

Till death did them apart

Couple killed in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Swapna Akhter (25) and her husband Israfil Hossain (35) worked at two separate RMG factories in Dhamrai's Sutipara. Every day, the couple used to go to work on Ismail's bicycle.

Ismail would drop Swapna at her workplace and later go to his. The couple, who have been married for 12 years with a 10-year-old son, were living a life of tranquillity and in the comfort of each other's presence, unaware of what fate had in store for them.

Like a usual workday for the last two months, they started for the factories on Ismail's bicycle yesterday. However, they never reached their destinations.

A bus rammed the cycle on its way, leaving the two dead on the Dhaka-Aricha highway at Srirampur at 7:30am.

Life has suddenly become uncertain for their 10-year-old son Shaon, who is a second-grader at a local school.

"Shaon has been orphaned. What would happen to him now? Who will look after him?" asked Naznin Akhter, the grieving sister of Israfil.

"The bodies were recovered and the bus was seized. However, the driver and the helper fled the scene," said SI Shah Alam of Golra Highway Police Station.

"A case was filed against the driver and the helper. We are trying to capture them," he added.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visits the Bangabandhu Study Centre after inaugurating the centre at Bangladesh Civil Service Administration Academy in Shahbagh yesterday.

PHOTO: PTI

Serve people with devotion

PM tells newly-appointed govt officials

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the newly-appointed public servants to serve the people of the country with devotion.

The premier said this while addressing the certificate-giving and closing ceremony of the 124th, 125th and 126th Law and Administration Training Courses at Bangladesh Civil Service Administration Academy in capital's Shahbagh area.

She also directed them to identify themselves as "servants of the public."

"I want that you will serve the people aiming to advance the country towards development," she said. Hasina emphasised on educating people and creating employments for youths.

She mentioned that no nation can achieve desired

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Govt shuts down Care Medical College

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has cancelled the authorisation of Dhaka's Care Medical College to run academic activities.

The decision was taken on October 23 at a meeting at the health ministry, as the college authorities expressed their inability to run the institution in accordance with the rules, according to a circular signed by Mahbuba Bilkis, deputy secretary of the ministry, yesterday.

For failing to meet standards, the ministry stopped admission of new students from the 2016-17 academic year.

The college authorities, however, continued their academic activities, as the High Court had stayed the ministry order, after the college filed a writ petition.

The institution then withdrew its petition on July 26 this year, saying that the college authorities were "unable" to continue academic activities.

Earlier on June 14, an audit team from Directorate General of Medical Education visited the college and found a number of issues, including unsuitable academic atmosphere, shortage of teachers, hospitals and college on separate sites, and only 10 percent hospital-bed occupancy rate instead of the required 70 percent.

Paying attention to a timely need

Country to introduce post-crash response care for road accident victims

As per the WHO Global Status Report on Road Safety (2018), an estimated **25,000** people lost their lives in 2016 due to road injuries in Bangladesh.

The number is almost 10 times the official number given by police in that year.

According to Bangladesh Health and Injury Survey 2016, two-thirds of all road crash victims die on the way to hospitals, while three-fourths do not receive any form of pre-hospital care.



OBJECTIVES

- » Developing, strengthening pre-hospital, hospital care
- » Setting up telecommunication protocols
- » Safe transportation of injured persons to nearby hospitals
- » Sustainable funding

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The government, for the first time in the country, is going to develop a strategy and action plan for post-crash response care for road crash victims.

Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) -- with assistance from non-government organisations and UN bodies -- has already developed a draft and expects to finalise it within a few months, said DGHS officials.

The development came at a time when the country is witnessing a sharp rise in road-crash deaths. Around two-thirds of the victims succumb to their injuries on the way to hospitals.

As per the World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Status Report on Road Safety (2018), an estimated 25,000 people lost their lives in 2016 due to road-crash related injuries in Bangladesh. The number is almost 10 times the official number given by police that year.

According to Bangladesh Health and Injury Survey 2016, two-thirds of all road-crash victims die on the way to hospitals, while three-fourths do not receive any form of pre-hospital care.

However, despite the alarming numbers, there is

no strategy, protocol or guideline on pre-hospital care to ensure emergency medical services for road-crash victims at the crash site, according to United Nations Road Safety Fund (UNRSF).

