

Man killed in Jessore bomb attack

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

A man was killed in a bomb attack at Kholadanga, on the outskirts of Jessore town, yesterday.

He was Imran Kabir Uzzal, 35, son of Shofikul Mustafa of the area.

Sikdar Akkas Ali, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, quoting Uzzal's wife Liza Khatun, said the attack was carried out over property-related family feud.

Five to six men threw a hand-made bomb at the victim when he was sitting on the railway tracks in Kholadanga area around 6:30pm, leaving him critically injured, said the police official, quoting witnesses.

Following an explosion, locals caught one Omar Ali, an alleged attacker, and handed him over to police after a beating.

The OC said they took Uzzal and Omar to Jessore Medical College Hospital where doctors declared Uzzal dead.

Omar was undergoing treatment there under police custody, he said, adding police were trying to arrest the other suspects.

Only 979 want

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Bangladesh, who want to live in India, two-thirds are Hindu and the rest Muslim, Habibur told The Daily Star after the four-and-a-half-hour meeting that ended around 7:30pm.

The enclave dwellers have to travel to India between August 1 and November 30 once the two countries begin exchanging the enclaves from July 31 midnight.

At yesterday's meeting, the two sides discussed several issues, including management of the enclave dwellers' properties. The two countries have imposed a ban on sale and purchase of land in the enclaves till July 31 midnight.

Chiranjib Ghosh, additional deputy commissioner of India's Cooch Behar, led the Indian delegation.

Meanwhile, sources in Dhaka said a high-level delegation of the Border Guard Bangladesh would discuss enclave-related issues with Indian Border Security Force top brass at the annual director general talks in New Delhi early next month.

The Bangladesh delegation to be led by BGB Director General Maj Gen Aziz Ahmed is due to leave Dhaka on August 2. The Indian side will be led by BSF DG Devendra Kumar Pathak.

According to the sources, the two sides would discuss several important issues, including safe passage of enclave dwellers, and exchange data of the joint survey, on the enclaves and the recent changes.

The role of the two border forces is very crucial as they would assist the administration in ensuring safe passage of enclave dwellers with their belongings and moveable property to the mainland of Bangladesh or India, said the sources.

Border-related issues, including killing of Bangladeshis by BSF on the border, frontier management, and activities of insurgents and smugglers would be discussed during the six-day talks.

The Bangladesh side is likely to take up the issue of trial of the killing of Bangladeshi girl Felani Khatun, who was shot dead by BSF personnel on the border in 2011.

A special court of the BSF recently gave its verdict, upholding its previous judgment that acquitted the accused BSF member of murder charge.



A house damaged in a landslide, triggered by torrential rain, at Amin Colony in Chittagong. The incident left three people dead early Sunday. The district administration yesterday using megaphones, bottom right, asked the people living dangerously on the hill slope to move out. Some were even evicted, top right.



PHOTO: STAR

Rain dampens Eid holidays

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religious celebration.

People's sufferings are likely to continue as the bad weather is to continue for a few more days.

In the 24 hours until 6:00pm yesterday, 16mm rainfall was recorded in the capital, down from 90mm on Saturday and 33mm on Sunday. The highest rainfall was recorded in Mongla yesterday, 106mm.

"The rainfall is expected to decline slightly in the next two days before it starts pouring heavily again," said an official of Bangladesh Meteorological Department.

EID WASHED AWAY IN DHAKA

Ankle to knee-deep water on roads forced many Dhaka people to stay mostly indoors during the three-day Eid holidays.

Watching TV is all most of them could do. Even that was not easy for those living in the low-lying areas where waterlogging was a big problem.

Yesterday was the first workday after the holidays but the city streets still looked deserted as those who had gone to their native places outside Dhaka were yet to return and most of those living in the capital

chose not go out in the rain.

"Usually we get some passengers two days after Eid as many people go outside to visit different places inside the city. But this year, we're getting a very poor number of passengers due to the bad weather," said Abdul Kader, helper of a city bus that runs between Mirpur 12 and Motijheel.

"It feels great to drive on these empty streets but we're not getting passengers as they are not stepping outside for the rain," said Anwar who drives a CNG-run three-wheeler.

Like the previous two days, amusement parks and cinemas in and around the capital saw low turn-outs yesterday.

"I usually go to amusement parks with my family on the second day after Eid. But this time, we could not go there due to rain and passed our time watching TV," Ariful Islam Arif, a resident of Mirpur-12, said.

