

Two killed, three injured in Dinajpur road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Two people were killed and three persons injured as a goods-laden truck hit a battery-run auto-rickshaw locally called easy bike in Nawabganj upazila of Dinajpur yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Anjuara Begum (40), wife of Atiar Rahman from Nayapara village; and Abdur Rashid (60) from Ranjopyur village in Nawabganj upazila of the district, said police.

The accident took place around 7:30am on Dinajpur-Gobindaganj regional road in Chararhat area of the upazila, law enforcers informed.

Nawabganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge Ashok Chouhan said the easy bike carrying four people was going to Bhaduria village. When the Dinajpur-bound truck rammed the three-wheeler, the two people died on the spot.

Locals rescued the three injured, including the auto-rickshaw driver, and rushed them to Birampur Upazila Health Complex, said the OC.

The truck driver and helper fled the spot with the vehicle, he added.

Rajshahi citizens demand better testing, healthcare

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

At least a hundred locals joined a demonstration in Rajshahi city yesterday, demanding increase in testing facilities and proper care for Covid-19 patients at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Wearing masks and standing distanced from each other, the demonstrators formed a large human chain at the city's Shaheb Bazar Zero point for one hour, starting at 10am. They also held a rally under the banner of Rajshahi Rakkha Sangram Parishad, a citizens' forum.

Speakers at the rally said people of the city and those who are coming to RMCH from distant districts are not receiving proper medical service.

They said, common people who are falling sick are not being able to get tested due to inadequate facilities while many doctors are refraining from their practice due to fear of the virus spreading.

They also blamed local authorities for their failure to keep the spread of coronavirus in check at the city. The forum said the authorities were negligent in establishing health rules and they allowed people to enter the city from other affected districts.

They said, there was no spread of the virus till May, but now there is an alarming spread.

They said RMCH's corona unit, which has been set up at the rented Rajshahi Christian Mission Hospital, is not providing satisfactory service.

The speakers also demanded reopening Rajshahi Sadar Hospital, which has remained suspended for a long period.

They said doctors have not been sincere in providing their service.

They also said a section of people became angry at the Parishad leaders for raising their voice for the people and accused them of spreading propaganda. However, the Parishad warned of tougher movement if their demands are not met immediately.

The forum's president Liakat Ali chaired the rally while forum secretary Jamat Khan, lawyers Hamidul Haque and Entajul Haque Babu, politician Debashish Pramanik Debu, freedom fighter Abul Kalam Azad, businessman Harunur Rashid, leaders Selina Begum and Anjana Sarker addressed the rally.



No sounds have come out of these loudspeakers for months now. Loudspeaker rental businesses across the country are in a miserable state since the pandemic hit, as large public events have more or less ceased to exist. The photo was taken on Friday from the capital's Kamalapur Station Road.

Former whip Ashraf Hossain passes away

UNB, Khulna



Former whip Md Ashraf Hossain passed away at a private hospital in the capital early yesterday. He was 79.

Ashraf, former BNP joint secretary, who had been suffering from cancer, was admitted to the United Hospital 25 days ago.

He breathed his last at the hospital around 3am, according to family sources.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Jam-e-Mosque at Nikunja-2 after Zohr prayers and he will be buried in Cumilla.

The former BNP leader was elected member of parliament from Khulna-3 for four times and served as whip for three times.

FE news editor

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He was admitted to the hospital on July 4 after developing symptoms similar to that of coronavirus. Later, he tested positive for Covid-19.

He received plasma therapy but finally he lost the battle.

In his career for nearly 50 years, the journalist worked for different English newspapers -- including The Bangladesh Times, The Daily Star, The Daily Sun, The

Bangladesh Today, The New Nation and The Telegraph.

He had been serving as news editor at The Financial Express for over a decade.

During the janaza at press club at 10:30am, colleagues and senior journalists, including Financial Express Editor Shah Husain Imam, were present.

Leaders of Dhaka Union of Journalists and Jatiya Press Club were also present there for paying respects to the journalist.

Homebound

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He said launch services, which are in operation, are taking relatively more time to cross the river. Speedboat operations have remained almost normal, he added.

As a result, Paturia-Dauladia route is facing pressure of increasing number of vehicles, Zillur Rahman, BIWTC deputy general manager at the terminal, told this newspaper yesterday.

He said they are operating 13

ferryes now but each is taking one and half to twice the time to cross the river, he said.

BIWTC Chairman Khaja Miah said they have preparation centring the upcoming Eid, and will increase the number of ferries at both terminals.

"We will deploy 18 to 19 ferries at Shimulia-Kathalbari and 15 to 16 ferries at Paturia-Dauladia ahead of Eid," he added.

But, current on the Padma River is increasing due to consistent rain and

flood, and if it continues, it would be very difficult to operate ferries, he said.

"So, it would be good if fewer people move during the Eid, as the government is discouraging people to leave Dhaka and other cities amid this pandemic," he added.

