

Two killed, 16 hurt in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least two persons died in Gazipur and Brahmanbaria yesterday.

In Gazipur, one person was killed and another injured when a pickup van crashed into an electricity pole on the Dhaka-Kishoreganj highway in Gazipur yesterday morning.

The accident occurred around 6:00am in Dhaladia, Sreepur upazila, said Salna Highway Police Station Duty Officer Jessica.

The driver of the pickup van, Apurva Burman, 45, from Safaisri village in Kapasia upazila, died on the spot.

Eyewitnesses reported that the pickup lost control and hit the pole. Locals then rushed the injured to a hospital.

In Brahmanbaria, a woman was killed and 15 other passengers of a bus were injured as the vehicle overturned on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Baishamura in Sarail upazila yesterday, reports BSS.

The deceased was identified as Hajera Khatun, 45, from Mogaltula village in Sarail.

The accident occurred as the bus driver lost control around 11:30am. Hajera died on the spot, said Officer-in-Charge of Sarail Khandhata Highway Police Station Ashish Kumar Sanjal.

The injured were taken to local hospitals, the OC said.

Crystal meth, yaba worth Tk 21cr seized

UNB, Dhaka

BGB has seized drugs worth nearly Tk 21 crore in Cox's Bazar's Teknaf and Bandarban's Naikkhayangchhari upazilas.

Acting on a tip-off, a team from BGB-2 conducted a raid around 11:30pm on Thursday in an abandoned house in the Naitongpara border area, according to Shariful Islam, the public relations officer at BGB headquarters.

The patrol team recovered a plastic bag containing 1.793kg of crystal meth there.

In Teknaf, BGB-34 intercepted a group of people, who fearing arrest fled the scene leaving a bag.

The team found 2kg of crystal meth and 80,000 yaba pills inside the bag.

Safety, equal rights

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many are attempting to label the recent attacks on minorities as politically motivated, which is seen as an effort to sidestep the real situation and create excuses, they said.

The statement said the Foundation believes it is the state's responsibility to ensure the protection and equal rights of all people in the country, regardless of religion or ethnicity. It also called upon

everyone to ensure the protection of life and property by abandoning all forms of division, enmity, oppression, violence, and destruction.

In a separate press release, it also condemned the murder of three youths in the capital's Jatrabari area. They said such extrajudicial killings, driven by mere suspicion or feud, are unacceptable and constitute a severe violation of human rights.

Four more injured

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Shilu Akter, wife of the deceased Ujjal Hossain, said they live in Muktarpur village of Damurhuda upazila in Chuadanga.

Ujjal, a mason by profession, returned home from work on August 5 and went to Mollah Bazar in Muktarpur in the evening for tea. Protesters set fire to a hardware store in the market that day. Ujjal, along with several others, was inside the store. A gas cylinder in the shop exploded, leaving Ujjal and others severely burned.

They were admitted to the burn unit at DMCH. Ujjal had suffered 66 percent burns on his body. He died around 6:30am yesterday.

Jamal Uddin, a neighbour of the deceased Md Asif, said Asif's home was in Miralipur village in Nokhali's Begumganj upazila. Asif had recently started working at a shop. He attended a rally in Sonaimuri on August 5, where he was shot.

SI Faruk Ahmed of Shabbagh Police Station, who prepared Asif's autopsy report, said a bullet-hit Asif was admitted to the Sadar Hospital. He was later transferred to DMCH on August 7, where he passed away at 10:30pm on Thursday.

Nasir Uddin Nasir, general secretary of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, said Asif was a JCD activist. Alongside Asif, at least 32 JCD leaders and activists died so far following the clashes, he said.

Russell Hossain, the younger brother of the deceased Al Amin Hossain, said they hail from Afra village of Jashore's Chowgacha. Al Amin worked as a salesman for a pharmaceutical company in Amtali of Barguna, where he had also lived.

After work on August 5, he was sleeping on the second floor of his residence when protesters set fire to the ground floor. The fire spread to the second floor, and Al Amin, along with several coworkers, was engulfed in flames.

Locals rescued and took them to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College in Barishal. The next day, he was transferred to Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery in Dhaka, where he died at 5:30am yesterday.

Over 500 people, including many students, were killed during the mass protests, which eventually forced Sheikh Hasina to resign and flee the country on August 5.

