

'Expose Amini's terror link'

BSS, Dhaka

Some eminent Islamic scholars and politicians called upon the government to begin an investigation to unearth whether Mufti Fazlul Huq Amini has a terror link.

They made the call as Amini, chairman of a faction of Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) and Ameer of Islamic Ain Bastabayan Committee, warned the government of tougher programmes including making the country paralysed if the women's policy is not scrapped.

They also suggested the government to arrest Amini and his accomplices and bring them under police remand for interrogation to know the sources of their funding and arms and ammunition, if any.

Referring to Amini's claim that he would bring all the students from 20,000 madrasas across the country to the street and make the government inactive in an hour, they said it (claim) was baseless because only a few madrasa students follow him.

General Secretary of Islamic Front Bangladesh Allama Joynul Abedin Jubayer said Amini represents only Quami madrasas and tens of thousands of students in other madrasas do not support him.

General Secretary of Bangladesh Islami Front Maulana Abdul Matin Chowdhury believes that Amini could not make such an outrageous statement without having terror link or patronage of any 'evil power'.

He demanded immediate arrest of Amini to expose his ultimate motive to the nation.

Imam of Patharghata Sobhan Sawdagar Jame Mosque, Chittagong Moulavi Nurul Absar Al Kaderi said Amini's politics is based on destructive activities whereas Islam means peace.

"No one should carry out any activity against the tenets of Islam if he believes in this religion," he said.

Former vice principal of Forazi Kandi Oidia Kamil Madrasa and a leader of Islami Front SM Abdus Samad said Amini should be arrested soon as he speaks in terror language.



State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Shirin Sharmin Choudhury speaks at a discussion on 'National Women Development Policy: Responsibility for Implementation' at Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday. Women for Women organised the discussion. (Story on Page 2)

CUTTING CHILD, MATERNAL MORTALITY UNFPA help assured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nobuko Horibe, regional director, Bangkok of UNFPA, stressed the need for united work to save life of women in reducing child and maternal mortality as per the target of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

She was speaking at a roundtable discussion at a city hotel yesterday.

She mentioned that revitalising the national family planning programme, particularly focusing on hard to reach population, the poorest segments and increased economic opportunities for women are the key factors in further fertility decline in Bangladesh. Expressing her satisfaction over the achievement of Bangladesh in reducing child and maternal mortality from 322/100,000 to 194/100,000 live births, the regional director also said that UNFPA would continue support to the government and the people in sustaining the past successes of the programme.

Maternal mortality could be cut by nearly three-quarters by improving women's access to comprehensive reproductive health services, including family planning and strategies to prevent abortion-related complications, within the broader context of efforts to promote human rights, poverty reduction and gender equality, said Arthur Erken, UNFPA Representative, Bangladesh.

Maternal mortality still needs to decline by 25 percent to achieve the MDG-5 target of 143 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2015, which is now 194 per 100,000 live births, said Dr Ubaidur Rob, Country Director, Population Council.

Prof Nurun Nabi of the department of Population Sciences of Dhaka University, Dr Quamrun Nahar, Dr Noor Mohammad and Dr Zafarulla Khan attended the discussion among others.

Budget for primary education, health inadequate

Says study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The budget allocation in primary education and health sectors is inadequate though it is claimed that these two sectors get priority, said a study.

The study on the state of government-run primary education and health services conducted by the Sushasaner Jonno Procharvijan (Supro), an NGO, said it is the responsibility of the government to ensure people's access to these sectors.

In the current fiscal, budget allocation for education sector is Tk 18,402 crore (13.9 percent of total budget) while the health sector has got Tk 8,147 (6.2 percent of the total budget) which is inadequate for development of these sectors, said the study.

As the allocation is provided centrally, the regional proper disbursement of this fund is not followed accordingly, said the study conducted in 20 districts. Officials involved in these sectors, service providers and service receivers, were the respondents.

The study suggested increasing budget allocation in these two sectors

as well as preferring government management rather than privatisation.

It also said common people are being deprived of services as they are not aware of information about the government's initiatives and facilities available in these public services.

Lack of transparency and accountability in effective use of the allocated budget is a key reason behind the poor condition of the two sectors, claimed the study which was revealed at a view-exchange meeting at Cirdap in the capital yesterday.

The study revealed that there is a scarcity of manpower in district hospitals, upazila health complexes and union health centres.

It said most of the cases, the patients purchase drugs from outside while the officials concerned said the listed medicine for the hospitals are not sufficient to face the demand.

In primary education, the study found that 56.58 percent respondents think all school-aged children take admission to the schools while 43.43 percent think that all school-aged children do not take admission to

schools.

