

Man dies after co-worker pumped air into his body

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A day labourer died after his co-worker pumped air into his body through his rectum in Pabna, local police said.

Dulal Hossain, 28, was a resident of Purbo-Tiartola village in Chatmohar upazila and worked at the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation area in the district town.

He died around 4:00pm Saturday at the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where he was admitted in a critical condition following the alleged incident on Thursday.

To make fun of Dulal, his co-worker Borat Hossain pumped air through his rectum, Pabna police OC Md Obaidul Haque said, quoting Dulal's family. "Borat pumped air using a dust blower," he said.

"The victim told his family that he had asked his friend Borat to blow some air on him because the weather was too hot. But Dulal, as part of having a joke, pumped the air through his rectum. Dulal was rushed to the hospital by other workers present at the scene."

Police were trying to arrest Borat who hailed from the same village and had been absconding since the incident, the OC told this paper.

An autopsy was conducted before burial yesterday, the officer said, adding, "The victim's family might start a case soon."

Heat wave

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hours from 6:00pm yesterday.

Day and night temperatures may fall by 1-3 degrees Celsius over the country today, but the weather will not see any significant change in the next five days, the bulletin adds.

Talking to The Daily Star, BMD director Shamsuddin Ahmed said temperatures would not change significantly this month but might fluctuate slightly in several intervals.

The bulletin also says rain or thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind may occur at a few places in Rangpur, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places in Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Chattogram divisions, with hails forecasted at isolated places over the country.

The maximum temperature in the country was recorded at 37.6 degrees Celsius in Rajshahi yesterday and the lowest at 21.3 degrees Celsius in Sylhet.

"Every medicine has some side effects and injections have more," Prof Tarik said. "Reactions to drugs are quite common among patients, but the chain of reactions the children suffered is unusual. We must look for the reason."

All the children were between two to eight years old.

INSIDE THE PAEDIATRIC WARD
It was a few minutes past 10:00pm on Saturday.

The 14 children out of scores at the ward who were given the injections started having shivers and their body temperatures shot up.

Md Badiuzzaman of Chapainawabganj, the father of a four-year-old boy, said, "I saw my son shivering with fever and his face turned pale."

The boy was taken to the hospital on May 1 for a swollen face and fever. "I was looking for a doctor, but there was none," Badiuzzaman said, adding that one doctor came half an hour later and many others followed soon.

The doctors advised pouring water on the head of the children and sponging their bodies and injected some more medicines.

"Within an hour, my son stopped shivering," the father said.

Anika Thakur of Rajshahi city's Binodpur, mother of an eight-year-

old girl, said, "I never saw someone shivering like she did last night. I thought she would die."

The girl starting having shivers about 15 minutes after she was given the injection.

After several similar cases were found, the parents started crying, Anika said. "We were running to and fro to get a doctor. We were shouting and crying."

The doctors came about one hour later, she said.

The girl was admitted on Friday for fever, vomiting and coughing.

The incident created an uproar among parents and relatives, forcing the authorities to call in police. The situation calmed down after senior doctors came to the ward and treated the children and their conditions started improving.

Asked about the absence of doctors at the time of the incident, RMCH Director Brig Gen Jamilur Rahman said they took adequate measures after the situation arose, and as a result, the children were getting better.



A Dhaka University bus went on the central reservation, crashing into the fence and trees in Karwan Bazar. The bus driver lost control of the vehicle while exiting the Moghbazar-Malibagh flyover yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

RMCH stops using 4 drugs

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Ltd (EDCL). The medicines include two antibiotics, one antacid and one antispasmodic (Ceftriaxone, Flucloxacillin, Ranison, and Butapen).

A committee was also formed with the medicine department's Prof Mohammad Ha-san Tarik as head to investigate what went wrong, said RMCH Director Brig Gen Jamilur Rahman. "The committee was asked to file a report as soon as possible."

At the beginning of the investigation, Prof Tarik collected samples of the drugs for "proper examination" at EDCL and BSTI labs. He would also get the syringes, saline solutions, and infusion equipment examined.