According to UNRSF, post-crash morbidity and mortality can be reduced by providing timely pre-hospital and hospital-based care. Hence, it is imperative to have a robust post-crash response system in place.

High fatality and injury rates on Bangladesh's roads are undermining the remarkable progress that the country has made in boosting economic growth and reducing poverty, says UNRSF.

UNRSF is funding WHO for developing the strategy and plan for the government.

DGHS requested the WHO country office in Bangladesh to support it in drafting the strategy and the action plan.

"We do not have any policy regarding post-crash response for road-crash victims. Hence, we are developing the plan," said Prof Robed Amin, line director at Non-Communicable Disease Control (NCDC) of DGHS.

"We have already developed a draft strategy with

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MUNSHIGANJ BY-POLLS

Three shot in clash between AL and rebel candidates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three people were shot and injured as supporters of ruling Awami League candidate and party rebel clashed during Hosendi Union Parishad by-polls in Munshiganj yesterday.

The injured -- Sohel Rana (36), Saiful Sarder (45) and Faruk (32) -- are supporters of AL rebel candidate Mahbub Mia, local sources said.

Ilias Hossain Molla, a UP member, said the supporters of AL candidate Monirul Haque Mithu and Mahbub Mia had an altercation near Ismanir Char No 2 Primary School area around 9:00am.

Three people were injured as Mithu's supporters fired some shots, said Ilias, also a witness.

The injured were transferred from Gozaria Upazila Health Complex to Dhaka, said its doctor Kanti Rani Biswas.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Ziaul Islam Chowdhury said, "We heard about the incident."

Gozaria Police Station Officer-in-Charge Molla Saheb Ali said they suffered bullet injuries, fired from a shotgun. "No cases have been filed yet," he added.

In Kushtia, the by-election to Khoksa Upazila Parishad marked a clash between the ruling AL and

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'PROTESTING HARASSMENT' Youth stabbed in Dhaka bus dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 25-year-old youth died early yesterday after being stabbed in a moving bus in the capital's Asad Gate area.

The deceased is Rabbi, said Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station Sub-inspector Mahesh Singh. The incident took place around 8:00pm on Tuesday. Another youth Shaon (20), was also injured in the incident.

The victims along with their friends were returning from a picnic in Dhamrai. On the bus, a few other passengers including one Faruk were smoking and harassing the female friends of the victims, according to Shaon's friend Shanto.

Rabbi protested the incident. Soon after, some youths boarded the bus from Asad Gate intersection and stabbed Rabbi and Shaon.

They were rushed to DMCH where Rabbi died around 1:30am. OC Shahjahan Mandal said they have arrested the main accused.

It was a legal process: Quader

Says government has no connection with Tarique, Zubaida arrest warrants

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said the government has no link with issuing arrest warrants for BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman and his wife Dr Zubaida Rahman as it is a legal process.

"Finding the faults of the government and blaming it for everything is the regular practice and culture of BNP. The court issued arrest warrants for Tarique and his wife Zubaida in a graft case filed by ACC," he said.

He came up with the remarks at a press briefing at Setu Bhaban, a day after BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir's allegation that the arrest warrants were issued as part of the government's political vengeance.

Biman taking steps to prevent loss

State minister tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has taken various measures, like introducing dynamic ticket pricing, to prevent irregularities and loss, State Minister for Civil Aviation M Mahbub Ali told parliament yesterday.

Replying to Jatiya Party MP Nasrin Jahan Ratna, Ali said earlier, Biman had to incur huge losses, as its ticket prices were not in accordance with the international market rate.

"The introduction of dynamic pricing made it possible to strictly monitor the process of fixing ticket prices, which led to Biman's revenue rising," he said.

In a scripted answer, the state minister said Biman has also taken strict measures to increase the quality of passenger services.

"Biman has reduced the average luggage delivery time to 45 minutes through efficient ground handling. The national airline is working to bring this down to 30 minutes," he said. Ali said Biman purchased ground support equipment (GSE) equipment worth Tk 45 crore this year to increase luggage handling capacity.

"Different types of equipment worth Tk 80 crore will be added soon. Process to purchase GSE equipment worth Tk 113 crore will be completed by June 2023."

Replying to another query, Ali said the government has a plan to upgrade the Barisal domestic airport to an international one.

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