

Father, son victims of reckless driving 3 others killed by covered van in same accident in Jashore

STAR REPORT

Seven-year-old Arabur Rahman Taosin requested his father to take him to a restaurant for breakfast.

As Habibur Rahman and his son Taosin reached the footpath near Jashore-Chuknagar road yesterday, a covered van rammied into them, leaving the duo dead on the spot.

Following their death, the Satkhira-bound van crashed into at least 10 roadside eateries and tea stalls and ran over three others sitting at a tea stall at that time.

The other three deceased were identified as Ziarul Islam (35), Touhidur Rahman (38), and Mir Shamsul (60).

The accident occurred at 7:30am in Begaritala Bazar area of Jashore's Monirampur Upazila, according to Monirampur Police Station OC Sheikh Moniruzzaman.

Abu Taleb, owner of a roadside restaurant that was damaged in the accident, said, "Around 7:30 in the

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Rubina Akter, 45, was on her way to her father's house, riding on her brother-in-law's motorbike yesterday afternoon. She never got to reach her destination, as a private car, driven by a former Dhaka University assistant professor, hit the bike in DU area. She succumbed to her injuries on the way to the hospital. In this photo, her brother Milon is seen in a devastated state at Dhaka Medical College Hospital's emergency section after hearing about his sister's untimely demise. Story on page 1.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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LDC graduation won't be easy Experts talk about challenges countries will face during transitional period

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three South Asian nations – Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan – that are going to graduate from the status of least developed countries (LDC) would struggle to get cheaper funds during the transitional period due to global challenges and crises, according to experts.

Coordination among bilateral and multilateral lenders is required so that separate funds are not allotted for the same objective, said Debapriya Bhattacharya, distinguished fellow at Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

He said a smooth transition from LDC status is not easy, as concessional loans will not be available for middle-income countries.

Bhattacharya was addressing a webinar on "Multilateral Development Finance: Supporting an Inclusive and Sustainable Recovery in South Asia", organised by CPD yesterday.

Kazi Nabil Ahmed, member of the parliamentary standing committee on foreign ministry, said more money is needed to face challenges, as prices of energy and food increased after the pandemic and due to the Russia-Ukraine war.

According to him, multilateral and bilateral organisations should stand beside developing countries, providing concessional loans during the transitional period.

Fahmida Khatun, executive director of CPD, moderated the webinar and said multilateral development financing has been stretched across an ever-expanding list of priorities, ranging from humanitarian-crisis response to ensuring global and regional public goods.

Sachin Chaturvedi, director general at Research and Information System for Developing Countries, a New Delhi-based policy research institute, gave a presentation on the report "Multilateral Development Finance 2022".

The report suggested developing a holistic mechanism so that multilateral systems can meet new global development challenges and provide sustainable and

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Underestimated, neglected

Female upazila vice-chairs say they are given little to no agency in their roles

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Female upazila vice-chairpersons have claimed that they are neglected and underestimated in their positions, and in most cases, they are unaware of their responsibilities, as the chairpersons and UNOs never clearly inform them about their roles.

They also claimed that they do not get any workforce, logistical support or training for their work, which is why they fail to implement the promises they make to the people during the election.

They have no role in decision-making regarding project implementations, even though they are elected with more votes than their male counterparts.

Female upazila vice-chairpersons made the comments yesterday at a views exchange meeting, titled "Effective participation of women in decision-making processes: Women's political empowerment and the role of women vice-chairpersons", organised by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad at its Begum Munira Khan Auditorium in Segunbagicha.

Lawmaker Shirin Akhtar, who was a special guest at the meeting, said although women are seen to always struggle, only men are seen to be in control of power.

"If the state wants to ensure democratic rights, it must first ensure them at the upazila level," she said.

"The issue centring the agency of female vice-chairs must be addressed," she added.



