

Univ student dies as bus hits bike in Jatrabari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A private university student was killed after a bus hit his motorcycle in Dhaka's Jatrabari this morning. Two others were left injured in the incident.

The deceased was identified as Omar Faruk, 22, a first-year BBA student at Bangladesh Islami University. The accident took place around 9:00am at Bhanga Press area.

Riaz Farid, a rickshaw puller who took the three to a hospital said a few other witnesses saw the students lying on the road.

"We took them to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared Omar dead around 10:15am," Riaz said.

Talking to reporters at the hospital, injured Jewel said the accident took place when they were on their way to campus on Omar's bike.

OC Mofizul Islam of Jatrabari Police Station, said they are trying to identify the bus that killed the student.



A man carries a woman towards an ambulance after she had an accident on Mayor Hanif Flyover yesterday afternoon. She fell off a motorbike while it was racing with another one on the flyover, according to witnesses. An ambulance, passing them by, stopped to take her to a hospital. Such risky and reckless driving could have easily resulted in a tragedy.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Boost agriculture research to increase production: PM

UNB, Gazipur

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated her call to scientists to put extra efforts on research to attain excellence in agricultural production.

"I always think that without research it's not possible to attain excellence. As we are agriculture dependent country, we have given extra importance on agriculture," she said.

The prime minister was speaking at a programme to mark the 50th founding anniversary of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) and inauguration of the "Bangabandhu Pierre Trudeau Agricultural Research Center".

She, however, said the government has given importance on the research work in other sectors too.

"Besides, we have given emphasis on research works on health, education and science," she said.

The PM said Bangladesh frequently faces adverse circumstances due to the geographical location and impact of climate changes. "So, we have to produce our crops." She said the production has to be continued with new varieties of crops in tune with the climate changes and environment.

Hasina said the country is about to enter the fourth industrial revolution and so, the government has taken steps to create skilled manpower. She emphasised on learning and producing bio-informatics, nano-technology, machine learning, internet of things and new agriculture technologies.



'Water governance need of the hour' Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saber Hossain Chowdhury, chairman of the parliamentary body on the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, yesterday stressed the need for sustainable water governance to meet both current and future socio-economical and ecological demands.

Water governance refers to the political, social, economic, and administrative systems that influence the use and management of water. It is essentially about who gets what water, when and how, and who has the right to water, its related services and their benefits.

"Almost two-thirds of the available water has been used for food production. Hence, we need to think about food security as well as water security," he said at a discussion, titled "Thinking Beyond Sanitation: Transitioning to a Sustainable Urban Water Cycle", organised by The Daily Star in association with SNV at The Daily Star Centre.



Prof Muhammad Alamgir, UGC member, during his keynote presentation, said some 55pc of the urban population does not have access to clean water, which may increase further if the problem is not addressed properly.

Citing a recent survey of Urbanet Records, he said, "Currently, 39.70 percent of Bangladesh's people live in urban areas. The percentage may rise to 50 percent in 2037. The scarcity of water in the urban area will increase more if necessary measures are not taken."

SNV Country Director Ismene RAC Stalpers said Bangladesh has been facing an increasing number of impacts of climate changes.

Folkert GJ de Jager, first secretary of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, said financing in the water sector is a challenge that needs to be addressed.

AHM Khalequr Rahman, executive engineer of the Department of Public Health Engineering, said, "As the contamination of water is increasing day by day, we must think about alternative sources in urban areas."

Sumana Sharmin, city planner of Gazipur City Corporation, said, "We cover 30 percent of areas in Gazipur with supply water, but many people of these areas have a tendency to extract groundwater."

ADDRESSING ROHINGYA CRISIS

Look beyond political agenda

Law minister tells UN Security Council

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq has called for the UN Security Council to go beyond the political agenda to address the Rohingya crisis that otherwise is posing a serious security challenge for the region and the whole world.

Safe and sustainable Rohingya repatriation from Bangladesh to Myanmar is the only solution to the crisis, which requires the creation of conducive conditions in Myanmar. However, repeated efforts of repatriation have not worked since about a million Rohingyas fled to Bangladesh in 2016 and 2017 following a military crackdown, he said.

There have been some significant developments, including the International Court of Justice's verdict allowing the Rohingya genocide case of the Gambia to proceed, the US declaration of the atrocities as genocide and dozens of sanctions against the Myanmar military and businesses linked to it.

However, there is no progress towards a solution because of some regional and global powers' support towards Myanmar, said analysts.

Permanent members of the UN Security Council — Russia and China, which have a major interest in Myanmar — have not taken any concrete actions that could help solve the Rohingya crisis.

"The UN Security Council should play a constructive role, going beyond political agenda. We expect UN special envoy for Myanmar to play a role in creating conducive conditions so Rohingyas can return," Anisul Huq said while addressing as chief guest at a seminar yesterday.

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) organised the event, titled



The UN Security Council should play constructive role, going beyond political agenda. We expect UN special envoy for Myanmar to play role in creating conducive conditions so Rohingyas can return.

ANISUL HUQ

"Rohingya Crisis and the Emerging Security Challenges: Response Strategy of Bangladesh", at its auditorium in the city.