Shariful Islam Nabin, a resident of Abdullahpur, said failing to visit his relatives in the city, he passed the holidays playing indoor games with his friends.

DEATHS IN CTG

Six people -- five of whom were children -- of two families were killed in mudslides in two hillside settle-

ments in Chittagong in the early hours of Sunday, prompting the administration to dismantle as many as 50 houses built on risky hill slopes.

Three siblings -- Arafat Hossain, 12, Umme Salma, 5, and one-year-and-four-months-old Bibi Morium -- died in a landslide triggered by incessant rain while they were sleeping inside their home at the hilly Amin Colony in the city's Bayezid area around 2:00am.

In the other incident, Marioum Begum, 30, and her daughters -- Suraiya, 2, and Akinur, 5 -- were buried under a wall that collapsed in a landslide at Pora Colony of Lalkhan Bazar around 1:30am.

Chittagong city again saw two more deadly incidents of hill-slide and wall-collapse killing people living in the foothills, thanks to illegal encroachment of hilly land, unabated hill cutting and lack of initiatives by the administration.

Two people were arrested yesterday for illegally building the houses on the hill slopes and renting them out.

"We have arrested Md Shahabuddin and his brother Joyanal Abedin, two of the five so-called owners of these houses at Amin

Colony," said Officer-in-Charge Pradip Kumer Das of Bayezid Police Station.

The district administration later tore down 50 tin-built houses there and evicted the families.

"Conducting eviction drives is all the district administration can do. We cannot file cases over hill-cutting, a key reason for mudslides. We have asked the Department of Environment (DoE) to take legal actions regarding this," Deputy Commissioner Mejbah Uddin of Chittagong told The Daily Star.

Contacted, the DoE authorities responded the way they usually do.

"We have manpower crisis. Still, we are trying our best to address the problem and taking legal actions," said Azadur Rahman Mollick, director of the DoE's Chittagong region.

Before Sunday's incidents, at least 191 people were killed in mudslides in Chittagong. Of them, 127 people died on June 11, 2007, alone.

"Eviction drives are being conducted to prevent further loss of lives ... We are evicting the illegal settlements but the hill owners have to protect their land after the eviction," said Divisional Commissioner Md Abdullah, who also heads the Hill Management Committee there.

Road accidents kill 40 in 4 days

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Bangabandhu Bridge (west zone) Police Station.

The collision left twelve people, including the drivers of both buses, dead on the spot. Five others died in Sirajganj General Hospital and on the way to Bogra Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital.

Besides, around 40 were injured, 14 critically. They were admitted to the Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital.

Of the dead, 12 could be identified. They are Azad Paribahan driver Menhaz Prodhan, 28; Liton, 42; Milton, 22; Sabuz, 20; Jilur Rahman, 46; Chan Babu, 22; Biplob, 23; Moushumi Khatun, 23; Anwarul Islam, 19; Abdul Karim, 45; Mafizur Rahman, 50; and Mahabub, 40.

The OC said the bodies were handed over to the families.

A four-member committee headed by Additional District Magistrate Kamrul Islam was

formed to investigate the accident, said Md Billal Hossain, Sirajganj deputy commissioner.

The committee will submit its report within this week, the DC said.

The district administration donated Tk 10,000 each to the families of the dead, he added.

BEWARE: IT'S WEST ZONE

Two more accidents took place on the road west of Bangabandhu Bridge, claiming eight lives on Friday and Thursday.

Drivers often drive at a very high speed as the road is quite free. This results in frequent accident there, Miraz Uddin Ahmed, superintendent of Sirajganj police, told the Daily Star.

"Reckless driving is the only reason behind three road mishaps in the last three days," he added.

Asked about the repeated accidents, the DC said such a road required four lanes with dividers, but their implementation was a

lengthy process.

For now, he said, "We have proposed setting up some road barricades and traffic signals to make the drivers aware of vulnerable points on Bangabandhu Bridge west zone road."

OTHER ACCIDENTS

Five people, including two children, were killed and 20 injured as a Gaibandha-bound bus fell into a ditch at Baniagati point on the western side of the Bangabandhu Bridge link road in Kamarkhand upazila on Friday evening.

At least four people were killed and 10 others injured in separate road accidents in Bogra on Eid day.

At least three people including a woman were killed and three other injured in separate road accidents in Patuakhali during Eid vacation.

Two people were killed in Munshiganj, one madrasa teacher was killed Kurigram Sadar upazila, one trader was killed in Noakhali, a

lawyer was killed in Natore, and an unknown person was killed in Siddhirganj in Narayanganj.

