



Fans of Humayun Ahmed, under the banner of "Himu Paribahan", walk barefoot, emulating one of the most beloved characters created by the noted writer, towards his grave at Nuhash Polli in Gazipur. Family, friends and fans paid their respects to the wordsmith on his seventh death anniversary yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Train derails in Moulvibazar

Rail link restored after six hours

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Rail communication among Sylhet, Dhaka and Chattogram was suspended for nearly six hours following derailment of a train near Kulaura Railway Station in Moulvibazar yesterday.

Jayantika Express, coming to Dhaka from Sylhet, derailed after two of its wheels got detached around noon.

Train service resumed and rail communication was restored around 5:50pm after a relief train salvaged the derailed carriages, said Mohibur Rahman, station master of Kulaura Railway Station.

Around 15-20 passengers sustained injuries as they tried to get off the train in a hurry following the accident, said Assistant Master Mohib Uddin Ahmed.

Taslima Khatun, a commuter, said, "I chose to travel by train for safety, but recent train accidents make me fearful. Today I was involved in an accident myself. If this continues then people will avoid train journeys."

Due to the accident, all Sylhet-bound inter-city and mail trains could not arrive on time and trains going to different destinations could not leave the station as scheduled, he added.

Several Dhaka and Chittagong-bound trains had to wait at Samshernagar, Sreemangal, Maijgaon and Shayestaganj railway stations in Habiganj for hours, said Kabir Ahmed, station master of Samshernagar rail station in Kamalganj upazila of Moulvibazar.

Man surrenders to police after killing wife in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A man killed his wife and then surrendered at Damkura Police Station in Rajshahi Sadar yesterday.

Police arrested the man after they followed his statement and found his wife lying dead at his house in Kolar Tikor village.

The arrestee is Shariful Islam, a 38-year-old mason, said Majharul Islam, officer-in-charge of Damkura Police Station.

The incident took place around 2:30am and one hour later, he went to the police station and asked the duty officer to arrest him, he added.

Police recovered the body of Shirajul's wife, Lavli Begum, 28, around 7am. They then sent the body to Rajshahi Medical College.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Road accidents kill five, injure three

STAR REPORT

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

In Brahmanbaria, an employee of Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited (BGFCL), died as a truck ran him over in Sadar upazila on Thursday night.

The deceased -- Nazrul Islam, 32, from Kumarpara at Akhaura Railway Colony and a plant operator of BGFCL -- was in a CNG-run auto-rickshaw.

The incident happened on Cumilla-Sylhet highway in Radhika Bazar area when he fell off the vehicle after it hit a pickup parked beside the road, Selim Uddin, officer-in-charge of Brahmanbaria Sadar Model Police Station, quoted witnesses as saying.

In another accident, Johurul Haque, 90, was killed as a motorbike hit him while he was waiting for a

transport beside Cumilla-Sylhet highway in Fulbaria bus stand area, said the OC.

In Barishal, a man was killed and three were injured after a pickup hit a three-wheeler on Barishal-Khulna highway in the city's Rupatoli area yesterday.

Farid Hossain, 30, from the city's Tajkathi area, died on the spot, said Nurul Islam, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station.

In Cox's Bazar, a brick-laden truck overturned and fell on a shelter of Rohingya refugees at Kutupalong in Ukhiya yesterday, killing a woman and her son and injuring another, said police.

The deceased are Sajeda Begum, 32, and her two-year-old son Kaisar, said Abul Mansur, OC of Ukhiya Police Station.

They arrested the truck driver, Rusel, 31, said the police officer.

The camp sources said the truck was being used for a project of an NGO.

Explain why CEC included in Hajj delegation: BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP has sought explanation from the government over the inclusion of Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda in the Hajj delegation.

"State minister for religious affairs is the leader of the delegation where CEC is a member. The whole thing is hilarious. We demanded explanation from the government regarding the issue," Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said after holding the party's standing committee meeting at party chairperson's Gulshan office yesterday.

The BNP leader said this proves that the government and the Election Commission do not care about the constitution and consider the state as their personal property.

Fakhru further said, "Country's flood situation is getting worse and people are suffering. But unfortunately, we are seeing that the government doesn't care much. They are not standing beside the flood affected people."

He said a 21-member relief committee was formed, headed by party's standing committee member Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku, to stand beside the flood affected.

NASA Space Apps Challenge winners denied US visa

Six govt officials set to attend Kennedy Space Center event, leaving behind Sust team

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Olik -- a four member global winning team in NASA Space Apps Challenge 2018 -- from Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) was denied US visa required to attend several programmes at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida from July 21 to 23.

A group of six officials from ICT Division who were supposed to accompany the winning team, however, are set to attend the programmes along with a Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) official.

The Sust team participated in the NASA Space Apps Challenge last year and on February 16 this year they received confirmation from NASA that their Lunar VR Project won in the "Best Use of Data" category.

On May 29, they were invited to attend several programmes at the Kennedy Space Center, but the expenses of the trip were supposed to be covered by the participants.

After communicating with the organisers, the ICT Division decided to cover the entire travel costs of the participants.

On June 27, the division published a circular mentioning the names of 16 persons -- six ministry officials, five BASIS officials, four members of the team and their mentor -- who would be travelling to Kennedy Space Center. The circular mentioned that the ministry will bear the costs of 13 persons and three others will accompany the group on their own expense.

Abu Sadiq Mahdi, team leader of Olik, said, "On July 11, we attended the interview at the US Embassy in Dhaka



Team Olik from Shahjalal University of Science and Technology being felicitated.

FILE PHOTO

and they rejected visa applications of eight persons that include us and the BASIS officials. We have provided all necessary documents but visa was denied according to INA Section 214(b)."

"We later contacted the embassy through the recommendation of the foreign ministry but they confirmed that they cannot arrange another interview before July 22, so we had to end the process," he added.

According to INA Section 214 (b), their visa was denied either because they did not sufficiently demonstrate to the consular officer that they qualify for the non-immigrant visa category and/or they did not overcome the presumption of immigrant intent, required by law, by sufficiently demonstrating that they have strong ties to their home country that will compel them to leave the United States

at the end of their temporary stay.

An ICT Division official, who is set to attend the event in Florida, said the ministry officials got the visa from the embassy without interview as per regulations.

He said they are not feeling comfortable to attend the programme without the winning team but the ministry tried its best to facilitate their visa process after they were denied.

Raja Md Abdul Hye, deputy secretary to the ICT Division, who signed the circular said he would not comment on this, as the list of participants was granted by the ministry and he was just the signing authority.

Team Olik leader Mahdi said, "It's unfortunate that we cannot attend the programme at Kennedy Space Center, but the organiser requested us to provide a video, which they will be screening at the programme."



Fahad Al Alam's third photo exhibition titled "Debris of the Night" opened to the audience yesterday at the capital's Shunno Art Space. His photography revolves around vintage, out-of-date, analogue cameras and films. The exhibition will continue till August 10.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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