

DEATH ON GULSHAN ROAD

Victim's family unsure of getting justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

When Liyana Tripura Poppy moved to Dhaka four years ago, she must have had dreams of a better future for herself and her family. Like hundreds of thousands who come to the capital every year, leaving their family, she must have toiled hard to find ground beneath her feet. With her earnings from working at a beauty salon, she was supporting her brother's education.

And then, on the fateful morning of October 18, all her and her family's dreams were crushed under the wheels of a car, reportedly driven by an underage driver.

The incident happened on Road 79 in Gulshan-2, a diplomatic zone and one of the most high-profile areas of the capital.

Footage from a nearby CCTV camera shows the rickshaw carrying Poppy and colleague being hit at high speed on an intersection, and the car speeding away over her body.

Liyana's younger brother Joyonto Tripura

filed a case at Gulshan Police Station over the incident.

Sub-inspector of the police station Rabiul Haque, also investigation officer of the case, said Liyana and her colleague Srabanti Tripura were on their way to their workplace from Kalachandpur when the accident occurred at 10:40am.

"Both sustained critical injuries and were rushed to a private hospital. Liyana was declared dead upon arrival," he said. SI Rabiul said

Liyana's body was later taken to the Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy, while Srabanti was admitted to United Hospital.

The police official said they identified the car through CCTV footage, and arrested the driver on October 21.

He said the arrestee is an O-level student, and is not old enough to have a driving license. The 17-year-old was sent to the Gazipur Juvenile Correction Center through court, Rabiul added.

Joyonto, a student of Dhaka University, told The Daily Star that they had moved

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RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT

Only 7.7pc citizens aware of it: study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a convention yesterday urged the government to popularise the Right to Information (RTI) Act, as it can make significant contributions in ensuring good governance and people's empowerment.

They also called upon people to dispel their misconceptions about the act and try to use it in apt ways whenever they need.

Right to Information Forum, a coalition of institutions and individuals working on implementation of RTI Act -- in association with the World Bank and UK Aid -- organised the event titled "RTI Convention 2019" to mark 10 years of enactment of the act.

The event was held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital.

Speaking at the event, RTI Forum Convener Shaheen Anam said they have a lot of expectations centring the act that remain unfulfilled.

"People don't use the act due to lack of awareness. They think that the act has no benefits. Such mindset has to be changed," she said.

People should take active interest in such a useful act, added Shaheen Anam, also executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), a non-government organisation.

Noted educationist Rasheda K Choudhury said the government and relevant bodies -- particularly the Information Commission -- have to play a



From left, Dr Mercy Miyang Temnon, Judith Herbertson, Shaheen Anam, Fazle Rabbi Miah and Mortuza Ahmed at the event.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

more assertive role and increase engagement with people to popularise the RTI Act.

"The law will not be implemented properly until people's empowerment is ensured," added Rasheda, executive director of Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE).

About the role of government officials designated for RTI, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said the officials have to

consider providing the information services as a tool of ensuring good governance and people's empowerment, instead of considering it only as an office duty.

DFID Country Representative Judith Herbertson said the country's RTI law is recognised as being among the "most progressive" RTI legislations worldwide but it needs to go further.

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Students sit on mattresses in front of the VC's residence on Dhaka University campus, protesting the "gono room" practice at dormitories for freshers and demanding an end to the accommodation crisis.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

ACCOMMODATION CRISIS AT DU

Students bring pillows to siege of VC's residence

DU CORRESPONDENT

A group of first-year students of Dhaka University headed towards the Vice-Chancellor's residence yesterday morning with pillows and mattresses, in a symbolic attempt to move in to the VC's residence -- in protest of the accommodation crisis at the university, especially for freshers.

As per their earlier decision to move in to the VC's house if the authorities fail to solve the accommodation crisis by mid-October, some 20 agitating students led by Ducus member Tanbir Hasan Shaikat reached the VC's residence around 11am.

