

5 fall from train roof to their deaths

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Five people, including children, were crushed to death under the wheels of a train after falling off its roof in Narsingdi's Raipura upazila yesterday.

The incident occurred around 6:20am in the Ashrafpur area near Methikanda Railway Station in the upazila.

The deceased could not be identified till the filing of this report at 8:15pm.

However, the victims are presumed to be between the ages of 12 and 20, Shahidul Islam, in-charge of Narsingdi Railway Police Station, told The Daily Star.

"They were travelling on the roof of the Dhaka-bound Chattogram Mail train."

Quoting witnesses, he said they were on the roof of the first compartment. All five were seen jostling and fighting over something. "At one point, all of them fell off and were crushed under the wheels of the train."

The bodies were taken to the Narsingdi Sadar Hospital morgue around 5:00pm.

Shahidul said, "We could not determine the specific ages of the deceased as their bodies have been dismembered. Experts from Dhaka are expected to arrive soon to help us identify them."

Meanwhile, another man was run over by a train in Raipura town around 12:15pm.

Parimal Sutradhar, 70, of the West Kandapara area in Narsingdi town, was run over by the Kalani Express at Sirampur Railgate area.

Dr Mohammad Mahmudul Kabir Bashar, resident medical officer of Narsingdi Sadar Hospital, said, "Six bodies were brought to the hospital by railway personnel around 5:00pm. The bodies were dismembered and could not be identified immediately. Once the post-mortems are complete, we will return the bodies back to the railway police."

Shahidul further said, "If the bodies are not identified by tomorrow, they will be buried at the government cemetery."



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina reaches Beijing Capital International Airport yesterday. Top Chinese officials and the Bangladesh ambassador to China received her at the airport. She is on a four-day official visit to China.

PHOTO: BSS

Russian strikes on Ukraine kill 36

Gut Kyiv children's hospital; UN condemns attack

AFP, Kyiv

Russia struck cities across Ukraine yesterday with a missile barrage that killed 36 people and heavily damaged a Kyiv children's hospital in an assault condemned as a ruthless attack on civilians.

Dozens of volunteers, doctors and rescue workers were digging through debris of a part of Okhmatdyt paediatric hospital in a desperate search for survivors after the rare day-time bombardment.

First responders ran for cover when sirens and a blast sounded hours after the initial strikes that hit as Ukraine struggles to protect itself from Russian aerial attacks.

President Volodymyr Zelensky said Russian forces fired more than 40 missiles at least five major civilian hubs mainly in the south and east of the country, as well as Kyiv.

The attack came as Zelensky visited Warsaw before heading to the Nato summit in Washington, where he was expected to appeal for more military support from the

country's allies.

The UN harshly condemned wave of deadly Russian strikes across Ukraine, including on Kyiv, saying "dozens of people have been killed and injured".

AFP reporters at the scene of the attacks heard air raid sirens and explosions ring out as the missiles crashed into the capital and debris from downed projectiles rained down over the city.

Natalia Svidler, 40, was in the hospital at the time of the strike with her two-year-old son, who was due to have surgery this week, when the air raid sirens sounded.

"The nurses told us to go down to the basement. After a while we heard a loud rumble and then the ceiling in the basement collapsed a little," she said at the scene.

"Everyone got very scared, of course. Everyone started screaming and running," she told AFP.

City officials said the attack had also damaged several residential buildings and an office block in Kyiv where AFP

reporters saw cars on fire and shredded trees in charred courtyards.

Ukrainian energy operator DTEK also said three electrical substations had been destroyed or damaged in the attack, the latest in series of strikes that have halved the country's energy generation capacity in recent months.

Zelensky said that there were an unknown number of people trapped under the rubble of the Okhmatdyt children's hospital and it was not immediately clear how many had been killed.

An AFP reporter saw one body at the scene, covered with an emergency blanket.

Municipal officials said that five people had been pulled from the rubble while at least 10 people had been killed in the barrage that hit Kyiv.

Russian forces have repeatedly targeted the capital with massive barrages since Moscow invaded Ukraine in February 2022, and the last major attack on Kyiv with drones and missiles was last month.

