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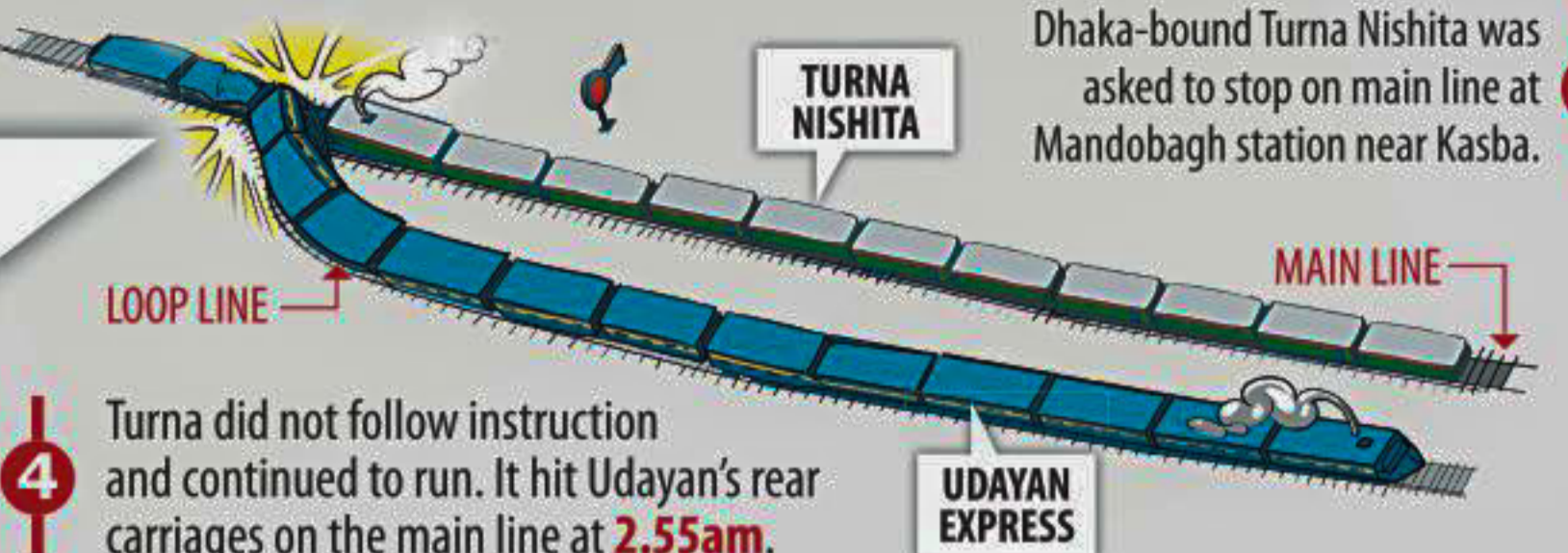
The Daily Star

www.thedailystar.net

REGD. No. DA 781 | Vol. XXIX No. 293 | KARTIK 28, 1426 BS | **Your Right to Know** | RABIUL AWAL 15, 1441 HIRI | 20 PAGES PRICE: Tk 12.00

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- 1 Dhaka-bound Turna Nishita was asked to stop on main line at Mandobagh station near Kasba.
- 2 Chittagong-bound Udayan Express was asked to change track -- from main line to loop line.
- 3 Udayan was changing track. Its front carriages moved to loop line but the last 3 compartments were still on the main line.
- 4 Turna did not follow instruction and continued to run. It hit Udayan's rear carriages on the main line at 2.55am.



Many faces of train tragedy

MASUK HRIDYOY, WASIM BIN HABIB with SHAHEEN MOLLAH

The train accident in Brahmanbaria yesterday left at least 16 dead and shattered the lives of many. After such tragedies, attention can often turn towards the number of victims, making them into mere statistics. But the story that unfolded in Brahmanbaria is not one of only numbers.

This is the story of the people behind the number.

Md Emon, along with his mother, grandmother and three siblings, was returning home to Chattogram yesterday

in the Udayan Express after burying his father in their ancestral village of Sreemangal on Friday.

His father, Md Muslim Mia, 50, died in a workplace accident at a shipyard on Thursday.

