

5-year-old boy among 4 killed in road crashes

CITY DESK

A five-year-old boy was killed after being hit by a easy-bike while he was crossing the road at Steel Mill Bazar in Patenga area of Chittagong city yesterday. The deceased was Md Momin, son of Surza Mia of Netrokona.

Meanwhile in Gazipur Sadar, locals torched a bus and vandalised several vehicles after two people were killed when a bus collided with a truck on Chandra-Nabinagar highway in Girani area yesterday.

Vehicular movement on the highway was disrupted for around half an hour following the agitation, said Abdul Hamid Mia, senior station officer of Gazipur EPZ fire service.

Fire-fighters recovered the body of an unidentified man, aged around 40, from the spot while a woman succumbed to her injuries at a local hospital, said Hamid.

Three people were injured in the accident. In Norshingdi Sadar, Shanto Sutradhar, 15, of Brahmanbaria was killed when a covered-van ran him over at Hemchandra Shaha intersection yesterday.

Following the incident mob beat driver Shah Abdul, 29, and helper Aftab, 38, and handed them over to police.

Lightning kills 4 in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Four people were killed in lightning in Sreepur upazila of Gazipur yesterday.

The deceased were Ennos Ali, 59, of Boiragirchala village, Mokundo Chandro Das, 55, of Kapaish village, Sudhon Chandro Das, 35, and Nerod Chandro Das, 52, of Singlabo village under Kaliganj upazila.

Alam Chand officer-in-charge of Kaliganj Police Station, and Mostofa Kamal officer-in-charge of Sreepur Police Station, confirmed the incidents.



DISCARDED SHE WILL BE NOT

Though the work is pretty toilsome and the income paltry, Nurjahan Begum, second from left, took up the job of sorting out used sandals after she was widowed with six kids -- three girls and three boys. But instead of confining herself to this task only, she started collecting old sandals herself and buying those for Tk 200 per 40kg. Her industry has paid back. She does not work for others anymore and runs a business of her own employing six people. After paying the six, she earns Tk 10,000-15,000 monthly by selling those to the shoe processing factories. Nurjahan, who was once a housewife, did not give up but rather turned herself into a self-dependent woman and employer, if not an entrepreneur. The photo was taken in the capital's Mohammadpur Beribadh area recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

HC halts civil case transfer to trial courts for 3 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the authorities concerned not to take any steps for transferring civil cases pending with the High Court to the lower courts for next three months.

The court also issued a rule upon the authorities to explain in four weeks why the section 4(3) of the Civil Court (amendment) Act 2016 that permitted the authorities to transfer civil cases should not be declared illegal.

Law secretary, registrar general of the Supreme Court and the High Court's registrar have been made respondent to the rule.

The bench of Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Iqbal Kabir came up with the rule following a writ petition filed by three Supreme Court lawyers challenging the legality of the section.

Saidul Alam Khan, Abdullah Al Sayeed and Shubhra Deb Ratul submitted the petition challenging the legality of the

section 4 (3) of the act, which permitted the lower court judges to hear and dispose of the civil cases involving Tk 2 lakh to Tk 5 crore.

The government issued a gazette notification on May 12 this year on the amendment of the Civil Court Act 1887.

Section 4(3) of the amended act says the appeals of cases involving from Tk 5 lakh to Tk 5 crore will be shifted from the HC to the lower courts for their disposal in ninety days from May 12.

According to the section, an assistant judge will be now able to handle civil cases involving assets worth Tk 15 lakh up from Tk 2 lakh, for senior assistant judges the sum is now Tk 25 lakh instead of Tk 4 lakh, and for district judges it is Tk 5 crore up from the previous Tk 5 lakh.

Petitioners said the litigants will suffer due to the section of the amended civil court act as they have to move the cases further at the lower court and therefore create a backlog of cases.

One held over Barisal BCL man killing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A murder case was field on Sunday following the killing of former Polytechnic student and BCL activist Rejaul Islam Reja.

Elder brother of the victim lodged the case with Kotwali Model Police Station against 14 people including Barisal City unit BCL president Md Jasimuddin.

Reja was killed and four of his friends were critically injured by the rivals on Thursday night.

Police on Sunday night arrested Mehedi in this connection.

