

Six of a family

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around 2:30pm when a Rangpur-bound bus of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation hit a van coming from the opposite direction in Pachishmile Bazaar area.

Asma, Namia and Abul died on the spot while the rest breathed their last after being taken to Birganj Upazila Health Complex.

The angry villagers overturned the bus on the road as the driver and his helper fled.

Meanwhile, four people were killed and three others injured in separate road accidents in Mymensingh in the last two days.

Two brothers were killed and their parents injured in a road crash in Masterbari area on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Bhaluka upazila early yesterday.

The victims are Joy Morshed Tushar, 32 and his brother Jaber Morshed Akash, 30.

Quoting locals, Sub-Inspector Hadiul Islam of Bhoraduba Highway Police said the accident took place when a Dhaka-bound private car, in which the victims were travelling, collided head-on with a covered van, killing Tushar on the spot and injuring four others around 3:15am.

Doctors pronounced Akash dead after being taken to Bhaluka Upazila Health Complex.

Their father Monjur Morshed, 60, mother Jesmin Morshed, 54, and uncle Mahbubul Haque Lucky, 50, were referred to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, said the SI.

In another road accident, a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver and a passenger of the vehicle were killed when the Nandail-bound auto-rickshaw had a head-on collision with a truck in Merenga area on Mymensingh Kishoreganj road around 11:30pm on Sunday.

The victims, Hanif Mia, 22, and Ariful Islam, 20, died on the spot, said Monsur Ahammed, officer-in-charge (OC) of Nandail Police Station.

On information, police recovered the bodies and handed them over to family members, the OC said, adding separate cases were lodged.

Our Dinajpur and Mymensingh correspondents contributed to this report.

4 killed

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criminals came out of the vehicle and started firing at the law enforcers to flee away through a nearby water body, he said, adding that the DB men also fired back in self-defence.

As the two caught in the line of fire, they were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared them dead, Mashur said.

Two of their accomplices – Shafiqul Islam and Siddique – were arrested from the spot, the DB official said.

A pistol, two bullets, a machete and sedative ointments were recovered from the spot, the DC said, adding two police personnel sustained injuries during the incident.

Mashur said the two had been involved in various crimes for long and served jail terms.

Quoting the arrestees, the DB official said this gang picked up one small trader named Harun as a co-passenger in the auto-rickshaw from Mohakhali on the night of June 17 and mugged him near Kurmitola General Hospital.

As Harun tried to resist them, the muggers put a scarf around his neck, strangled him to death and dumped his body beside 300-feet road, Mashur said.

Meanwhile, the two Rohingya “drug peddlers” killed in a “gunfight” with members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) in Teknaf upazila were identified as Md Alam, 26, and Md Yasin, 24.

Lt Col Mohammad Foyzal Hasan Khan, commanding officer of BGB Battalion-2, said they had information that a group of smugglers were entering Bangladesh from Myanmar with a big consignment of drugs.

A BGB team took position in Wabrang Nanirbari area on the bank of Naf River in Hnila union around 3:00am.

After a while, they noticed three men entering the area crossing the Naf River. The BGB team then signaled them to stop, he told our local correspondent.

Seeing the law enforcers, the smugglers tried to flee.

As the BGB men chased them, they opened fire on the law enforcers, forcing them to retaliate, triggering a “gunfight”, claimed the BGB official.

At one point, one of the criminals fled the scene leaving behind his two injured cohorts.

The BGB members found the two bullet-hit bodies of the drug peddlers on the spot. They also recovered 50,000 yaba tablets, one Chinese gun and two bullets.

Two of the BGB men were also hurt during the incident, the official claimed.

Drones light

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The drones created images of a mask surrounded by coronavirus particles, quickly shuffling to form two hands and water droplets against the dark night sky.

The 10-minute show shifted to messages of gratitude for medical personnel in the frontlines of the pandemic as well as all South Koreans for their collective efforts.