However, they were stopped by a proctorial team at the entrance, who told students that the VC was not present at his residence, and asked them to come after he returns.

After a nearly four-hour sit-in, DU VC Prof Akhtaruzzaman summoned Tanbir and six other students to his office to discuss their demands.

Following an hourlong meeting, the students decided to withdraw their agitation, as they were assured of a resolution to the crisis, Tanbir told The Daily Star.

"We postponed our protest for the time being, as the VC assured us that those who are going to be enrolled in the current session will be allotted seats in the dorms by the authorities. Students' dorm allotment will be controlled in an administrative manner, and other long-term measures will also be taken," said Tanbir.

He said they will be monitoring the administration's steps, and will

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DC, ex-ADC of Motijheel transferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Motijheel Division, and an immediate past additional deputy commissioner were given new postings outside the city yesterday.

DC Anwar Hossain was made Superintendent of Police in Dinajpur district police, while ADC Shiblee Noman, who was transferred to DMP's Detective Branch just 22 days ago, was now posted to Armed Police Battalion in Chattogram.

The reshuffle comes amid a crackdown on casinos in Motijheel, capital's business hub.

Renowned sporting clubs are alleged to have long been running casinos there with direct and indirect support of some police officials and political leaders.

Detectives claimed to have found names of some police and political figures who used to get bribe from the casinos.

Besides, outgoing Dinajpur district SP Syed Abu Sayem was posted to Criminal Investigation Department, according to a Home Ministry circular. Meanwhile, police headquarters transferred Shushanto Sarker, an ADC of Dinajpur district police, to Industrial police yesterday.

Foreigners, NRBs to be counted in 2021 census

Ecneec approves 10 projects worth Tk 11,000 crore

BSS, Dhaka

Planning Minister MA Mannan yesterday said for the first time, non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) and foreigners who live in the country will be counted in a population census and house listing, to be held from January 2-8 in 2021.

He was briefing reporters after the meeting of Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec).

Ten development projects worth over Tk 11,000 crore were approved at the meeting, with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair. The meeting was held at National Economic Council's conference room in the city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

The planning minister said that 10 projects have been approved at an overall cost of Tk 11,467.23 crore. "Of the total project cost, Tk 8,271.23 crore will come from the state exchequer, Tk 267.11 crore from project assistance and Tk 2,928.79 crore from foreign credit."

The sixth population census and house listing project will cost Tk 1,761.79 crore, the minister said. The government will appoint around 5.06

lakh people for ensuring correct information on the country's population, he added.

Mannan said, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) will implement the project from July 2019 to June 2024.

Other projects approved at the meeting are: '3rd amendment of the establishment of four marine academies in Pabna, Barishal, Sylhet and Rangpur districts' with Tk 521.46 crore; 'proper development of the Kishoreganj Pakundia-Mirzapur-Tok district highway' with Tk 729.79 crore; 'three bridges on the Aminbazar, Salehpur and Narahat under the Dhaka-Aricha highway' with Tk 388.91 crore; '2nd revision of the Skills for Employment Investment Programme (SEIP) project' with Tk 3,712.33 crore; 'development of nuclear regulatory infrastructure of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority for supervision of nuclear security at Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant' with Tk 1,710.63 crore; 'expansion of irrigation in the greater Rangpur district through the best use of groundwater and conservation of rain water' with

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NUSRAT MURDER

Death reference reaches High Court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The documents of the sensational Nusrat Jahan Rafi murder case reached the High Court yesterday, as a death reference to examine the trial court verdict that sentenced 16 accused to death.

Officials of the Feni court brought the documents of the case, including the judgment, to the HC, its special officer Md Saifur Rahman told The Daily Star.

Officials concerned of the HC received the documents, he said, adding that HC authorities will now prepare paper books for hearing on the death reference.

