



This private helicopter had to make an emergency landing at a field in Kishoreganj's Bajitpur after a bird hit its windscreen yesterday. The chopper carrying six passengers, including five foreigners, was heading for Sylhet from the capital. None of them was hurt.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

CLASH OVER MAHFIL One killed in Sunamganj

A person was killed and at least 50 others were injured in a clash between two groups over arranging a mahfil in Chhatak municipality area in Sunamganj yesterday.

The victim was identified as Abdul Basit Babul, son of Abdul Jabbar of Bagbari area of the municipality and former convenor of municipality unit of Jubo League.

Asked, Suja Mamun, officer-in-charge of Chhatak police, said they did not receive the body as he died on way to MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Some of the injured were admitted to the same hospital, while others received treatment at Chhatak Upazila Health Complex and Sunamganj General Hospital, he added.

Arifuzzaman, upazila nirbahi officer of Chhatak, said the two groups, one based on Qaumi madrasa and the other followers of a spiritual leader of Fultali, were supposed to arrange the mahfil. At one stage, disagreement over some issues brought the two groups to a conflicting situation on Sunday evening, he added.

Both the groups locked in a clash around 2:30pm yesterday despite efforts by the police and local administration to ease the situation.

Additional police force was needed to disperse the groups after around an hour, the UNO added.

Harun-Ar-Rashid, superintendent of police of Sunamganj, said the law enforcers brought the situation under control by firing rubber bullets and gas.

He added adequate force had been deployed to avoid further incidents.

Husband jailed

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Asif's parents - Md Hossain Ramjan and Najmun Nahar Nazil - and Dr Jubaidur Rahman, assistant professor, forensic department of Rajshahi Medical College, as the charges brought against them were not proved.

The court also expressed disappointment over the investigation by four investigation officers for their failure to unearth the facts of the case.

While delivering the verdict, Judge Ahmed said the prosecution had failed to prove the charges of torturing and killing Sifat for dowry.

But the charge brought against Asif of provoking his wife to commit suicide was undoubtedly proved and he was sentenced to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment for committing the offence.

The court has also fined him Tk 10,000, in default of which he would have to serve six more months in prison.

Sifat, who was a student of journalism and mass communication, was found dead at her in-laws' house in Mahishbathan area of Rajshahi city on March 29, 2015.

Her uncle Mizanur Rahman filed a murder case with Rajpara police accusing Sifat's husband, father-in-law and mother-in-law of torturing and killing her for dowry.

The police pressed charges against the trio and also included the name of Dr Jubaidur Rahman bringing allegation of preparing a false autopsy report.

The case was later handed over to the Speedy Trial Tribunal, which began the trial proceedings on November 11 last year.

The battle

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According to the battle's official website, the orange fight has existed in one form or another since 1858. Huge crowds flock to the event annually, though the legend behind the actual insurrection is a bit murky.

As the most commonly told story would have it, a 12th century miller's daughter fought back against an evil baron when he came to her on the eve of her wedding to exercise his "jus primae noctis" -- a reference to medieval lords having the supposed right to have sexual relations with subordinate women.

Instead, the bride cut off the baron's head and paraded it all over town, sparking the uprising.

Today, that revolt is recreated with townspeople in medieval attire battling teams of the tyrant's guards in period dress, complete with protective helmets and masks.

The townspeople, on foot and without any protection, throw oranges at the guards, who fight back from carts drawn by masked horses.

Crates of oranges are tightly stacked one over the other stand on the sidewalks, and some spectators take refuge to avoid being hit by wayward pulp.

Wearing a red floppy hat marks you as a spectator and safe from flying fruit.

"It is a historical reconstruction of a real fact which happened several hundreds years ago with the revolt against a king," said Roberto, who participated in the battle. "In the last century, the battle is waged with oranges but before we were throwing stones, if you can imagine that."

Kimmel turned to Horowitz. "I would like to see you get an Oscar, anyway," he said. "Why can't we just give out a whole bunch of them?"

Horowitz demurred: "I'm going to be really proud to hand this to my friends from 'Moonlight,'" he said.

"That's nice of you," Kimmel said.

Beatty then stepped forward to the microphone to try to clear up the confusion: "Hello," he started.

"Warren, what did you do?!" Kimmel yelled.

People suffer for second day

FROM PAGE 16

Federation, yesterday said they would continue the strike until they have an assurance from the government that justice would be done about the sentencing of the bus driver.

Road Transport and Highways Division Secretary MAN Siddique told this newspaper last evening, "Workers enforced the strike following a court verdict. We have nothing to do with this."

The strike was enforced in the 10 districts from 6:00am Sunday over the sentencing of bus driver Jamir Hossain in a case filed over a road accident in 2011.

The additional district and sessions court in Manikganj on February 22 pronounced the verdict in presence of Jamir. The court held the 50-year-old guilty of reckless driving and negligence that led to the deaths of five people.

Among the dead were eminent filmmaker Tareque Masud and media personality Ashfaque Munir Mishuk.

According to transport operators, around 5 lakh people travel on about 4,500 buses to and from the capital to the 10 districts daily. Besides, around 3,000 trucks and covered vans carry goods on these routes daily.

STRIKE CONTINUES

In Khulna, no bus and truck plied the streets yesterday. A few three-wheelers ran on the roads, but some of them came under attack from transport workers.

Jubayer Rahman in the city's Baghara area said, "I along with one of my relatives took a battery-run easy-bike at Moylapota intersection. As the vehicle moved forward a few yards, protesters carrying sticks waylaid it.

"They forced all the passengers to get down. All of a sudden, they started beating the driver. Seeing the trouble, we came back home," he told The Daily Star.

