

Tabligh factions' clash spells misery for commuters

2 run over by train in Khilkhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yesterday's clash between two factions of Tablighi Jamaat not just brought sufferings to commuters, but also ended up claiming lives of two commuters, who died as a train ran them over in Khilkhet area while they were walking on the tracks to avoid the road blockade.

Besides, following the clash near Uttara that claimed a life and left scores injured, thousands of city commuters suffered due to the nearly seven hours of traffic congestion on Airport Road.

The deceased are Ishak Mia, 25, and Atik Hosen Chowdhury, 43, Rezaul Islam, sub-inspector of Dhaka Railway Police Station, told The Daily Star. The Netrokona-bound train ran them over around 2:50pm, he said.

They used work as marketing officials and were heading towards Uttara for work purposes.

Meanwhile, many citizens, including children and elderly women, had to take long walks to reach their destinations as buses and other means of transportation could barely move on the road after a group blockaded the road around 9:00am near the airport intersection.

Amid the severe gridlock, passengers of some domestic and international flights failed to reach the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on time, said staffers of the airport.

Some passengers were seen riding on ridesharing motorbikes to reach the airport, carrying heavy luggage.

Vehicular movement on the road returned to normal around 3:45pm when the blockade was lifted following intervention by the law enforcers.

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A faction of Tablighi Jamaat block the road in front of the Dhaka airport yesterday after a clash with their rival faction. As it created a serious transport crisis, commuters scramble to get on a pickup van. One of the worst victims of the situation, this woman with a child had been standing there for about three hours when the blockade was underway. The clash also left this car and motorbike vandalised on the Ijtima grounds. After end of the violence, two men pray on the grounds where many devotees left their belongings.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Fake news can be a big challenge during nat'l polls

Says top DMP official, asks media to be careful

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fake news and rumours can be a big challenge during the upcoming national election, and that's why police have planned to set up district-level media cells to control the spread of rumours centring polls, said Dhaka Metropolitan Police's (DMP) Additional Commissioner Monirul Islam.

"After verifying information, these cells will coordinate with the media cell in Dhaka so that it can provide a quick response to the mainstream media about alleged

rumours," added the DMP official.

He was speaking at a discussion titled "National Election: Role of Broadcast Media in Checking Rumours and Violence", organised by Media Museum of Bangladesh and held at a restaurant in the city's Segun Bagicha yesterday.

"There is an apprehension of violence by spreading rumours centring the upcoming national polls. Some groups in the country and abroad are active to spread rumours," Monirul said, citing examples from past experience.

He said rumours are of two types:

"innocent rumours" that don't create any violence, and "intentional" ones, intended to create anarchy. "It's [intentional rumours] a big challenge," the DMP official added.

Monirul said reporters should verify information with their own sources before publishing it.

According to the Election Commission's instructions, no one can take videos or pictures inside voting centres. "In that case, there should not be any misunderstanding with polls officials. It's just a duty for them," Monirul added.

Rahul Raha, head of news at private TV station Channel 24, said a reporter should report what he is seeing. "If they are barred from entering the voting centre, they will say that. But they should not assume anything," he said.

Badiul Alam Majumdar, Secretary of Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan) said he too is a victim of fake news, as some online portals spread propaganda about him and his organisation, when his residence was attacked in August.

He also said if fake news could

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'Will work for the 99pc of population if voted to power'

CPB pledges in electoral manifesto

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday pledged to work for the economic development of 99 percent of the country's people if voted to power.

CPB President Mujahidul Islam Selim made the promise as he unveiled the party's 30-point manifesto for the 11th national election, titled "Vision-Liberation War 71" from a press conference at the party's Mukti Bhaban office in the capital's Purana Paltan.

He alleged that the two major political alliances -- led by AL and BNP -- are similar groups, as both are protecting the rights of only a single percent of people in the country.

"CPB will work to reach an economic

advancement to the country's 99 percent people instead of serving the interest of only a single percent," he added.

Claiming that a free and fair election is not possible under the current system, CPB in its manifesto pledged to bring a constitutional amendment containing the provisions of election-time government.

Selim alleged that the political parties have been asked to keep confidence on the prime minister, as she had said the administration is now being run as per so called routine work, although there is no provision in the constitution in this regard.

"If we have to keep confidence on Sheikh Hasina during the election, then what is the need of the constitution?" He questioned.

