

Six killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

At least six people were killed in road accidents in four districts yesterday.

In Bagerhat, a motorcyclist was killed as an unidentified vehicle hit him in Mollahat upazila.

The deceased is Asad Sheikh, 40, from Jugihati in Khulna.

The accident occurred around 7:30am on Khulna-Mawa highway in Kalulpur.

Hours later, Md Anwar, 35, from Gangni in Mollahat, was killed when a bus hit a rickshaw-van carrying him in front of Sagar Filling Station, said Mollahat Highway Police Station Officer-in-Charge Sheikh Nuruzzaman.

In Rajbari, two helpers of a driver were killed as a truck hit another parked truck at Kalibari.

The deceased are Anisur Rahman, 35, and Md Liton Sheikh, 35.

In Dinajpur, Hosen Ali, 70, died as a pickup ran him over while he was crossing the Dinajpur-Gobindaganj road at Tatakpur intersection.

In Joypurhat, Rabeya Begum, 60, was killed when a truck hit her in Sadar upazila.



The shed of this bus stop in the capital's Motijheel area got damaged around a month back during a storm. Ever since, it has been leaning forward precariously, held back from collapsing by the damaged welding at its foundation and cables tied to an electric pole. At any moment, it could collapse and lead to a disaster. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Bitumen that lasts 10 days!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Within merely 10 days after renovation, the bitumen cover of a road in Nizampur area of Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila is coming off.

The Local Government Engineering Department recently renovated the 3.3-kilometre-long and 3-metre-wide road from Sagar Cinema Hall to Nizampur Kheyaghat area in the upazila at a cost of Tk 1.33 crore, and opened it to traffic 10 days back.

However, soon after vehicular movement resumed on the road, the bitumen cover started getting removed at numerous places, alleged locals.

Visiting the road yesterday, this correspondent observed that the bitumen is coming off even if scraped by hand, or rubbed by feet.

Locals said 25mm thick bitumen cover was supposed to be made throughout the road, but most places got only 15-20mm cover.

According to sources at Kalapara upazila LGED office, the road was renovated recently after it got damaged in Cyclone Amphan-induced flood.

A contractor named Shahidul Enterprises got the Tk 1.33 crore renovation work and has been paid Tk 90 lakh already. However, within 10 days the road returned to a dilapidated state.



"Poor-quality materials were used to renovate the road. We demand exemplary punishment of the officials concerned and the contractor for irregularities, and proper renovation of the road," said Nasir Mia, a local resident.

Solaiman Munshi, another local, echoed him.

Refusing to provide details, Mohammad Sadekur Rahman, Kalapara upazila engineer of LGED, said the final bill will be withheld until the road is reconstructed.

Contacted, Rabiul Islam, UNO of Kalapara upazila, said he inspected the renovated road and found it to be of sub-standard work.

"Instructions have been given not to pay the final bill until the road is rebuilt. The contractor's security money has also been asked to be forfeited," he added.

Motaleb Talukder, chairman of Kalapara upazila parishad, said the supervising official has been directed to rebuild the road at the earliest.

Construction

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At another programme of cardiologists at a city hotel on Friday evening, the minister said a Health Safety Act would be placed in the parliament soon.

He said no one has the right to say "wrong treatment" except the Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council (BMDC).

If anyone wants to lodge any complaint over wrong treatment, he will have to apply to BMDC, he added.

Samanta said whenever a doctor is posted to an upazila health complex, she or he starts lobbying to cancel the order. "The doctors will have to work in rural and suburban areas," he said.

"We are taking initiatives to improve the residence facilities of doctors there," he added.

Lots of noise

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Quader said everyone except Awami League supporters agrees that the current situation of the country is not good.

Ordinary people are struggling; many can't even afford an egg. It is happening due to the government's flawed policies and corruption.

Regarding the anti-quota movement, he said, "University students are now protesting against the quota system. This quota system is unconstitutional. There is no way to legalise it according to the constitution. So why does the current government need this quota?"

Take stance against propagandists

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the country, who mislead people by spreading misinformation against the government.