In Dhaka, a garment worker was killed and seven others were injured as a microbus hit a pickup they were travelling in on the Eid day. The dead is Sumon, 18, of the city's Rampura.

Yesterday, at least three people including a father and his daughter were killed and two others injured in a head-on collision between a private car and a bus in Trishal upazila of Mymensingh.

In Bogra, an unidentified elderly person died as a bus hit him at Mirzabazar area on Dhaka-Bogra highway in Sherpur upazila yesterday.

Meanwhile, at least 30 people were injured as a Comilla-bound passenger bus overturned on Dhaka-Chittagong highway yesterday.

A different

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visited his patients to see how they were doing.

Doctors Pradip Chandra Das and Gobinda Das were about to complete a 36-hour roster duty when Assistant Prof Nashir Uddin showed up with his wife and children.

Like most of his Muslim colleagues, he was also on leave to celebrate Eid at home. But he felt he should check on some of the serious patients, who had recently gone through surgery.

"Besides, my colleagues who were working so diligently during the holidays will also feel motivated," he said as he was sharing some home-made sweetmeats with the doctors on duty.

"I wanted my children to see how people work even on holidays," said the doctor as he checked on his patients in the cabins on the fifth floor.

One of them was Anjan Kumar Dey, who came under a petrol bomb attack on June 3 on a bus to Rangamati.

His brother Bijon Kumar Dey said the doctors were very caring and they did not face any problems during the Eid holidays.

Prof Nashir was exchanging greetings with patients at the children's ward a floor below. "It is not just me. Another group of colleagues also came and visited the patients. It cheered up the patients and worked as a mental support for our colleagues on duty," he observed.

Twelve-year-old Alamgir started crying seeing his doctor. "I want to go to my village home to celebrate Eid," he said as he kept crying. The doctor tried to calm the child, who suffered severe burns in his legs.

"Don't worry, my son. You will be going home next Eid," he assured.

The nurses on duty told the attendants of patients that the professor was not on duty. But when a father rushed to him requesting him to take a look at his daughter, the doctor did not hesitate for a moment.

Samantlal Sen, coordinator of the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery, who himself gave rounds every morning during the three-day holidays, said, "We have kept plastic surgeons, post-graduate students and medical officers on roster. Thanks to the Almighty, no big incidents took place during this time."

These doctors of the burn unit reminded everyone of the humane side of one of the most respected

Rain looms

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The ground took barely an hour to dry up after rain stopped, thanks to the excellent drainage system in place here.

The weather forecast, though, is not too encouraging for cricket. It is expected to rain throughout the day today and thundershowers are expected at various points of time from day two onwards. However, if rain takes a break, we might be in for an exciting day's play, with a number of players likely to make their debuts for either side.

Bangladesh's pace bowling sensation Mustafizur Rahman has a good chance of getting the Test cap as both coach Chandika Hathurusingha and captain Mushfiqur Rahim spoke highly of him during the pre-match press conference yesterday.

The visitors, on the other hand, have three uncapped players in their ranks, amongst whom is the impressive Kagiso Rabada, who took a six-wicket haul on his ODI debut earlier this month against Bangladesh.

The Test will also witness the return of Bangladesh's Test specialists Imrul Kayes and Mominul Haque. Both the top-order batsmen have been amongst runs lately and with Test cricket being the only form of international cricket they are involved in, they would hope to do all they can to impress the team management.

Mushfiqur indicated that he would not be keeping wickets in this Test, which means Litton Das will keep his place in the side. With Litton and Soumya Sarker in the squad, the hosts have every chance of playing eight batsmen including all-rounder Mahmudullah Riyad.

If they do move ahead with that play, then all-rounder Nasir Hossain and left-arm spinner Taijul Islam will likely sit out. Of the three remaining slots, leg-spinner Jubair Hossain is likely to get the nod, thanks to his attacking display against India in the Fatullah Test.

The other two spots could be a battle between the Mustafizur, Rubel Hossain and Mohammad Shahid.

In Test cricket, Bangladesh and South Africa have met on eight occasions, all of which have been won by the South Africans and they have won seven of those eight matches by an innings.

The only one match where Bangladesh did not lose by an innings took place in Mirpur back in 2008 where they ultimately lost by five wickets. In that match Shahadat Hossain took a six-wicket haul; Mohammad Ashraful got AB de Villiers out with a delivery that bounced twice and South Africa, in a rare occurrence, conceded a first innings lead.

