

Nurses they will never be



Fahmida Yasmin Sanjida Akhter
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

They dreamt of becoming nurses as they thought nursing patients to make them better was a noble profession. They got themselves into Sylhet Nursing College and finished their final-year exams.

They only had a year's traineeship at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital (SOMCH) to complete and become nurses. That was not to be.

Fahmida Yasmin, 20, of Sylhet and Sanjida Akhter, 21, of Bagerhat were killed when several carriages of Upaban Express derailed at Kulaura of Moulvibazar Sunday night.

Fahmida's brother Abdul Hamid received her body at Kulaura Health Complex yesterday morning.

He said, "Fahmida was passionate about her career to be." She was going to Dhaka to take part in a training, he said.

"Before the train left for Dhaka around 10:00pm Sunday, she talked to her mother and that was the last time they had heard her voice," he said.

Eva was the youngest of three siblings.

Foysof Ahmed Chowdhury, Principal of Sylhet Nursing College, said, "Fahmida used to stay at the hostel. Sanjida stayed outside campus."

Israil Ali Sadik, general secretary of the SOMCH unit of Bangladesh Nurses Association, said, "We brought Sanjida's body to Sylhet and informed her family."

Four people were killed and more than 100 were injured as the intercity train derailed on a bridge over Borochhera canal in Boromchal area of Kulaura upazila in Sylhet around 11:40pm on Sunday.

KHALEDA'S RELEASE

20-party to hold demos in July

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led 20-party alliance will hold demonstrations in metropolitan areas across the country, including the capital, next month for the release of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, the party said.

The alliance's coordinator Nazrul Islam Khan made the announcement after a meeting with the parties at the BNP chief's Gulshan office last night.

"The decision has been taken to hold programmes in different metropolitan areas, including Dhaka, in July to protest the imprisonment of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and to demand her immediate release," he said, while speaking to journalists.

He added, "Specific decisions in this regard will be taken at the next meeting."

Replying to a question, he said, "The 20-party alliance is a big power. It has strong unity and there is no crisis."

BNP Secretary General Fakhrul Islam Alamgir presided over the meeting, in which they discussed different issues including the current political situation and the national budget.

Representatives of different components of the alliance, except the Jamaat-e-Islami, were present in the meeting.

US readies ME peace plan in Bahrain

AFP, Manama

Finance officials were flying into Bahrain yesterday for a US-led peace conference that holds out billions of dollars for the Palestinians, whose leaders pronounced the idea dead on arrival.

Led by President Donald Trump's son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner, the Peace to Prosperity economic workshop is billed as the opening of a long-delayed initiative that will later include political solutions to solve the long intractable Middle East conflict.

Unlike previous high-profile peace initiatives, the new plan will be an intimate affair opening this evening with cocktails and dinner at a luxury hotel in Bahrain, which like other Gulf Arab states has increasingly found common cause with Israel due to their shared hostility towards Iran.

It proposes raising more than \$50 billion in fresh investment for the Palestinians and their Arab neighbours with major projects to boost infrastructure, education, tourism and cross-border trade.



A carriage of the Upaban Express upside down on a canal after several carriages of the Dhaka-Sylhet train derailed in Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila Sunday night. Bangladesh Railways recovering the carriages, top right.



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASTIR

Misaligned wheels or faulty lines

FROM PAGE 1

One of the 17-carriage intercity train, heading to the capital from Sylhet, fell into a canal, while two others fell close to the canal's banks. Three other carriages also derailed.

The train with 11 other carriages left Kulaura Railway Station around 5:30am yesterday and reached the capital around 11:00am, according to Kulaura Railway Station.

There were 891 passengers with tickets in the train. Besides, many passengers were travelling in the train without tickets, said Sajib Kumar Malakar, acting station master of Sylhet Railway Station.

Rail communications on Dhaka-Sylhet route resumed yesterday afternoon as the lines were repaired and the derailed carriages were removed.