Visitors wearing face masks queue in front of Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece “Mona Lisa” also known as “La Gioconda” at the Louvre Museum in Paris, France yesterday, on the museum's reopening day. PHOTO: AFP

Pandemic highlights South Asia's

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are excluded from fully participating in them and securing these benefits,” said Johan Swinnen, director general of International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

“In times of crisis like today, inclusion is an even greater imperative for protecting the most vulnerable.”

IFPRI South Asia headquartered in New Delhi, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, and New

Delhi-based Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences organised a virtual conference yesterday.

“IFPRI-WFP's Transfer Modality Research Initiative in Bangladesh found that providing young mothers with cash transfers, combined with nutrition behavior change communication reduced child stunting by three-times the national average decline,” said Akhter Ahmed, senior research fellow and country

representative of IFPRI-Bangladesh.

Ramesh Chand, member of a think tank in India, said, “Covid-19 has struck the world at a time when experts were already deliberating on the need for a paradigm shift in the agri-food sector that could address the broader challenges of sustaining humanity. Covid-19 is expected to lead to a significant shift in dietary preferences, adding new dimensions to the food system thinking.”

Sad tale of delays, cost escalation

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The report, which was published last month, also forecast that the project cost may escalate further as “the scope of work was going to be increased.”

WHY THE PROJECT UNDERTAKEN?
In an attempt to reduce the dependency on Chattogram Port, the government has taken several steps to boost the capacity of Mongla seaport.

Bringing Mongla Port under a railway network is one of them. Once the broad gauge rail line is installed between Khulna and Mongla, the port would directly be connected with the capital as a rail line from Dhaka to Jashore through Padma Bridge, which is expected to be operational in June 2021.

Besides, regional connectivity would get a boost as Nepal and Bhutan would be able to use the port.

The project is being implemented with the money came under the first line of credit from India.

Executive Committee of the

National Economic Council (Nec) on December 31, 2010 approved the project involving Tk 1,721 crore.

The deadline was initially extended to December 2014, then to June 2018 and finally to June 2020.

In the meantime, project cost rose to Tk 3,801 crore, of which India would provide Tk 2371.34 crore as soft loan.

Apart from the rail line, the project includes a 21.11-km loop line, eight stations, 716-metre Rupsha Bridge, and 31 major and minor bridges.

REASONS BEHIND DELAY
According to IMED report, the project was supposed to see 87 percent progress till April this year. But it witnessed only 63.01 percent physical progress during this time.

A delay in selecting the alignment of the rail line postponed the final survey and detail design.

When the detail design was prepared, the district administrations in Khulna and Bagerhat could not handover the

total land to the project authority on time, causing further delay.

When the physical works started in 2016, design of the project had to be reviewed “due to the soil quality”, which caused an additional delay, the IMED report says.

The report recommended necessary and skilled manpower be deployed and necessary budgetary allocation be ensured to complete the work within the target time.

WHAT THE PROJECT AUTHORITIES SAY?
Contacted, Project Director Ramzan Ali said works of the project remained halted for around one and a half months due to Covid-19 pandemic. “We have restarted works in May but progress is very slow due to manpower and equipment shortage,” he told The Daily Star on July 5.

“Although we have sought a one-year extension, it may not be possible to complete the work within one year. It may require two more years,” he said.

Erosion adds to woes

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Rafiqul Islam, a resident of Jadurchar union of Kurigram's Rowmari.

He, along with his five member-family, live on others' land.

Another victim Abdus Samad, of Char Gokunda in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, said, “Our house went into the Teesta on Saturday noon. Now, we live on a road.”

In Tangail, although the overall flood situation has slightly improved, erosion of the Jamuna continues, damaging embankment and dwelling houses.

At least 29 houses were washed away after a part of newly constructed village protection embankment collapsed at Beltia in Kalihati upazila.

The erosion took place from Saturday night to Sunday, sources said.

The erosion affected area is only around 1.5km south of the eastern end of Bangabandhu Bridge.

Engineers of the site office of Bangladesh Bridge Authority in Tangail said BBA recently completed construction of 400 metres of embankment for protecting the nearby villages from the erosion.

About 30 metres of the embankment were devoured by the river, and a number of houses of Beltia village went into the river, they said.

