

MALAYSIA ROAD CRASH Bodies of five Bangladeshis arrive

UNB, Dhaka

Bodies of five Bangladeshi nationals, who lost their lives in a bus accident in Malaysia, arrived in the country in the early hours of yesterday.

Malaysian Airlines flight MH-196, carrying the bodies of the five Bangladeshis, arrived at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 12:55am.

The deceased are: Al Amin, 24, and Sohel, 24, from Chandpur; Golam Mostafa, 22, from Noakhali; Mohin, 37, and Raju Munshi, 26, from Comilla.

On April 7, twelve people, including five Bangladeshis, were killed and 35 others injured after their bus skidded off the road into a monsoon drain in Malaysia.

The accident occurred near the MAS Cargo Complex of Kuala Lumpur International Airport along Jalan S8 Pekeling in Sepang.



Blocking Ambagan Road, workers of railway workshop in Chattogram demonstrate yesterday, protesting the death of their colleague. Inset, a section of agitating workers in front of the workshop in the afternoon.

Worker's death sparks protest

Concern over safety issues at Ctg railway workshop resurfaces

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A worker died after falling off an electric pole at Carriage and Wagon Workshop of Bangladesh Railway (east zone) at Pahartali in Chattogram yesterday.

As the news of his death spread, agitated co-workers demonstrated on Ambagan Road in front of the workshop. They blockaded the road, disrupting vehicular movement from 2pm to 4:30pm, saying the accident took place due to an unsafe work environment.

Deceased Hafizur Rahman, 28, of Fatikchhari upazila was an electrician at the workshop.

He was declared dead at Chattogram Medical College Hospital, said Assistant Sub-inspector Alauddin Talukdar at CMCH police outpost. Hafizur's body was handed over to his family after an autopsy.

Saiful Islam, works manager at the workshop, said Hafizur was working on top of the pole, connected to a traverser (a sideways-moving platform for transferring a railway vehicle from one set of rails to another parallel set). While working, he got electrocuted and fell on the iron platform around 11:30am.

Meanwhile, agitating workers placed a five-point demand that included compensating Hafizur's family, hiring an adult member of the family to his post, maintaining proper work schedule in the workshop, providing workers with adequate safety gears and ensuring risk allowance and payment of overtime.

Seeking anonymity, a protesting worker told The Daily Star that workshop authorities hid the evidence and took the body to hospital in secret. He alleged that Hafizur did not have any safety belt and helmet on.

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3 muggers arrested over killing car driver in Ctg

Cops say they were on the way to dump the body

CU CORRESPONDENT

Three muggers were arrested while they were on the way to dump the body of a car driver in a river after killing him in Sitakunda upazila of Chattogram early yesterday, said police.

The arrestees are Mir Hossain Nishan, 21, from Noakhali; Rabibul Hossain, 20, from Sitakunda; and Newaz Sharif, 24, from Raiganj in Chattogram.

The gang killed Nurul Gani Shimul, 30, from the upazila, in a bid to hijack his vehicle, said Mohammad Mohibur Rahman, inspector (investigation) of Akbar Shah Police Station.

They hired the car for Tk 1,500 to go to the city's Kornel Hat area from Sitakunda.

One of them, sitting behind the driver, strangled him to death with a rope when the vehicle reached Goshpara in the upazila, said the police officer.

Later, a wheel of the car got stuck in a roadside drain while one of the miscreants was driving it towards a nearby river, he said.

At that time, locals witnessed the incident and informed law enforcers, suspecting they were criminals, said Inspector Mohibur Rahman.

Law enforcers found the body in the car's trunk, he said.

Police sent the body to Chattogram Medical College morgue for autopsy.

A murder case was filed with the police station against the muggers, he added.

Race for breaking news causes misinformation

Info minister says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Information Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday said the race to be first in publishing news sometimes causes false and wrong information, which leads to unrest.

He said this while inaugurating nine-hour telecast of Chattogram Centre of Bangladesh Television at Khulshi in the port city.

Hasan said private televisions began their journey through the initiative of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. "Being a media-friendly person, the PM issued licences to 44 TV channels, among which 33 are telecasting," he said.

The minister said publication of newspapers in the last ten years increased by 40 percent, while online-based news portal flourished remarkably.

Competition among the peers also intensified, he observed. "There is a tendency among media houses to let people know the

news first, a race which sometimes causes false and wrong information leading to unrest," he continued.

Hasan Mahmud underlined the need to formulate a policy to contain such practice.

He also said plans are on to bring YouTube channels which broadcast news under the policy.

Mentioning steps taken by the PM to bail out the film industry, Hasan said a unit of Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (BFDC) will be set up in Chattogram.

BTV Chattogram centre earlier used to broadcast six hours of programme every day. From now on, it will telecast nine hours.

"Within three months of assuming office, I elevated Chattogram Centre to nine hours, and expect to take it to 12 hours by December this year," he promised.

City Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin and Information Secretary Abdul Malek were present, among others, at the programme.

'ASSAULT' ON CU STUDENT IN BUS

Driver on 3-day remand, helper still at large

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chattogram court placed a bus driver on a three-day remand yesterday after he had been arrested the day before on charges of assaulting a Chittagong University student in the vehicle.

Chattogram Metropolitan Magistrate Sarwar Jahan passed the order after police produced Bibol Debnath, 25, before the court with a seven-day remand prayer, said prosecutor Kazi Shahbuddin Ahmed.