Prof Tarik talked to the paediatric surgeons supervising those children, hospital employees, and family members of the patients.

"We initially presume that the children got sicker following the reaction of some-thing," he said. The reaction might have been caused by either the drugs or the equipment used for administering those, he added.

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Myanmares

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around twice and asked to check whether the nose wheel dropped or not," Ye Htut Aung said, calling it a "technical fault".

"So they had to land with the back wheels... The pilot could land it skillfully," he said. "There were no casualties."

Myanmar National Airlines are now sending engineers to Mandalay to check on the aircraft, Ye Htut Aung said, adding that all jets get a daily flight check.

Passenger Soe Moe told AFP: "Smoke came out a little when we landed... All passengers are okay."

Yesterday's incident comes just days after a Biman Bangladesh Airlines plane crash-landed and slid off a runway while landing in Yangon airport during a storm on Wednesday, leaving 11 passengers injured.

Myanmar's monsoon season has caused problems for commercial and military flights in the past.

A military plane crashed into the Andaman sea in 2017 with 122 people on board -- one of the deadliest aviation accidents in the country's history -- which authorities attributed to bad weather.

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3 of a family

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neighbours informed police of a foul odour coming from the house the victims had rented and had found its door locked from inside.

Police then reached the spot and broke down the door.

"Mohik's body was on the floor, while the other bodies were on the bed," said the officer, adding that they also recovered a blood-stained kitchen machete from the scene.

Half the drivers

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But, no country, including Bangladesh, are likely to achieve the target. However, Bangladesh has made good progress in enacting a law to ensure road safety, said Najmul, also a former BRTA chairman.

Zahurul Islam, assistant professor at the National Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital, said the drivers must be brought under a system of routine check-ups and there should be a national guideline in this regard.

Mahbub-E-Rabbani, director (road safety) at the BRTA, said that BRTA had a procedure of checking eyesight before issuing drivers' licences.

"Maybe, its implementation is faulty," he said.

Transport owners, doctors, and JCI officials also spoke at the meeting.

Local police did not play their due role in arresting the accused immediately, the official said.

Earlier on Wednesday, the former officer-in-charge of Sonagazi Police Station Moazzem Hossain was suspended. He was attached to the office of the deputy inspector general of Rangpur Range. SIs Yousuf and Iqbal were suspended on Friday.

On April 6, a group of five people poured kerosene on Nusrat and set her afire allegedly for refusing to withdraw a sexual harassment case filed against the madrasa principal Siraj ud Doula on March 27.

Former OC Moazzem even illegally captured a video of Nusrat's statement when she went to the police station to file the case. The video was later circulated on different social media platforms.

The 18-year-old girl lost her battle for life on April 10 -- an incident that sparked outrage all over the country.

The murder case was later handed over to the Police Bureau of Investigation which quickly cracked the mystery and have already arrested almost all the people involved with the killing.

Suspect killed

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Rauf added.

The law enforcers arrested Nurul and Nabi from the spot, the police official further added.

Police also claimed to have recovered a foreign made pistol and two bullets from the spot.

The Daily Star, however, could not independently verify the police claims.

Four policemen, including OC Nezam Uddin, were injured during the "gunfight". They received primary treatment at CMCH.

Bubli Akhtar murder case was filed with Bakalia Police Station yesterday.

London

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which are being manufactured by Northern Irish firm Wrightbus, will also include USB charging points for customers.

The London mayor, Sadiq Khan, said: "We all have a role to play in cleaning up London's toxic air and I've always said that TfL should lead from the front."

"We are investing a record £85m in cleaning up our bus fleet, and I am proud that London now has the largest zero-emission bus fleet in Europe."

The total cost of the new buses and refuelling stations will come to £12m, although £5m of that will come from the EU.

The buses are significantly more expensive than a standard diesel double-decker, which cost about £200,000. But TfL believe the outlay is worth it to try and make a dent in London's dirty air; 2 million Londoners currently live with illegal air pollution.