Apart from the river current that is halting ferry operation, he said a huge amount of siltation and waste are damaging signaling systems on the rivers, that is causing disruption of ferry services.

No case

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brothers opened fire on the crowd. Two died on the spot while another at Khulna Medical College Hospital. Seven people are undergoing treatment at KMCH with bullet injuries.

That very night after the incident, villagers set fire to at least 11 houses and businesses of Zakaria and his brothers.

They also beat up Jihad Hossain -- Zakaria's cousin -- to death, according to witnesses.

During Thursday's incident, villagers Nazrul Islam (45), Golam Rasul (30) and Saiful Islam (27) were shot dead while Jihad (38) was beaten to death, according to Mohammad Shafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Khanjahan Ali Police Station.

Nazrul, Golam and Saiful were buried after autopsies, said police.

Meanwhile, an autopsy was done on Jihad's body yesterday noon. The body was kept at KMC morgue as family members did not show up to take the body for burial.

Though Moshali falls in Atra-Gilletla union of Phultala upazila, it is under the jurisdiction of Khanjahan Ali Police Station of KMP.

Sonali Sen, additional deputy commissioner of KMP, said filing of a case

is underway. They were waiting for the burial process to be completed, she further said.

When asked to elaborate on the matter, she evaded the question.

She said they have also arrested one Jahangir. Police are conducting raids to arrest the perpetrators.

EXPULSED FROM AL, BCL AL yesterday expelled Zakaria, the co-publicity secretary of its Khanjahan Ali Thana unit. His younger brother Jafrin -- vice-president of Khulna metropolitan Chhatra League -- has also been expelled, party sources said.

In a statement, party leaders said the party will not be held responsible for any person's misdeeds.

Zakaria has been expelled for his alleged involvement in the incident, which resulted in the deaths of villagers, the statement added.

Begum Mannujan Sufian, lawmaker of Khulna-3 and state minister for Labour and Employment; Talukder Abdul Khaleque, mayor of Khulna city and president of Khulna city AL; Sheikh Salahuddin Jewel, lawmaker of Khulna-2 and Khulna district AL president, and Sheikh Harunur Rashid, district council chairman, signed the statement, among others.

Family seeks

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telling her not to demand in-depth investigation. "Due to this reason, we are concerned about [getting] an impartial investigation," she added.

"An assistant engineer (one of the arrestees of the case) can not kill his senior officer only for a silly matter, so we want arrest of all masterminds," she said.

IEB vice president SM Monjurul Haque Monju also spoke at the press conference.

After the press conference, at least 100 engineers formed a human chain in front of IEB, demanding justice for Delwar.

On May 21, police claimed to have arrested three people, including an assistant engineer of GCC, in connection with the murder.

On May 11, a team of Turag police of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) had recovered the body from Beribadh, which was later identified using fingerprint matching to be Delwar.

War criminal

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the International Crimes Tribunal-1 handed down capital punishment to Azharul for crimes committed in Rangpur in 1971.

It upheld four charges against Azhar, but acquitted him of another. The SC released the full text of the verdict on March 15 this year, clearing the way for Azharul to move a petition seeking review of the verdict.

Azharul (67), who is now in Gazipur's Kashimpur Jail-2, was the commander of notorious Al-Badr force and president of Chhatra Sangha, the then student wing of Jamaat -- a party which opposed the country's liberation -- in Rangpur during the 1971 war.

Law Minister Anisul Huq earlier told The Daily Star that the government would execute the apex court verdict on completion of all legal procedures.

Continuing

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He said banning three-wheelers with two-stroke engine was a result of Bapa's successful campaign, while it also played a vital role in raising awareness about the state of the country's rivers.

Economist Prof Anu Muhammad said it is important to incorporate nature and environmental issues in political thinking.

Sadly, the government in the past two decades took even more rigid stance against the nature and environment in the name of development, he added.

"We all know how challenging it is for a campaign to continue past 20 years, especially when the issues involve protecting and keeping the environment alive," said noted rights activist and Bapa President Sultana Kamal.

She said there had been negligence and "deliberately wrong decision-making", which failed to protect the environment, and effects of that can be realised at present.

Rights activist and Nijera Kori Coordinator Khusi Kabir congratulated everyone involved with Bapa for completing two decades of its journey.

She hoped it will continue spearheading environment-related campaigns in future.

Prof Ainun Nishat, Sharif Jamil, Rasheda K Chowdhury, and Atiur Rahman also addressed the webinar.

Advertisement for 'ইসলামী ব্যাংক' (Islamic Bank) with logo and text in Bengali.

Advertisement for 'Furnished Flat To-Let' with details of the property and contact information.

Large advertisement for 'INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH (IUB)' regarding a tender for substation equipment.

Advertisement for 'Masters in Bank Management-Evening Intake-2020' at Dhaka School of Bank Management.

Advertisement for 'শোক বর্জ' (Shok Barga) webinar by Bangladesh Prakashan University.