

It was not just an accident

Recklessly driven bus runs over 2 students leaving one killed and another injured, just two days after a bus of the same company killed father of the injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On Thursday, a Victor Classic Paribahan bus ran over and killed singer and music composer Parvez Rob, when he was trying to board another bus in the capital's Turag area.

Then on Saturday night, when his son, Yamin Alvi, and some of his friends spotted another bus of the same company in Uttara, they tried to stop it. But the vehicle hit them, badly injuring Alvi and killing one of his friends instantly, police and family members said.

The dead is Mehedi Hasan, 19, who was a college student. Alvi, also 19, suffered

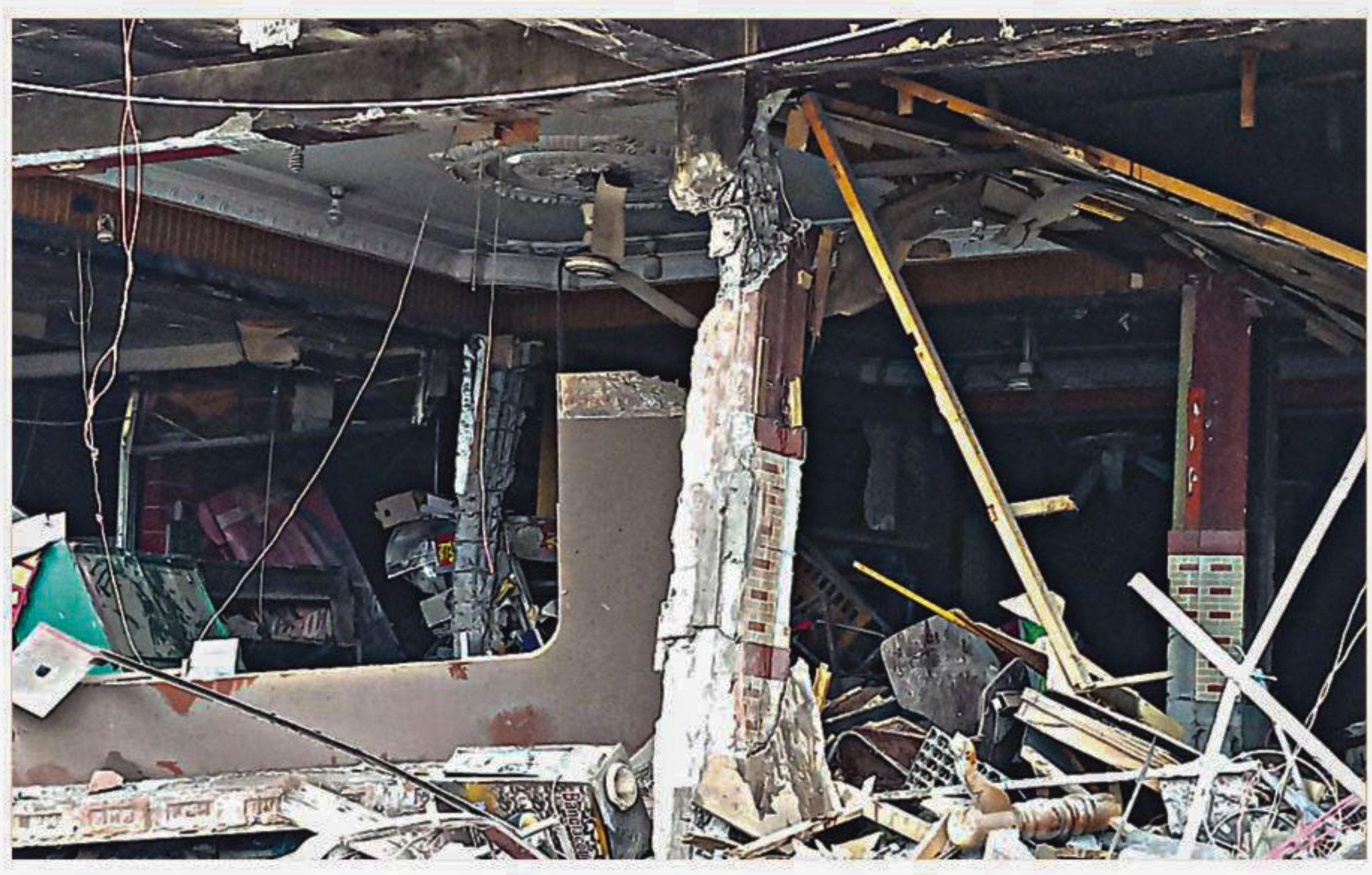


Parvez Mehedi Yamin

serious injuries to his back. He is a first-year honours student.

Police have seized the bus and arrested its driver Rafikul Islam, said Abul Kalam, inspector (investigation) of Uttara West Police Station.