For ensuring quality health services, the study provides a set of recommendations include appointing doctors in union health complexes, effective monitoring, proper distribution of medicines in government hospitals and updating citizen's charter and list of drugs.

The recommendations for primary education include setting up at least one school in every village, providing lunch, scholarship and other facilities to the children in Char areas, ensuring 1:30 proportion of teacher and student, establishing necessary classrooms and other infrastructures, providing salaries and allowance to teachers timely.

Former state minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan, lawmakers Shah Alam, Khan Tipu Sultan, Nilufar Chowdhury Moni, educationalist Dr Mohiuddin Ahmed, among others, spoke at the discussion. Supro Jatiya Parishad member Madhab Chandra Dutta moderated it.

Stranded people demand rehabilitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Urdu, Hindi and Bangla speaking stranded people yesterday demanded the government to ensure their proper rehabilitation, welfare, education and treatment facilities.

They made the demand at a meeting of Bangladesh Mohajir Welfare and Development Committee (BMWDC) at their office at BCC road in the city, says a press release.

Speakers at the meeting said present government vowed to ensure their rehabilitation and rights but they didn't keep their words. The government is behaving like stepmother though they have already taken Bengali language, culture and society in heart, they said.

BMWDC leaders Ezaz Ahmed Siddiqi, Mohammad Tofael Koraisi, Mohammad Salahuddin and Mohammad Nadim spoke at the meeting.



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Road accidents kill 11, injure 11

METRO DESK

Eleven people were killed and 11 others injured in road accidents in the country yesterday.

The accidents took place in Dhaka, Benapole, Gopalganj, Chittagong, Kishoreganj, Thakurgaon and Chapainawabganj.

Our staff correspondent reports: At least five people were killed in separate road accidents in the city yesterday.

Ria Akter, 20, a worker of Al-Muslim Garments at Malibagh, was run over by a bus around 7:50am while she was about to reach her place of work.

Soon after the accident, locals as well as her fellow workers vandalised at least seven vehicles in the area, police said.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Meanwhile, another factory worker, Hossain Ahmed, 23, was run over by a bus in Kadomtoli area around 10:30am.

He was crossing the highway at Rayerbagh, when a speeding bus hit him and fled the scene, police said.

In a separate incident, Abul Hossain, 40, died after a car hit him while he was crossing the Mirpur Road at Mohammadpur around 12:15am. The body was sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Meanwhile, police recovered two unidentified bodies from Rayerbazar and Mirpur-10 around 6:30am. Both of them were male in their forties and were run over by heavy vehicles, police said.

In Benapole, A motorcyclist was killed and his accompanied injured when a Jessore-bound sand-laden truck ran over them on Jessore-Benapole road in Kalagachhi area around 11:00am yesterday.

The victim is Jahangir Hossain, 40, a tailoring shop owner, of Baladanga village of Sadar upazila of Jessore.

In Gopalganj, A youth was killed and at least 10 members of a family were injured in

a road accident on Dhaka-Khulna highway in Bijoypasa area under Sadar upazila of the district yesterday.

Sojib, 15, son of Viku Munshi of Falshi village under Kashiani upazila of the district, died on the spot.

In Chittagong, A man was killed in an accident at College Bazar under Patiya upazila yesterday.

The deceased Mohammad Rubel, 20, son of Rahamat Ali of Pashchim Patiya under the same upazila, was an employee of Mission Enterprise, a local business firm.

The accident took place when a bus ran over Rubel at College Bazar near SA Chowdhury College around 9:00am.

In Kishoreganj, A tomtom passenger was killed in a road accident on Kishoreganj-Bhairab highway at Nandarampur in Kuliarchar yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Milki Mia, 32, son of Thandu Mia of Hilchia village of Bazitpur upazila.

Police said the accident took place when a tomto, locally made three-wheeler, fell into a roadside ditch.

In Thakurgaon, A woman municipality councillor was killed when he fell down from a bike in the district yesterday.

The deceased Morium Begum, 50, a municipality councillor of Panchagarh municipality.

In Chapainawabganj, A man was killed after falling on the road from the roof of a bus at Begunbari village of Gomostapur upazila yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Ujir Ali, 32, son of Bahar Uddin of Fatepur village of Nachole upazila.

The accident occurred when Ujir Ali fell on the road from the roof of the bus. He died on the spot.

Locals later damaged the bus in Mallickpur. They also blocked the Gomostapur-Chapainawabganj road for three hours.



Director General of International Organisation for Migration (IOM) William Lacy Swing pays a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gono Bhaban in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 3)

PHOTO: PMO

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