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Five killed as trucks crush three-wheeler

A CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Five people were killed after their CNG-run autorickshaw was sandwiched between a lorry and a pick-up truck on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Kishoreganj's Bhairab upazila yesterday.

The deceased are Rajan Miah, 25, of Narsingdi's Raipura upazila; Chahura Khatun, 62, of Kishoreganj's Katiadi upazila; Halima Khatun, 22, and Shahana Begum, 60, of Kishoreganj's Kuliarchar upazila; and the autorickshaw's driver Shahin Miah.

Quoting locals, police said the auto-rickshaw was heading toward Bhairab from Narsingdi's Nilkuthi area in the morning.

When the autorickshaw reached Jagannathpur Bridge around 9:45am, it collided with a pick-up truck coming from the opposite direction.

The autorickshaw was immediately crushed again by a lorry that was behind the three-wheeler.

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The "guru of Bangla rock" James puts the audience on their feet as Nagar Baul takes to the stage at the "Shobar Agey Bangladesh" concert at the capital's Manik Mia Avenue yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

'BANGLADESH FIRST CONCERT' Artistes vow to stay united for country

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The capital's Manik Mia Avenue was teeming with people from all walks of life since yesterday afternoon, as they waited to catch a glimpse of their favourite artistes.

Even though concerts are a dime a dozen in December, this occasion was special: it featured an incredible blend of solo artistes and popular bands, impeccably managed and hosted at the "Shobar Agey Bangladesh" concert.

From "Dushtu Kokil" and "O Priya Tumi Kothaye" to "Ei Obelay" and "Ami Akash Pathabo" – the concert had something for every music lover, regardless of genre. Fireworks, drones and festoons adorned the riveting stretch of the road near the National Parliament House.

Speaking to The Daily Star, noted singer Kanak Chapa said, "Today, we celebrate our beloved Bangladesh, where in the future, people will have mutual respect for each other, regardless of their religion or political views."

The artiste faced years of exclusion from the previous state-run media, but urged everyone to be accepting and to refrain from being vindictive.

Before taking to the stage to sing "Ekta Ongkar Bangladesh, National Award-winning artiste, Baby

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Asif Nazrul, Hasnat slam Modi over Victory Day tweet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Adviser Asif Nazrul and Anti-Discrimination Student Movement Convener Hasnat Abdullah yesterday strongly condemned Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks on Victory Day.

"I strongly protest. December 16, 1971, was Bangladesh's Victory Day. India was only an ally in this victory, nothing more than that," Asif Nazrul posted on his verified Facebook account.

Within 45 minutes, the post gained significant traction with about 6,000 people commenting on it.

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam, along with almost 1,000 others, shared the post.

Earlier, in a post on X (formerly known as Twitter), Modi paid tribute to Indian soldiers for their role in 1971.

"Today, on Vijay Diwas, we pay heartfelt tributes to all the brave heroes who dutifully served India in 1971, ensuring a decisive victory. Their valour and dedication remain a source of immense pride for the nation. Their sacrifices and unwavering spirit will forever be etched in the people's hearts and our nation's history. India salutes their courage and remembers their indomitable spirit," the Indian premier wrote.

In response, Hasnat Abdullah, in a post on his verified Facebook account, said, "This was Bangladesh's Liberation War. It was for Bangladesh's independence against Pakistan. But Modi has claimed it was solely India's war and their achievement, disregarding Bangladesh's existence in their narrative."

He added, "When India claims this independence as their achievement, I see this as a threat to our independence, sovereignty and oneness."

"It's necessary for us to fight against this threat by India. We need to carry on this fight."

His post had over 7,300 comments and was shared by 8,400 people within four hours.

Tigers eye T20 series win over WI

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After defeating West Indies by seven runs in a nail-biting first T20I yesterday, Bangladesh now stand with a chance of winning their first T20I series over the Caribbean side in over six years when both teams face off in the second game of the three-match series on Wednesday.

The match will begin at 6:00 am Bangladesh time and will take place at the same venue as the series opener – the Arnos Vale Ground in Kingstown, St Vincent. The Tigers last won a T20I series against the Windies in 2018, sealing it by a 2-1 margin away from home.

On Monday, Bangladesh posted 147-6 in their 20 overs after being sent to bat first. Soumya Sarkar was the standout batter, making 43 off 32 balls, while Shamim Hossain hit a handy 13-ball 27 down the order to push the total close to the 150-run mark.

In their defense, the Tigers had West Indies cornered from the start with Mahedi Hasan, who scored an unbeaten 26 off 24 balls, setting the

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POST-COUP MYANMAR Junta scares aid groups to hide hunger

REUTERS, Cox's Bazar

Myanmar's ruling junta has suppressed information about a severe food crisis gripping the country by pressuring researchers not to collect data about hunger and aid workers not to publish it, a Reuters investigation has found.

