

Two students killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Four people were killed in road accidents in four districts yesterday, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Barishal, a primary school student was killed as a bus ran her over on Barishal-Swarupkathi road in Gabtali area of Banaripara upazila.

The victim -- Lamia Aktar -- was a second-grader of West Narayanpur Government Primary School.

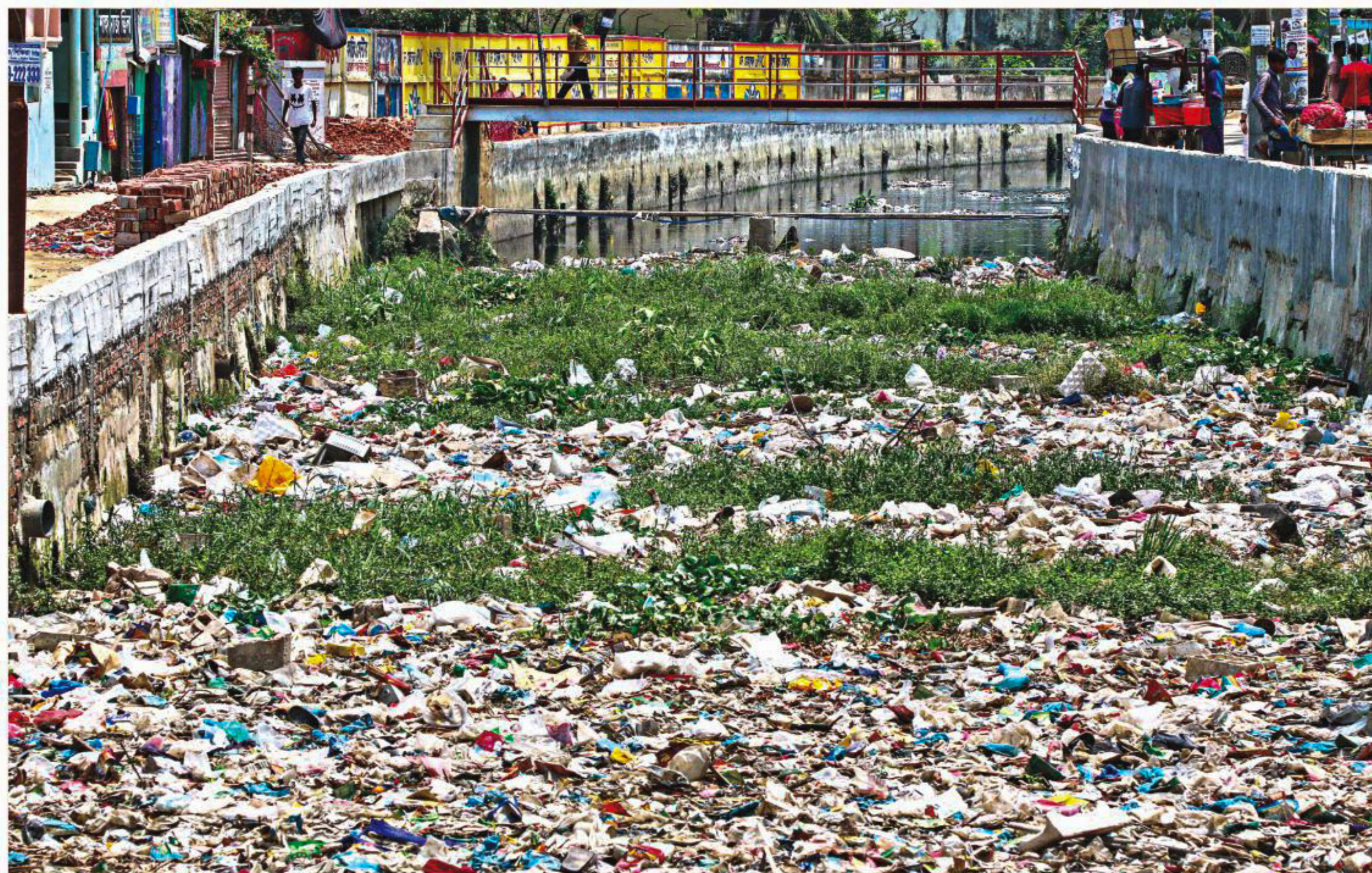
The accident happened while she was crossing the road to go to school, said Mizanur Rahman, sub-inspector of Banaripara Police Station.

Angered by the death, locals blocked the road for at least two hours, said the SI.

They seized the bus of Seba Paribahan but the driver managed to flee, said the police officer.

In Jhenidah, another school student was killed

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A LIFELINE UNDER THREAT... the once-flowing Chaktai canal remains choked by garbage at many points. Nearby areas like Chawkbazar in port city are dependent on this waterbody for storm-water drainage. But over the years, this 6.9km canal has shriveled up noticeably thanks to mindless dumping of waste and encroachment. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

2 held for molesting, blackmailing teenager

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday arrested two youths from Chittagong Railway Building (CRB) area in the port city for allegedly molesting and blackmailing a teenage girl.

The arrestees were identified as Mainuddin Saimun, 20, and Mehedi Hasan Ripon, 20 -- both from Halishahar area, said Mohammad Kamruzzaman, inspector (investigation) of Kotwali Police Station.

