

Though owners of inter-district buses declared to disregard Jamaat-e-Islami's country-wide hartal yesterday, the buses were left parked as shown in this photo taken from the capital's Mohakhali Bus Terminal.



PHOTO: STAR

Jamaat hartal claims life of man

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohammad Iqbal, 35, a sub-contractor, defied hartal yesterday to distribute salaries among his workers. He was going to the capital's Kafrul but could never reach there. He was dead on the way.

It was the hartal violence by Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir, which claimed his life.

In the morning, Iqbal started from his house in Rampura. The human hauler he was riding came under the attack of the pickets at Madhya Badda around 8:00am, said locals.

While trying desperately to escape the violence, the vehicle overturned, leaving Iqbal seriously injured. He was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and declared dead there around 9:00am.

Another man was injured in the accident. He took treatment in a local hospital.

Devid Halder, a witness and roadside tea vendor of Madhya Badda, said a group of pro-hartal activists suddenly attacked the moving vehicles with bricks and sticks.

The vehicles were moving haphazardly to escape vandalism, and a human hauler of Bandhu Paribahan, which was carrying Iqbal, turned upside down near his shop, he told The Daily Star.

Police said they recovered a mobile phone and Tk 29,000 in cash from Iqbal.

Hailing from Nabirnagar, Brahmanbaria, Iqbal got married to Aklima Begum three years ago and left no children.

Adil Miah, elder brother of Iqbal, said they were planning to observe their father's death anniversary on February 21. "Now we have to arrange Iqbal's kulkhwani on that day," he said in tears.

Badda police arrested two suspected Shibir men for carrying out the attack.

RU observes Zoha Day

RU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers and students of Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday observed Zoha Day marking the 43rd death anniversary of Shaheed Prof Shamsuzzoha.

Under the banner of Rajshahi University Association of Law Finders (RUALF), over hundreds of students and teachers held a rally on the campus around 10:00am where they urged the government to announce the Zoha Day as "National Teachers Day" in order to commemorate the sacrifice of Shamsuzzoha.

Prof Shamsuzzoha, the then RU proctor, is the first martyred intellectual of Bangladesh.

He was shot dead by Pakistani army in front of the university main gate on February 18, 1969, as he tried to convince the army not to fire at the students who were protesting against the murder of Sergeant Zahurul Haque.

Marking the day, the RU authorities hoisted black flags atop all dormitories, administrative and academic buildings, placed floral wreaths at Prof Zoha's grave, offered special prayers and held a doa mahfil at the central mosque.

Different socio-cultural organisations also brought out mourning procession on the campus.

IIT looks to work with Bangladeshi universities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the aim to enhance academic excellence and expand the horizons of research programmes on engineering and technical education, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay, is mulling to work with different universities in Bangladesh.

"We have a plan to start student and faculty member exchange programmes between us. We want to make a linkage and chalk out how the IIT can collaborate with the colleges and universities providing technical education here," IIT Bombay Director Prof Devang V Khakhar said in an interview with The Daily Star yesterday.

"If we want to make the linkage sustainable, it has to be beneficial for both sides," he said.

Prof Devang, who arrived on a three-day visit yesterday, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Bangladesh University of Engineering Technology (Buet) in the afternoon and is scheduled to sign another MoU with Dhaka University today.

About the aim of the MoU, he said, "This is mainly to express our intent to work together. This is the first step of cooperation and collaboration between us."

This is the first step to meet and know each other, then to understand each other and mutually agree on what to do, he added.

"We have a lot of experience of collabora-

tion with overseas universities and currently we are working with more than 50 universities across the world," the professor said.

IIT Bombay is recognised worldwide as a leader in the field of engineering education and research.

About the current status of engineering and technical education in Bangladesh, he said, "The existing educational institutions here are maintaining very good quality, and the students coming out of here are contributing to the development of Bangladesh."

There are a number of good colleges and universities like Buet in Bangladesh, which are giving quality education, he added.

Prof Devang said, "Having highly technical institutions is, of course, very important for a developing economy like Bangladesh where there are many problems that require technical solution."

The IIT Bombay has been significantly contributing to the growth of India's IT industry for more than 50 years through producing highly-skilled manpower, he said.

The IIT Bombay director will meet the planning minister at the Planning Commission and the vice chancellors of different engineering universities outside Dhaka at the University Grants Commission (UGC) today. He will visit the Islamic University of Technology (IUT) in Gazipur tomorrow.



Prof Devang V Khakhar

Muggers shoot rider, snatch motorcycle

3 held for snatching woman's handbag

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified miscreants shot the IT in-charge of Daily Sun and snatched his motorcycle near the capital's Mohakhali flyover, and in another incident three muggers were caught before the High Court while trying to flee with a handbag yesterday.

Bullet-hit Romel Ferdous, 26, is undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Romel dropped his elder brother at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport and was returning to his Mirpur section-2 residence when a microbus rammed him from the left before BAF Shaheen College around 5:30am.

The miscreants inside the vehicle then shot at him five times, three hitting his right leg and another his abdomen. One mugger then rode away with the motorcycle, said Tejgaon Police Station Officer-in-Charge Apurbo Hasan.

In the other incident, the three muggers, riding a CNG-run three-wheeler, had snatched the handbag from a woman, on way to Sadarghat, at Puranan Paltan around 1:00pm. A good Samaritan on a motorcycle helped the woman's husband, Shahadat Hossain, chase the vehicle down. Passers-by beat and handed the three over to police. Police seized the vehicle. The good Samaritan could not be traced.

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