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Lawmaker Shirin Akhtar

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ Allocating duties of vice-chairs from central govt
- ✓ Providing them proper resources
- ✓ Mentioning duties in manuals, notices
- ✓ Assigning them work of monitoring implementation of decisions

Lawmaker Selima Ahmed said the central government authorities should allocate and distribute responsibilities of the female vice-chairs.

"We want women representatives to be in a respectable position. They are no less than MPs," she said.

Prof Naseem Akhtar Hussain of Jahangirnagar University said a long struggle is needed to ensure

participation and representation of women in politics.

"The roles and responsibilities of female vice-chairs must be in the upazila parishad manuals and notices. Resources in the upazila office should be ensured for women as well," said Naseem.

"Female vice chairs should be given the responsibility of monitoring the work and decisions of 17 standing committees," he added.

Mahila Parishad President Fauzia Moslem said women come into politics for the welfare of people.

"Women should know how the local government can work better and create effective impacts," she added.

Suraiya Salam, the former upazila vice-chair of Madhukhali and member of the central committee of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said the disparity in resource allocation for men and women should be eliminated.

"Women's participation in the union parishad elections has declined because election expenses are too expensive for female candidates," she said.

LGRD State Minister Swapan Bhattacharjee, BMP General Secretary Maleka Banu and Secretary Rabeya Khatun Shanti, Shibpur vice-chairperson Tapasi Rabeya, Kapasia vice-chairperson Rowshan Ara Begum, and Pangsha vice-chairperson Rokeya Begum spoke at the event, moderated by Jona Goswami, BMP director of advocacy and lobbying.

Ruling class resorted to a 'colonial system' Says Santu Larma about CHT Peace Accord

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling class has resorted to a "colonial system" to control and oppress indigenous people in the country's hills, said Parbatya Chattogram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) President Santu Larma yesterday.

Santu Larma, formally known as Jyotindra Bodhipriya Larma, said the indigenous people in the hills are being deprived of their belongings and facing an existential crisis.

It took about 15 years for the government to amend the CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission Act, formulated in 2001 in line with the accord, while a set of rules for the act's proper implementation now seems like "building castles in the air".

SANTU LARMA

Larma said a conspiracy has been hatched. The ruling class is incentivising people from the plains to make settlements in the hills and snatch away what rightfully belongs to the indigenous people.

Santu Larma was addressing a discussion at the capital's Liberation War Museum, jointly

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Aviation sector facing big hurdles Says CAAB boss

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's aviation sector is facing various challenges due to the ongoing global crisis, said Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) Chairman Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman yesterday.

"If we talk about global challenges, the main one is fuel. The number of flights is increasing every year, so managing cheap fuel is the biggest challenge at the moment," he said.

The CAAB boss said this while presenting the keynote paper at a seminar at the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Titled "Aviation and Tourism opportunity: Connecting Bangladesh to the World", the seminar was organised by Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh (ATAB).

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BCL DU unit council today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The annual council of Bangladesh Chhatra League's Dhaka University unit will be held today after four years.

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader will address the programme as chief guest on Aparajeyo Bangla premises.

BCL central president Al Nahean Khan Joy will inaugurate the council, while its general secretary Lekhak Bhattacharjee will speak as the main discussant. BCL DU unit president Sonjit Chandra Das will chair the event.

Meanwhile, BCL's DU unit yesterday issued a notice asking all its activists to take down all the banners and festoons in different places of DU area for the sake of ensuring a clean campus.

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Dengue death toll **254**Total number of patients **57,858****1,727** still undergoing treatmentNumber of recovered patients **55,877****120** more hospitalised yesterday

SOURCE: DGHS

PRAYER TIMING
DECEMBER 3

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-15 12-45 3-45 5-19 7-30

JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



People from all walks of life gathered at "Paara Utshab", held at the capital's Gulshan-2 yesterday. The event was organised by Heroes for All, with the aim to revitalise the relationship among community members.

PHOTO: STAR

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