

Jaywalking causes one more death on rail tracks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man with headphones pressed in his ears died as a train ran over him at a rail gate in the capital's Khilgaon yesterday.

The dead is Mizanur Rahman, 35, a businessman, Officer-in-Charge of Kamalapur Railway Police Station Yeasin Farroque told The Daily Star.

"The man was walking on the tracks with headphones in his ears. As a train approached him from behind, locals started to shout out to warn him.

Sadly, he could not hear and the train ran over him," said the OC.

The Daily Star has gathered its news reports on train accidents from 2008 to July 2015 and found out that over 50 percent of the deaths were caused because of careless jaywalkers.

It has also been observed that many of these people who walk on rail tracks often do so while talking on mobile phones or using headphones. This makes it difficult for them to hear the alarms.

A hundred railway-related deaths on average are reported every year, and half of these victims are jaywalkers.

In another study on road accidents in Dhaka carried out by The Daily Star, it was seen that 40 percent of the victims were jaywalkers.



Mohammad Jafar, a former Jubo League leader who was tortured allegedly in police custody, in handcuffs. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Cuffed man tortured

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feel comfortable to learn our lessons and play games." "In primary school the other children didn't like to make friends with us," says another student, Anil Basfore. "We were often ignored."

"We are extending all the assistance we can to develop the school," says community resident Ratan Basfore. "I wish the authorities concerned would help us."

In the meantime, the Harijan community is doing everything it can to realise a dream that many parents can take for granted: that their children will one day be in prime position to stand on their own two feet, heads held high. "With proper education our children can establish themselves well in this society and overcome all social barriers," says Rajesh.

Another man is seen pressing hard a log placed just above Jafar's right ankle with his feet. Blood oozes from the victim's leg and he keeps groaning in pain.

The man then puts the log on Jafar's left leg and starts doing the same thing. At one point, he stands up on it.

Throughout the time, the man repeatedly asks Jafar about what appears to be some firearms. Jafar keeps saying that he doesn't have any arms.

Holding the man's legs with his handcuffed hands, the former Jubo League leader desperately asks for mercy. However, the man is unmoved and continues to torture him.

Another man, who was filming the incident, addresses the torturer as "sir" and asks Jafar to listen to him. He is also heard threatening the victim that he will be killed if he does not listen to the man torturing him.

Voice of another man can be heard. However, none of the faces of those three men is seen in the video.

From the clip, it is not clear where and when the incident happened but Jafar's wife Kulsum Begum alleges that her husband was tortured at Sandwip Police Station on March 23.

Talking to The Daily Star recently, Kulsum, mother of three girls, said Jafar was arrested the same day in an arms case, which was filed by "bribing police".

According to her, Jafar's political rivals who also belong to Jubo League, the youth wing of ruling Awami League, were behind all this.

"The torture on my husband seen in the video clip is just a tip of the iceberg. He was tortured even more inhumanely," Kulsum said.

She also claimed that she went to visit Jafar at the police station the next day. There, she saw her husband "who

could barely walk due to the torture".

Two days later, Kulsum claimed, she again met Jafar for a brief period near a Chittagong court, where he told her about the torture "by some members of Sandwip Police Station".

Contacted, Sandwip Police Station Sub-inspector Abdur Rashid, who filed the arms case against Jafar, rejected the allegations. He claimed he was unaware of anyone being tortured in police custody.

Shamshul Islam, officer-in-charge of the police station, echoed the SI's statement and said Jafar was accused in around eight cases, including one for murder.

He said Jafar was currently in a Noakhali jail. He was taken there in connection with the murder case filed in 2015.

As per the statement of the arms case, Jafar is a listed criminal. He was arrested on March 23 after he opened fire on a police team, which was raiding a place in Sandwip to arrest some criminals.

On information gleaned from him, police later recovered four guns and two sharp weapons from another place, said the statement.

Talking to this correspondent over phone, Jafar's wife Kulsum, however, claimed that her husband was being framed. She also demanded justice for him.

Jafar Ullah Titu, youth and sports secretary of Chittagong Awami League (North), said Jafar was the president of the previous Jubo League ward committee in Sandwip municipality.

According to Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013, torture in police custody is a punishable act. It says such torture means any act that inflicts physical or mental pain (of any person). The Article 15 of the law states that the punishment of torture is five years imprisonment or at least Tk 50,000 fine or both.