Fresh from the Qulkhani, the family was still in shock. Before they could even process the loss, their train was rammed by another, leaving them with the last memory of their mother: Jahera Khatun, 48, lying dead in a pool of blood.

"Our entire world turned upside down in a span of few days. First my father and now my mother," said 18-year-old Emon, who suffered major wounds to his waist and legs in the crash.

The accident took place when the Dhaka-bound Turna Nishita Express

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'Heard a bang, then I was up in the air'

STAR REPORT

"I was sleepy when I heard a bang and soon found myself flung up in the air. The compartment I was in was tossed up several feet high above the ground."

This is how Shamim Hossain, a passenger of Chattogram-bound Udayan Express, recounted the moment the train was rammed by Dhaka-bound Turna Nishita Express.

Shamim along with his elder brother Al-Amin and their uncle Manu Mia were sitting near the door of a compartment when the collision took place in Brahmanbaria's Kasba. They all are masons.

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Onlookers gather near the wreckage of the train carriages at Mandobagh Railway Station in Brahmanbaria's Kasba upazila yesterday. Inset, relatives of victims in tears.

PHOTO: MASUK HRIDYOY

Turna driver was possibly drowsy

Says investigator

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLAH

The driver of Turna Nishita Express was possibly drowsy when the train rammed Udayan Express in Brahmanbaria's Kasba yesterday, said the head of a probe committee formed by the railways ministry.

"Our primary investigation has found that Turna Nishita violated the signal. It seems to us the driver of the locomotive was drowsy," Mohammad Nazmul Islam, chief operating superintendent of the railways (East), told The Daily Star over phone.

He said if a driver fails to notice any signal, it is the responsibility of the assistant locomaster to alert

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'Train driver's fault' takes sixteen lives

70 hurt; 5 probe bodies formed

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY, MASUK HRIDYOY and KHALID BIN NAZRUL

It was around 3:00am yesterday.

A Chattogram-bound train from Sylhet -- Udayan Express -- was changing its track to allow Dhaka-bound train Turna Nishita Express from Chattogram to pass by Mandobagh Railway Station in Brahmanbaria's Kasba.

As 11 of the 14 coaches of Udayan carrying over 700 passengers got on the loop line (a railway track closer to a platform) from the single track, Turna Nishita coming from the opposite direction rammed its 12th coach.

Three coaches of Udayan went off the track on impact and got mangled, trapping many passengers inside. Nine of them died on the spot and scores of others were injured. Seven seriously wounded passengers died at hospitals in Cumilla and Brahmanbaria.

Around 70 other badly injured passengers are under treatment at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital, Cumilla Medical College Hospital, Dhaka Medical College Hospital and National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Pongu Hospital).

Following the accident, locals rushed to the spot with shovels and hammers and rescued many passengers trapped inside the mangled compartments of the train. Fire service personnel later joined them.

Torn seats, clothes and sandals were seen lying scattered at the scene.

Train service between Dhaka and Sylhet remained suspended for more than seven hours until relief train cleared the track.

All the 16 deceased and the injured were

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AMERICAN EXPRESS

CARDS IN BANGLADESH

HIT BY CYCLONE BULBUL

Govt to help 50,000 farmers recover losses

Crops worth Tk 263cr damaged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is considering schemes to help more than 50,000 farmers affected by cyclone Bulbul in southern districts, said Agriculture Minister Muhammad Abdur Razzaque yesterday.

"There has been discussion with the finance ministry to help farmers recover their losses. Agricultural rehabilitation activities will start in the affected areas soon after we get allocation from the finance ministry," he said during a press conference organised at his secretariat office to share the ministry's preliminary estimate of damage to crops.

The ministry said crops on 22,836 hectares were damaged by the November-10 cyclone, resulting in the loss of 72,200 tonnes of crops worth about Tk 263 crore.

The ministry estimated that damage to winter vegetables alone was worth Tk 79 crore followed by aman paddy Tk 47 crore. There was damage to lentil, mustard, betel leaf and other crops too.

However, the minister said crops on 2.89 lakh hectares in 16 southern districts were affected but the level of damage was not significant.

Razzaque said his ministry was yet to finalise the amount of money required for rehabilitation of the farmers.

"We will send a concrete proposal with fund requirements to the finance ministry within couple of days," he said.

Responding to a question on the loss of aman paddy,

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