Meanwhile, activists of Barisal City unit BCL yesterday blocked the Barisal-Patuakhali highway at Amtala for two hours protesting inclusion of Jasimuddin's name in the case.

SLASHING MATERNAL MORTALITY Higher budget, midwives at grassroots key

Experts tell Prothom Alo, Unicef, Global Affairs of Canada, Koica roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Increased budgetary allocation for the health sector and trained midwives in rural areas can reduce the maternal mortality rate, experts told a roundtable yesterday.

Currently, four percent of the national budget and about one percent of the gross domestic product are allocated for the health sector which are inadequate to develop maternal and child health, they observed.

The discussion was organised by Bangla daily Prothom Alo and Unicef with the support of the Global Affairs of Canada and Korea International Cooperation Agency (Koica) at the newspaper's office in the capital.

In her keynote presentation, Lianne Kuppens, chief of health section, Unicef, said the present maternal mortality rate (176 per 100,000 live births) can be reduced to 70 within 2030 by taking initiatives like stopping child marriage and empowering

women and providing maternity service at the grassroots.

"The government needs to allocate more money for the health sector to provide maternity health service to the root level people," said Health Minister Mohammed Nasim.

"If we cannot reach health services to people in the village, the overall development of Bangladesh will be hampered," he added.

Canadian High Commissioner Benoit-Pierre Laramée said, "Trained midwife is needed for safe baby birth, and the Canadian government will support Bangladesh to develop its maternity services."

Dr Istiaq Mannan, director of health, nutrition and HIV/Aids, Save the Children, urged the government to monitor maternity services and service providers.

Dr Mohamed Sharif, director, Maternal and Child Health Services, Directorate General of Family Planning, also spoke.

NEWS IN brief

CU goes on vacation tomorrow

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University (CU) will go on a 44-day vacation tomorrow on the occasion of monsoon, Holy Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr.

Classes will remain closed but the pre-scheduled examinations will be held during the vacation from June 1 to July 14, said Head of CU Academic Section and Deputy Registrar SM Akbar Hossain.

The authorities haven't yet made any decision about the administrative activities, he added.

Correction

In the report titled "India moves to cut visa middlemen" published in The Daily Star on Sunday, we mistakenly quoted the Indian High Commission in Bangladesh as saying, "Currently, the tourist visa seekers need to pay at least Tk 4,000 to the unscrupulous agents for getting appointment date for each applicant." In fact, the high commission did not mention any such thing in its statement. The inadvertent error is regretted.

BNP to brave all obstacles

FROM PAGE 3

in the country. The BNP chief later distributed cooked food among the destitute at T&T ground near Manik Miah Avenue.

The party flag was hoisted at half-mast, while black flags were hoisted at the party's Nayapaltn central office and all other party offices across the country at 6:00am.

Jatiyatatabadi Chhatra Dal arranged a photo exhibition on Ziaur Rahman at the Jatiya Press Club. Former vice chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Emajuddin Ahmed inaugurated it.

On May 30, 1981, Zia was assassinated by a group of army officers at Chittagong Circuit House. He founded the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in 1978.

Women face

FROM PAGE 3

for information, unfriendly mindset of government or RTI officials towards women, women's fear of reprisals for asking information, and concerns about mobility and safety of getting to the public offices.

The study also showed that community leaders' opinion information related to education, land-property, and employment as the most valuable for women's economic empowerment.

Another finding revealed that women's access to information varies with age. Public office employees, in their interviews commented that younger women, who are likely to be more educated, seek more information related to training and personal development opportunities.

The elderly women, on the other hand, are more interested in obtaining information on social services, remarked government officials in their interviews.

"We need to work with the government, civil society bodies and information commission to find out how we can mitigate the obstacles faced by women in accessing information, as revealed by the study," said Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF.

Dr Md Golam Rahman, chief information commissioner, Information Commission, Bangladesh, said that although more people are using the RTI ACT enacted in 2009, the application for information is much lower in relation to the country's population.

He stressed the need for a comprehensive study on how people are accessing information and what barriers are faced by both men and women in doing so across the country.

2 RU students

FROM PAGE 3

information they provided, he said. Several residents said some plainclothes policemen entered around 2:30am and picked up Gaffar from room 236 and Mahbub from room 442.