The bus tried to speed away to avoid



The rubble of the building that used to be Tripty Hotel and Restaurant in Gazipur, after a suspected gas explosion took place inside it early yesterday. At least 18 people were injured in the blast. Story on page 2.

PHOTO: ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE



Tigers on verge of humiliation

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan pointed to many factors behind Bangladesh's poor performance in one-off Test against Afghanistan after the end of the fourth day's play yesterday and Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan also expressed sheer disappointment over the dismal showing.

Although the game is not yet decided, the reason behind the reaction was simple. Only rain at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram can realistically rescue the Tigers from the precarious position they are currently in after ending the day on 136 for six in chase of 398.

The Bangladesh batsmen had no answer for the Afghanistan spinners, with captain Rashid Khan and left-arm spinner Zahir Khan sharing five wickets in the second innings to take the visitors closer to victory.

Skipper Shakib and Soumya Sarkar were unbeaten at 39 and 0 respectively when the fourth rain interruption of the day forced early stumps.

Afghanistan will hope for rain to stay away as they look for four more wickets while Shakib and Soumya will need to be at their pinnacle to score 262 runs

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No decision to dissolve BCL committee

Says Obaidul Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The news circulating on social media over the prospect of dissolving the central committee of Awami League-associated student body Chhatra League was rejected by party General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday.

"No decision was taken yet on dissolving Chhatra League's central committee," he said, during a briefing at the Secretariat.

Referring to a joint meeting of AL's Parliamentary Board and Local Government Nomination Board on Saturday, several media reported that AL

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A big opportunity to reap benefit for S Asia

BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE

Experts say India's indifference to join BRI poses a challenge; Bangladesh has to objectively measure both benefits, concerns

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The China-led Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) comes as an opportunity for the South Asian nations, but cooperation of all the countries in the region is needed to reap benefits from it, observe international relations analysts.

Speaking at an international conference in the capital, they, however, said India's reluctance to join the BRI poses a challenge to promoting connectivity and trade in the region.

The conference titled "BRI: Positioning Bangladesh within Comparative Perspectives" was

organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue at a city hotel yesterday.

"In South Asia, all the countries, except for India, are enthusiastic about the Belt and Road Initiative... There will be certain challenges to implementing the initiative unless India joins it," said Maj Gen (ret'd) ANM Muniruzzaman, president of Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies.

He also mentioned that Bangladesh was excluded from a proposed corridor connecting four countries -- China, India, Myanmar and

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Calling Zia, Ershad presidents illegal

Says Hasina in parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday told parliament that BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia created scope for HM Ershad to take over in 1982 and she benefited from the Ershad rule.



"Sattar [Justice Abdus Sattar] was the acting chairman of BNP. Though Khaleda Zia didn't join politics at that time, she suddenly made a statement calling for the ouster of Sattar from the post of chairman. I would like to say that Khaleda Zia created scope for Ershad to grab power in 1982," she said.

She also said calling military rulers like Ziaur Rahman and HM Ershad president was illegal in line with a verdict

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The ancestral home of great social reformer Leela Nag in Moulvibazar's Panchgaon. The 4.39-acre homestead that hosts this now worn-out bungalow has been occupied by the family of a local Razakar for years.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

A house that could have been a museum

British-era social reformer Leela Nag's ancestral home in Moulvibazar has been occupied for decades

MINTU DESHWARA

A house which could have been a memorial or museum honouring women's role in the independence movement against the British is occupied by the family of a local razakar.

This is the ancestral home of Leela Roy, widely known as Leela Nag, a social reformer and educator in colonial Bengal. She was the first female student of Dhaka University and a close associate of Netaji Shubhash Chandra Bose.

Such a house of historical significance has never received any recognition. Even worse, the family of Alauddin Chowdhury, who was allegedly involved in the Panchgaon genocide in 1971, has been occupying it for years.

According to researchers and local freedom fighters, Alauddin collaborated with the Pakistan

occupation army in the Panchgaon genocide that left 59 Hindus slain on May 7, 1971.

Born on October 2, 1900, Leela Nag founded many social



Leela Nag

the then Pakistani government to her social work, she finally left the country and settled in Kolkata, where she died on June 11, 1970.

According to Bijit Deb, general

organisations, women's associations and schools in colonial Bengal.

She had initially stayed back in the then East Pakistan after the Partition of India in 1947, wrote Shahnaz Nasreen in her book Nari Sahasika.

Facing continuous obstacles from

secretary of Leela Nag Smriti Parishad, Leela's 4.39-acre homestead includes an old bungalow and a pond. Nearby is Kunjalata Government Primary School founded by Leela's mother Kunjalata Nag in 1938.

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