Local lawmaker and government officials visited the spot and assured the affected of giving them relief materials.

Meanwhile, a paved road was

damaged by floodwater at Adabari in Mirzapur. It might cause nearby houses and farmland to erode.

In Jamalpur, floodwater has started going down from the flood-hit areas. The victims, who took shelter at flood centres, relatives' houses, on roads, and high grounds, have begun to return home.

Some 13,343 hectares of crop fields were inundated, according to the local agricultural office.

Over 8,000 families have been waterlogged in Faridpur as the Padma is swelling up to the danger mark. The flood-hit people are passing hard days due to shortage of food and drinking water.

“Water entered into our houses around five days ago. We cannot cook food. But we have not got any relief,” said Nazma Begum, of Shadipur village in Faridpur Sadar upazila.

However, officials of the local administration said they were distributing relief materials among the victims.

In Munshiganj, over 300 families at the risk of being flooded as the Padma was swelling up to the danger mark.

Many people have already shifted to safer places. But they said they were suffering from shortage of food and drinking water.

Officials of the local administration said the victims would be provided with sufficient relief materials.

Our correspondents from Lalmonirhat, Tangail, Faridpur, and Jamalpur contributed to this report.

Priority to ongoing projects

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significant scale, adds the minister.

Tajuddin Ahmad discloses that the Planning Commission is working on a five-year plan to be launched next year. The proposed plan would have retrospective effect from the current fiscal year and this year would be considered as the base year. The minister further says that a systematic plan could not be made within such a short time for various reasons. First, he says, whatever assistance was received was spent on feeding the people. Secondly, there is serious paucity of dependable data essential for preparation of a systematic plan.

BANGABANDHU IMPROVING
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who was taken ill on July 5 night is improving satisfactorily, according to the prime minister's

personal physician Prof Nurul Islam. Bangabandhu has still some discomforts in the abdomen, he says.

He requests the visitors not to disturb the prime minister for a few more days. Best wishes may be conveyed to him by signing a visitors' book kept for that purpose. This is essential for the treatment and recovery of Bangabandhu, he adds.

31% RISE IN FOODGRAIN PRICES
The prices of foodgrains have registered a rise of 31 percent during the period January to June, 1972. Prices of essential commodities however increased by 20 percent over the same period, according to Annual Development Plan for the fiscal year 1972-73.

SOURCES: July 8, 1972 issues of *Bangladesh Observer*, *Dainik Bangla* and *Dainik Ittefaq*.

India surges to 3rd-highest

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the state as “the smart call, the right call at this time, given the significant challenges we face in containing this virus.”

There was an illustration of the lingering threat of the virus in Fiji, with the Pacific nation confirming its 78-day run without any cases had ended with a 66-year-old man testing positive.

US STRUGGLING
The US -- the worst-hit nation -- has struggled to respond to the devastation wrought by the virus, with its national death toll rising to nearly 130,000 out of 2.8 million confirmed cases, and many states hit by increasing infections after lockdowns were eased.

Hospital beds are full in parts of Texas, while calls for fresh stay-at-home orders are growing. Some mayors have said their cities reopened too early, as President Donald Trump tried to downplay the disease that has gripped much of the country.

The annual July 4 holiday weekend was overshadowed by growing evidence that the fractured pandemic response has exacted a heavy price across the south and west of the country, after previous hotspots such as New York emerged from the worst of the virus.

“Our hospitals here in Harris

County, Houston, and 33 other cities... they're into surge capacities. So their operational beds are taken up,” said Lina Hidalgo, chief executive of Texas's Harris County, which includes Houston.

“Restaurants are still open. Indoor events can take place no matter the size,” she told ABC. “What we need right now is to do what works, which is a stay-home order.”

Steve Adler, the mayor of Austin, Texas, also expressed concern that the healthcare system could buckle as the disease spreads rapidly.

“If we don't change the trajectory, then I am within two weeks of having our hospitals overrun. And in our ICUs, I could be 10 days away from that,” he told CNN.

The US is now recording 40,000 new cases a day, with a peak of 57,000 on Friday alone.