Several injured passengers said all the carriages that fell off the track were overcrowded and the train had gained speed immediately before the accident happened.

"I was on the first derailed carriage and it was overcrowded as the road communications with Dhaka have

been cut off for the last couple of days," said Sharif Hossain, a businessman from Chapainawabganj.

"I think the train's excess speed with overloaded carriages led to the derailment."

Another injured passenger, Humayun Kabir, who works at the Social Welfare Department in Sylhet, said, "I was in the last carriage. It was overloaded and over 30 people were standing in my carriage alone."

"The train departed Sylhet Railway Station on time at 10:00pm, but halted for an hour at Moglabazar Station, just a couple of kilometres from Sylhet Railway Station, to let inbound Kalni Express pass," he said at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

"The train then made another stoppage at Maijgaon Station. It started gaining speed after leaving Maijgaon Station in Fenchuganj and derailed while crossing the bridge at Boromchal," he added.

Describing the incident, Anwara Begum, an injured passenger, said, "All I can remember is that some loud bangs and it went dark while our

carriage derailed on the bridge. We were panicking there were shouting and groaning until locals rescued and sent us to hospitals."

She was being treated at Kulaura Upazila Health Complex.

Shahbajpur bridge over the Titas river on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Brahmanbaria was damaged on June 19. The long detour made many people to opt for rail.

Abdul Jolil, chief engineer of Bangladesh Railway (east zone), said, "A passenger train is designed in a way so that there is no chance to get too many people on-board. Freight trains run on the rail lines regularly and there is no way that an overcrowded train could outweigh a freight train."

But excess speed might be a cause as there are restrictions in many parts of the rail lines where speed is limited as per the line capacity, he added.

He said as far as they could understand, the carriages derailed way before the bridge.

The four dead are: Monwara Begum, 55, of Sylhet's Fenchuganj upazila, Sanjida Akhter, 20, of

Bagerhat's Mollahat upazila, Fahmida Yasmin, 20, of Sylhet's Dakshin Surma upazila, and Kawsar Hossain, 26, of Habiganj's Bahubal upazila.

The injured were undergoing treatment at different hospitals and clinics.

Enamul Kabir, of Boromchal village, said, "When we heard the sound of the train crash, we rushed to the spot. The incident was announced from all mosques so that locals could start rescue before police and firefighters arrived."

Talking to The Daily Star, a youth of the area, Shahan Miah, said he called police emergency service 999 right after the accident.

Though several hundred locals came forward to rescue, there were allegations of robbing valuables of train passengers.

Tofayel Islam, deputy commissioner of Moulvibazar, said, "To ensure security of passengers and speed up the rescue operation, members of Border Guard Bangladesh were deployed."

"We will give Tk 25,000 to each of the deceased's families."

4.58 lakh unfit vehicles on road

FROM PAGE 1

People are dying and getting injured on the roads and this cannot be allowed to go on, it said.

Justice Nazrul Islam Talukder said accidents were happening as the officials concerned had not taken appropriate action to stop unfit vehicles from running and drivers without valid licences from driving.

The judge asked why some officials were indulging in corruption and receiving bribes when the government had doubled their salaries and other benefits.

Corruption must be removed from

the country, he said.

"The country has been made independent 48 years ago with a dream that there will be no corruption in the country and rule of law will be established in the republic. If the rule of law is not established, the country will not be developed and cannot go forward," Justice Nazrul said.

He said people would have to work honestly, sincerely and with patriotism.

"We urge the authorities concerned to awaken their conscience to bring discipline in transport management so that accidents do not happen," he said.

The prime minister is working hard to bring discipline in every sector, the justice said.

Following a report published by The Daily Star on March 23, the HC bench on March 27 issued the suo moto rule asking the authorities concerned to explain as to why their inaction to stop unfit vehicles from running and drivers without valid licences from driving should not be declared illegal.