Out goes AL, in comes

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Md Momin, who claims to be the president of the Jubo Dal Sattola unit, and Saddam Hossain, a member of the Banani thana Jubo Dal unit, were seen inside the AL office in the slum.

Saddam told this correspondent that he was born in the slum but was driven out by pro-AL men in 2014.

"After 10 years, I was able to return, but I no longer found my home. So, I am living here in this office," he said.

Momin said they had expelled the AL members from the slum. He claimed that Billal Chowdhury of the Sattola unit AL used to control some shanties in the area, but they have now informed tenants that they no longer need to pay rent.

In Kalyanpur Pora Bosti, a man named Ripon, brother of a ward-level BNP leader, allegedly seized control of 100 shanties on August 6 and 7.

They also vandalised the AL-affiliated office and shanties controlled by AL men.

Ripon didn't respond to calls.

Contacted, Darussalam Thana BNP convener Syed Abu Bakkar Siddique Sajju said he would take immediate action if such incidents occurred.

Two days later, this correspondent found that the new group returned many of the shanties to the slum dwellers.

In Abul's slum, also known as "Abul Bosti," in the capital's Bhashantek, a new group has vandalised several shanties and shops that were under the control of AL members.

A slum dweller Rubina Begum, who has been living in the Bhasantek slum for 20 years, said the political leaders use them as pawns.

"If we want to stay here, we have to abide by those who come into power," she said.

SCENES FROM FOOTPATHS

Meanwhile, Dhaka's footpaths have experienced mixed changes: in some areas, hawkers are no longer paying any fees,

while in others, extortion continues.

Milon Patwary, general secretary of the Karwan Bazar Pick-up Van Samity, said that they recently handed over three linemen [agents of local politicians] to students when they came asking for fees.

He said previously, they paid Tk 1,200 per month for each vehicle, along with a one-time payment of Tk 10,000-15,000. However, this practice has ceased for a week.

Some traders mentioned that trucks are still paying Tk 200-300 each night for market entry.

A lineman in the CNG Stand area of Karwan Bazar said that they still collect Tk 6,000-7,000 from footpath vendors in the area.

Belal Hossain, a cloth seller in Farmgate, said they had to pay the local councilor's men, but this practice has stopped for a week.

"A few days ago, pro-BNP activists came, distributed leaflets, and instructed us not to pay any fees," he said.

Arif Chowdhury, president of the Jatiya Hawkers' Federation, said they have directed their units not to pay any money to anyone. If anyone attempts to collect fees, they have been instructed to hand them over to students or the army.

Need to be

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think our fight is over, you are mistaken. We are in a very precarious situation now."

Fakhrul alleged that former prime minister Sheikh Hasina is conspiring against Bangladesh from India.

Fakhrul also expressed concern over the low turnout at the event, questioning, "Isn't today madam's [Khaleda Zia's] birthday event? How many have come? Didn't you have a programme yesterday? How many attended? Very few... very few came today as well. Why? Has victory been achieved?"

Inaugurated but

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Chattogram Elevated Expressway project in July 2017, scheduled to be completed by June 2020.

CDA, however, failed to complete it within the stipulated time, so the project's deadline was extended twice till June 2024, while its cost went up from Tk 3,250 crore to Tk 4,298.95 crore.

The 16.5-metre-wide expressway has a four-lane path with 14 ramps at nine points.

In August 2023, CDA decided to name it after former Chattogram city mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury.

Visiting Lalkhan Bazar point of the expressway recently, this correspondent observed that workers were installing electric cables to connect lamps.

Contacted, Mahfuzur Rahman, project director

and executive engineer at CDA, said there is no work left except installation of lights on the expressway.

Asked why the expressway has not opened to traffic yet, Mahfuzur dodged the question and requested this correspondent to contact the CDA chairman to know the date for opening the expressway to the public.

Asked why it was inaugurated last year before all works were completed, the CDA official said, "They [high officials of public works ministry] forced us in this regard."

This correspondent went to the office of CDA chairman Mohammad Yunus for his comment on August 13 but found that he has not been coming to office since the former government's fall on August 5. He could not be reached over phone despite several attempts.

Yunus should be head

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regulations with international laws and repeal the existing ones that contradict these standards.

Badiul Alam Majumder, secretary of Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik, also questioned the validity of the current constitution.