Cassini goes thru

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Cassini zipped through the gap at 9:00am GMT on Wednesday, coming within about 3,000km of Saturn's upper atmosphere and 300km of the visible edge of the innermost rings, Nasa officials said.

The probe crossed the ring plane at about 124,000 km/h relative to Saturn, they added -- fast enough that a collision with even a small particle could have seriously damaged Cassini. To minimise that possibility, the spacecraft used its dish-shaped, four meters wide high-gain antenna as a shield during the dive.

Because the antenna was oriented toward incoming particles, Cassini couldn't communicate with Earth as it dove. The probe was programmed to gather science data during the plunge and then re-establish contact with mission controllers 20 hours later, Nasa officials said. It currently takes 78 minutes for signals to travel from Cassini to its handlers here on Earth.

"No spacecraft has ever been this close to Saturn before. We could only rely on predictions, based on our experience with Saturn's other rings, of what we thought this gap between the rings and Saturn would be like," Cassini project manager Earl Maize, of Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, said in the same statement.

"I am delighted to report that Cassini shot through the gap just as we planned and has come out the other

side in excellent shape," Maize added.

Cassini is scheduled to perform 21 more of these dives during the current "Grand Finale" phase of its mission, with the events occurring about once every week. The next plunge will come on May 2.

The \$3.2 billion Cassini-Huygens mission -- a joint effort involving Nasa, the European Space Agency and the Italian Space Agency -- launched in October 1997 and reached the Saturn system in July 2004. Huygens was a piggyback lander that touched down on Saturn's largest moon, Titan, in January 2005.

Cassini has made a series of remarkable discoveries during its nearly 13 years of orbiting the ringed planet. For example, the probe spotted seas of liquid hydrocarbons on Titan and geysers of water ice, as well as organic molecules and other materials blasting from the south polar region of fellow Saturn satellite Enceladus. Further Cassini observations have revealed that Enceladus harbors a potentially habitable ocean of liquid water beneath its icy shell.

But Cassini is running out of fuel, and its mission will soon come to an end. The spacecraft will perform an intentional death dive into Saturn's thick atmosphere on September 15, to ensure that it doesn't contaminate Titan or Enceladus, both of which may be capable of supporting life, with microbes from Earth.

Russian spy ship sinks off Turkey after collision

AFP, Istanbul

A Russian naval spy ship yesterday sank in the Black Sea off Turkey's coast after hitting a Togo-flagged vessel packed with livestock but all of its 78 crew were rescued by Turkish coastguards.

The Russian military said the Liman -- a former research ship refitted as an intelligence vessel -- had a hole ripped out of its hull in the early afternoon incident.

The collision took place in fog outside the northwestern entrance to the Bosphorus Strait, one of the world's biggest shipping thoroughfares that passes through Istanbul into the Sea of Marmara.

The Turkish coastguard said in a statement that the collision involved the Togo-flagged vessel Youzarsif H which was carrying a cargo of livestock.

It said that of 78 Russian personnel on board the ship, 63 were rescued by the Turkish coastguard and the other 15 by the Youzarsif H itself.

They were then transferred to a Turkish military ship, it said, without giving further details. "All the personnel were evacuated," it said.

Turkish media said the Youzarsif suffered minor damage and went on its way after the incident.

The Russian defence ministry confirmed the ship had gone down and said the crew were safe and would be taken from a Turkish vessel back onto a Russian ship.

Turkish news agency Dogan said the area where the ships collided was shrouded in thick fog at the time, suggesting that the incident was accidental.

Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim spoke to his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev by phone over the incident, describing it as an accident and expressing his sadness, the state-run Anadolu news agency said.

It was not known where the Liman was sailing from or its destination.

The ship was built as a hydrography research vessel in 1970 but turned into a spy ship in 1989 and armed with an Igla missile launcher, according to public records.

Heavy rains

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with corruption. "We're strictly monitoring the issue. We've formed three investigation committees to look into the allegations of corruption, if any."

He also emphasised the importance of excavating and dredging rivers and taking up new plans for building embankments to maintain the natural flow of water, saying it could be a natural solution to the problem.

