

# Road blocked as 2 die in accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Aggrieved at the death of a fellow student in a road accident on Sunday, female college students yesterday blocked Dhaka-Tangail highway at Bangabandhu Bridge approach road for three and a half hours and vandalised at least 15 vehicles.

The students of Lutfur Rahman Matin Mahila College put up the barricade on the road at Elenga under Kalihati upazila at about 8:00am.

Ayesha Siddiq, 18, student of HSC 1st year of Humanities group of the college, died on Sunday when a passenger bus hit the rickshaw-van she was riding from back side. The rickshaw-van driver also died on the spot and three female students of the college received injuries.

To disperse the yesterday's demonstrators Police lobbed tear gas shells and shot blank fires. At least 20 people sustained minor injuries during chase and counter chase between police and students.

At about 11:30am, following assurance by authorities of taking steps against the driver responsible for the accident, students withdrew the barricade.

Hundreds of vehicles, including passenger buses and goods-laden trucks remained stranded on both sides of the highway leaving hundreds of passengers in miseries.

Protesting the accident, students and locals also put barricade on Sunday at the approach road for one and a half hour demanding punishment to the driver and also a foot over bridge at Elenga.

Tangail Additional Police Super (South) MA Masud confirmed yesterday's incident.



Journalists of Maasranga TV form a human chain before their office at Banani in the city yesterday, demanding immediate arrest of the murderers of the couple -- the channel's news editor Sagar Sarowar and ATN Bangla senior reporter Meherun Runi.

PHOTO: STAR

# Gonoshasthaya trust to honour 40 eminent citizens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gonoshasthaya Public Charitable Trust will confer reception to 40 eminent citizens of the country for their contribution to the War of Liberation in 1971 through a programme on February 18.

The three-day-long programme to celebrate the 40 years of the trust will be held at its head office in Savar, said Deputy Registrar Mir Murtoza Ali Babu of Gono Bishwabidyalay at a press conference in its Dhaka office yesterday.

Prominent citizens and politicians will participate in open discussions at the programme on topics including the country's achievements, challenges and opportunities.

# Punishment to killers demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers, students and journalists yesterday formed a human chain at Aparajeya Bangla in Dhaka University demanding immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to the murderers of journalists Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi.

Dhaka University Journalist Association (DUJA) organised the protest programme, where over 300 people participated.

DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique and Pro-VC Prof Harun-or-Rashid expressed shock at the death of the journalists and termed the killing 'brutal'.

Arts Faculty Dean Prof Sadrul Amin urged the home minister to take required measures to stop the killing of journalists and ensure punishment to the killers of the journalist couple.

The programme was also addressed by Dhaka University Teachers' Association President Prof Anwar Hossain, Prof

Akhteruzzaman, Prof Abdus Salam and Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) President AK Azad.

Meanwhile, Law Reporters Forum (LRF) formed a human chain yesterday to demand arrest of the couple's killers.

Over 100 journalists and a number of SC lawyers, including Supreme Court Bar Association Secretary Bodrudozza Badal and former secretary SM Rezaul Karim took part in the programme held at the main gate of the Supreme Court.

Maasranga Television's reporters and officials also formed a human chain in front of its office at Airport Road demanding immediate arrest of the killers.

Meherun Runi, senior reporter of private TV channel ATN Bangla, and her husband Sagar Sarowar, news editor of TV channel Maasranga, were stabbed to death at their West Rajabazar apartment early Saturday.

# JOURNO COUPLE MURDER Analysts fear long term impacts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The trauma created after the gruesome murders of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi will have long-term impacts on the people, observe social analysts.

They suggest unearthing the facts behind the murders and ensuring exemplary punishment to the culprits to help remove the fear factor and sheer sense of insecurity from the public.

"The killings have generated a fear factor among public mind. It's difficult to remove it soon," said Prof Dr ASM Amanullah of sociology at Dhaka University. He suggested that the law-enforcers let the public know the facts as soon as possible.

He said the political parties must not do politics out of the sensational murders. "Both the government and the opposition should be sympathetic to the public and not make any irresponsible comments," he told The Daily Star.

According to the sociologist, such gruesome incidents happen in a society that is passing through a transition.

"Institutions like family and educational institutions are breaking down. These are not being able to inject values to children anymore," Prof Amanullah said, adding, this happens in the transitional society.

People, especially residents of urban areas, are competing relentlessly in a rat race. They are trying to be rich overnight, paying little attention to their children, he observed.

At such a crossroad, the political leadership will have to come up with visionary policies for making the society stable, he suggested.

Serajul Islam Choudhury, an emeritus professor of DU, thinks rampant violence and instances of escaping punishment after committing crimes are making the society gradually insecure.

"Now people are not safe in or outside their home," commented the senior professor.

"Everybody is now busy in their own business and nobody cares about their responsibility to others. That's why one kills other or hires killers to do the job," he said, adding, "We are getting unsocial day by day."

