

Anti-Islam film, cartoon protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing anger at a US film and a French weekly's cartoon mocking Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (pbuh), over 6,000 protesters brought out a procession in the capital's Kuril Biswa Road after Juma prayers yesterday.

The protesters, under the banner, "Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) Defamation Protest Committee", blocked traffic and caused long tailbacks on the road for two hours.

Stopped by police from proceeding towards the US embassy, the committee Convener Mufti Mizanur Rahman Sayed demanded a ban on the film, exemplary punishment to its makers and enactment of a law to punish such mockery attempts.

Police said a memorandum of the committee addressed to the embassy would be forwarded once the embassy opens after the weekend.

The crudely made video, filmed in California and circulated on the Internet under several titles including "Innocence of Muslims", portrays the Prophet Mohammad engaged in crude and offensive behaviour.

The weekly, Charlie Hebdo, published the cartoon which includes obscene images intended to represent Prophet Mohammad, as opposed to any other Muslim.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Jahanara Begum, wife of a former district registrar of Rajshahi and mother-in-law of journalist Kazi Gias, died at the age of 90 on Thursday night.

She left behind her two daughters, three sons and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

She was buried at Hatim Khan graveyard in the city.



Protesters condemn a US film and cartoons deemed insulting to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) during a protest procession on the capital's Kuril Biswa Road yesterday. More than 6,000 people joined the demonstration after Juma prayers, blocking the road for around two hours.

PHOTO: STAR

9 killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

Nine people were killed in separate road accidents in Comilla, Faridpur, Chittagong and Tangail on Thursday and yesterday.

UNB from Comilla reports, three people, including a woman, were killed and a child was injured when a bus rammmed a CNG-run auto-rickshaw at Noapara in Adarsha Sadar upazila yesterday morning, said Kotwali Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mohiuddin Mahmud. One of the deceased was Jahir, 25, the auto-rickshaw driver and son of Joynal Abedin of Raichou village, while the identities of the other deceased could not be known immediately.

Witnesses said the Dhaka-bound bus of Asialine hit the auto-rickshaw in the area at about 6:00am, killing the two instantly and injuring the two others.

The injured was rushed to Comilla Medical College Hospital.

In another accident, fish trader Idris was crushed by a bus near Bagur bus stand in Chandina upazila in early morning.

In Faridpur, two motorcyclists died instantly when a pick-up van hit the motorcycle from the opposite direction in Satoir of Boalmari upazila yesterday afternoon.

The deceased were Ruhul Amin, 22, and Jotai Matubar, 38. Angry locals set fire to the pick-up van.

Our staff correspondent from Chittagong reports, an unidentified man was killed as a truck knocked him in Laldighi area of the city on Thursday night.

Kotwali police said the Anderkilla-bound truck from Kotwali hit the man from behind at around 8:00pm, leaving him dead.

Meanwhile, a rickshaw-puller was killed as a speeding truck rammmed the rickshaw from behind near Lal Dighi intersection in the city on Thursday night.

The victim is Arjun Chakrabarty, 28, son of Sajub Chakrabarty, of Sadhanpur village in Banshkhalai upazila of Chittagong.

Sources said the truck hit the rickshaw in front of Zaman Hotel when Arjun was looking for passengers, sitting on his rickshaw, leaving him dead instantly.

Kotwali Police Station Sub-Inspector Supta Dutta said they seized the truck while its driver fled the scene.

BSS from Tangail reports, Anamat Ali, 45, son of Abdul Goni of Suknagari village in Motherganj upazila of Jamalpur, died when a truck from Tangail hit him on Tangail-Mymensingh highway at Sisimpur in Kalihati upazila on Thursday noon.

SHOHAN MURDER

10 activists of new Islamist outfit held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested 10 young activists of a new Islamist outfit, Tasauf Mahal, in connection with the murder of a "fellow activist", Shohan Hossain, in Natore Wednesday night.

The arrestees are Mohammad Royel, Abu Daddar, Moktar Ali, Mamirul Isam, Mithun Islam alias Shahin, Alamin, Juwel Rana, Rubel Islam, Idris Ali, and Tanmay Ahmed Mim, said Lt Mansurum Mahdin of RAB-5 media wing.

Rab also seized about five Chinese axes, two sets of black-coloured uniform and locally made weapons from the detainees.

Shohan Hossain, 25, hailing from Chaugachhi village in Natore, went missing on Wednesday and locals found his body with stab wounds the next day.

Accused Royel yesterday said they are active members of Tasauf Mahal, which was formed in 2008. One Satil Ihsam of the same village leads the organisation.

They formed the organisation to kill some political persons of the area, he said.

When asked why they killed Shohan, Royel said Shohan used to be a member of Tasauf Mahal but recently he wanted to get out of the organisation.

So, they stabbed him to death, Royel added.

DHAKA-N'GANJ RAIL ROUTE

Low income group demand fare hike withdrawal

UNB, Narayanganj

Commuters of low income group on the Dhaka-Narayanganj rail route urged the authorities concerned to withdraw the increase in train fare and improve railway services.

The fare between Dhaka and Narayanganj was increased from Tk 6 to Tk 9 per person, effective from October 1.

Despite poor services, many Narayanganj residents prefer to travel to the capital on trains due to the increase in bus fares, traffic jams and scarcity of buses.

The train passengers said it was improper for the railway authorities to increase the fare without providing adequate number of trains and compartments and improving the conditions of trains and railway stations.

Abu Zaher, a resident of Pilkuni in Fatullah who regularly travels to the capital by train for business purposes, said despite the problems, the trains along the route are always crowded.

He said the number of passengers on the route is also on the rise and he had never found anyone traveling the route without tickets.

Echoing Abu Zaher, other commuters said they would have readily accepted the train fare hike if the services were improved.

During spot visits to different railway stations, this correspondent found many passengers traveling on rooftops and even on the side of the engine.

Different local political parties and organisations such as Jatri Odhikar Forum, Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal and Communist Party of Bangladesh formed human chains in Narayanganj recently protesting the hike and demanding improved services.

On contact, a railway official said the hike is a government decision and only the government can change it. He added that the railway authorities would take steps to reduce the suffering of passengers.

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