

# 7 killed as train hits autorickshaw in Jamalpur

FOUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Seven people were killed and another man was badly injured when a battery-run autorickshaw was hit by a train at Chandra level crossing in Jamalpur yesterday evening.

The deceased are Sanuar Hossain, 28, Intaj Ali, 45, Hossain Ali, 45, and Faridul, 42, of Kamapur in Jamalpur, Mir Hossain, 30, and driver Abdur Rahim, 45, of Chandra area and Saleha Begum, 40, of Shahpur area in the town.

Nasimul Islam, an officer-in-charge of Jamalpur Sadar Police Station, said the accident took place around 6:30pm when the Dewanganj-bound local train from Mymensingh slammed into the three-wheeler at the level crossing.

The train dragged the auto-rickshaw about 25 to 30 feet away from the level crossing before dislodging it in a ditch beside the rail tracks.

One of the eight passengers of the three-wheeler died on the spot while the rest on way to hospitals and at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCCH), he added.

Navsher Ali, father of victim Hossain Ali, said his son died around 8:30pm on way to the MMCCH.

Injured Gul Bob, 45, was undergoing treatment at the hospital last night.



Deposed Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif waves to supporters from his car as he begins a rally from Islamabad to Lahore in Islamabad yesterday. Story on page 8.

# After murder

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On Monday, Sirajganj Sadar police recovered the body of Sathi, 18, an HSC second-year college student, from a field in Jagatgati village. Sathi was killed by slitting her throat, said police.

Later, Badal filed a case with Sirajganj Sadar Police Station, accusing unknown people, and police were investigating the incident, said OC Helal, adding that the probe became complicated as the complainant took his life.

Keeping Sathi at home alone, Badal along with his wife and son went to another place on Sunday night. It was not clear to police why they did it, said Miraz Uddin Ahmed, Sirajganj police superintendent.

When Badal was asked to come to Sirajganj Police Station on Tuesday for the sake of investigation, he did not come, the SP said, adding that this aroused suspicion about Badal's role in the incident.

The SP said after primary investigation, they suspected that the girl was killed over family dispute or any family tension, and her father later killed himself to get rid of shock he was going through.

He added that they would not say anything about the incidents before completion of investigation.

# Rogue elephant tramples 15 to death in India

AFP, New Delhi

An elephant that has killed 15 people in eastern India over a months-long rampage could be shot within days if it is not brought under control, an official said yesterday.

Wildlife rangers and hunters assembled in Jharkhand after another victim was trampled to death Tuesday evening, the state's chief forest and wildlife conservator L.R. Singh told AFP.

The rogue elephant crushed four children in Bihar state in March before crossing into neighbouring Jharkhand and killing 11 more.

"Villagers are living in fear, especially the Paharia tribe that lives on the upper hillside regions where the elephant roams. Something must be done," Singh said, referring to one of the poorest indigenous tribal communities in eastern India.

"We have a team of experts and hunters here with us, one of them is shooting an animal. But that's the last resort and we will take a call in a day or two."

The marauding elephant likely wandered from its herd and became lost, straying into villages where the killings took place.

Elephants kill roughly 60 people every year in forested Jharkhand, Singh said, just a fraction of the estimated 1,100 who died nationwide from leopard or tiger attacks in the three-year period.

The environment ministry estimates a person dies every day in India in clashes with these endangered, jungle-dwelling animals – the vast majority crushed by elephants.

Violent encounters between elephants and humans were an "increasing trend," said Singh, as vast swathes of forests are cleared for human settlements or industry.

# Teacher damages

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"The cane hit my son's left eye, which bled from the inside," he said, adding, "But the teacher, without taking him for any primary treatment, just sent him home with one of his classmates."

"How can a teacher be like that? He caned my son which he legally cannot do and thereafter did not take any initiative for his primary treatment," said Kamruzzaman, adding that there were some hospitals, including the Navy Hospital, adjacent to the school. My son was not taken there, he said.

"When my son returned home I was shocked to see him. His left eye was bleeding. We rushed him to Chittagong Medical College Hospital and then to Chevron Eye Hospital in the city."

"The doctors said blood had clotted in his eye and advised us to take him to the capital. We took him to United Hospital in Dhaka on August 1, but the doctors there said the lens of his eye had been damaged badly and he needed to undergo a surgery."

"We have decided to take him abroad and been waiting to get his passport," he said, adding, "After the incident, my son cannot see anything with his left eye."

Contacted, Prof Faridul Hasan of Ophthalmology department at United Hospital said as far as he could remember, the left eye of the boy was very badly injured.

"We suggested some further tests," he said, adding that perhaps a surgery would be required ultimately. "I think visual recovery is possible," he said.