In conversations over the past two years, junta representatives have warned senior aid workers against releasing data and analysis that indicate millions of people in Myanmar are experiencing serious hunger, according to people familiar with the matter.

In a sign of the sensitivity around this data, the world's leading hunger watchdog – the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) – in recent weeks removed its colour-coded assessment of Myanmar from the global map on its website where it displays the levels of hunger afflicting dozens of countries. The reason: fears for the safety of the researchers.

In another move to protect data collectors and analysts from the junta, the IPC never made public three detailed analyses that showed the war-torn Southeast Asian nation, once known as the rice bowl of Asia, was facing one of the worst food crises on the planet.

Reuters spoke to more than 30 aid workers, researchers, diplomatic sources and United Nations officials about hunger in Myanmar. Most declined to speak on the record, saying

they feared retribution by the military. Myanmar has been in turmoil since the military ousted an elected government in 2021, sparking mass protests that escalated into an armed rebellion on many fronts.

An official at Myanmar's Ministry of Information didn't respond to questions for this story.

An IPC "Special Brief" on Myanmar, dated November 5 and reviewed by Reuters, said about 14.4 million people, or about a quarter of the population, were experiencing acute food insecurity in September and October this year. Acute food insecurity refers to food deprivation that threatens lives or livelihoods. The report projects that by next summer, 15 million people will face acute levels of food insecurity.

Underlying data from that report appeared on a UN website last month, but was later removed because of security concerns. A web page now says: "PAGE NOT FOUND."

The aid workers interviewed by Reuters described a harrowing environment in which most data must be collected clandestinely and aid agencies are afraid to publish their findings on malnutrition and food insecurity – or even share them with one another.

The fear is justified: Last year, Myanmar's military detained multiple food-security

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Last year, Myanmar's military detained multiple food-security researchers, according to people familiar with the matter. The detentions haven't been publicized.

25 ASPs served show-cause notice for 'indiscipline'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A show-cause notice has been served to 25 trainee assistant superintendents of police (ASPs) of the 40th BCS, allegedly for breaching discipline.

Tanvir Salehin Emon, superintendent of police (basic training-2), issued the notice on behalf of the principal of the Police Academy in Sardah on Sunday. Each of the 25 ASPs received the notice separately for allegedly violating rules and defying orders.

Confirming the development, Enamul Haque Sagor, assistant inspector general (media and public relations) of the police headquarters, told The Daily Star, "The police academy served the notice to 25 trainee ASPs for breaching discipline."

"The officials were instructed to reply within three days," he added.

The notice, a copy of which The Daily Star obtained, reads: "On November 26, after the parade began in the afternoon session as per the weekly training programme and on instructions from higher authorities, the commanding assistant sub-inspector, who is in charge of the company, ordered the ASPs to run. However, you, in collaboration with some other trainees, started walking randomly instead of running."

"For your actions, other trainees

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This handout photograph, taken on Sunday and released yesterday, shows a pile of debris of metal sheets and wood after the Cyclone Chido hit France's Indian Ocean territory of Mayotte.

PHOTO: AFP

CYCLONE CHIDO Close to 1,000 feared dead in Mayotte

REUTERS

Emergency workers yesterday raced to find survivors and restore services to the French overseas territory of Mayotte, where hundreds or even close to a thousand are feared dead from the worst cyclone to hit the Indian Ocean islands in nearly a century.

Parts of the islands, which were struck by Cyclone Chido over the weekend with winds of more than 200 kmh, remained inaccessible to rescue workers yesterday, said French civil security spokesperson Alexandre Jouassard.

"The next minutes and hours are very important," he told France 2 TV. "We are used to working in these conditions, and a few days after, you have pockets of survivors."

French President Emmanuel Macron was due to hold an emergency meeting about Mayotte, France's BFMTV reported.

The storm was the strongest to strike Mayotte in more than 90 years, French weather service Météo France said. It has a population of about 321,000 and is made up of two main islands over an area about twice the size of Washington DC.



Israel seeking to 'expand borders', says Turkey

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'Independent body needed to protect human rights defenders'

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Obituary



Mr. S. M. Akram, Member, National Board of Revenue, Additional Secretary (retired), ex-MP Narayanganj-5, ex-President Uttara Club Ltd., s/o late Pear Muhammad Miah and Anjuman Ara Begum, husband of late Dr. Mrs. Fateha Akram, born on October 16, 1939, passed away on December 16, 2024, around 3pm. He was well-known as a principled, honest person, lawmaker and philanthropist. His Namaz-e-Janaza will be held on December 17, 2024, at Narayanganj Thana Pukur Par Jame Mashjid at 10am and at his village in Alinagar Eidgah Maidan, Narayanganj, following Zuhr prayers.