

1 killed, another hurt as truck hits vans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man died while another was injured after a truck hit their rickshaw vans on Bailey Road in the capital.

The incident happened around 4:00am yesterday when they were delivering eggs to a shop in Keraniganj from a wholesale market in Tejgaon.

Quoting witnesses, Firoz Ahmed, owner of an egg shop in the market, said a truck of a cement factory hit the vans from behind, leaving Nure Alam, 40, and Tuhin Hossain, 38, injured.

Pedestrians took them to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where Alam died around 7:00am. Tuhin broke his leg and was undergoing treatment at the hospital, he said.

Mohaiminul Hasan, a sub-inspector of Ramna Police Station, said they seized the truck, but the driver managed to flee.

Father of a six-year-old daughter, Alam used to live beside the wholesale market along with his family. The family took the body to their village home in Dinajpur for burial.



People swarm the gate of the Mugda City Corporation Hospital to get their Covid vaccine yesterday. The coronavirus situation in the country is worsening every day with around 15,000 cases reported yesterday. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Don't want to be in news for bad deeds: IGP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police Benazir Ahmed yesterday warned police members that any immoral act by anyone in the force would not be tolerated.

"We are committed to ensuring fair and equitable welfare for every member of the force. We don't want to be in the news for bad deeds; we want to be in the news for doing good deeds," he said.

The police chief was speaking at a programme in Rajarbagh Police Lines organised on the second day of Police Week 2022 to award various units for their success in recovering drugs, arms, and smuggled goods in 2020 and 2021.

"... We think policing is not just a job; it is a service. We want the police to serve the people of the country without any discrimination."

Benazir said rules regarding appointment of constables, sub-inspectors, and sergeants were amended after 40 years.

Referring to the PM's declaration of zero tolerance against militancy and drugs, he said they were implementing the policy.

Mentioning the role of police during the pandemic, the police chief said 106 police personnel sacrificed their lives and 27,000 others fell sick.

Inmates run illegal arms trade from jail

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

His name is Ali Akbar Prokash. But he is known as "Akbar the Great" among his cohorts for his expertise and innovative techniques used in illegal arms trade.

He along with three others was arrested by the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit from the capital's Jatrabari on October 31 last year with five arms and 301 bullets, including those of AK-47 assault rifles.

Akbar has been in Kashimpur jail since then. He is now running illegal arms trade with the help of his wife. He is communicating with her via mobile phone.

The CTTC unit's arms enforcement team claimed to have learnt this recently after analysing communication details of some illegal arms traders.

Officials shared some details of their findings with The Daily Star yesterday.

According to them, Akbar is now in Jamuna-1 cell of Kashimpur jail with his associate Md Hossain, a legal arms trader from Chattogram, who was arrested with him over illegal

arms trade.

Around 11:00am on Sunday, Akbar called his wife Shahida Begum from a mobile phone.

"Go and check the area under the water tank on our roof. You will find a small [arms] one. Deliver it to Bachcha [a person] in Chattogram's Muradpur and collect Tk 3 lakh in cash," a CTTC official quoted Akbar as saying to his wife.

In the previous two days, Akbar called his wife from two other mobile phones.

This newspaper found all three numbers switched off around 4:30pm yesterday.

Police said they were investigating how Akbar got mobile phones and against whose names those SIM cards were registered.

"Apart from calling his wife, Akbar called three others and called them 'Bachcha', 'Manzur' and 'Mita'. We are trying to get details of the three," a high official of the CTTC unit told The Daily Star, requesting anonymity.

Contacted, Akbar wife's Shahida admitted having been contacted by her husband over phone and claimed to have discussed family matters with her husband.

Asked about delivery of arms, Shahida suddenly said, "I am not Shahida. I am her younger sister Sanjida. My sister became sick last night and I do not know anything."

Abdul Jalil, senior jail superintendent of Kashimpur jail (part-2), said inmates are not allowed to use mobile phones. They are allowed to communicate with their families using a phone from the jail authorities once a week.

Asked about Akbar's communication with his wife, Jalil said they would conduct an enquiry.

Investigators said Akbar used to work for Hossain, the owner of Mofizur Rahman Arms Co in Chattogram. The shop's sales records show that Hossain did not sell a single piece in the last four years, despite being a legal arms dealer.

Akbar was mainly responsible for smuggling 9mm pistols and AK-47 rifles from a hill district and deliver those to Hossain, said a CTTC high official.

He said Akbar has a network of around a dozen people, including a Rohingya from a Cox's Bazar camp, for running the illegal arms trade.

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Five policemen injured in attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

At least five policemen were injured after they were attacked by criminals in Thukiakhali area in Cox's Bazar's Chakaria upazila early yesterday.

The incident occurred when the law enforcers raided a spot in the area to arrest some people accused of murder.

3 killed as train hits three-wheeler

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Three people were killed after a train hit a locally-made three-wheeler at a level crossing in Chapainawabganj's Alinagar yesterday.

The dead were identified as fish traders Fulchand, 55, Meher Ali, 44, and driver of the three-wheeler Naimul Islam, 35.

Saber Ali, deputy assistant director of Chapainawabganj Fire Service, said the Ishwardi-bound train, coming from Chapainawabganj Railway Station, hit the three-wheeler around 8:40am and dragged it for about 25 yards.

Station Master Shahidul Alam said the level crossing in Alinagar is unauthorised and there is no guard there to ensure no one enters.

UP member candidate's body found

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenaidah

Police yesterday recovered the body of a UP member candidate, from near a waterbody of Nalbhanga village in Jhenaidah's Kaliganj upazila.