Capf (retg) MD Sabur, principal of BEZA School and College, said the teacher was suspended following a written complaint from the parents.

"The teacher said he did not cane the boy but tried to frighten another boy when it unfortunately hit Mashraf's eye," he said.

"We formed a probe body on Tuesday to investigate the incident," he said yesterday.

Mashraf's father filed a case against the teacher with a Chittagong court on Sunday.

Police arrested Arif Billah on Monday at his house, said Abdul Basbar, officer-in-charge of EPZ Police Station.

A Chittagong court sent Arif to jail after they had produced him before it on Tuesday, the OC added.

# South Africa's Zuma counts cost after surviving vote

AFP, Johannesburg

South African opposition leaders piled pressure on President Jacob Zuma yesterday after a parliamentary vote of no confidence exposed deep rifts in his ANC party as it readies for a leadership battle.

Zuma survived the attempt to oust him, but he was weakened after at least 30 African National Congress lawmakers voted on Tuesday for a motion that would have forced him to resign.

The 75-year-old is due to step down as head of the party in December, and as national president before the 2019 general election.

Whoever succeeds him as party leader would be likely to be the next South African president, and Tuesday's vote underlined the fierce struggle for control of the party once led by anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela.

Zuma is seen as favouring his ex-wife, former African Union chief Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, to take over, ahead of Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa.

"The opposition will now step up its campaign against Zuma – he is the symbol that they use to scare voters away from the ANC," Achille Mbembe, political analyst at Wits University in Johannesburg, told AFP.

"This is the end of the post-colonial story when the liberation movement comes to power but then loses its legitimacy."

On Tuesday, Zuma secured 198 votes against 177 for the opposition motion, which would have needed 201 votes to gain a majority and oust him – and his entire cabinet.

Many analysts said the vote, which was held by secret ballot, was closer than expected.

"Jacob Zuma survived yet again, protected by the party that elected him twice and shielded him from accountability countless times," Mmosei Maimane, leader of the main opposition Democratic Alliance party, said Wednesday.

"It was the first time in 23 years of democracy that such a number of ANC MPs broke rank," he said, calling for early elections.

Julius Malema, head of the Economic Freedom Fighters party, said: "Our work is now bringing some positive results... We will eat this elephant piece by piece."

Criticism of Zuma from within the ANC has grown amid multiple corruption scandals and South Africa's mounting economic woes.

Several opposition parties led thousands of anti-Zuma protesters outside the national assembly before Tuesday's vote, while supporters of the president held a rival march.

# Hajj mess

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Some 127,198 pilgrims from Bangladesh are scheduled to perform hajj this year.

The national flag carrier's hajj flights would continue until August 26.

"Sending of all pilgrims might be very tough for us if we are forced to cancel more hajj flights in the coming days," said the Biman boss, adding, "There is a possibility of cancelling three more flights in the next two or three days."

The Biman boss called upon the authorities concerned to extend their all-out cooperation to send all pilgrims to Saudi Arabia.

Asked, he said a section of hajj agencies' failure and irresponsibility in arranging accommodation for pilgrims in Saudi Arabia was one of the main reasons behind hajj flight cancellations.

"Although there are many pilgrims who have got their visas and are waiting to go to Saudi Arabia, the respective hajj agencies didn't ensure their tickets as they are yet to ensure pilgrims' accommodation in Saudi Arabia," he added.

He said as far as he knew, pilgrims of other countries do not face such sufferings. "In other countries, most of the pilgrims are sent to hajj under the government management. But in our country, most of the pilgrims perform hajj under private hajj management."

14 LANDING SLOTS

At yesterday's briefing, the Biman boss said they got permission from the Civil Aviation Authority of Saudi Arabia to operate 14 special hajj flights to cope with those who had missed their flights. Around 4,687 pilgrims would be able to go to Saudi Arabia in the flights.

But he said of the 14 landing slots, Biman would not be able to use more than seven to eight slots due to shortage of aircraft and inconvenient flight schedules.

"We'll ask the Saudi government to arrange more convenient slots so that we can operate all special hajj flights," he added.

# Woman

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The court will confirm the name of the doctor in question.

Sayedur Rahman Bhuiyan, officer-in-charge of Puthia Police Station, however, said they detained a nurse – Marufa Khatun – over the incident.

The clinic's owner Mansur Rahman, who was also present during the surgery, was absconding as well, he said.

Panna's husband Alam Sarder told this correspondent that his wife was admitted to the clinic around 12noon yesterday. On Mansur's advice, he took her to the caesarean section.

The surgery began just after 4:00pm. Suddenly, Mansur came out and asked Alam to arrange blood for Panna.