MILITARY MEDICS
In South Africa, dozens of military medics were deployed on Sunday after a surge in infections in East Cape province.

Like India, South Africa imposed some of the strictest stay-at-home measures in the world in late March in a bid to limit the spread of Covid-19, but the number of infections is rising daily as lockdown rules are gradually eased.

Two labour leaders detained

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Speaking to The Daily Star last night, Kanai Lal Sarkar, additional deputy commissioner of Khulna Metropolitan Police, said the two were detained from their homes for interrogation.

Legal actions would be taken against them after the interrogation, added Kanai Lal, also the spokesperson of KMP.

Md Jewel, son of Nur, said some unidentified people went to their home in Khulna city's Khalishpur area around 3:30am on Sunday.

Introducing themselves as firefighters, they asked the residents of the house to come out as “there was a fire”, Jewel told The Daily Star.

As a family member opened the door, the unidentified people caught Nur and left the home immediately, said the detainee's son.

Waliar's son Naeem Sheikh said nine people went to their home in Mashiyali area under Khanjahan Ali Police Station around 2:30am on Sunday and asked the residents to open the door.

Naeem said some of them were carrying rifles and wireless radios. As a family member opened the door, they

caught Waliar and said they would take him to a jute mills. They left the place soon.

Meanwhile, Janardan Dutta Nantu, coordinator of Khulna district Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal, and Abdul Karim, general secretary of Khulna district Socialist Workers Front, have condemned the “arrest” of the two labour leaders and demanded their immediate release.

In a statement issued yesterday, they said the two leaders actively took part in the recent workers' movement demanding withdrawal of the government's decision to close 25 state-owned jute mills.

The two have been arrested in the dark of night to suppress the movement, the statement added.

Murad Hossain, joint convener of Bangladesh State Jute Mills CBA-NonCBA Sangram Parishad, said he heard that some temporary workers arranged secret meetings with some left-leaning parties in Khalishpur.