However, with the team riding on high on confidence following the ODI series victory, Mushfiqur Rahim and co will hope that they can turn a corner, just like they have been doing in ODIs throughout this year.

Patients left to suffer

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On Saturday, the Eid day, The Daily Star correspondents found Haque, 50, writhing in pain in a non-AC ward in the afternoon.

Haque said that he complained about the absence of doctors to Nitor Director Prof Md Iqbal Qavi, when he came on the Eid day to monitor if patients were given special food.

"He then called a doctor from the emergency department to attend me. The doctor said they would do the dressing on Monday [yesterday]," said Haque.

But till 2:00pm yesterday, the dressing was not done, as no doctor came.

"I called a nurse and requested her to arrange for a dressing," he told The Daily Star later by phone.

He added that the nurse refused to do it because his wounds were serious and had a possibility of bleeding and therefore it must be attended by a doctor.

Asked about the patient, Administrative Officer Shah Md Saiful Islam said, "This was not supposed to happen. Perhaps the doctors were on rounds in other wards and the patients didn't find them."

A non-Muslim nurse said the two

post-operative wards of the hospital on the first and the third floors were closed during the Eid holidays.

"During holidays, OT patients with closed wounds are usually sent home and those with open wounds are kept at the wards on the ground floor," she said, requesting anonymity as she is not authorised to speak to the media.

In all, Nitor has 160 doctors and 294 nurses. Of them, 24 non-Muslim doctors and 75 non-Muslim nurses were attending about 360 patients admitted to the 500-bed hospital and the emergency medical service seekers during the Eid holidays, hospital sources said.

Contacted, the Nitor director said, "We gave roster duty to non-Muslim doctors and nurses. But in case of an emergency, the Muslims doctors and nurses who are in and around the capital would be called back."

Between 8:00pm on Friday and 4:30pm on Saturday, 36 operations took place at Nitor, which is a little less than in usual times, the sources said.

But the emergency rush was almost the same as in normal times. From 8:00am to 4:30pm on Saturday, 61 patients took emer-

gency care.

Although all Muslim doctors and nurses enjoyed the Eid holidays, lab technicians, operators, ward boys and caregivers were not so lucky.

Rafiqul Islam, who works in the X-ray section, said there were 10 technicians in his section -- all Muslims. "Four have gone on leave and the rest of us are working in two shifts."

DMCH

In Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), the biggest public hospital in the country, both Muslim and non-Muslim doctors worked in shifts.

Umme Salma, doing her FCPS in gynecology, was found attending patients at the emergency section on Friday afternoon.

"We need a huge manpower. So, it is not possible to run the hospital with non-Muslim doctors alone," she said.

On average, 800-plus nurses are on duty on a normal day. During this Eid vacation, 170 non-Muslim nurses took care of about 1,659 patients, said a nurse.

"We even have several Muslim nurses attending patients at neonatal and hemodialysis wards," she said.

However, Sharukh Khan Pias, 24, lying on the casualty ward on the ground floor, said the last time he saw a doctor was on Thursday morning, that too an intern.

He was shivering with a high fever. His wife Suraiya Akter said he was brought to the DMCH on July 10 after he was shot in the chest and waist by unidentified criminals.

Doctors, however, were seen in the admission wards of medicine department, ICU, CCU, OT and post-operative sections.

Khawza Abdul Gafur, assistant director (administration), claimed they had doctors in wards with serious patients.

CMCH

Three-year-old Esha Akter lay senseless on a bed in the Chittagong Medical College Hospital on the Eid day.

Admitted to the Child Health Ward with fever and breathing problems around a week ago, her condition deteriorated on Saturday morning.

Her father Md Musa said he looked for a senior doctor but found none.

"We were told that consultants or senior doctors would come on

Monday," he said.

The on-duty doctor gave her treatment but the parents were not convinced.

"If the senior doctors had been present, we would have been less worried," said Musa.

Visiting different wards, it was seen that specialist physicians were absent from the wards during the three-day vacation.

Contacted on Thursday, CMCH Deputy Director Khorsheda Shirin said non-Muslim doctors, including consultants, would work in shifts during the holidays.

But even the non-Muslim consultants did not visit the Medicine, Neuro Medicine, Child Health, Ear Nose and Throat, Paediatric Surgery, Ophthalmology, Nephrology, Cardiology, Surgery and Neuro Surgery wards during the vacation, patients alleged.

One or two junior doctors were seen in some wards during our multiple visits.

In the Nephrology ward, dialysis was not conducted on Saturday and Sunday. Patients with emergency condition had to go to private clinics for dialysis, sources said.