Their classmate, Md Rahmutullah, allegedly an Islami Chhatra Shibir activist, was arrested on May 15.



Some of the around 500 agitating unemployed nurses around Health Minister Mohammed Nasim's Dhanmondi residence in the capital last night demanding postponing a June 3 public service recruitment exam. Unemployed Diploma Nurses' Association and Bangladesh Basic Graduate Nurses' Society demand the previous recruitment criteria of year of graduation, merit, and seniority be followed for the last time.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



To love or not to love

FROM PAGE 3

germ-free...We need a system to manage this issue, not just execute them in public. Rabies is the main cause of the execution, but many healthy dogs are getting killed too," said Manjur Kader Chowdhury, president of Pradhikar. City corporation officials said the rabies' vaccination is around Tk 100 to Tk 150 each dog per year and the population controlling vaccine for dogs is Tk 1,000 per dog. Enamul said they do not get any rabies vaccines for dogs. The supplies they receive from the government are for people. "We also pay for the freight cost," he said. "We have no expertise on dogs, we couldn't do anything better to change the scenario," added the SCC chief executive officer.

In April 2015, a writ petition was filed to ban the dog culling, and the Supreme Court on November 2015 issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain in four weeks why it should not be banned, said Dr Mahfujur of SAU. When asked, Enamul said the corporation is not aware of any order given by the SC.

"We're a voluntary group, not capable of

running big scale programmes. We need authorities like the city corporation to solve this issue," said Manjur. "We are willing to work with any animal rights organisation to come up with a system; we could start a joint programme," said Enamul. "It is very important to initiate a process to control the dog population. The corporation can come up with a dog management System. Sterilisation is a must, and if the dogs are properly vaccinated, city dwellers will have no reason to fear," said Dr Mahfujur. "When the number increases in a particular area, dogs become violent, mostly for food scarcity. The corporation could capture and distribute them around the city and adjacent areas," he said, adding that the city corporation can also come up with awareness programmes about non-violent ways of dealing with stray dogs so that people do not get bitten. Enamul said the corporation will take all the suggestions into consideration to come up with a comprehensive plan.

Six Gaibandha suspects to be tried

FROM PAGE 3

hearing the three charges the prosecution pressed on March 20.

Earlier, police submitted a report mentioning that the six, of Sundarganj upazila and involved with Jamaat, were at large, something the tribunal's investigation agency said to have occurred after the probe began.

The charges include killing of one Hindu man of Moujamali village in Gaibandha sadar upazila and looting his residence; killing of one Bangladesh Chhatra League leader; and killing of 13 chairmen and members of five union councils in Sundarganj upazila.

The lawmaker, Abu Saleh Md Abdul Aziz Mia, 65, was also the commander of a local Razakar Bahini. The rest are Ruhul Amin alias Manju, 61, Abdul Latif, 61, Abu Muslim Md Ali, 59, Najmul Huda, 60, and Abdur Rahim Mia, 62.

Cabinet okays Moheshkhali power plant

FROM PAGE 3

been modified incorporating new ideas and standardising the existing law in line with international standards, the cabinet secretary said.

The cabinet also approved the drafts of the "Bangabandhu National Agriculture Award Trust Act-2016", "Bangladesh Patent Act-2016", "Bangladesh Wheat and Maize Research Institute Act-2016", and "Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission Act-

2016".

It also approved a proposal for signing agreements between Kuwait and Bangladesh for deputation of Bangladesh's armed forces to Kuwait and mutual exemption of prior entry visas for holders of diplomatic, special and official passports.

Another proposal was endorsed for signing an agreement between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia on cultural cooperation.

THE DHAKA TODAY

Lecture
The High Commissions of India and Sri Lanka in Bangladesh will jointly hold a lecture on "Buddhist Culture and Civilization in South and South East Asia". Time: 10:00am, Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Center, Gulshan

Seminar
North South University Social Services Club will hold a seminar titled "World No-Tobacco Day". Venue: NSU, Time: 1:00pm

Seminar
Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) will hold a seminar on "Handing Credit Risk of Banks in Bangladesh: Demand, Supply and Regulatory Perspective". Venue: BIBM, Time: 10:30am

SMS BANKING

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