"Anyone can oppose the government's decisions and can give different opinions, but, if anyone misleads people by spreading falsehoods and misinformation, artistes and creative industry members have a responsibility to stand against the propagandists."

In this connection, he referred to a number of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) signed during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's recent India visit saying "a vested quarter are carrying out misinformation campaigns to mislead the

people over the contents of the MoUs".

Responding to the criticism over Bangladesh-India MoU on regional connectivity, he said, the propagators are saying that Indian trains will run through Bangladesh carrying arms, ammunitions and explosive posing a security risk here, which is an absolute lie.

The state minister said the MoU clearly stated about establishing a regional connectivity since Bangladesh has a business with Nepal and Bhutan worth of US \$50 million.

"We export our products to those countries. Now these products are being exported through transshipment process via

India to Nepal and Bhutan," he said, adding, if a straight train line is established, it will help Bangladesh expand its business and export.

Arafat said, "We also inserted a provision in the MoU that we will go to Nepal and Bhutan through India".

He said another important aspect of this MoU is that Bangladesh under the agreement will import 40MW electricity from Nepal using India's national gridline. At present, Nepal is producing electricity considering its domestic demand although it has the potential of generating 72,000 MW of electricity.

"We can reduce our dependency on fossil fuels if we import clean energy

from Nepal that will be good for Bangladesh, India, Nepal and the entire world," Arafat said. So, how does it go against the country's interest? he questioned.

On government grants for film production, he said the government wants to ensure transparency and accountability in the selection process of the scripts for getting the grant.

"We want to focus on quality rather than quantity to this end. So, international standards will be followed in the selection process next time," Arafat said.

The government has selected 26 films, including 20 feature-length and six short films, to provide Tk 15.20 crore as grants in 2023-24 fiscal.

A teacher

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behind in studies due to the flood-induced school closure. Thanks to Bidhan Das, they are not only able to continue their studies, but also get necessary school supplies and a nurturing environment," she said.

Similar sentiments were echoed by Mohammad Ali, a seventh grader sheltered at the school.

"Our house got damaged in the flood, so we took shelter here. I did not expect to be able to study in the present situation, but here we are receiving enough support to make sure our studies are not disrupted."

Bidhan's commitment resonates deeply with his purpose as an educator.

"As a teacher, I have a commitment to do everything possible to make sure that education remains uninterrupted for the students, even during a natural disaster," he told this correspondent.

India a political

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"Our foreign policy is friendship with everyone, malice to none. India has been our faithful friend since 1971. We cannot forget our friends in times of trouble," Obaidul Quader said, asking "what did the post-75 governments achieve by having hostile relations with India for 21 years?"

He also said the friendly relations with India contributed to resolving

the border and chhitmahal problems.

Speaking of the BNP's demand for UN intervention on Khaleda Zia's proper treatment, he said, "There is no point in doing that, it is a matter of law. BNP is playing politics over Khaleda Zia's treatment."

Quader said that the BNP has resorted to the quota and teachers' protests after failing to wage their own movement.

BNP supports

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"What they [AL leaders] are saying is illogical," Fakhru said.

However, he said BNP, as a responsible party, must react to incidents happening within the country.

"They [teachers and students] are carrying out their movements, and we have moral support for

them now and will continue to do so. Can't we support a justified movement?" the BNP leader said.

Fakhru urged the government to meet the protesters' demands by rescinding the "Prottoy" pension scheme for teachers and reducing the current quota in government jobs to a reasonable level.

জমি বিক্রয়
ঢাকার সন্নিকটে উত্তর উত্তর মেট্রোপলিটেনের পশ্চিম পাশে সাভারের উত্তর দপাড়া ও বাগান মৌজায় আমিন মোহাম্মদের আত্মসিদ্ধা মডেল টাউনে তিনদিকে ৫০ ফুট/৩০ ফুট/২৫ ফুট রাস্তাসহ এখনই বাড়ী করার উপযোগী ৪৫.৬৯ শতাংশ জমি বিক্রয় হবে।
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| 1 | Ministry/Division | Local Government Division. |
| 2 | Implementing Agency | Department of Public Health Engineering. |
| 3 | Project/Program Name | Revenue Budget. |
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GD-17