



Students continued their demonstrations across different parts of the capital yesterday, protesting the death of Notre Dame College student Nayeem, who was run over and killed by a garbage truck on Wednesday. They brought out processions, staged sit-ins, and continued checking vehicles' documents and drivers' licences, demanding punishment for the killers and safe roads for all. This photo was taken from Shantinagar intersection.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

ROAD ACCIDENTS

169 cops killed in last 3 years

169 cops killed, 360 injured in 3yrs	Year	Number of accidents
62.9pc accidents involved bikes	2020	198
62pc crashes took place on highways	2019	179
25.9pc without involvement of other vehicles	2018	150

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The number of road accidents involving police personnel is growing every year, with 62.9 percent of the accidents involving motorcycles.

According to Police Headquarters data, road mishaps involving police officers saw a 32 percent jump last year from that of in 2018. It also stated that 198 road accidents took place last year, which was 179 in 2019 and 150 in 2018.

Around 62 percent of the accidents took place on regional and national highways, while 25.9 percent accidents occurred where no other vehicle was involved other than the one being driven by the officers, the PHQ data reveals.

With many of the accidents taking place when officers were travelling in motorcycles to and from their home and workplaces in nearby districts on weekly holidays, PHQ in February instructed officers not to travel between districts on motorcycles for official and private business reasons, or vacation.

In road mishaps of the last three years, at least 169 officers met their tragic end, while 360 were wounded. Some 58.4 percent of the victims were either driving bikes or were pillion passengers.

Many officials said a good number of police members are being killed in motorcycle accidents while going to other destinations from their duty station on vacation.

While leaving their duty station, they verbally inform their immediate chiefs and do not inform the district superintendent of police, which is mandatory, said an official.

In some cases, even though an officer went out of station on weekly holiday without informing SPs and then died in an accident, the SPs approved documents showing them to be on-duty, so that the victim's family gets compensation, said several officials.

The issue came up during a three-day crime review meeting at PHQ in September, SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Buried in borrowings

Diesel price hike brings bad news for Rajshahi fishers

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Fishing expenditures have gone up in Rajshahi due to the recent hike in fuel prices, lowering the daily income of fishers in the division by at least Tk 75 during this season.

Fishers said they burn around five litres of diesel on average to run boats each day. As diesel prices rose by Tk 15 per litre, the additional Tk 75 for five litres is coming out of their pocket.

The fishers said they were forced to borrow more as a result, while most are yet to recover from the pandemic's fallout.

During recent visits to Char Satbaria, Noboganga and Berpara areas along Padma river in Rajshahi district, this correspondent met 30 fishers, who informed that they mostly buy diesel from local vendors on credit at a rate of Tk 85 per litre.

They said some sellers have stopped selling diesel to many of them, as they failed to pay dues on time.

At Char Satbaria, fisher Mustakim Billah said he catches fish with 21 other fishers in five boats, which require a total of 15 litres of diesel every day.

In the last two weeks, they bought diesel on a credit of Tk 19,125 and caught only a nine-kilo pangas, which was sold for Tk 7,000 in auctions.

"Will we share it [money] among ourselves or pay off the diesel price?" asked Mustakim.

Their burden of borrowing increased by Tk 3,375, he added.

"Many of us already left fishing and started pulling rickshaws. But the job of pulling rickshaws has become difficult," Mustakim said.

Mahbub Hossain, a fisher in Berpara, said a group of fishers, including him, spend Tk 510 for diesel per day and earn around Tk 1,000 catching small fish.

After spending on food during the day-long fishing, they can barely earn Tk 200 each in a day.

"The fall in income has forced me

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

Debts now loom over the heads of Rajshahi fishers, as they are barely recouping the money they are spending to catch fish, forcing them to borrow even more.

Help Rohingyas develop technical skills

Speakers tell roundtable; ask stakeholders to keep repatriation in mind

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In order to help Rohingya people attain self-sufficiency and a dignified life, the importance of skill development programmes are paramount, which requires adequate policy support, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

In addition, it is also important to bring the host community under such skill development schemes, they added.