The minister said the prolonged stay of some 1.2 million Rohingyas is a huge burden for Bangladesh. Moreover, it is posing risks of radicalisation, while many of them are getting involved in drug smuggling, human trafficking and other crimes.

The UN must take tangible actions for addressing the crisis, he added.

Dhaka University International Relations Professor Dr Delwar Hossain said there have been discriminatory policies against the ethnic communities in Myanmar. And, the Rohingyas were not even recognised as

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DHAKA BAR Election ends amid boycott by pro-BNP lawyers

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The two-day election for the 2023-2024 executive committee at Dhaka Bar Association ended yesterday amid boycott by pro-BNP lawyers.

The BNP-backed "Blue Panel" brought allegations of irregularities and rigging against chief election commissioner Abdullah Abu. However, pro-Awami League "White Panel" attended the voting.

Mizanur Rahman Mamun and Khandakar Golam Kibria Jobayer contested for the posts of president and general secretary from White Panel respectively, while Khorshed Miah Alam and Sayed Nazrul Islam vied for those posts from Blue Panel.

Abdullah Abu, also Dhaka Metropolitan Public Prosecutor, said the allegations were false and fabricated.

Khorshed claimed on a Facebook live video on Wednesday night that they observed irregularities and vote rigging.

He said BNP-backed election commissioners counted a total of 4,023 votes on Wednesday, but Abdullah Abu declared that a total of 5,028 voters cast their votes.

"Yesterday, I went to the office of the chief election commission to submit a written application, seeking re-voting, but... he was not present there," added Khorshed.

It's hard to trust anyone these days Man embezzles wedding gifts after carrying them to country from Dubai

SHARIFUL ISLAM

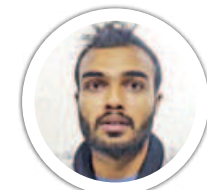
Mujibur Rahman and his family were eagerly preparing for his daughter's and his niece's wedding in Madaripur's Shibchar.

The brides' brothers, who are currently working in Dubai, sent 28 tolas of gold bars and ornaments, and phone sets as gifts through another expat.

However, the festive mood in the family soon turned into a state of panic when their carrier went into hiding with the gifts, upon landing in Dhaka.

According to the statement of a case filed over the embezzlement, Dubai expatriate Md Arif and his cousin Md Toyab purchased two gold bars weighing 20 tolas and gold ornaments weighing eight tolas at a cost of Tk 26.04 lakh for the brides.

For the grooms, they purchased one iPhone 13 at Tk 1.75 lakh and a Samsung Galaxy S 22 Ultra at Tk 1.40 lakh.



With the money, he started constructing a one-story building at his in-law's house and bought a motorcycle. A portion of it was also spent on repaying the loans he made for going to Dubai.

As they could not manage to leave work, they decided to send the gifts through one of their acquaintances Md Shawon Ahmed, 30, who went to Dubai around six months ago. However, he decided to return failing to manage any job.

Arif and Toyab provided Shawon with a Dubai to Dhaka air ticket and 1,400 Dirham worth Tk 42,700 to pay the taxes for the gifts. They even recorded a video while handing over the items to Shawon.

Shawon landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka at 4:00am on January 13. However, without handing over the gifts to Arif's father Mujibur, who was waiting at the airport, he left the airport through the staff gate and fled to his father-in-law's house at Bogura's Sariakandi.

He switched his phone off and stopped contacting his family as well. In no time, he sold

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Five more hospitalised with dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five dengue patients were hospitalised in the last 24 hours across the country till yesterday morning.

According to the DGHS, the total number of dengue cases this year rose to 713.

Nine persons have died of dengue this year so far.

Some 22 dengue patients are still undergoing treatment while some 682 have been released from hospitals.



PRAYER TIMING
FEBRUARY 24
Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:20 12:30 4:30 6:03 7:30
JAMAAT 5:55 1:15 4:45 6:07 8:00
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Be it browsing through books at a stall or hanging out with friends, the Ekushey Boi Mela has something for everyone. This photo of a youth engrossed in reading a book was taken at Suhrawardy Udyan. On the 23rd day of the fair yesterday, 78 new books were published, according to Bangla Academy.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

PUBLIC HOSPITALS Decision on pvt practice guidelines still pending

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The committee, tasked to set the guidelines for the private practice initiative at public hospitals for three hours, ended its third meeting yesterday without finalising the procedure.

The 26-member committee, led by Saidur Rahman, additional secretary (administration) at the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, will sit again on Sunday, a member confirmed this newspaper.

There are some issues involving the hospital preparedness that need to be addressed before introducing the system, said the member.

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING NHRC to conduct survey to find root causes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has announced that it will conduct a survey aimed at identifying the root causes, prevalent issues, and possible solutions to combatting human trafficking.

They will conduct the survey with the help and support from all stakeholders, including Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services Limited (BOESL), said NHRC chairman Kamal Uddin Ahmed yesterday.

He said this during a discussion on "Legal protection of trafficking survivors" held at the NHRC conference room, organised by the Bangladesh National Woman Lawyers' Association with the support of the Embassy of Switzerland in Bangladesh.

Advocate Fahmida Akther, a lawyer for the one-stop crisis center, Advocate Salma Ali, president of BNWLA, and Md Selim Reza, a full-time member of NHRC, also spoke.