"Around 6:30pm, I saw the doctor, Mansur and another person secretly hurrying away from the building. A few minutes later, a clinic staffer told me that my wife was dead," said the man, who was fainting again and again.

UNO Nazma Nahar said a clinic staffer told her that Panna died soon after the operation began and the doctor was new to the clinic.

The OC said police were trying to arrest the clinic owner first. "Once we arrest him, we will know everything about the doctor."

# Govt considers

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Fakhrul said people's opinion was reflected in the SC's observation.

"There was a discussion in the cabinet meeting after the release of the full verdict. I don't know whether the way the ministers talked in the meeting was tantamount to contempt of court."

Terminating the verdict a historic one, he said the judgment clearly said about the current political situation of the country. "It was their [Awami League] responsibility to protect democracy. But they have become a monster and destroying everything."

Speaking at another programme, Atiya Samajtantrik Dal President ASM Abdur Rob said mobilising public opinion against the judiciary and announcing war against the court was a dreadful act.

"Those who are in the government have already committed contempt of court. If anyone files a case, it will be accepted. It is dangerous to threaten the judiciary. Its consequences would be beyond imagination," he told a discussion hosted by Nagorki Oikya at the Jatiya Press Club.

Eminent jurist Shahdeen Malik said, "It has been proved through this judgment that the judiciary is independent and it has a strong mentality to pronounce a verdict independently."

He observed the future of article 70 of the constitution was not very bright.

Former Nagorki Oikya, alleged that the government was trying to "bring the full verdict to the street" which was a dangerous intention.

"The judiciary didn't give any verdict against the government. The judiciary tried to give a directive considering all the aspects since the country's independence and it should be followed."

He also said the way the AL men were reacting to the verdict was outrageous. "We think right now all the political and social organisations and people should thank the judiciary for the historic verdict and stand by it."

# BNP out to make AL

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Khasru said the verdict given by the SC cannot be a matter of a debate and politics.

But the AL was witnessing that some BNP leaders, including Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and Moudud Ahmed, were giving provocative speeches and they were out to do politics over the verdict, which was regrettable, he said.

"We are trying to clarify that they are giving different explanations by distorting the verdict intentionally to serve their political interests," said Khasru, also a former law minister.

The BNP is saying that the government should step down. However, no mention was made in the verdict that the government is illegal. The court should take action against them, he said.

Law Affairs Secretary SM Rezaul Karim said, "We are reviewing the scrapping of the 16th constitutional amendment. The party is working on whether it should file a revision petition or seek exclusion of part of the verdict."

The SC in its 16th amendment verdict observed, "No nation-country is made of or by one person."

It also said if parliament is not mature enough, it would be a suicidal attempt to give the House the power of removing judges of the higher judiciary.

Referring to these observations, Rezaul said even the Razakars of 1971 Liberation War period would admit that the country was liberated under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

These were unexpected and unwarranted, he said, adding that these were not related to the subject matter of the case.

The lawyer alleged that the BNP distorted the judgment and the SC should take suo moto action against its leaders.

Khasru said no country in the world witnessed such a debate over a SC verdict.

Meanwhile, Commerce Minister Toaf Ahmed has said those who want to "bring an unconstitutional force to state power" are trying to demean the politicians.

"Who wants to undermine the

# Road minister

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traffic movement, drivers and passengers alleged.

The minister earlier yesterday drove his BHD officials road to make all damaged roads useable and passable within seven to 10 days, reports our Targal correspondent.

"Otherwise, punitive measures will be taken against the officials concerned," he warned while talking to journalists at Dhaka Bypass point.

The minister instructed the engineers and contractors to repair the roads at night when the volume of traffic is low.

He also said expansion of the Joydebpur-Elenga four-lane highway has already been completed at several areas. But trucks have been occupying the extended part of the road.

"If such is the case, it will not yield any benefit even after construction a 16-lane highway," he observed.

# Duterte announces bounties on rogue cops

AFP, Manila

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte yesterday announced "dead-or-alive" bounties worth \$40,000 each for policemen he accused of helping an accused narco-politician, and said he would reward those who kill them.

The call for police officers to kill their colleagues is the latest inflammatory comment by Duterte in his controversial drug war, which has claimed thousands of lives, and comes shortly after a meeting with US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson.

On Sunday, The Daily Star published a report with a Dhaka Metropolitan Police's list of godfathers and patrons of a bay trade that includes a section of corrupt policemen.

A Police Headquarters source said departmental inquiry was underway against 193 policemen from the capital and other parts of the country who actions have already been taken against 13 for their links with drug traders and taking bribe.