



There was a very thin presence of traffic as well as people at an otherwise bustling Shapla Chattar of the capital during the opposition's eight-hour hartal, which started from 6:00am yesterday. The photo was taken around 11:00am.

PHOTO: STAR

Chehlum

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

The chehlum of Ferdous Zaman Mukul, a freedom fighter, former lawmaker and secretary of the district Awami League, will be held at Dhankunda in Dhunat upazila of the district today.

He died of cardiac arrest at a local hospital of the town on November 2. He left behind his wife, and two daughters.

He was laid to rest in his family graveyard at Dhankunda.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 41st death anniversary of Shaheed prof Giasuddin Ahmed.

During the Liberation War, the collaborators of Pakistani occupation forces picked prof Giasuddin of history department of Dhaka University, from his DU residence and killed him with other intellectuals, said a press release.

A milad mahfil will be held after Asr prayers tomorrow at his youngest sister Prof Sajeda Banu's Dhaka residence.

His friends, relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme.

BISHWAJIT MURDER

One alleged killer held

Govt tells HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday informed the High Court that the law enforcers had arrested Mahfuzur Rahman Nahid, an alleged killer of Bishwajit Das, whose identity was published in the media.

The HC was also told that the law enforcers had detained two more persons in this connection, and they were trying to arrest all the culprits involved in the killing.

Deputy Attorney General Amit Talukder conveyed the information when the HC was hearing a rule, which it issued on Tuesday, directing the law enforcement agencies to arrest the five killers whose identities had been published in The Daily Star within 24 hours and to report to it if they fail to nab the criminals within the given time.

Bishwajit Das, a 24-year-old businessman, was beaten and hacked to death by a group of Chhatra League activists in Old Dhaka on November 9, when the opposition's countrywide blockade was underway.

Replying to the rule, Amit Talukder said the government had taken steps so that the culprits could not escape arrest, and the law enforcers would be able to arrest all the alleged killers within a very short time.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Farid Ahmed issued the rule after Nazim Ahmed, editor of the weekly Shoptoporno, filed a petition after a report of The Daily Star named some Chhatra League activists--Rafiqul Islam, Noore Alam, Mahfuzur Rahman Nahid, and Obaidul Quader Emdadul Haque--as the killers of Bishwajit.

Yesterday, Nazim Ahmed filed another petition with the bench, seeking its order on the government to arrest the three other alleged killers of Biswajit, whose identities were published in The Daily Star. They are Rasheduzzaman Shaon, Rintu and Mohammad Uzzal.

APRIL 29 ARSON CASE

HC clears way for restarting proceedings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for restarting trial proceedings of an arson case filed against 46 opposition leaders, including BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

Police filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station hours after a bus was set ablaze near the Prime Minister's Office during a hartal called by the BNP-led 18-party alliance on April 29.

Yesterday, delivering a verdict on a writ petition, the HC directed the Speedy Trial Court-2 of Dhaka to start the proceedings afresh within seven days.

It, however, declared illegal the chief metropolitan magistrate's (CMM) decision to give power to Dhaka's Speedy Trial Court-5 to conduct the case.

The writ petition was filed by BNP lawmaker Mahub Uddin Khokon, an accused in the case, challenging the decision's legality.

Following the petition, the HC, on August 6, stayed all proceedings of the case and also issued a rule upon authorities concerned to explain why the CMM Court decision should not be declared illegal.

Earlier on July 31, Speedy Trial Court-5 had framed charges against the accused of the case.

The HC bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Khurshid Alam Sarkar came up with the verdict after holding the final hearing on the petition.

Attorney General Mahubey Alam said Speedy Trial Court-2 will now start the proceedings afresh.

Road crashes kill five

METRO DESK

Five people were killed and eight others injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka, Natore and Pabna on Wednesday and yesterday.

Our staff correspondent reports, two motorbike riders were killed and another injured as their vehicle hit a divider on Khilgaon flyover in the capital early yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Shahidul Alam Dipu, 18, and Anwar Hossain, 22.

Meanwhile, six members of a family were injured when their microbus collided with a Leguna (human hauler) on Birulia Meribandh at Rupnagar in Mirpur area of the capital yesterday.

Our Natore correspondent reports, two people were killed and another was injured as a Rajshahi-bound bus from Dhaka and a tractor collided head-on in Gazir Beel area of Natore sadar upazila in the district early yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Abdur Razzak, 35, son of Abdur Hanif of village Katakali in Goyalqanda upazila of Rajbari, and Mohammad Babu, 25, son of Abdus Sattar of village Dattapara in the same upazila.

Injured Al Amin received first aid from Natore Sadar Hospital.

Our Pabna correspondent reports, a man was killed when a speeding bus hit him while he was crossing Pabna-Rajshahi highway in Dashuria market area on Wednesday night.

The deceased was Robi Das, 40, son of Ram Das of village Muladuli in Ishwardi upazila.

Following the accident, agitating local people put up barricades on Dashuria intersection disrupting vehicular movement for one hour.

DROWNED MAN Family unhappy with police over case filing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family of Azibor Khan, who drowned on Wednesday after being chased by police, expressed dissatisfaction about police for filing a case against unidentified persons in this regard.

Azizul Khan, Azibor's brother, yesterday said they wanted to file a murder case against some police and locals of capital's Demra.