FARIDPUR MOB BEATING

UP chairman, member removed from posts

UNB, Faridpur

Shah Asaduzzaman and Ajit Kumar Biswas, chairman and member of Dumain union parishad under Madhukhali upazila of Faridpur, have been removed from their posts over allegations of their involvement in the fatal beating of two construction workers accused of torching an idol at a local temple on April 18.

The decision was announced on July 7 in a notification, issued by the Local Government Division under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives, signed by Senior Assistant Secretary Purabi Golder.

On April 18, two construction workers were beaten to death by villagers after being suspected of setting fire to an idol at the Panchpalli Sarbojonin Kali Temple in Panchpalli under Dumain union.

According to the notification, Shah Asaduzzaman and Ajit Kumar Biswas were allegedly involved in the incident, and as such, both officials were suspended as per recommendation from the deputy commissioner of Faridpur.

The notification also directed the Madhukhali upazila nirbahi officer to declare the posts vacant and issue a gazette notification in this regard.

Following the mob beating on April 18, video footage of the incident surfaced on social media, which showed Shah Asaduzzaman participating in the assault. Since then, both the chairman and the member have been in hiding.

Hijra tortured by BSF along Tentulia border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A 45-year-old Bangladeshi transperson was tortured allegedly by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) along the Banglabandha border in Panchagarh's Tentulia upazila early yesterday.

Kiron alias Raju, 45, of Narayanganj Sadar upazila, is currently undergoing treatment at Panchagarh Sadar Hospital.

According to the victim, 11 people from the hijra community reached Banglabandha border area around 1:00am to illegally enter India with the help of a local broker, whom they each paid Tk 10,000.

Ten of them managed to enter India, but Kiron got caught by BSF members.

Kiron was then beaten by BSF men with sticks and rifle butts before being left near Bangladesh territory around 5:00am.

Later, BGB men rescued and admitted Kiron to Tentulia Upazila Health Complex. Kiron was later transferred to Panchagarh Sadar Hospital for better treatment.

Contacted, Lt Col Ziaul Haque, commanding officer of 18 BGB Battalion, said a letter was sent to the BSF to hold a flag meeting over the incident but they were yet to get a response.

Quota protests on; govt looks to SC for a way out

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AL General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader; Law Minister Anisul Huq; Education Minister Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury; and State Minister for Information Mohammad Ali Arafat; State Minister for Education Shamsun Naher along with AL office Secretary Biplab Barua were at the meeting.

Sources said the participants expected a solution to the issue soon. They said the government was sympathetic towards the demonstrators and that it would act sensibly. They were of the opinion that the protesters should not carry out any programme that causes public suffering.

DEMO IN DHAKA

Like the previous day, the protesters blocked Shahbagh, Science Lab, Nilkhet, Technical, Karwan Bazar, Farmgate, and Zero Point intersections for at least four hours.

Hundreds of students of Dhaka University gathered in front of the Central Library around 3:30pm and headed for Shahbagh in processions.

Holding placards and chanting slogans, they blocked Shahbagh intersection around 4:00pm.

Other groups of mostly Dhaka University students blocked the Chankharpul intersection near Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover, and Banglamotor and Sonargaon intersections.

Around the same time, students of Dhaka College and Eden Mahila College blocked the Nilkhet and Science Lab intersections.

"We have been left with no other options other than taking to the streets. We will not stop our movement until our demands are met," Rashed Al Hasan, a student of Dhaka College, told The Daily Star.

Defying police obstruction, students of Jagannath University blocked the Zero Point intersection in Gulistan for three

hours from 4:00pm.

Around 4:15pm, students from Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University blocked the street near their university in Agargaon.

Some students blocked the Paltan intersection around 5:00pm.

Several hundred students marched towards Farmgate around 5:00pm, halting traffic on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue.

A huge number of people were seen walking to their destinations.

There, the students ended their blockade for the day around 7:30pm and marched towards Shahbagh.

HIGHWAYS, RAIL LINES

Students blocked rail lines in Dhaka's Karwan Bazar level crossing for nearly an hour from 6:40pm. Besides, rail lines in Mymensingh, Rajshahi, and Chattogram were also blocked for several hours.