If a lower court sentences any person to death in a case, its judgment is examined by the HC through hearing arguments for confirmation of the death sentence. The case documents and judgment reach as death reference to the HC from the lower court in seven days after the latter delivers the verdict.

A Feni court on October 24 handed down death sentence to all 16 accused, including a sacked madrasa principal and

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13pc pass DU 'Gha' unit test

DU CORRESPONDENT

The result of Dhaka University's "Gha" unit was published yesterday with a pass rate of 13.26 percent.

A total of 11,158 students have qualified in the test. Among them, 8,485 candidates are from science, 2,104 business and 569 from humanities backgrounds.

The results can be viewed on the university website -- admission.eis.du.ac.bd -- or via short message service (SMS) on any mobile operator service.

For SMS notification of the result, a candidate will have to type "DU GHA (roll number)" and send it to 16321.

Students who have passed will have to fill up subject choice forms on the website between October 31 and November 14.

CORRUPTION IN NCTB

HC questions rule on printing of textbooks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain in four weeks why they should not be directed to enquire into corruption in distributing books among primary schools -- through National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) -- in the last few years.

In the rule the court also asked the respondents to show cause why printing the books with substandard paper by the NCTB should not be declared illegal.

Secretaries to ministries of education, finance, primary and mass education; chairmen of NCTB and Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) have been made respondents to the rule.

The bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman came up with the rule following a writ petition filed by Consumers Association of Bangladesh's Convener Mubassher Hossain, seeking necessary orders.

Petitioner's lawyer Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua told The Daily Star that Consumers Association of Bangladesh has assessed that corruption worth Tk 160 crore has been committed over printing of the books last year.

Bangladesh Standard Testing Institute has also found that some NCTB books were printed with substandard paper, and documents were placed before the HC, he added.

Deputy Attorney General Tushar Kanti Roy represented the state.

DHAKA TODAY

HALLOWEEN EVENT

Haunted Hotel
Venue: Hotel Sarina Dhaka
Time: 4pm-10pm

FESTIVAL

Greek Food Festival
Venue: Le Méridien Dhaka
Time: 6:30pm-11:30pm

FILM SCREENING

Science Film Festival 2019
Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh
Time: 5pm



WORKSHOP

Video Editing
Organiser: UY Lab
Venue: Colombia Super Market, Mohakhali
Time: 1pm

DISCUSSION

Obirodh - Road to Tolerance
Venue: Bangladesh University of Business and Technology
Time: 2:30pm

ACADEMIC SESSION

Introduction to Machine Learning
Organiser: Ishraak Solutions
Venue: House 76, Road 4, Block B, Niketan
Time: 7pm

SEMINAR

Graphic Design
Organiser: CPA IT
Venue: H-51, Rd 10/A, Dhanmondi
Time: 6pm

Bhashan Char project ready to house 1 lakh Rohingyas: Navy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Navy yesterday informed a parliamentary standing committee that the Bhashan Char housing project in Hatia upazila is complete and is ready to accommodate 1 lakh Rohingya refugees.

Under the project, necessary infrastructure to secure the Bhashan Char island has also been constructed.

Concerned officials of Bangladesh Navy were speaking at the meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on defense ministry, held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The project officer of Bhashan Char housing project told the committee that out of Tk 2,312 crore, around Tk 2,265 crore has already been spent to implement the project.

A multimedia projection on the housing project was shown at the meeting.

According to proceedings of the meeting, 99 percent work of cluster houses under the project has been completed. Steel erection of all 120 shelter stations have also been completed while construction of 92 shelter houses has been completed. Apart from super shops, there will be two hospitals and four community clinics for Rohingyas on the island. Various measures have been taken to save the inhabitants of the island from high tide.

Awami League MP Shubid Ali Bhuiyan, chairman of

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An aerial view of the buildings intended for accommodating Rohingya refugees at Bhashan Char.

PHOTO: AFP/MUKTA DINWIDDIE MACLAREN ARCHITECTS