Khulna resident Sanjoy Kundu also had to suffer badly. As there was no bus to Dhaka in the city, he hired a motorcycle for Tk 3,000 to travel to Kawrakandi ferry terminal of Madaripur.

A tripartite meeting of road transport owners, workers and district administration officials was held at Khulna Circuit House to discuss the

demands of transport workers. But the meeting did not yield any positive results, said meeting sources.

In Jessore, around 1,000 trucks laden with goods, including medicine, oxygen, onion and fish, were stranded at Benapole land port.

Loading and offloading of goods at the port remained stalled, while passengers from India were desperately looking for train tickets to reach their destinations.

"I had to travel from Benapole to Jessore on different modes of transport. I took battery-run three-wheelers, rickshaws and rickshaw-vans," said Narayan Chandra, who was on his way to the capital from India.

After reaching Jessore Railway Station, he took a train to Dhaka.

The government's revenue income at Benapole Customs House declined sharply as export of goods remained almost suspended.

"The government incurred a loss of over Tk 30 crore in revenue in the last two days from this port alone," said Shawkat Hossain, commissioner at Benapole Customs House.

A huge congestion of imported goods was created at the port, said Matiar Rahman, chairman of the port unit sub-committee of the India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

In Satkhira, around 200 goods-laden trucks were stranded at Bhomra land port.

Businessmen were suffering huge losses as perishable goods like fruits, vegetables and fish were rotting, said Nowshad Delwar, president of Clearing and Forwarding Agents Association at the port.

Many passengers were seen waiting for vehicles at Satkhira Bus Terminal.

Abul Hossain, who came from Kaliganj upazila on a battery-run easy-bike, said transport workers carrying sticks waylaid the vehicle.

The workers were about to beat the driver. However, the driver escaped the assault after paying them some money, claimed Abul.

Our correspondents in Khulna, Benapole and Satkhira contributed to this report.

This is not a joke!

FROM PAGE 16

the actual winners onstage to accept their award.



Wahida Sifat

Beatty went on to explain: "I want to tell you what happened. I opened the envelope and it said, Emma Stone, 'La La Land.'" (Stone had just won best actress moments before.)

"That's why I took such a long look at Faye, and at you. I wasn't trying to be funny," Beatty said to the audience.

"Well, you were funny," Kimmel said.

"This is 'Moonlight,' the best picture," Beatty said, turning the correct card around.

So, the cast of "Moonlight" took the stage, as the camera panned to more shocked celebrity faces in the audience. "Very clearly, even in my dreams this could not be true," director Barry Jenkins said. "But to hell with dreams! I'm done with it, because this is true. Oh, my goodness."

As cameras cut to the cast and crew of "La La Land" hugging, Beatty could be heard saying something like, "It says Emma Stone," while Dunaway said, "What?"

It would make (a little bit) of sense shortly.

The "La La Land" team arrived on stage, and producers Jordan Horowitz and Marc Platt delivered their speeches.

All of a sudden, there was a flurry of activity behind them. A man with a headset started talking to several people, as did Martha Ruiz, one of only two accountants in charge of tabulating Oscar ballots -- and therefore one of the only two people who knew all the winners before the show.

As people were conferring, film producer Fred Berger stepped up to the microphone. He thanked his family and director Damien Chazelle, and then he turned around to look at the sudden commotion behind him.

"We lost, by the way -- but, you know," he said, shrugging.

Behind him, Stone could be seen mouthing, "Oh, my God."

That's when Horowitz stepped forward again. "Guys, guys, I'm sorry. No. There's a mistake," he said. "'Moonlight,' you guys won best picture. This is not a joke."

"This is not a joke," another voice piped up. "I'm afraid they read the wrong thing."

Confused gasps and stunned silence from the crowd quickly turned into a standing ovation.

"This is not a joke," Horowitz repeated. "'Moonlight' has won best picture."

He held up the card that proved it: "Moonlight... Best Picture."

As the audience in the theatre and millions of viewers at home tried to process what happened, the cameras went to the cast of "Moonlight" in the crowd, clearly in shock and hugging each other.

Host Jimmy Kimmel arrived on stage to help sort things out, and crack jokes. "I think you guys should keep it anyway. Guys, this is very unfortunate what happened. Personally, I blame Steve Harvey for this," he said, naming the last person who made an epic mix-up on live TV.

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Horowitz demurred: "I'm going to be really proud to hand this to my friends from 'Moonlight,'" he said.

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An unpaid debt

FROM PAGE 2

When the procession reached Phulbaria in the capital's Gulistan, police put up barricades on both ends of the road and the truck came out from a road beside a nearby fire station and started following it.

Writer Prasanta Mridha narrates this in his article published in Bangla daily Prothom Alo recently. Walking at the back, Delwar and Selim stood no chance.

Delwar was very good at sports, especially in football...He used to lead a very simple life," said Fazlur, who is the Bhandaria upazila correspondent of a national daily.

Delwar and one of his brothers used

to bear their monthly living expenses in Dhaka from Tk 800 their father sent from farming.

On March 14, 1984, Ershad, then president, visited their village residence and offered Tk 50,000 to Delwar's parents.

"My father refused but he [Ershad] left leaving the money," said Fazlur. The family afterwards turned down several offers of assistance from the Ershad regime, he added.

A memorial now stands beside a Shaheed Minar in Bhandaria town, inaugurated on the fateful year by Sheikh Hasina, now the prime minister, while the family and Chhatak

League annually observe Shaheed Selim-Delwar Day.

Fazlur declined to comment on Jatiya Party being the main opposition in parliament with three lawmakers as cabinet members of the Awami League-led government.

Ershad, Jatiya Party's chairman, is the special adviser to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

"We want the government to establish a college or a school after him so that the new generation can know about his contribution," said Fazlur.

"At least name a road after him," he said.