He stressed the importance of thoroughly investigating and bringing to justice those responsible for wrongdoings over the past 16 years to end the culture of impunity in the country.

Activist Rakhil Raha suggested that the interim government should reflect the true aspirations of the students and people who brought about the mass upsurge.

He emphasised the need for a counter-narrative to challenge the narratives propagated by Awami League-affiliated cultural groups.

Poet and journalist

Mahbub Morshed urged students to remain vigilant and active in the streets to ensure the movement's outcomes benefit those who initiated it.

He also advocated for student union elections in educational institutions, especially universities, and proposed the formation of a Sangram Parishad to coordinate leadership across universities.

Prof Moshrekha Aditi Huq of Chittagong University highlighted the psychological, economic, and political challenges that lie ahead, emphasising the need to ensure law and order.

She called for amending the laws in the current constitution and repealing repressive laws, including the Cyber Security Act.

Other notable participants included Chittagong University's Kh Ar Raji, Dhaka University's Prof Mohammad Azam, and journalist Faruk Wasif.

They shot my boy

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Medical College Hospital, where the on-duty doctor declared him dead.

His body was taken to Patuakhali the same night without autopsy. He was later buried in the family graveyard the next day.

While visiting the village home of Raihan, this correspondent saw the family in despair. Raihan's mother stood beside his grave and

said, "What was my son's fault? He wanted a system without any discrimination but they shot my boy six times."

His father consoled her and added, "My son used to study hard. It was our dream that he would achieve a good result and someday join government service and support our poverty-stricken family. His untimely death has left our dreams shattered."

No parent should bear this loss

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was my lifeline. He was a devoted son. He worked hard to take care of me. How am I going to live without him?" Maya told this correspondent.

Mostak hailed from Gouripur village under Sylhet Sadar upazila.

Salman Ahmed, a student protester who took

Mostak to the hospital, said after Mostak was shot near the Muslim Quarters area, he was taken to Habiganj Sadar Hospital in critical condition.

He succumbed to his injuries there.

Noor Bakhat, a contractor supervisor who had employed Mostak, said he worked with them for

Female Had to beg for money to take

FROM PAGE 5

returned to his village, Khariya Kazir Char in Sreebordi Upazila, where he was laid to rest.

He left behind a grieving wife and three children, who are now facing an uncertain future without their sole provider.

Goni's life was a constant struggle to provide for his family. The meagre earnings from his job at the rice mill were not enough to feed his family of five.

Two years ago, he sent his second son, who was only 12 then, to work in a workshop, earning Tk 6,000 a month, as he could no longer afford to keep him in school.

The family was already burdened with a Tk 2 lakh loan, prompting Goni to move to Dhaka in hopes of earning enough to repay the debt.

"My father had dreams of a better life for us," said 16-year-old Md Shahidul Islam, Goni's eldest son. "But now, with him gone, I don't know what will happen to us."

Goni would send Tk 1,000-1,500 per week, which was the lifeline that kept the family afloat, barely covering their basic needs.

With no savings or property, the family has been relying on the villagers for help.

Shahidul fears that like his younger brother, he may be forced to drop out of school to support his family. Their three-year-old sister's education is now in jeopardy too.

"We don't know how we will continue or how we will repay the loan," Shahidul said.

Female

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seen even an eight-year-old girl being raped, yet some still blame the victim's attire," said a student from BRAC University.

Anika Arefin, a student of Dhaka University, said, "We have protested multiple times demanding safety for women, but freedom for women remains elusive due to cultural impunity."

Another student added, "We often face harassment on the streets, but there is little we can do due to a lack of proper evidence."

"There have been cases where girls were harassed by influential figures, like teachers, but they did not receive justice," she noted.

In addition to this rally, a group of women gathered last night at the base of the Raju Memorial sculpture on the Dhaka University campus, demanding justice for the victim and proper investigation into all rape cases since Bangladesh's independence.