Mainuddin came to know the ninth-grader via Facebook on April 3, and asked her to meet him in CRB area on April 12. When the girl went to meet him, Mainuddin introduced her to his friend Md Asif.

Mainuddin again asked her to meet him at a restaurant in Halishahar area on April 15, and when she arrived, he allegedly molested her and made a video of it, the inspector said.

Asif was also present at the time of the incident, he added.

After that Mainuddin demanded Tk 20,000 from the girl and threatened to publish the video on the internet, the police official said.

Terrified, the girl disclosed the matter to her family and they notified the police.

As per the advice of police officials, she asked Mainuddin to come and collect the money from her in CRB area yesterday.

When the trio arrived around 4:30pm, police arrested Mainuddin and Ripon; Asif fled the scene.

A case was filed with Kotwali Police Station in this connection, the inspector said, adding that police were conducting drives to arrest Asif.

HC refuses petition on Shab-e-Barat date

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday once again refused to allow a religious organisation to file a writ petition seeking its directive upon Islamic Foundation to set the night of April 20 for observing Shab-e-Barat.

The HC bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahsan and Justice KM Kamrul Kader said Islamic Foundation has already declared that Shab-e-Barat will be observed on the night of April 21.

"We are not inclined to give permission for filing a writ petition to change the date. If we interfere on this issue at this stage, confusion will be created," Justice FRM Nazmul Ahsan said when Khurshid Alam Khan, the lawyer for Majlisu Riuatul Hilal, prayed for permission to file the writ petition yesterday.

The court may interfere if the organisation moves a petition for making the moon sighting committee more active in the future, the bench said.

Khurshid told the court that another HC bench led by Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury also refused to accept the same writ petition.

Three arrested with fake notes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested three persons with counterfeit notes worth Tk 1.35 lakh from Chattogram and Cumilla yesterday.

The arrestees are: Swapna Begum Tania, 30; Md Shamim, 21; and Ferdousy Begum, 52.

Among the arrestees, Tania and Shamim were arrested from the New Market area in the port city, while Ferdousy was arrested from Cumilla, said OC Mohammad Mohsin of Kotwali Police Station.

He said police recovered 100 fake notes of Tk 1,000 from Tania and 35 notes of Tk 1,000 from Shamim. The duo told police that they collected the notes from Ferdousy in Cumilla.

Police then conducted another drive in Cumilla and arrested Ferdousy from Dakkhin Chartha area. A case was filed against the three.

'For heart disease, prevention must be the mainstay'

Renowned cardiologist Dr Ashok Seth says in an interview with Star

PORIMOL PALMA

World-renowned cardiologist Dr Ashok Seth has suggested that Bangladesh take up effective steps to control heart diseases, which may get worse in the coming days.

As measures, he recommends improving food habit, regular exercise, health education in primary schools, and controlling air pollution and smoking.

"If the cost of healthcare is to be contained, prevention is going to be the most important in Bangladesh. It remains the mainstay," said Prof Dr Ashok Seth, chairman of Fortis Escorts Heart Institute in Delhi and head of the Cardiology Council of Fortis Group of Hospitals.

The Indian interventional cardiologist is widely recognised for his pioneering role in development of numerous angioplasty techniques. Angioplasty is a procedure to restore blood flow through the artery.

He has performed over 50,000 angiograms and 25,000 angioplasties and has been mentioned in the Limca Book of Records (an annual reference book published in India documenting human and natural world records). He is the recipient of Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri and BC Roy National Award for his contribution to medical science.

Dr Seth, who has been training Bangladeshi cardiologists over

- RECOMMENDATIONS**
- Improving food habit
- Health education in primary schools
- Controlling air pollution, smoking

last 25 years, is also one of those involved in the first-ever human trial of conducting Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) in 2004, an advanced technology of cardiac treatment without surgery.

He was in Dhaka to speak on the latest methods of cardiac treatment and cardiac education in an international conference on April 12-13.

Bangladesh has extensive coro-

nary artery diseases, affecting even many of the youth, the cardiologist said. "[Their] blockages are longer, more diffused, involving every artery even with minimal risk factors. That worries me," he told The Daily Star in an exclusive interview at a city hotel.

Average age of patients undergoing angioplasty in India is 58-59, but in Bangladesh heart disease patients under the age of 40 constitute nearly 20 percent, which is greater than India, Dr Seth said,

"We need to emphasise more that pollution is an important causative factor for heart diseases and heart attack. We must alert the government agencies to take strict measures to control pollution as it not only causes asthma but also heart diseases."

Delhi has had "odd-even" traffic regulations to control air pollution when it rises beyond a particular level, especially in winter. Bangladesh needs to take effective steps to lower pollution and



Dr Ashok Seth

Average age of patients undergoing angioplasty in India is 58-59, but in Bangladesh heart disease patients under the age of 40 constitute nearly 20 percent.

emphasising more scientific data on Bangladesh because here he sees "a different disease process".