“I have heard that some of the workers have been arrested. They are not leaders of our organisation. I don't know who picked them up and why they were arrested,” he added.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার			
তত্ত্বাবধায়কের কার্যালয়			
২৫০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, মানিকগঞ্জ			
Email No. manikganj@hospi.dghs.gov.bd			
স্মারক নং ২৫০ শয্যাবিজ্ঞান/মানিক/দরপত্র/২০২০-২০২১/১৪৪৪		তারিখঃ ০৬/০৭/২০২০ইং	
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি			
২৫০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, মানিকগঞ্জের ২০২০-২০২১ অর্থবছরে রোগীদের পথ্য, মনোহারী ও কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী/বিবিধ দ্রব্যাদি, পরিষ্কার পরিচ্ছন্নতা, আসবাবপত্র সরবরাহ এবং রোগীদের ব্যবহৃত ময়লা কাপড় (লিনেন) খোলাই (ইন্ডিসহ) করার জন্য ব্যবসায়ী প্রতিষ্ঠান/টিকাদার/সরবরাহকারীদের নিম্নে উল্লিখিত পিপিএ-২০০৬ ও পিপিআর-২০০৮ অনুযায়ী সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।			
০১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর, স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়।	
০২	সম্প্রদায়িক সত্ত্বা	২৫০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, মানিকগঞ্জ।	
০৩	সম্প্রদায়িক সত্ত্বার নাম	তত্ত্বাবধায়ক।	
০৪	সম্প্রদায়িক সত্ত্বার কোড নং	প্রয়োজ্য নহে।	
০৫	কাজের নাম	পথ্য, মনোহারী ও কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী/বিবিধ দ্রব্যাদি, পরিষ্কার পরিচ্ছন্নতা, আসবাবপত্র সরবরাহ এবং রোগীদের ব্যবহৃত ময়লা কাপড় (লিনেন) খোলাই (ইন্ডিসহ)।	
০৬	সম্প্রদায়িক পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত (ওটিএম) দরপত্র।	
০৭	বাজেট ও টাকার উৎস	জিওবি, রাজস্ব/উন্নয়ন বাজেট।	
০৮	দরপত্র/সিডিউলের মূল্য	ক্রম নং	ক্রমের নাম
		০১.	পথ্য সরবরাহ
		০২.	মনোহারী ও কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী/বিবিধ দ্রব্যাদি, পরিষ্কার পরিচ্ছন্নতা, আসবাবপত্র সরবরাহ
		০৩.	লিনেন সামগ্রী বৌতকরণ (ইন্ডিসহ) কাজ
			৭৫০/-
			৫০০/-
			৫০০/-
০৯	দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ	০৭/০৭/২০২০ইং	
১০	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও প্রান্তির স্থান	অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে তত্ত্বাবধায়ক- ২৫০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, মানিকগঞ্জ ও পুলিশ সুপার- মানিকগঞ্জ এর কার্যালয় হইতে সিডিউলের মূল্য বাবদ অফেরতযোগ্য টাকা ট্রেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে সোনালী ব্যাংক ১-২৭১১-০০০০-২৩৬৬তে জমাদানপূর্বক ট্রেজারী চালানের মূলকপি দাখিল সাপেক্ষে সিডিউলসহ শর্তাবলী ২৮/০৭/২০২০ইং পর্যন্ত পাওয়া যাবে।	
১১	দরপত্র সিডিউল জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	তারিখ ২৮/০৭/২০২০ইং সময় সকাল ১০.০০ হইতে বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত গ্রহণ করা হইবে। স্থানঃ তত্ত্বাবধায়কের অফিস কক্ষ, ২৫০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, মানিকগঞ্জ।	
১২	দরপত্র সিডিউল খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২৮/০৭/২০২০ইং তারিখ দুপুর ১২.৩০মি, তত্ত্বাবধায়কের অফিস কক্ষ, ২৫০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, মানিকগঞ্জ দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণ কমিটির মাধ্যমে।	
১৩	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম	ডাঃ মোঃ আরশাদ উল্লাহ।	
১৪	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের ওয়েবসাইট	www.cplu.gov.bd	
১৫	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর পদবী	তত্ত্বাবধায়ক।	
১৬	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর ঠিকানা	২৫০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, মানিকগঞ্জ।	
১৭	বিশেষ নির্দেশিকা	(ক) পিপিএ ২০০৬, পিপিআর ২০০৮ ও সংশোধনী পিপিআর ২০০৯ অনুসরণসহ সত্ত্বা কর্তৃক আরোপিত সকল শর্তই শর্তাবলী হিসেবে গণ্য হইবে। দরপত্র/সিডিউলের সহিত সংযুক্ত সকল শর্তাবলী যথাযথ অনুসরণ করিতে হইবে। (খ) সরকার কর্তৃক এতদসঙ্গে কোন বাধ্যতামূলক বিধি-বিধান নতুনভাবে আরি করা হইলে তাহাও কার্যকর হইবে। (গ) শর্তাবলী অনুসরণপূর্বক বর্ণিত কাপড়পত্রসহ দরপত্র সিডিউল দাখিল করিতে হইবে। (ঘ) কর্তৃপক্ষ প্রয়োজনবোধে দরপত্র গ্রহণ খোলার তারিখ ও সময়সহ যে কোন সংশোধনী স্থানীয় নোটিশ বোর্ডে স্বাক্ষরকালীন বিজ্ঞপ্তির মাধ্যমে পরিবর্তন করিতে পারিবেন। (ঙ) দরপত্র কমিটি কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে আংশিক অথবা সম্পূর্ণ দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। (চ) এতদসঙ্গে বিজ্ঞপ্তি তথ্য জানার জন্য আশ্রয়ী টিকাদারগণকে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, ২৫০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, মানিকগঞ্জ এর কার্যালয় যোগাযোগের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হইল।	
ডাঃ মোঃ আরশাদ উল্লাহ			
কোড নং-৪১৭৮৬			
তত্ত্বাবধায়ক			
২৫০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, মানিকগঞ্জ			
জিডি-১০৯৩			