They also blocked the Dhaka-Chattogram, Dhaka-Aricha, Chattogram-Khagrachhari, Barishal-Kuakata, and Dinajpur-Dhaka highways.

Cumilla University students blocked the Dhaka-Chattogram highway for four hours from 4:00pm. They staged a sit-in on the highway at Kotbari in Cumilla Sadar.

Students of Chittagong University along with students from various CU-affiliated educational institutions first blocked the road in front of Gate-2 of Sholoshahar and then staged a sit-in in Tigerpass area of Chattogram city.

Hridoy Ahmed Rizvi, a Chhatra League activist at the university, allegedly threatened an organiser of the movement at CU.

Khan Talat Mahmud Rafi, a first-year honours student of Dramatics, alleged that Hridoy called his father in Netrakona on Sunday night and said that there would be dire consequences for Rafi if he did not quit the movement.

Contacted, Hridoy claimed that his phone had been "hacked".

Rail communication between Dhaka and Mymensingh was suspended for two hours from 1:30pm as students of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) blocked the Dhaka-Mymensingh rail line for the third consecutive day.

The students set up barricades at Jabbarer Mor, halting the Jamalpur Express on its tracks. Rail communication resumed at 3:10pm, reports UNB.

Hundreds of students from Rajshahi University blocked the Dhaka-Rajshahi rail line near the campus for nearly five hours from 11:30am.

WHAT MINISTERS SAID

Talking to The Daily Star last night, Law Minister Anisul Huq said the government has no decision about the quota system, as the matter is now pending with the Supreme Court.

He said the protesters can place their arguments before the court through lawyers.

"When the High Court was holding hearings on the case filed for keeping the quota system, those who were demonstrating had no lawyers. They did not present their arguments before the High Court.

"Now the case is before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. They can now place arguments before the Appellate Division through lawyers. The Appellate Division will give a fair verdict after hearing their arguments," he said.

Road Transport Minister Obaidul Quader said programmes that cause public sufferings should be avoided.

"The court scrapped the circular that abolished the quota system. The government has appealed against that decision. Creating public suffering by blocking roads should be avoided until the court delivers its verdict," Quader said.

Education Minister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury said he would not comment on a matter pending with the court.

in Beijing.

On July 10, a delegation level bilateral meeting, led by Hasina and Li Qiang, will be held at the Great Hall of the People.

She will later attend a banquet hosted by the Chinese premier at the same venue.

In the afternoon, Hasina will call on Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People.

The Bangladesh premier is scheduled to depart from Beijing Capital International Airport at 11:00am (Beijing time) on July 11 by a special Biman flight.

The flight is scheduled to land at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Dhaka, at 2:00pm (Bangladesh time) the same day.

Six PSC officials, 11 others arrested

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Hossain, a trader; Sayem Hossain, Liton Sarker, Sayed Sohanur Rahman Siam, son of Abed, Jahidul Islam, Mamunur Rashid, and Noman Siddiqui.

Touhidul Islam, special superintendent of CID's cyber investigation and operation, told The Daily Star, "We have arrested them after conducting raids in different areas over the last two days."

"The arrestees were involved in leaking questions of the deputy assistant engineer recruitment test of Bangladesh Railway held on July 5. They were also involved in the leak of questions of multiple non-cadre examinations."

"We are interrogating them at the CID office," he said, adding that a case was filed against the arrestees with Paltan Police Station in connection with leaking question papers.

According to sources, Abed Ali, driver of a former PSC chairman, was involved in the question leak. His son Sohanur, a Chhatra League leader, was also involved.

Abed Ali, of Dasar upazila, owns crores of taka.

His son Sohan studied abroad and then at a private university in the country. It is also learnt that Abed has two multi-storey buildings in Dhaka

and a luxurious house in Madaripur.

Abed also campaigned seeking candidacy for the post of chairman in the last upazila parishad election.

Earlier, Channel 24 aired an investigative report on the question leak. There have been allegations of question paper leak in various PSC examinations, including for cadre and non-cadre posts, said the report.