Supreme Court lawyer Syed Mamun Mahubub had read out the newspaper report before the court. As per the report headlined "No fitness

docs, yet running", more than 70,000 vehicles had not had their fitness certificates renewed in 10 years, and many of them were on the road.

In the rule, the court had asked why directives should not be given to implement the relevant laws, including the Motor Vehicles Ordinance 1983. It also asked authorities concerned to submit a report before it on unfit vehicles, vehicles that are not registered with the BRTA and drivers without valid licences.

Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik appeared for the state.

Good punished, bad rewarded

FROM PAGE 1

Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) filed the petition on February 13.

At the beginning of the hearing, Bangladesh Bank submitted a report to the HC detailing the amount of defaulted bank loans in the country. The same HC bench on May 16 had ordered the BB to submit by yesterday a list of names and addresses of borrowers who had defaulted loans of over Tk 1 crore.

It had also asked the BB governor to submit to it a report by the same date with details on the money laundered to different countries and the steps taken to recover it.

According to the BB report, the amount of total defaulted bank loans in Bangladesh is Tk 2.2 lakh crore in the last 20 years.

Of the total, 1.1 lakh crore is eligible to be collected, Tk 80,000 crore is involved with court orders in connection

with different cases and Tk 30,000 crore cannot be realised, Attorney General Mahubey Alam told the court citing the central bank's report.

The money was taken by loan defaulters from different banks through 10,476 different accounts in the last 20 years.

Mahubey Alam and Barrister M Moniruzzaman submitted the report in two sealed packets to the HC bench during yesterday's hearing.

Initially, the lawyers did not disclose the names and other particulars of the loan defaulters in the open court saying that such information was confidential and it could not be disclosed to people other than in parliament as per the relevant law.

Writ petitioner's lawyer Advocate Manzill Murshid opposed the Bangladesh Bank lawyers' statement saying that all information except for the ones involved in state secrets could be disclosed to the public as per

the Right to Information Act.

He told the court that the bank owners who have links with government top brass took large amounts of loans from their own financial institutions.

He prayed to the HC to extend its May 21 order that halted the loan defaulters' privilege to secure further loans by rescheduling their defaulted loans upon a down payment of just 2 percent of the total loan amount.

After hearing the arguments, the HC bench extended for two months its May 21 order that issued a status quo on the Bangladesh Bank's circular allowing defaulters to reschedule their loans with a repayment period of up to 10 years and to get further loans.

The bench then asked the Bangladesh Bank lawyers and Deputy Attorney General Abdullah-Al-Mahmud Bashar to submit their replies to its rule through affidavits in two weeks.

Turkish civil society leaders on trial over 2013 protests

AFP, Siliuri

Sixteen leading Turkish civil society leaders appeared in court yesterday, accused of seeking to overthrow the government during the "Gezi Park" protests of 2013, in a trial dubbed an absurd sham by critics.

The group includes renowned businessman and philanthropist Osman Kavala, whose detention since November 2017 has made him a symbol of what critics say is a crackdown on civil society.

Kavala rejected the "irrational claims which lack evidence" in his opening statement, shortly after the trial began under high security in the prison and court complex of Siliuri on

the outskirts of Istanbul.

He is accused of orchestrating and financing the protests which began over government plans to build over Gezi Park, one of the few green spaces left in Istanbul.

The protests snowballed into a nationwide movement that marked the first serious challenge to Erdogan's brand of Islamic conservatism and grandiose development projects.

The 657-page indictment seeks to paint the protests as a foreign-directed conspiracy with links to the Arab Spring, which, ironically, the Turkish government supported.

"None of these actions were coincidental... they were supported

from the outside as an operation to bring the Turkish Republic to its knees," the indictment says.

Amnesty International's Andrew Gardner said the trial "speaks volumes about the deeply flawed judiciary that has allowed this political witch-hunt to take place."

"It is absurdly attempting to portray routine civil society activities as crimes," he said.

One of the allegations is the claim that a map on Kavala's phone showing bee species actually depicted his plans to redraw Turkey's borders.

