

Man, daughter die in Munshiganj road accident

STAR REPORT

Three people were killed and 10 injured in road accidents in two districts yesterday, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Munshiganj, a man and his daughter were killed as an unidentified vehicle hit their bike on Dhaka-Mawa expressway.

The accident took place on Mawa lane in the afternoon, said Hashara Highway Police Outpost in-charge Kanchan Kumer Sinha.

The victims – Kamal Hossain, 31, and his daughter Mahira Mahi, 10 – were from Ramjankathi in Babuganj, Barishal.

“We are trying to find the unknown vehicle,” said the police officer.

In Sherpur, a man was killed and 10 were injured when a bus crashed into a roadside madrasa after hitting a lorry in Sreebordi upazila in the morning.

Hamidur Rahman, 26, helper of the lorry from Sreebordi, died on the spot, said Kaium Khan Siddique, officer in-charge of Sreebordi Police Station.

The madrasa was closed during the accident, said the OC.

The injured – lorry driver Ramzan Ali, 20, and nine bus passengers – were admitted to Sreebordi Upazila Health Complex and Sherpur General Hospital. Police seized both the vehicles but the bus driver managed to flee the scene. A case was lodged.



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

As soon as the tiffin bell rings, students run to the playfield, queuing up to play “Openti Bioscope”, a local game that goes back centuries. Two little ones join their hands to form an arch-like shape, for others, waiting under the glistening sun with smiles on their faces. Holding onto each other’s shoulders, they swiftly move through the arch, shouting rhymes in joy. The photo was taken in Khulna’s Dumuria upazila yesterday.

JU teacher fired over ‘moral turpitude’

JU CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of Jahangirnagar University have dismissed an assistant professor over “moral turpitude”.

The teacher is Mahmudur Rahman of the Department of Public Health and Informatics.

This decision was taken on Tuesday in a special syndicate meeting presided over by JU Vice-Chancellor Prof Nurul Alam.

Mahmudur Rahman, also a former Chhatra League president of the university unit, was dismissed from the job as per the syndicate decision, said registrar Abu Hasan.

On November 21, 2022, an intimate photo of Mahmudur Rahman was leaked online. Allegations also emerged of unprofessional conversations with a female student.

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PHULBARI MUNICIPALITY

Chhoto Jamuna now a dumping zone

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Garbage, including plastic waste, piled up across 400 metres under a footbridge on Chhoto Jamuna river, and also scattered along the riverbank on both sides – this was what this correspondent saw during a recent visit to Phulbari municipality in Dinajpur.

This correspondent also witnessed a municipality staff dumping waste collected from households on the river bank, a practice which has been going on for the last couple of years, at least twice a day, according to locals.

Even after four decades, the municipality is yet to have a dedicated landfill for waste management, and has been indiscriminately dumping the domestic waste produced by its 35,000-strong population on the



river banks daily.

As a result, the Chhoto Jamuna river, which was once a vital lifeline for the area’s residents, is now facing an existential crisis.

“This dumping has led to degradation of the river’s environment and water quality.

It also affected the water flow and navigability,” said local Md Abdul Awal.

Tanmay Sanyal, regional coordinator of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, said, “The municipality authorities are

violating laws by dumping waste on the river bank. Around 80 percent of the dumped waste is non-biodegradable. Urgent and decisive action is imperative to protect the river and prevent further damage.”

Golam Mortuza Manik, former mayor of Phulbari Municipality, alleged that during his tenure, they took initiative to procure land to set up a dedicated landfill for waste management. However, after the new mayor took charge in 2020, the initiative saw no further development, he claimed.

Lutful Huda Chowdhury, executive engineer of the municipality, said efforts are on to identify alternative waste disposal sites.

Incumbent Mayor Mahmud Alam Liton could not be reached for comments despite repeated attempts.

Evading Tk 50 lakh by forging documents

28 tonnes of fabric seized in Ctg port

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chattogram Port and Customs authorities intercepted 28 tonnes of fabrics worth Tk 1 crore for presenting counterfeit documents during clearance process on Tuesday night.

The documents indicated that Nazmul Hosiery Private Limited, located in Fatullah Narayanganj, imported a consignment declared as polyester fabrics eligible for duty-free status. However, officials discovered curtain fabrics during inspection, which don’t have duty-free status. By doing so, the importers evaded paying Tk 50 lakh.

Noteworthy, there are previous instances of fraud by the same importer, and at least five more of their consignments are awaiting clearance in Dhaka and Chattogram.

Mahmood Trade International, a clearing and forwarding (C&F) agent, submitted the import documents on behalf of the importers on February 19 for the consignment, which came from China.

Rabiul Islam, an employee of Mahmood Trade, was the one who submitted the paperwork. He fled once the shipment was confiscated.

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Remembering a language martyr

A museum keeping Rafiq’s memories alive



ZAHANGIR SHAH, Manikganj

Seventy-two years ago, Rafiq Uddin Ahmed became a language martyr among many brave souls who sacrificed their lives for Bangla – their mother tongue.

Police had opened fire on a group of students protesting for their right to speak in Bangla near the hostels of Dhaka Medical College Hospital on February 21, 1952.

Rafiq, 25, was among those who died there.

Shaheed Rafiq was buried in Dhaka’s Azimpur graveyard. In 2000, he was posthumously awarded the Ekushey Padak.

The nation still remembers him with reverence for the sacrifice he made to ensure we could continue to speak in our mother tongue. All his four brothers eventually went on to fight in the Liberation War of Bangladesh, fulfilling the dream of an independent nation that Rafiq gave his life for.

In recognition of his sacrifice, his hometown village of Paril

in Manikganj was renamed Rafiqnagar. The main road of Manikganj district town was named as “Shaheed Rafiq Road”.

The bridge over Dhaleswari river at the entrance of Manikganj was also renamed to “Shaheed Rafiq Setu”.

In his village, the Shaheed Rafiq Uddin Ahmad Library and



Memorial Museum was built in 2008. Last year, Bhasha Shaheed Rafiq Uddin Ahmad Memorial Collection Centre was built at the north-east corner of the library.

At present, the museum has a tablecloth that Shaheed Rafiq had sewn himself, alongside his other

belongings – including a wooden table, four wooden chairs, a white panjabi and a lungi.

However, many valuable mementos such as his Ekushey Padak and SSC completion certificate have not been handed over to the museum yet.

“Last year, we finally received a

few items used by Shaheed Rafiq, 15 years after the institution was established. Many items still remain with his younger brother Md Khorshed Alam. If those are given to the museum, it will be enriched,” said Farhad Hossain, librarian of the facility.

US wants Bangladeshi officials to abide by laws

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller on Tuesday said the US encourages elected officials of Bangladesh to comply with the country’s laws and financial regulations in regards to corruption.

The comments were made at a regular briefing in response to a question.

A journalist, citing a detailed Bloomberg report, observed that it was an open secret that people in the Bangladesh regime were involved in corruption.

He said former land minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury is alleged to have built an empire in the UK and US valued at 200 million pounds sterling, equivalent to one percent of the country’s foreign reserve. This is just one case among many.

Miller said, “We are aware of these reports and encourage the Government of Bangladesh to ensure that all elected officials comply with the country’s laws and financial regulations.”

PRAYER TIMING
FEBRUARY 22



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