According to the report, questions of the test for recruiting 516 people in Bangladesh Railway were leaked.

The report said question papers of 30 cadre and non-cadre examinations, including BCS, were leaked and some PSC officials were involved. The racket has amassed a huge amount of money by selling questions, the report added.

Sources in the CID said arrested PSC Office Assistant Sajedul took the railway recruitment exam question paper from Deputy Director Jafar.

The racket made around Tk 2 crore leaking the question papers.

Sajedul earlier leaked questions of PSC exams and driver Abed abetted him, the sources added.

In another development, Dhaka north city Chhatra League yesterday relieved Abed's son Sohanur, relief and disaster management secretary of the unit, for his alleged involved in leaking questions.

ACC seeks info on 14 firms from BB, Islami Bank

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working days after receiving the letters from the graft watchdog.

The letters were sent yesterday.

The Nabil Group companies include Nabil Naba Foods Ltd, Nabil Cold Storage, Nabil Feed Mills Ltd, Nabil Auto Rice Mill, Nabil Auto Flour Mill, Shimul Enterprise, Naba Agro Trade International, Anwara Trade International, Naba Pharma Limited, Nabil Green Crops Limited, and International Product Palace.

The 11 Nabil Group companies maintained accounts with Islami Bank's Gulshan Corporate Branch, New Market branch in Rajshahi and Pabna branch in Pabna.

The ACC also sought information on M/s Murad Enterprise and its affiliates (client of IBBL Chaktai branch in Chattogram), United Super Traders and its affiliates (client of IBBL Jubilee Road branch in Chattogram), and Century Food Products Limited and its affiliates (client of IBBL Khatunganj Corporate branch in Chattogram).

Golam Kibria Chowdhury, owner of United Super Traders, and others have allegedly embezzled crores of taka from Islami Bank.

A three-member ACC committee is investigating the allegations, said the letters.

According to a Bangladesh Bank inspection report, the IBBL in its 1,970th executive committee meeting on June 5, 2022, approved loans of Tk 950 crore for Nabil Grain Crops Ltd to be disbursed from the bank's Gulshan branch.

The company is grouped in the marginal category (new company) as per the Internal Credit Risk Rating System (ICRRS), said the central bank in its observation report.

BB officials said the IBBL should have taken at least Tk 230 crore as collateral money, including Tk 110 crore as deposits, from the company. As ensuring such safeguards is not mandatory for banks under the easy loan conditions, the loans become risky.

The IBBL Rajshahi branch

A press release of the unit said Sohanur was removed due to his involvement in anti-organisational and unethical activities.

In another development, the Public Service Commission yesterday said there was no scope for leaking questions of cadre and non-cadre exams held over the last 12 years.

There have been no complaints from any quarters about the exams, said a PSC statement.

The negative report aired by Channel 24 about the exams has tarnished the image of the institution.

The reporter concerned got a copy of a question via WhatsApp an hour before the exam, the statement said, adding that to ensure transparency and prevent question leaks, at least six sets of questions are prepared for each BCS exam and at least four sets for any non-cadre tests.

A lottery is held to determine which set will be used 30 to 35 minutes before a test begins, it said.

"The same procedures were followed for the July 5 recruitment test."

If any person or groups are found to be involved in leaking questions or cheating in this exam, the commission will take action against them following a probe, it added.

approved Tk 3,100 crore loans to 11 Nabil Group companies, including Tk 700 crore to Nabil Feed Mills Ltd, also in June 2022.

In the meeting minutes, the IBBL claimed that Nabil Feed Mills Ltd and Nabil Grain Crops Ltd are not companies of the same group. However, the central bank suspected that the companies are owned by Nabil Group, according to the BB report.

If this is the case, then the IBBL has exceeded the single borrower exposure limit, which is a violation of The Bank Company Act, said the central bank.

In November 2023, the ACC wrote to the central bank seeking information on this alleged loan fraud.

In January this year, the BB said that the inspection of those institutions was underway and that it would sent the report once the inspection is completed.

The Daily Star could not reach Nabil Group Managing Director Md Aminul Islam for comments yesterday as he did not answer calls and SMS.