Our CU correspondent adds, the bus driver was arrested at the city's Oxygen intersection after the female student and her friends found him, said Mohammad Mohsin, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station.

They also seized his vehicle, said the OC.

WHAT HAPPENED ON THE DAY

On Thursday, the 19-year-old student

was returning to the port city from the university campus by bus.

When the bus reached near Riazuddin Bazar, all the passengers got off the vehicle but she did not as it was her penultimate stoppage, she said.

Taking the advantage of an empty bus, the driver turned right and deviated from the route, she added.

His helper tried to strangle her with her scarf but she somehow managed to escape by jumping off the moving bus, she further said.

Police were trying to arrest the helper, the prime accused, said the OC.

The student filed a case with Kotwali Police Station accusing two unidentified transport workers and lodged a verbal complaint with CU Proctor's Office the following day.

Road accidents kill six in five districts

STAR REPORT

Six people were killed and two persons injured in road accidents in five districts during the last two days, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Jhenidah, a schoolboy was killed as a human haulier hit his bicycle at Katlagari Bazar in Shailakupa upazila yesterday.

The deceased -- Anik, 9, son of Liton Hossain from Kritinagar village in the upazila -- was a third-grader of Katlagari Government Primary School.

Shailakupa Police Station Officer-in-Charge Ayubur Rahman said Anik was returning home from Katlagari Bazar around 10am.

The body was sent to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

In Jashore, a motorbike rider was killed and his co-rider injured when a bus hit their bike on Jashore-Magura highway in Amtola area on Friday night.

Oli Ullah, 33, son of late Matiar Rahman from Jashore town's Power House Para area, was declared dead at Jashore Medical College Hospital.

Abul Kalam, 40, son of late Mohammad Ali from Dakatia village in Jashore, was undergoing treatment at the hospital from where he was referred to a Dhaka hospital for better treatment.

In another incident, Saleha Begum, 60, wife of Sheikh Yusuf from Barbari village in Satkhira, died as a battery-run auto-rickshaw hit her on Navaron-Satkhira road in Jashore's Satmire area on Friday.

In Rangpur, a police official was killed as a truck hit him while he was riding a motorbike in Mithapukur upazila yesterday.

Jitendra Nath, 35, from Kalikata village in Nilphamari Sadar upazila, was posted as an assistant sub-inspector at the Detective Branch in Bogura, said police.

Mozzam Hossain, in-charge of Bara Darga Highway Police Station in Rangpur, said the accident happened in front of Palli Bidut Sub-Station in Baldipukur village while Jitendra was returning to his workplace.

Police sent the body to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

In Netrakona, an Ansar officer was killed as she fell off her motorbike in Kadamtoli Bazar area of Madan upazila on Friday evening.

She was rushed to Madan Upazila Health Complex where the doctors declared her dead, said the OC.

Police sent the body to Netrakona General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

In Rajbari, a rickshaw-puller was killed and his passenger injured as a truck hit the rickshaw from behind in Sazankanda area of Sadar upazila yesterday.

Subrata Sarkar, 35, son of Narayan Chandra Sorkar from Kaharpura area in the upazila, died on the way to Faridpur Medical College Hospital.

The injured was taken to Rajbari General Hospital.

Kiron Chandra Mondal, sub-inspector of Sadar Police Station, said they seized the truck and arrested the driver.



Young entrepreneur Abu Sayeed feeds ducks in Sylhet's Jilkar Haor. He said during monsoon, the area remains submerged in water and farmers cannot cultivate crops. Thus, he decided to rear ducks as an alternative livelihood. Sayeed has been rearing 600 ducks at his farm which earns him around Tk 3 lakh a year. His success has inspired many locals to go for duck farming.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Nusrat's killing a sign of deteriorating law and order

Moudud Ahmed says after visiting victim's family

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Nusrat Jahan Rafi's death proves that the country's law and order situation has sharply deteriorated, BNP Standing Committee Member Moudud Ahmed said yesterday.

"Had law enforcers discharged their duties properly, miscreants could not have killed Nusrat by setting her on fire," Moudud said while talking to reporters after meeting with the victim's family member at Uttar Char Chanda village of Sonagazi.

Moudud, also a former law minister, said the government has kept police administration prepared only to repress and suppress opposition party men, instead of aiding people with legal support.

Many killing incidents like Nusrat's have taken place in the country, and it will go on unabatedly due to the lack of strong enforcement of law.

Woman murdered in Rangpur

Husband detained

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A housewife was allegedly murdered by her husband for speaking against his extramarital affairs in Rangpur city yesterday, said police.

Police detained the husband his brother.

The victim was identified as Shahjadi Begum, 38, wife of Mozibar Rahman, 48, of Rampur Parbatipur area under Rangpur city. She was the mother of two children.

Police recovered her body yesterday at noon and sent it to Rangpur Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Quoting victims' witnesses, Rezaul Islam, officer-in-charge of Rangpur Metropolitan Kotwali Police Station, said the couple often fought over Mozibar's affairs. Yesterday morning there was an altercation between them. Later Shahjadi was strangled to death after being mercilessly beaten up, he said.

Monir Hossain, brother of the deceased, also claimed that his sister was killed for speaking against her husband's unethical relationships.

But Mozibar claimed that his wife had been suffering from cardiac problems.

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