Table with prayer times for August 17: Fazr, Zohr, Asr, Maghrib, Esha. AZAN 4-25, 12-45, 4-45, 6-38, 8-00. JAMAAT 5-00, 1-15, 5-00, 6-41, 8-30. SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

OBITUARY: It is with profound sorrow that we announce the passing of former ambassador Mr. M. Sirajul Islam, who left this worldly abode on the night of Sunday, August 11, 2024, while in the care of a US hospital (Innahlillahi wa Inna Ilaihi Raziun). He is survived by his wife, Nasrin Fowzia, daughters Sabrina Islam Rahman and Naureen Islam, sons-in-laws Asif Rahman and Rayan Sharif, and granddaughters Alysha Rahman and Alisha Rahman. We offer our heartfelt prayers for his departed soul and extend our deepest sympathies to his grieving family. The Janaza for the departed will be held on Sunday, August 18, after Asr, at Gulshan Azad Mosque. We kindly request all to join us in offering their prayers and paying their final respects. In mourning The family of the deceased

ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়: বসুন্ধরা এক্স-ব্লক ১৫০০ বর্গফুটের শতভাগ রেডি ফ্ল্যাট। ম্যাজিক ব্রিকস হোল্ডিংস লিমিটেড। ০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৭ ০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৬

ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়: বসুন্ধরা এক্স-ব্লক রাসিদা এডমিনিস্ট্রিভে ১৮০০ বর্গফুটের দিকপনুখী নির্মাণাধীন ফ্ল্যাট। ম্যাজিক ব্রিকস হোল্ডিংস লিমিটেড। ০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৮ ০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৬

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ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়: লালমাটিয়া বি-ব্লক-এ ১৬০০ বর্গফুটের শতভাগ রেডি ব্র্যান্ড নিউ ফ্ল্যাট। ম্যাজিক ব্রিকস হোল্ডিংস লিমিটেড। ০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৬ ০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৭

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Improving Computer and Software Engineering Tertiary Education Project. Project Management Unit (PMU). University Grants Commission of Bangladesh. Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207. Ref. No.: UGC/ICSETEP/Advertisement/2024/111. Date: 15-08-2024. Request for Expression of Interest (REOI). Improving Computer and Software Engineering Tertiary Education Project (ICSETEP) under Secondary and Higher Education Division (SHED), Ministry of Education, is to improve Higher Education in CSE/IT Programs of Bangladesh to meet the challenges of Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and to lead of the country in IT sectors. Asian Development Bank (ADB) is the Project Aid partner of ICSETEP providing major implementation cost as LOAN; and University Grants Commission of Bangladesh is the executing authority. ICSETEP is seeking specialists through Individual Consultant Selection (National) for its following consulting positions. Table with 4 columns: Sl., Name of the Consulting Position, No. of Position. 1. Procurement Specialist (PMU/S-2) 1. 2. Higher Education Specialist (PMU/S-5) 1. 3. Stipend Program Specialist (PMU/S-7) 1. 4. Women IT Leadership Program Specialist (PMU/S-8) 1. The last date of application submission is 01 September 2024 through ADB CMS (https://cms.adb.org/). The detailed of this REOI as well as application procedure is available at ICSETEP website (www.icsetep.ugc.gov.bd). Prof. Dr. Md. Aminul Haque Akhand, Project Director, ICSETEP.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH. OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER. Bandarban Public Work Division. Memo No-25.36.0300.330.10.18.140. Date: 15/08/2024. e-TENDER NOTICE (OTM). e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of following works given Below. Table with 5 columns: Tender ID No, Package No, Description of Works, Last Selling Date & Time, Closing Date & Time. 1007939: 04/egp/BBan/Dev/G-11/Re-Tender/24-25. Supply of Consumable Commodities for Bandarban Rowangchhari Upazila Model Mosque & Islamic Cultural Center Under the Project of "Establishing 560 Model Mosques and Islamic Cultural Centers (2nd Revised) in Each Zila and Upazila of Bangladesh". 26-Aug-2024 17:00. 27-Aug-2024 13:00. 1008058: 05/egp/BBan/Dev/G-11/23-24. Supply of Consumable Commodities for Bandarban Naikhongchhari Upazila Model Mosque & Islamic Cultural Center Under the Project of "Establishing 560 Model Mosques and Islamic Cultural Centers (2nd Revised) in Each Zila and Upazila of Bangladesh". 26-Aug-2024 17:00. 27-Aug-2024 13:00. This is Online Tender. Where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal & no Offline/ Hard copies will be accepted. (Jobir Rayhan) Executive Engineer, Bandarban Public Works Division. e-mail: ee_bandr@pwd.gov.bd