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Family members of late Mayor Annisul Huq and DNCC officials unveil a plaque naming a road in Tejgaon after him yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

DNCC names Satrasta-Tejgaon road after Mayor Annisul Huq

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) yesterday named the Satrasta-Tejgaon Railgate road after late Mayor Annisul Huq, marking his first death anniversary.

Unveiling the nameplate of the road, Rubana Huq, wife of Mayor Annisul Huq urged the people concerned to keep the road free from occupation of trucks and covered vans, to ensure smooth traffic movement on the road -- a sign of respect to the late mayor.

"It is not possible for one person to clean any rubbish. Humans can acquire nothing unless they are united. He [Mayor Annisul Huq] could do this impossible task as he was blessed with the affection of the prime minister," said Rubana Huq.

He thanked everybody concerned for naming the road after Annisul Huq.

Speaking on the occasion, DNCC panel mayor Jamal Mostafa said, "When we come on a visit, we find this road clean and non-occupied. But it becomes occupied when we leave. However, I hope the concerned people of the truck stand will stay alert to keep it unoccupied from now."

Former army chief Abu Belal Muhammad Shafiq Huq;

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Submit list of officials you want transferred

Quader to BNP

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said BNP should submit a list of officials who they want transferred ahead of the election, to the EC.

"Instead of making wholesale allegations, they should submit a list of the officials who they want to be transferred," Quader said.

He was talking to reporters after a meeting with cultural personalities at a city hotel.

About Jatiya Oikyafront chief Dr Kamal Hossain's call on people to guard polling stations on election day, he said, "If anyone resorts to violence in the name of guarding polling centres, not only our party men, but also people will resist them."

Fight over loot sharing behind murder

Say police about 2 bodies recovered from Uttara in Oct

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two youths, whose decomposed bodies were recovered from a field in Dhaka's Uttara in October, were killed over a feud centring on sharing looted money, said police.

"A gang of inter-district robbers killed two of their members following a conflict over distribution of looted money," Mashiur Rahman, deputy commissioner of Detective Branch of police, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Detectives claimed to have unearthed the information after arresting two members -- Monir Hossain, 27, and Md Farid, 25 -- of the gang, who allegedly took part in the killing. A team of DB (north) arrested the duo from Dhaka's Adabar and Shanir Akhra areas on Friday night, he said.

On October 20, Turag police

recovered decomposed bodies of two youths from the field at Uttara's sector-16.

Relatives of the deceased identified the bodies as Kamal Hossain, 24, and Imon Sheikh, 25, at Suhrawardy Medical College morgue, a day after the incident.

Imon's wife said her husband was not involved with any robbery gang. "Imon was a transport worker. His cellphone was found switched off, a week before his body was recovered."

Police, however, claimed Kamal was wanted in two cases filed with Sadarpur and Nagarkanda police stations in Faridpur while Imon was wanted in a case filed with Nagarkanda station.

Sumon Kanti Chowdhury, assistant commissioner of DB police, said both the deceased and arrestees are members of same group. They used to loot valuables

from people after stopping vehicles on highways in Dhaka, Faridpur and nearby districts.

They used to stop vehicles by keeping rocks on speed breakers and loot valuables from people by using machetes and kitchen knives, he said. In primary interrogation, the arrestees mentioned that a conflict arose after Imon and Kamal started taking majority of the valuables, he said.

So, Monir and Farid along with others devised a plan to kill them. "They called Imon and Kamal to meet them at the field in Uttara around 9:00pm on October 14 and killed them with iron rods and knives," he said.

After the incident, Monir and Farid went into hiding. They finally got arrested on Friday night. "We are conducting drives to arrest the other gang members," he added.

1.5 lakh new cancer patients diagnosed every year: expert

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There are 15 lakh cancer patients in Bangladesh and another 1.5 lakh are being diagnosed every year, but treatment facilities are not strong enough, an oncology specialist told a conference in the capital yesterday.

Habibullah Talukder, head of cancer epidemiology department at National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital (NICRH), made the disclosure.

He also observed that due to lack of awareness, diagnosis, and enough cancer detection centres, people are being deprived of treatment at initial stage.

Later, they become unable to afford treatment expenses when the illness reaches critical condition, he said while presenting a keynote paper at the conference organised by Community Oncology Foundation of Bangladesh (COFB) at Bishwa Shahitto Kendro Auditorium.

Dr Habibullah said a cancer patient can be cured if his illness is detected at an initial stage.

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সত্যি ১০ দিনে

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