

Three killed in road crashes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

At least three people were killed and two injured in road accidents in Thakurgaon and Chattogram yesterday, report our correspondents.

In Thakurgaon, two motorcyclists were killed in a collision at Gogor intersection in Ranisankail upazila in the afternoon.

The deceased were identified as Tilak (18) of Sadar upazila and Joy (18) of Pirganj upazila in Thakurgaon.

Quoting locals, Ranisankail Police Station Officer-in-Charge SM Jahid Iqbal told this correspondent that the accident occurred around 2:30pm when two motorbikes coming from opposite directions collided, leaving four seriously injured.

Locals rescued and took them to Pirganj Upazila Health Complex, where the on-duty doctor declared Tilak and Joy dead.

The two other injured, Ashapurna (19) of Sadar upazila and Mamun (22) of Netrakona's Madan upazila, were sent to M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital as their condition deteriorated fast.

A case was filed in this connection, said the OC.

In Chattogram city, a garment worker was killed after a bus hit her at CEPZ area.

The deceased was identified as Shuva Akter (18) of Habiganj. She used to work at a garment factory in the area.

The accident happened around 3:00pm while she was crossing the road, leaving her dead on the spot, said Ashis Kumar Dey, sub-inspector of EPZ Police Station.

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The oriental garden lizard (Calotes versicolor) is a timid creature in the wild. This colour-changing lizard, widespread in Asia, can easily be found in parks and gardens, where it feeds on insects and other preys. However, their kind is slowly being driven towards extinction since greenery is depleting as the days go by. This photo was taken from Sheikh Abu Naser Bypass Connectivity Road in Khulna yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Disregard for deadlines

55 development projects yet to start in Kurigram

S DILIP ROY, Kurigram

Works of 55 government projects on rural development in Kurigram are yet to start even though the implement deadline expired around a year ago.

In 2020-2021 fiscal year, the government undertook a total of 222 projects for improving rural infrastructure in three unions of Rajibpur upazila.

Around Tk 2.50 crore was allocated for implementing the projects and the upazila project implementation officer (PIO) was authorised to supervise the works, said officials concerned.

These projects were scheduled to be completed by June 2021. But 55 of those are yet to begin. The estimated cost of

these projects is around Tk 55 lakh, said sources at the office of upazila nirbahi officer (UNO).

Normally, the PIO forms a committee by engaging community people to implement such projects. One person is made

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president of the committee.

The officer hands over some money to the committee after it starts the project, and the rest is paid at the end.

On August last year, Rajibpur UNO Nabirul Islam conducted a field survey and found that works of the 55 projects on road construction or repair did not begin.

He then took initiative to take legal actions against those who delayed the projects. But the UNO was transferred to another upazila in September last year, said sources.

Locals said presidents of the project committees, who are involved with the ruling party, might have played a role in transferring the UNO.

"We have heard that a project has been undertaken to repair a road in our village. But no work has been done till now," said Ramzan Ali from the upazila's Baulpara.

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Bihongo: safeguarding the ecology

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

For the last 13 years, the voluntary organisation "Bihongo" has been working to protect the wildlife by preventing poaching in Jamalpur's Melandah upazila.

Talking to this correspondent, Jahangir Alam, president of the organisation, said their work targets some areas along the Old Brahmaputra River and its adjacent upazilas due to its abundance of wild birds and the presence of hunters there.

Jahangir informed that in Melandah upazila, the areas most vulnerable for birds are - Notarkura, Sadipati, Defla, Naughata, Tupkarchar, and Poyla.

Mahbubur Rahman Robin, secretary of Bihongo, said in the early stage of rescue operations, they had to face obstructions from poachers and their associates. However, the situation has changed. Even the locals now help them rescue birds and animals now.

"A section of fish farmers hire poachers from Sherpur's Nalitabari and Sadar upazila so that their fish farms are protected from birds," he said.



"We have already rescued over 200 birds of different kinds and 40 animals of different species, including pythons, and endangered wild cats and foxes," added Robin.

The organisation collaborates with local administrations, police and Wildlife Management and Nature Preservation Department officials in Sherpur during rescue operations, said Rafiqul Islam, a founding member of Bihongo and a college teacher by profession.

Kismot Pasha, chairperson of Nangla Union Parishad, said, "The forum's efforts are much appreciated as it's helpful for the environment. This is why we try our best to support them in rescue operations."

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PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

HERE COMES THE RAIN AGAIN... As storm clouds took over the skies and hid the sun, vehicles were seen having to turn on their headlights to look ahead amid the darkness during daylight hours yesterday. Torrential rain had drenched the capital since the early morning. This picture was taken in front of Bangladesh Supreme Court.

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