A respected figure in intellectual circles, Kavala is chairman of the Anatolian Culture Foundation, which

seeks to bridge ethnic and regional divides through art, including with neighbouring Armenia, with which Turkey has no diplomatic ties.

"I was involved in projects contributing to peace and reconciliation. There is not a single piece of evidence or proof in the indictment that I prepared the ground for a military coup," Kavala told the court.

Among the others on trial are experts in urban planning and architecture.

Six are being tried in absentia after fleeing the country, including Turkish actor Memet Ali Alabora and dissident journalist Can Dundar.

Friend turns

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as well. He's a really good guy. Cricket is cricket and I guess it's time to be friends after. But until the game is over, there will be nothing friendly about it," he said.

Reformed England all-rounder Ben Stokes was also with the Royals this season, and Archer -- preparing for only his 10th one-day international -- pointed out that the pair may take on the fidgety Smith together armed with inside knowledge.

"That's the thing, when you play with them you pick up on things you won't normally notice when you're just playing against them. So, hopefully, me and Ben we can get together -- I think we might bowl together at some point as well -- so we probably know what to do when he's in," continued Jofra.

Archer, 24, added that he did not get much of a chance to bowl to Smith in the nets because 'a lot of the guys don't want to face me or Oshane [Thomas]'.
Shakib bowls

Shakib bowls

FROM PAGE 1

Mohamamd Nabi with a classic arm-ball that snuck through bat and pad. In the 33rd, he had Asghar Afghan smartly stumped by Mushfiqur Rahim. At the end of the over Shakib's figures read four for 10 from seven overs. Mashrafe could have gone for the kill, but chose to rest Shakib, who had to wait till the 42nd over to bag his second ODI five-for through another stumping, this time the victim being Najibullah Zadran as Afghanistan fell to 188 for seven.

When Bangladesh were batting, even the new ball was stopping on the batsmen, as illustrated by some airy drives early on by Tamim Iqbal and Liton Das, who was opening the innings instead of Soumya Sarkar presumably to deny off-spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman two left-handers to bowl to.

It was one that stopped that got rid of Liton for 16, when the right-hander drove early against a carrom ball and offered a low catch to cover, where Hashmatullah Shahidi got his fingers underneath the ball just before it hit the turf. The decision went upstairs with a soft signal of out, and after a few replays it was concluded that the catch was clean.

The in-form Shakib Al Hasan was nurling singles, while Tamim found it harder to score, especially against the off spin of Mohammad Nabi, who was extracting sharp turn from the surface. Tamim made up for a slow start by striking two boundaries off Gulbadin Naib in the 14th over. However, as has been a feature so far in this World Cup, he departed after having done the hard work when, on 36 from 52 balls in the 17th over, he shaped to cut the last ball from Nabi anticipation of turn, but was bowled by one that went straight through.

Off the very next ball, bowled from the other end by Rashid Khan, Shakib was adjudged leg-before and immediately reviewed and, fortunately for Bangladesh, the decision was overturned as the ball was shown to be going over the stumps.

Tamim's departure brought the form duo of Mushfiqur and Shakib together, and they set about milking the Afghan spinners, bringing up the fifty-run stand in just 51 balls in the 25th over. Shakib's dismissal, leg-before to Mujeeb, brought to an end a 61-run third-wicket stand. Soumya did not last long, but Mahmudullah Riyad stitched together another significant partnership of 56 for the fifth wicket with Mushfiqur. Despite being visible hampered by a calf strain that he would later get scanned last night, Mahmudullah ran hard and hit some timely blows before a tired looking shot off a Naib slower delivery saw him depart for 28 off 37.

From 217 for five after 43 overs, Mosaddek and Mushfiqur took some quick runs, focusing as much on boundaries as singles. Bangladesh scored 68 off the last 10 overs. Mushfiqur holed out off Dawlat in the penultimate over for a valuable 87-ball 83, and Mosaddek was bowled by Naib off the last ball for a vital 24-ball 35.