



Fatal exhaustion

Three killed after 'tired' fire engine driver 'dies behind steering wheel'



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

When he took the wheel of a fire engine and headed for Fatullah in Narayanganj to respond to a fire yesterday morning, Jahangir Hossain was already exhausted.

He and his team had fought a blaze at a garment factory in Narayanganj till early morning. He was able to rest for about three hours before they were called in to control another fire at another apparel factory.

As he rushed towards the scene, Jahangir, 50, suddenly incapacitated. His fire engine hit several vehicles and pedestrians, said Obaidul Islam, station officer of Narayanganj's Hajiganj Fire Station, who was sitting next to Jahangir.

Four people, including Jahangir, died and six others injured in the accident around 10:30am.

The other victims are Salauddin Sabu, 45, Sirajul

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EU MISSION VISIT AL, BNP look to different outcome

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The European Union should send a fully-fledged election observation mission ahead of the next general election, the Awami League thinks.

The AL's archival the BNP, however, say the question of sending election observers is immaterial as a free and fair election is not possible under the incumbent government.

The EU's Election Exploratory Mission left Dhaka on Sunday wrapping up its July 9-23 tour of Bangladesh.

The mission, which held about 100 meetings, didn't make any official remarks.

The EU team, led by Chellari Riccardo, will prepare a report on the outcome of the visit. The report will form the basis for the EU to determine whether it would send a team to observe Bangladesh's next parliamentary polls, scheduled to be held in late December or early January.

Mahbubul Alam Hanif, joint general secretary of AL, said the EU should send observers if it wants to see free and fair polls.

"Otherwise, how will they be satisfied about a free and fair election?" he told The Daily Star.

The AL leader said his party is determined to hold elections in a free and fair manner.

The BNP is skeptical about the outcome of the EU mission's visit.

"We have been saying for long that no free and fair election can be held under the incumbent government. During their [EU mission] visit, we saw that an independent candidate in the Dhaka-17 by-election came under attack. The ruling party is holding counter programmes of the BNP, killings are taking place, and false cases are being lodged," said Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, a member of the BNP standing committee.

During the EU mission's stay in Bangladesh, the government appointed new deputy commissioners to different districts, transferred police officials, and all of them are pro-government officials, he said, adding that the roles of the Election Commission and the judiciary are also quite clear.

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Drone attack targets Moscow army HQ

Russia threatens retaliation

REUTERS, Moscow

Russia spoke of taking harsh retaliatory measures against Ukraine after two drones damaged buildings in Moscow early yesterday, including one close to the Defence Ministry's headquarters, in what it called a brazen act of terror.

Nobody was hurt in the attack, of which a senior Ukrainian official said there would be more, but one drone struck close to the Moscow building where the Russian military holds briefings on what it calls its "special military operation", a symbolic blow which underscored the reach of such drones.

Roads nearby were temporarily closed, windows on the top two floors of an office building struck by a second drone in another Moscow district were blown out, and debris was scattered on the ground, a Reuters reporter who saw the aftermath of the incident said.

"I was asleep and was woken up by a blast, everything started shaking," Polina, a young woman who lives near the high-rise building, told Reuters.

A third "helicopter-type drone" which was not carrying explosives fell on a cemetery in a town outside Moscow, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement in which it vowed that all those responsible would be found and punished.

The Kremlin said it would press on with its campaign in Ukraine and meet all the aims of an operation which Kyiv and much of the West say is a brutal war of conquest.

The Moscow drone attack, though not serious in terms of its human cost or damage, was the most high-profile of its kind since two drones reached the Kremlin in May.

A swarm of 17 drones also launched attacks overnight on Crimea, which Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014, the Russian Defence Ministry said, adding it had used anti-drone equipment and air defences to bring them down. The Russian-installed head of Crimea said an ammunition warehouse had been struck and a residential building damaged.

CITIZENS' DATA LEAK Probe fails to detect extent of breach

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The investigation into the data leak of citizens from the website of the Office of the Registrar General, Birth & Death Registration have failed to determine the extent of the breach, said Zuanid Ahmed Palak, the state minister for ICT.

"It is still not known how many people's information has been leaked. The architecture was weak and there was no logbook," Palak said at a press conference yesterday.

On June 7, TechCrunch, a San Francisco-based online publisher of start-up and technology industry news, reported that the personal information of about 5 million Bangladeshi nationals have leaked from a government website.

The leaked data includes names, phone numbers, email addresses and national ID numbers of the citizens.

Viktor Markopoulos, a researcher who works for Bitcrack Cyber Security, told TechCrunch he accidentally discovered the leak on June 27, and shortly afterwards, contacted the Bangladeshi e-Government Computer Incident Response Team (CIRT).

The TechCrunch report, which was covered extensively by local media, prompted the ICT Division on July 10 to form a seven-member investigation committee to probe the data leak. The report was submitted on July 20.

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UN SUMMIT PM places five- point proposal for sustainable food system

BSS, Rome

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday placed a five-point proposal at the UN Food Systems Summit to ensure a sustainable, safe and nutritious food system worldwide, laying emphasis on coordinated steps to lift restrictions on food and fertiliser exports.

She also stressed the need for the promotion of multilateral development banks and private entrepreneurs to invest in modern agriculture.

The premier made these proposals while addressing the official opening ceremony of the UN Food Systems Summit+2 Stocktaking Moment (UNFSS+2) at the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) headquarters in Rome.

The summit began in the evening with

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The Jamuna has devoured about 100 homes and large swaths of farmland in Haatpachil village of Sirajganj's Shahjadpur upazila over the last one month. The erosion by the river has left many families homeless. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

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Israeli security forces use a water cannon to disperse demonstrators blocking the entrance of the Knesset, Israel's parliament, in Jerusalem yesterday, amid a months-long wave of protests against the government's planned judicial overhaul. The law, passed yesterday, removes the power of the Supreme Court to overrule government actions it considers unreasonable.

PHOTO: AFP

CAMBODIA POLLS US to impose visa restrictions, cut aid Says polls 'neither free nor fair'

AGENCIES

The US yesterday said it is taking steps to impose visa restrictions on individuals and aid cuts in response to Cambodia's national election, which Prime Minister Hun Sen's ruling party won in a landslide after his most credible rivals were disqualified.

The United States said the party's stifling of the opposition meant the vote could not be considered free or fair.

Autocratic leader Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party won 120 of 125 available seats in Sunday's elections, according to preliminary results.

Ahead of Sunday's election, the unofficial successor to the CNRP, known as the Candlelight Party, was barred on a technicality from

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