Claire Mann, TfL's director of bus operations, said: "We know we need to go further and faster to tackle the public health emergency caused by dirty air."

Although fully-electric buses are also being gradually introduced into some routes, the hydrogen-powered models can be refuelled much faster and have a longer range.

Last month a new 24-hour Ultra Low Emission Zone was launched, which forces older, more polluting vehicles to pay £100 a day to enter central London.

The cleaner buses will be deployed on three routes in west London and to Wembley, and bring TfL's zero-emission bus fleet to nearly 200 vehicles.

Khan has made cleaning up London's air one of the central aims of his mayoralty, and is starting to see results as studies show levels of some pollutants are falling.

Researchers at King's College London found under his predecessor Boris Johnson it would have taken 193 years at the then rate of decline to reach legal levels of nitrogen dioxide. But when the same scientists modelled Khan's new policies, that plummeted to just six years.

Char children

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According to the upazila education office, there are 170 teachers, out of 223 posts, in the 44 char schools. The government pays them Tk 5 crore annually. The schools have a total of 6,739 students.

Often, teachers are also irregular. This correspondent found that 24 out of the 51 teachers working in the 16 char schools live in Bogura town, some 30-40km away. As a result, most of them cannot reach on time, while they are in a hurry to leave after 3:00pm.

Mokhesur Rahman, vice-president of Mayorur Char Govt Primary School managing committee, said teachers are regular in school, but they reach school around 10:00am and leave before 3:30pm.

Sariakandi Upazila Education Officer Rafiqul Alam said teachers must start classes at 9:00am and cannot leave before 4:30pm.

He said teachers who live in the district town usually come to school late and leave early. They hurry to catch boats departing the chars at a certain time.

"Teachers don't want to live in the remote char areas. Even if we promote and send them to char areas, some are simply not interested to join," the officer said.

Asked, most teachers said they lived in the town because their children study at schools and colleges in Bogura town.

Asfia Ferdawsoy, assistant teacher of Char Dighapara Government Primary School, said, "My son and daughter go to Azizul Haque College. I have to live there."

Besides, many female teachers complained of lack of security in char areas.

Parents alleged that they send their children to school, but only few classes are held, and they come back home before 4:00pm.

In some cases, teacher crisis is not the only problem.

In Thanamath Government Primary School, there are five teachers for 53 students.

"We don't have a crisis of teachers, we have a crisis of students," said headmaster Razib Hosain. "The school stands on the Jamuna river bank. So people are leaving the place in fear of bank erosion, and we are not getting enough students."

During the visit, student attendance at all the 16 schools was found below 60 percent.

"In every cropping season, student attendance falls further. Due to poverty and lack of awareness of parents, students skip classes to help in harvesting," said Azizar Rahman, headmaster of Benipur Government Primary School.

In some char areas, there is no school for children at all, after they were forced to relocate following floods and erosion.

As a result, there are three schools within a stretch of just 250 meters.

Zui Akter, headteacher of Chandanbaisha Government Primary School, said, "Between 1995 and 2015, we shifted our school five times due to river bank erosion. Finally, we

found this place."

The upazila education officer said 12 schools have been relocated to the embankment in different time from the char areas in Sariakandi. "We are making a plan to shift these schools back to the chars."

The infrastructure is poor too; there are no toilet or wash block in 10 of the 16 schools visited.

Shafiqul Islam, headmaster of Adbaria Government Primary School, said, "We hold classes in a broken tin-roof house, sometimes under the open sky. How will we get toilets?"

Upazila education officer Rafiqul said they get an allocation of Tk 1.5-2 crore for the development of the 168 schools every year. "We build toilets and school buildings with the money but they get washed away every time the floods hit."

Due to extreme weather conditions and natural disasters like storm, hailstorm, and floods, the schools remain mostly closed, further depriving the char children of basic education.

Acknowledging the problems, District Primary Education Officer Tahmina Khatun said the results of primary school students in Sariakandi are worse compared to any other upazila in Bogura. "We have a myriad of challenges in char areas; we are working to improve the conditions."