Prof Choudhury thinks the government under this situation should make it certain that

offenders are handed down due punishment and within the shortest possible time.

Prof Dr Shahed Hasan of anthropology at DU said the society is suffering from an ethical crisis. This happens when technologies advance, but morality remains at the back.

"Today, property has become a liability, not asset. It is because relatives and even siblings are ruining their relationships, and even killing each other, for property," he said, adding that family values or bond must improve in the society.

Dr Hasan said the trauma created in the society would prolong if the killers are not arrested and punished.

Rights activist Sultana Kamal believes the increased level of alienation among the people is one of the reasons behind the rise in crimes.

"The sense of safety is vanishing gradually and we are becoming alienated day by day. And the killers take the advantage of this alienation," she told The Daily Star. The killings of the journalist couple weaken the sense of insecurity among the people, she added.

Crimes will continue to be committed unless the culture of impunity is broken, Sultana observed.

"We don't see frequently that people committing serious crimes are being punished," she said, suggesting that trial of such crimes will have to be made within a logical timeframe so that people realise that criminals can't escape the law.

Kamal Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury, associate professor of clinical psychology at Dhaka University, said the killings of journalist duo put tremendous pressure on people's psyche as it left them panicked and increased their sense of insecurity.

"We return home from our workplace for safety and if we are not safe at our very house, where would we go?" he asked.

The common people expect that the government will ensure justice. But if the criminals get away or come out on bail, it makes the people feel helpless, he added.

The surviving kid of the journalist couple has already suffered extreme mental shock, he said, suggesting immediate mental health service for him; otherwise his normal growth might be hampered.

# Faridee's death condoled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political, social and cultural organisations and individuals yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of renowned actor Humayun Faridee.

He died at his Dhanmondi residence in the city yesterday at the age of 60.

President Zillur Rahman Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia condoled the death in separate statements.

In a statement, the president said the country has lost a veteran actor at the death of Humayun Faridee and this loss is irrecoverable.

In a condolence message, Sheikh Hasina said the nation has lost a renowned actor who will remain alive forever for his work.

Khaleda Zia said the nation has lost a famous actor who will be remembered for his outstanding contribution to the cultural sector of the country.

They prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Speaker of Parliament Abdul Hamid, Deputy Speaker Shawkat Ali, Chief Whip of Parliament Muhammad Abdus Shahid, Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Barrister Shafique Ahmed, LGRD Minister Syed Ashraf Islam, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury and Noble Laureate Muhammad Yunus, among others, also condoled the death.

Bangladesh Film Directors Association, Bangladesh Jatiya Party-IP, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote, Ain O Salish Kendra, Jahangirnagar University (JU), economics department of JU, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, National Front of Teachers and Employees, Nazrul Institute, Bangladesh Workers Party and Bangladesh Nari Mukti Andolon expressed deep shock at the death.

# Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kalyan Kumar Louha, deputy general manager of Jiban Bima Corporation, passed away at National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases in the city on February 12 at the age of 56, says a press release.

He left his wife, two sons and a host of well wishers to mourn his death.



Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Atiur Rahman hands over a cheque to a student at a reception accorded to higher secondary level meritorious students, organised by Southeast Bank Foundation, at the Institute of Diploma Engineers in the city on Saturday. Chairman of the bank Alamgir Kabir, FCA, its Managing Director Mahbub Alam and board of directors, were also present on the occasion.

PHOTO: COURTESY

To Nehat

Unexpectedly she entered my life  
This woman, this angel,  
Who became my wife  
She captured my heart and soul  
Warming a place once so dark and cold

To the love of my life  
My beautiful sweet wife  
Happy Valentine's Day  
Is what I want to say

From Tanim

# NOTICE OF CAUTION

It has come to my knowledge that few dishonest land brokers and fraudsters are approaching various renowned individuals and institutions with fake sale proposal of my wholly owned land located at Plot No. NW(J) 5, Road No. 51, Gulshan Model Town (on Kemal Ataturk Avenue) measuring 1 bigha 6 katha and 14 chatak (commonly known as SAFFRON Restaurant). I neither intend to sell the said property nor have appointed any individual/institution in that regard.

In the given circumstances, any transaction undertaken with any such land brokers/fraudsters shall be illegal, fraudulent and non-enforceable in the eye of law since Civil Appeal Nos. 212 and 213 of 2010 are pending before the Appellate Division of the Honorable Supreme Court of Bangladesh with the Tenant Sabbir Ahmed Chowdhury in connection with the eviction of the said tenant from the aforesaid land. Hence, I caution all concerned persons to refrain from undertaking any transactions with such individuals with regards to the said property.

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Constituted Attorney of Intekhab Ahmed Khan  
Khanlodge, House # 507 [CEN (C) 8], Road # 98  
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