He alleged some law enforcers misled Azizul's wife, Lily Begum, and lodged the case with her permission.

On the eve of a hartal on Wednesday, Azizul jumped into a pond in Demra and drowned. He jumped into the pond to avoid being captured by law enforcers and locals who were chasing him.

According to Mohammad Ferdous, Azibor's friend, they were riding a rickshaw when they passed a police check post near local poultry farms in the area.

Police signalled them to stop but feeling afraid before a hartal, they asked the rickshaw-puller to speed up, Ferdous said, adding that police then gave chase.

However, Azizul said he had heard that police along with locals beat up Azibor and threw him into the pond.

He said Azibor had been a good swimmer and could have escaped if he had jumped into the pond himself.

Moniruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Demra Police Station, however, said Lily herself filed the case.

He said after the rickshaw did not pullover at the check post they did not chase them.

Ensure worker safety in RMG supply

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sub-contractors, or licensees that fail to guarantee basic and fundamental rights for their workers and throughout their supply chains, including the right to a safe workplace," the letter urged the president.

The fire carnage at Tazreen Fashions that killed 112 workers in November elicited this reaction as burned out tags with logos of the US Marine Corps was found at the scene.

Senator Tom Harkin leads the group including senators Jeff Bingaman, Sherrod Brown, Al Franken, Patty Murray, Jay Rockefeller and Congressman George Miller in writing the letter.

After the fire in the Tazreen factory, it was found that the workers

were ordered to keep working even after the fire alarms went off, were trapped inside the building because exit doors were locked, and the fire extinguishers inside the plant did not work, said the letter.

It should not have taken the deaths of so many people to demand accountability, the letter said, adding that more needs to be done to assure greater transparency in the supply chains of all US Government contractors and licensees.

The letter said that the sheer magnitude of the disaster was compounded by the fact that apparel bearing US Marine Corps logos for a US Government contractor was being made there.

"Soffe, a subsidiary of Delta Apparel, is an outfitter for the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. As shown in the attached photos from the factory, in July, Soffe placed an order for apparel bearing Marine Corps logos in the Tazreen factory," it added.

The lawmakers in the letter said it was unacceptable, for products made for members of US military or bearing their symbols, and sold at base exchanges around the world, to be sub-contracted out to factories that do not have the most minimal worker protections.

They said it contradicted to the very best ideals of the USA and the service members who fight for those

ideals around the world.

The letter lauded the Marine Corps for their quick termination of the arrangement with Soffe and urged them to lead by example in ensuring transparency in the supply chains of all US Government contractors and licensees.

They urged to be careful of agreement loopholes that make it easy for manufacturers to hide the source of their product, such as only affixing a logo at US factories and said much more needed to be done to assure greater transparency and accountability.

"We have a moral imperative to do what we can to make sure that this doesn't happen again," the lawmakers said about the Tazreen fire tragedy.

Tk 3,350cr investors' money

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The rest amount of Tk 150 crore is left at their company account, added the official.

According to the confessional statement, Amin said he and others had collected Tk 3,500 crore from their investors and transferred Tk 3,350 crore to their personal accounts without prior approval from the authorities concerned.

They had later misappropriated all the transferred money, he added.

The statements of Amin and Hossain were recorded at the courts of Metropolitan Magistrate Keshob Roy Chowdhury and Metropolitan Magistrate

Shariar Mahmud Adnan respectively.

The two accused had earlier confessed to being involved in embezzling Tk 1,100 crore from the Destiny Tree Plantation Project.

ACC Assistant Director Towfiqul Islam, also the investigation officer of the case, produced them before the courts for recording their statements on completion of their four-day remand.

The courts sent both the Destiny officials to jail after recording their statements.

On July 31, the ACC filed two cases with Kalabagan police against 22 top Destiny officials for laundering Tk 3,285.26 crore.

Destiny Group started its journey in 2000 through its multi-level marketing wing Destiny 2000 with only Tk 12 lakh.

The group set up the Destiny Tree Plantation Ltd in 2009 with a slogan that it operated under Shariah (Islamic laws). It started selling different packages like 30 trees at Tk 10,000, saying it would be worth Tk 60,000 in 12 years.

The minimum price for the package was Tk 7,500.

The top officials lured people into the project, saying that they had bought huge tracts of land throughout the country, especially in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Xmas cruise turns into

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Carnival said there had been "an incidence of a mild gastrointestinal illness" among the passengers.

The spokeswoman added that, as of yesterday, out of 1,843 passengers "the number of passengers with active symptoms is six".

One passenger, Paul Gilman, 62, told the Daily Mail: "It has been outrageous from start to finish. People were falling like flies, yet the crew were trying to insist everything was fine.

"Everyone is saying this is a plague ship. It's a living nightmare."

The UK's Health Protection Agency has

reported a 72 per cent increase in the vomiting bug so far this season.

The Oriana left Southampton on 4 December, with passengers paying up to £1,400 for the voyage, which included visits to Copenhagen, Oslo and Amsterdam.

The Carnival spokeswoman said: "Enhanced sanitation protocols have already been implemented to help minimise transmission to other passengers. These comprehensive disinfection protocols have been developed by P&O Cruises in conjunction with UK and US public health authorities.



Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia addresses an emergency meeting of her party's standing committee at her Gulshan office in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



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