

Narayanganj newspaper office comes under attack

'Followers of Ajmeri Osman' vandalise premises over report on Taqi murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT

After a local newspaper office in Narayanganj city's Chashara came under attack yesterday noon, victims have alleged that it was carried out by supporters of Ajmeri Osman, son of late Jatiya Party MP Nasim Osman, and a nephew of lawmaker Shamim Osman.

They said the attack was in response to a news report over Ajmeri's involvement with the murder of teenager Tanwir Muhammad Taqi.

The office belongs to Dainik Somoyer Narayanganj. The attackers allegedly vandalised CCTV cameras and snatched different electronic devices from the office, located on the third floor of Siraj Mansion.

Victims claimed that the attackers hurled abuse at journalists and threatened to kill the newspaper's editor during the 15-minute saga.

"Around a hundred motorbikes stopped in front of our office around 12:35pm," said Arif Hossain, a reporter of the newspaper. This was confirmed by CCTV footage of a nearby shopping mall.

"After they entered the

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People stand in queues to get vaccinated on the premises of Uttara Friends Club field yesterday. Bangladesh Dokan Malik Samity in collaboration with the health ministry and Red Crescent Society hosted the drive to ensure that shop-owners, workers, security guards and other working class representatives get their Covid jabs.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Meetings go on, nothing changes

Road safety puzzle remains unsolved as decisions yet to be implemented

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

No worker shall drive a transport vehicle unless they hold an appointment letter.

This was clearly mentioned in Motor Vehicle Ordinance-1983, the law that regulated the transport sector until Road Transport Act-2018 came into effect in November 2019. The new law also states that none can be recruited as a driver unless the transport owner gives them an appointment letter.

That provision has hardly been followed.

A high-powered taskforce, formed to tackle road crashes and bring discipline to the sector, in its second meeting on

December 23, 2020 decided that transport workers have to be given appointment letters.

On its third meeting on June 20, the taskforce, led by Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, took the same decision as the earlier one was not executed.

Seven months have gone by since. The taskforce is set to sit again today and discuss the same issues, as its decision still remains unimplemented.

Not only the appointment letter issue, almost all of the nine decisions taken on the third meeting have not been implemented, at a time when the country

is witnessing a sharp rise in road crashes.

The number of accidents and fatalities rose by 30 percent last year, compared to 2020, according to a police report.

Yousub Ali Mollah, an additional secretary of Road Transport and Highways Division (RTHD) who signed the notice for convening the meeting, said the taskforce will discuss "progress of implementation" of previous decisions.

Replying to a question, he yesterday told The Daily Star, "There has been some progress, but it is not possible to give details without going through the papers."

The government formed the taskforce

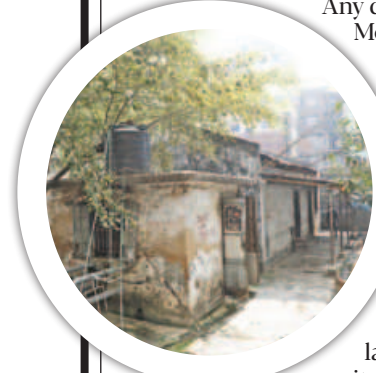
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The Language Movement did not just come to be. Behind the historic movement, that brought about a turn of events for Bangladesh, are a million stories – of people, of premises, of places. In this 10-part series, we explore some of the places and premises vital to the movement. Establishments that we've lost to time, buildings that today bear no sign of the glories they once played host to. For part one, we take you to the Beltala, witness of the Language Movement's first meeting.

Historic Beltala now water pump

DIPAN NANDY



Any discussion on the Language Movement cannot take place without mentioning Beltala. It lies right beside Dhaka Medical College Hospital's Amtala, another historic site by its own right. It was at Beltala where the first public meeting on the movement took place.

From late 1947 till the last chapters of the language struggle, it bore witness to countless meetings, gatherings and protest rallies. The historic strike that was called for February 21, 1952 was also announced from there.

But if you went to Beltala today, you wouldn't find anything commemorating the events that were so significant for our country's birth. Instead, you'll come across a water pump.

In December 1947, the First Education Conference held at Karachi declared Urdu as Pakistan's lingua franca. This angered its majority Bangla speakers, who put in motion a wave of protests in East Pakistan.

As part of this, on December 6, a students' meeting at Beltala demanded the instatement of Bangla as a state language. A protest rally was later brought out from there. Both the meeting and the rally were the first of their kind.

It was presided over by DU's physics


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PRAYER TIMING FEB 13



	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	5-25	12-45	4-30	5-57	7-15
Jamaat	6-00	1-15	4-45	6-01	7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



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