In the 2018 Primary Education Completion exams, Bogura sadar upazila saw a pass rate of 99.46 percent, while 38 percent got GPA-5.

On the other hand, the 44 char schools had a pass rate of 65 percent and the number of the GPA-5 scorers was below 5 percent.

JSD leader

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missing since then, said Md Saidur Rahman Bachchu, Sirajganj BNP's general secretary.

On the district BNP's instructions, the JSD formed a human chain in front of the party office on EB road yesterday noon, protesting the incident and alleging that law enforcers were behind Sanu's disappearance.

"After the incident, family members and the party men rushed to the police station and different law enforcing agencies searching for Sanu but the law enforcers could not confirm where he is," Saidur said in the human chain.

"If Sanu is guilty of anything, punish him legally. If he is arrested, please produce him before court and take legal action. Don't take any extrajudicial step."

Among the BNP and JSD leaders, Saidur, Azizur Rahman Dulal, Nazmul Islam Talukder Rana, and Rashidul Hasan Ranjan spoke on the occasion.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Mohammed Daud, officer-in-charge of Sirajganj Sadar Police Station, claimed Sanu was accused in 31 cases, but police did not arrest him.

"Sanu was not arrested by the police or other forces," the OC said, adding that it was not clear who picked him up.

He further said the victim's family did not file any case or GD in this regard.

Indians vote

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Political analysts say that state-based and caste-driven parties could be decisive in determining the make-up of the next government, as a lack of new jobs and weak farm prices have hurt the BJP, reported Reuters.

"Regional parties will play a bigger role compared to the previous 5 years or even 15 years," said K C Suri, a political science professor at the University of Hyderabad. "They will regain their importance in national politics."

BJP CANDIDATE ATTACKED
In West Bengal, BJP candidate Bharati Ghosh was allegedly attacked twice by local people when the former IPS officer tried to visit polling stations in her Ghatal Lok Sabha constituency.

One of her security guards was injured in stone pelting in one of the two incidents of attack.

The state CEO has sought reports from the West Midnapore district magistrate about the incidents.

Ghosh suffered minor injuries when a group of women allegedly attacked her when she tried to take one BJP agent inside a polling booth at Keshpur area in the morning, officials said.

Following this, bombs were hurled and stones were pelted towards the former IPS officer's convoy when she was going to visit another booth at Dogachia in Keshpur after receiving complaints of rickshar there.

One of her security guards was injured and a vehicle was damaged in the stone pelting following which the security officers restored to lathicharge, the officials said.

EVM GLITCHES
Adarsh Gupta, a resident of Matia Mahal area in Delhi, claimed that at polling booth number 84, 85 and 86, electronic voting machines were initially not working in the morning.

Aam Aadmi Party's Malviya Nagar MLA Somnath Bharti alleged that EVMs at booths number - 116, 117 and 122 - were not functioning.

However, there was no immediate reaction from the chief electoral office.

But police were continuing drives to arrest him, said Rashed Mobarak, OC of Baniachong police station.

The victim is now undergoing treatment at the One-stop Crisis Centre of Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Police super

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connection with violating departmental discipline, tarnishing the image of police, and professional misconduct.

The three other policemen are former officer-in-charge of Sonagazi Police Station Moazzem Hossain and sub-inspectors Abu Yousuf and Iqbal Ahmed of the same station.

The three have been suspended by the PHQ.

The probe committee, led by Deputy Inspector General in PHQ SM Ruhul Amin, submitted its report on April 30.

A PHQ official preferring anonymity said even after receiving information of the gruesome incident of Nusrat being set on fire, the Feni SP did not visit the spot. He rather opted to attend a programme of lesser importance.

The official further said Jahangir also tried to misguide the PHQ and other police high-ups, terming the incident "a suicide attempt".

SP Jahangir Alam even wrote to the PHQ claiming that the victim's family was not cooperating with police in filing a case.