commission Prof Abdus Satter Mandal said women are burdened with extra workload as they have to maintain works at home and outside.

After the seminar, country's first female agriculturist Bilqis Amin Hoque was awarded for her extraordinary contribution in agriculture sector.

Among others, lawmaker Simeen Hossain, President of Kirshibid Institution Bangladesh AFM Bahauddin Nasim and FAO representative Dr Mike Robson were present at the seminar.

Paint over dirty marks, plaster buildings

FROM PAGE 3

said the mayor while addressing a press conference at the capital's Nagar Bhaban yesterday, adding that the building owners who were yet to plaster and paint their buildings must

get them plastered and painted within the stipulated time, otherwise face legal actions and monetary penalty of Tk 5,000.

Urging the city dwellers to keep their buildings and yards tidy,

Khokon said living in neat and clean houses was also necessary for a healthy life.

The residents will be informed of the decision through advertisement shortly, the mayor added.

DPDC penalises errant subscribers

FROM PAGE 4

relation to power pilferage during the drive conducted in Motijheel, Gopibagh, RK Mission Road, Jurain, Saydabad, Narinda, and Lalbagh.

The revenues realised included Tk35 lakh in fine and 15-year-old overdue power bills.

Meter tampering and bypass connection were detected as a means of

huge power pilferage.

The ongoing drive would greatly help raise awareness of problems of massive power wastage, said Munir.



Youths perform a drama at a cultural function organised by Transparency International Bangladesh at Rabindra Sarobar in the capital's Dhanmondi, marking International Women's Day yesterday.

PHOTO: MD KAWSAR