The discussion was organised by the Population Council in partnership with UCEP and RTMI. It was held at the capital's The Daily Star Centre.

Executive Director of Refugee and Migratory Movement Research Unit Dr CR Abrar said in Bangladesh's own national interest, it should continue its efforts to ensure repatriation of Rohingyas through diplomatic means. At the same time, recognising the reality, and coming up with policies and measures to enable Rohingya people to develop skills are necessary for their survival.

"We have to understand that for a population that has gone through so much trauma, there is a need for good education and skills development. Unfortunately, there are lots of



PHOTO: STAR

obstacles when it comes to policy framing for them," he said.

During his speech, Abdul Karim, executive director of UCEP and former principal secretary of Prime Minister's Office, said short term entrepreneurship courses, vocational training and decent employment are extremely important for the Rohingya community.

He said this can help them land jobs when they go back to Myanmar, mentioning that the host community's needs should not be ignored, as they are bearing the brunt of accommodating the Rohingya community.

The Population Council recently conducted a research to examine skills development opportunities, challenges, needs and aspirations of Rohingya youths. The study revealed that

only a few young Rohingyas have technical skills, which means the vast majority will be benefited if they receive appropriate training.

Tuomo Poutiainen, country director of International Labour Organization, underscored the need to learn from the experiences of UCEP and Brac in providing skills to the displaced Myanmar citizens.

"Myanmar's labour market, particularly in the Rakhine state, should be kept in mind to understand what kind of training can be provided to the community, so that when they [Rohingyas] return to their home country, they can survive with dignity," he said.

Piet Vochten, deputy country director of World Food Programme, also spoke at the session.

MORE NEWS

Bangladesh to become a developed country by 2041: law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will turn into a high-middle income country by 2031 and into a developed country by 2041 with its current development pace, said Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday.

He said this while speaking as chief guest to "Legal Infrastructures of International Investment Conference-2021", organised by Bangladesh Export Development Authority at a city hotel.

He said the government has taken many steps that include formulating the eighth five-year plan and amendment of relevant laws to increase foreign investments.

73 more hospitalised with dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 73 dengue patients were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday of whom 15 are from outside Dhaka, according to DGHS.

With the new cases, the total number of dengue cases rose to 27,153. Ninety eight people have died of dengue infection this year. Twelve people have died in July, 34 in August, 23 in September, 22 in October and seven in November.

3 held over beating bus driver to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police have arrested three people yesterday for allegedly beating bus driver Abdur Rahim (46) to death in port city's Muradpur area on November 26, an incident that triggered a workers' protest on Saturday.

The arrestees are Anwar Hossain (28), Morshed (19), and Robiul (23). Anwar is a microbus driver while the other two are his relatives who work in an apparel factory.

"They were arrested from Baizid Bostami area after police identified them scrutinising the CCTV footage of 70 cameras," said Mokhlesur Rahman, deputy commissioner of CMP.



COURT CORNER

HC denies bail to GK Shamim's mother in graft case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The HC yesterday refused to grant bail to GK Shamim's mother Ayesha Akhter in a corruption case involving Tk 297 crore. The HC directed her to surrender to the lower court in eight weeks.

The HC passed the order after hearing an anticipatory bail petition. Ayesha (81) came to the court premises on an ambulance from a Basabo hospital and participated in the hearing virtually from the vehicle.

SC to resume in-person judicial functions from Dec 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of Supreme Court will resume in-person judicial functions from tomorrow -- strictly following health safety rules.

Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain took the decision after consulting with senior judges of the SC, a notification issued by the SC administration said yesterday.

Film producer Raz denied bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rejected a bail petition of arrested film producer and actor Nazrul Islam Raz in a Tk 18 crore money laundering case.

Police filed the case with Banani Police Station on September 29 against Raz for laundering the money he earned through running narcotics business.

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