Md Pir Ali, 37, was defeated in a recent UP polls to Khatshabanga union.

Police sources said his body bore rope marks on the throat.

Proceedings against teachers must finish in 180 days: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court in the full text of a verdict has ruled that proceedings against a teacher of any recognised non-government secondary school must be concluded in 180 working days.

The days will be counted from the date of suspension or initiation of a proceeding.

The certified copy of the verdict, which the court has asked the education ministry to circulate, was released yesterday.

Earlier on September 7 last year, an HC bench delivered a shorter verdict following a writ filed by Md Badsha Miah, a high school teacher in Magura, challenging the legality of his 14-year-long suspension.

New system brings forth new hassles

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For instance, rickshaw puller Abdul Gafur from Rayer Bazaar slum cannot apply for his certificate as staffers refused to accept "slum area" as a permanent address.

"According to my national ID card, my permanent address is 15, Madhubazar [Rayer Bazaar slum]. But they asked me to go to my village and get a citizenship certificate from the local union parishad," said Gafur while waiting in front of the DSCC zonal office in Azimpur.

He said his village in Kurigram's Razibpur union was devoured by the Brahmaputra due to erosion in the river a long ago.

"I have been living in the capital's Madhubazar area for nearly two decades. All my children are born here. It's ridiculous that I cannot get my birth certificate just for my address despite having my NID," added Gafur.

Banesa Begum produced her citizenship certificate. But her application was rejected on the ground that the citizenship certificate did not mention her husband's name.

Like Gafur, she was also asked to go back to her village and get that document corrected.

"I produced my NID card which has my husband's name printed in it but they did not accept it. They said I must have the citizenship certificate corrected to get a birth certificate," said Banesa.

Correcting information in the birth certificate is

even more complicated.

Touhid Ur Rahman, a private company employee, wanted to correct her daughter's date of birth. But officials refused to comply saying that the correction option in the server was disabled at that moment (last month).

He then filed an application with the Dhaka district commissioner's office stating that he wanted to cancel his daughter's birth registration and file an application for a new one.

"Almost a month has passed since then, but I'm yet to get any response. The delay is putting my daughter's admission to a school in jeopardy," said Rahman.

Shahadat Hossain (not his real name) and his wife applied for birth registration certificates at the DNCC zonal office at Karwan Bazar a couple of months ago. They refused to hire a broker and completed their applications diligently.

On the delivery date, Shahadat noticed that his mother's name was wrongly spelt in the printed certificate although the spelling was correct online.

In her wife's certificate, the name of her mother was wrongly spelt both in print and online.

"I think they misspelled the names deliberately as we followed the due process without hiring a broker. Now we shall have to face difficulties to get those names corrected."

Md Mahbul Alam, councillor of DSCC ward-1, said hundreds

of people apply for birth registration certificates in his ward every day as there were several renowned educational institutions in Khilgaon area.

"They are suffering gravely because of a lack of coordination between city corporation officials and the office of the registrar general of birth and death registration."

Md Sajjad Hossain, councillor of DNCC ward-2, echoed Mahbul's views.

Mustakim Billah Faruqui, immediate past registrar general, said they were receiving at least 100,000 applications for birth registration every day.

"We cannot deny that people are facing some difficulties as many of them have to apply for birth registration online despite having certificates prepared manually. But once the online registration is done, the entire nation will benefit. This would enable us to deliver all types of citizen services quickly and efficiently. So, we should encourage our citizens to apply for the digital birth registration certificate as soon as possible," he said.

"Birth registration is the vital legal step to identify a citizen's name and nationality. It is the first recognition from the state which certifies that this child is our citizen. We are asking all to complete birth registration immediately after the birth of a child," said Mustakim.

Regarding lengthy, complicated process, the former registrar general said their manpower

was very limited. "We are trying to involve public representatives in the process to speed it up. We are hoping that the situation will be stable within next six months."

Denying allegations of irregularities, he said since applications are filed online and people need to submit some documents, there is no scope of irregularities.

UK orders probe into Muslim ex-minister's claims

AFP, London

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has ordered an inquiry into claims by a Muslim former minister that she was sacked from his government because of her faith, a spokesperson said yesterday.

The claims by Nusrat Ghani, a former junior transport minister, have stoked fresh controversy for Downing Street as Johnson awaits the findings of a different inquiry into "partygate" revelations.

"The prime minister has asked the Cabinet Office to conduct an inquiry into the allegations made by Nusrat Ghani MP," the spokesperson said.

Johnson had initially urged Ghani to file a formal complaint through the Conservative party. But she declined.

Positivity

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needs to follow the health guidelines to combat it," he added.

On Sunday, the government asked all public and private offices to halve the physical presence of officers and staffers.

However, there was a good number of officials and staffers in the secretariat.

Since the order was issued late in the day, the concerned offices could not issue any orders in this regard to their officials, said an official of the cabinet division.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Bank asked banks to run their operation with 50 percent of their employees and introduce an alternate duty roster immediately.

The banking regulator, however, said banks could decide to fix the number of employees as per their requirement to operate essential banking services.

Customers will have to wear facemasks on a mandatory basis while taking service from banks.

On the other hand, all functions of lower courts and tribunals will run with half of their officials and staff members until February 6. The judges will have to work as normal.

The other half of the officials and staffers cannot leave their respective work station as they will have to work by rotation, Supreme Court's Spokesperson Md Saifur Rahman told The Daily Star.

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- Candidature of an applicant shall be cancelled, if any discrepancy is found between online resume and original documents (which will be verified at the time of confirming academic credentials)


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