The minister mentioned that the assessment of the blue economic resources in the maritime zone using innovative technologies was an essential and potential sector to accelerate the economic growth rate to turn Bangladesh into a middle-income country by 2021.

He said local investors should come forward first and invite foreign investors to invest in this new potential sector.

Rear admiral (retd) Khurshed Alam, secretary (maritime affairs) of the foreign ministry, presented the keynote paper at the seminar.

Engineer Akber Hakim, coordinating director of DCCI standing committee on country competitiveness (New Economy-FDI, Branding, Big B, Blue Economy), and Golam Shafuiddin, additional secretary of Blue Economy Cell, spoke at the programme among other panellists.

Moulvibazar

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Talking to The Daily Star, Bangladesh Bird Club founder and renowned bird researcher Enam Ul Haque said large-tailed nightjar is a nocturnal bird. Its scientific name is *Caprimulgus macrurus*.

The bird is around 33 centimetres in length, dark brown in colour. They have long slender wings, long tails, short legs and short bills. Nightjars spend most of the day sleeping on the ground, in dried leaves. They lay two eggs between March and May, he said.

The bird feeds predominantly on moths. There are 17,000 species of butterflies and 1.3 lakh species of moths in the world. But their number is fast dwindling, causing a food crisis for large-tailed nightjars, Enam said.

Ten years ago, he said, this bird species could be easily found in Lawachhara forest. "In the evening, we frequently heard the calls of nightjars. But they are rarely seen now."

Other birds of the large-tailed nightjar family are great eared nightjar, grey nightjar, Indian nightjar and savanna nightjar. Very few large-tailed nightjars and grey nightjars are seen in the country.

Tabibur Rahman, assistant conservator of wildlife management and nature conservation department in Moulvibazar, said deforestation was the main reason behind the food shortage of wildlife in Lawachhara.

Joly Paul, president of Lawachhara Bon O Jibo Boichitro Rokha Andolon, echoed Tabibur.

Nurul Mohmain Milton, general secretary of Environmentalist Journalist Forum, said the authorities concerned should stop deforestation in the forest and protect wildlife like large-tailed nightjar.

Maheshkhali declared

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the country's mainland as well to the entire world.

"Moheshkhali is a treasure, but we couldn't properly utilise it," said the PM.

Zunaid Ahmed Palak, state minister for ICT, said the island is famous for fisheries, betel leaf and salt, but the local farmers hardly can market the products due to lack of communication channels.

"We've already set up an e-commerce centre over there where traders and farmers can train themselves and open a new window for businesses," the state minister said from Moheshkhali when the PM launched the project through videoconferencing from the Gono Bhaban.

The Bangladesh government, Korea Telecom (KT) and International Organisation for Migration (IOM) are jointly implementing the Tk 22.35 crore project, which is scheduled to be completed by September next year.

The scheme will not only provide high speed broadband connection to all institutions of the island, but also improve the access to information technology for the people.

The broadband connectivity will also enable the island's 4 lakh people to get access to e-services in agriculture, education and health as well as other services of the government.

Under this project, 25 educational and local government institutions are already connected to high speed internet, said Palak.

The government was also taking support from different non-government organisations and mobile phone operators for the project. It was also looking for some other partners who could create an impact on improving people's lives, he added.

According to the state minister, the

KT and IOM would monitor the infrastructure and services.

Earlier in February last year, the ICT Division inked a memorandum of understanding with the KT at Mobile World Congress to turn the island into a digital island.

Palak said the rate of education was very low in Moheshkhali and the government targeted to turn the uneducated people into human resources.

"Within the next few years, Moheshkhali will have power pants and a seaport. So, a lot of skilled manpower would be required and local people could be a resource," he added.

Hasina said her government planned to introduce the digital system in the country's other remote areas in phases.

"More facilities would be available for us when Bangladesh's first satellite would be launched into orbit," she told the programme.

Due to the project, the entire world would come under the grip of Moheshkhali people who would be able to know the world and maintain contact with others at home and abroad.

The PM said people would get better education and healthcare facilities, while a huge employment opportunity would be created through the implementation of the project.

IOM Chief of Mission Sarat Chandra Das and Cox's Bazar Deputy Commissioner Ali Hossain also spoke from Moheshkhali while CEO and Chairman of Korean Telecom Chang-gyu Hwang addressed from Seoul, South Korea.