According to World Health Organization, in 2014, cardiovascular patients accounted for 17 percent of total deaths in Bangladesh whereas nearly three decades earlier all non-communicable diseases together, including heart diseases, had been responsible for only eight percent of total mortality here. There is no recent data on it.

"It's probably the food. A lot of the food here is meat, gravy and oil. I hardly find vegetables here. Also, smoking is heavy here," Dr Seth said. "The level of air pollution here is quite high."

tobacco consumption, involving the ministries of health and environment, he said.

Dr Ashok emphasised educating children on healthy living. "Schools teach ethics, moral values but why not good health?" he said.

He said over the years Bangladesh has developed a good number of quality cardiologists, who are motivated and inspired. However, they need more support to grow and learn better techniques. They also need exposure to advanced techniques and international experts.

One of the latest methods is TAVR (Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement), which he introduced

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Former DC indicted for misappropriating Tk 19cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A special court in Chattogram on Tuesday framed charges against 36 persons including a former deputy commissioner (DC) of Cox's Bazar in connection with a graft case filed in 2014.

Acting Judge Md Ismail Hossain passed the order and framed the charges against former DC Ruhul Amin and 35 others, said Salauddin Lavlu, lawyer for the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

According to the case statement, more than Tk 19 crore was misappropriated through bank cheques from the budget allocated to acquire 1,414 acres of land for Matarbari Coal Power Plant in Maheshkhali upazila of Chattogram.

The incident took place between September, 2012 and February 2015, when Ruhul Amin was the DC of Cox's Bazar.

Following the incident, AKM Kaisarul Islam Chowdhury, a local businessman, filed a case accusing DC Ruhul and others, on November 2014.

After investigation, ACC submitted a charge-sheet on April 2017.

Foreign investment necessary to develop dairy sector: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The dairy industry of Bangladesh will flourish if adequate foreign investment and technical assistance are provided, speakers at a roundtable said yesterday.

Through investment and assistance, local dairy farmers will be able to increase production, which will ultimately help in reducing the price of milk and increase overall protein consumption, they added.

Bangla daily Prothom Alo, in association with Arla Foods Bangladesh Ltd, organised the discussion on "Development of local dairy sector" at the newspaper's office in Dhaka.

Danish Ambassador Winnie Estrup Petersen said Denmark and Bangladesh, as part of their long-lasting friendship, signed a treaty

last year to work together for the development of the local dairy sector.

The dairy industry of Bangladesh has a lot of potential and there are opportunities to work in this sector, she added.

Hireesh Ranjan Bhowmik, director general of Department of Livestock Services, said many dairy farmers do not get proper price of milk due to middlemen -- an issue that should be resolved to create new entrepreneurs.

Abdul Quayum, associate editor of Prothom Alo; Nathu Ram Sarker, director general of Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute; Peter Hallberg, managing director of Arla Foods; and Gulam Rahman, president of Consumers Association of Bangladesh, also spoke at the programme.



Firefighters douse a minivan that caught on fire at Tiger Pass intersection in Chattogram yesterday evening. The reason of the fire could not be known immediately, and no casualty occurred, said fire service sources.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

3 held over attacking Ctg journalist

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police early yesterday detained three persons from different parts of Fatikchhari upazila in Chattogram for attacking a journalist on Tuesday night.

The injured -- Solaiman Akash, Fatikchhari upazila correspondent of the daily Azadi -- is undergoing treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH). Dainik Azadi is a newspaper published from Chattogram.

Among the three detainees, Md Noyeem Uddin, 21, admitted to attacking the journalist, said Inspector (investigation) Arifur Rahman of Fatikchhari Police Station.

Akash was attacked by masked men with bamboo sticks and sharp weapons while he was returning home from Azadi Bazar around 11:30pm on Tuesday.

Inspector Arifur said, "Noyeem hit Akash and police confirmed it during primary investigation." Police is quizzing the trio for more information.

"Police is investigating to find out whether the attack was carried out in connection with a published news," Inspector Arifur said. Filing of a case in this regard was underway.

GATCO GRAFT CASE Hearing on charge framing deferred till April 30

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday deferred the hearing on charge framing against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and 16 others in the Gatco graft case till April 30, as the BNP chief could not appear before the court due to illness.

Judge Abu Syed Diljar Hossain of Special Judge's Court-3 of Dhaka passed the order after Khaleda's lawyer Md Zakir Hossain Bhuiyan prayed to adjourn the hearing.

The authorities are yet to hand over some important documents to the defence lawyers required for preparing their arguments, the lawyer also said.

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Public Prosecutor Mosharrif Hossain Kajol told the court that the hearing on charge framing cannot continue in

absence of Khaleda, a prime accused in the case.

Fourteen accused, including former BNP ministers Khandaker Mosharrif Hossain, AKM Mosharrif Hossain and Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury were present at the court.

ACC filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station, accusing Khaleda and several others of misappropriating around Tk 1,000 crore while dealing with Global Agro Trade (Pvt) Company Ltd (Gatco).

On May 13, 2008, the anti-graft watchdog pressed charges against Khaleda and 23 others.

Meanwhile, seven other accused, including Khaleda's younger son Arafat Rahman Koko, were dropped from the charge sheet after their deaths.