Prime Minister's Adviser HT Imam, State Minister for Telecommunications Tarana Halim and South Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh Ahn Seong-doo were present at the Gono Bhaban.

US vows to force

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"All options are on the table. We want to bring Kim Jong-Un to his senses, not to his knees."

During a White House luncheon with UN Security Council ambassadors Monday, Trump "was very clear that he will be the president who will deal with" North Korea and that military action remains an option, a senior diplomat said.

National security adviser HR McMaster told the 15 ambassadors that "there would be a military solution even if they don't want to do it," the diplomat said.

The message was "ideally we do this peacefully and politically, which means through China. But if that doesn't work, there is another plan, which is through the United States," said the diplomat, who asked not to be named.

Separately, a senior administration official told AFP that the United States is considering adding North Korea to its list of countries that are designated as "state sponsors of terrorism."

US troops in South Korea began on Wednesday deploying a contentious anti-missile system in South Korea that has infuriated China.

The Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system is being set up on a former golf course in the southern county of Seongju, and its arrival was met by hundreds of protesters, some of whom clashed with police.

Harris said the THAAD system "will be operational in the coming days."

China fears THAAD will weaken its own ballistic capabilities and says it upsets the regional security balance.

Harris also said the Pentagon should weigh whether to install missile interceptors on Hawaii, which could be one of the first parts of the United States in range of an improved North Korean missile, in addition to existing

interceptors in California and Alaska.

Pentagon officials have stressed to Trump that there are no easy options for military intervention in North Korea.

Senator Tammy Duckworth, a former US military helicopter pilot who lost both legs in combat in Iraq, was dismissive of what she and colleagues heard at the White House briefing on North Korea.

"I could've gotten all that information by reading a newspaper," she told CNN. "It felt more like a dog and pony show to me than anything else."

Washington has deployed an aircraft carrier strike group to the peninsula amid signs the North could be preparing for a sixth nuclear test.

The deployment drew widespread derision after it emerged that instead of steaming toward the peninsula, the ships actually headed in the opposite direction for a few days to train with the Australian navy.

Harris said the USS Carl Vinson strike group was now in the Philippine Sea just east of Okinawa, "in striking range and power projection range of North Korea if called upon to do that."

Congressman Mac Thornberry, who heads the House Armed Services Committee, said there is "tremendous confidence" among administration officials on dealing with North Korea.

In Pyongyang's latest display of its military capabilities, Kim oversaw the country's largest-ever firing drill to mark the founding anniversary of its military, state-run media said Wednesday.

Seoul held a large annual drill of its own, involving some 100 artillery pieces, 90 armored vehicles and 50 aircraft, as well as 2,000 South Korean and US troops, the defense ministry said.

Department of Environment Implementation of National Biosafety Framework of Bangladesh (INBF) E/16, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207		
Invitation for Tender		
1	Ministry/division	Ministry of Environment and Forests.
2	Agency	Department of Environment.
3	Procuring entity name	INBF Project, Department of Environment.
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6	Invitation tender for	Designing and Printing of Biosafety Documents.
7	Invitation No.	DOE/INBF Project/printing & publication/59/2015/269
8	Date	27/04/2017
KEY INFORMATION		
9	Procuring method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget/source of fund	United Nations Environment Programme-Global Environment Facility (UNEP-GEF).
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
11	Tender package No.	GD-11
12	Tender package name	Printing and Publication.
13	Tender publication date	28/04/2017.
14	Tender last submission date	11/05/2017 up to 5:00pm.
15	Tender submission date & time	11/05/2017 up to 11:00am.
16	Tender opening date & time	14/05/2017 at 11:30am.
17	Name & address of the office selling, receiving & opening of tender documents	INBF Project, Department of Environment, E/16, Agargaon, Dhaka.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
18	Eligibility of tenderer	a. The tenderer shall have a minimum of 10 (ten) years of overall experience in the designing and printing of documents. b. The tenderer shall have successfully completed minimum five (5) numbers of supply contract on designing and printing documents. c. The tenderer must have own printing press with high quality machines.
19	Brief description of goods	Designing and Printing of Biosafety Documents.
20	Brief description of related services	Designing, printing and supply all documents.
21	Price of tender document (Tk)	Cash BDT. 1000.00 (one thousand) only.
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GD-896		