

Pedestrian killed after being hit by motorbike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A pedestrian was killed when a motorcycle hit him in Sreepur upazila of Gazipur on Friday night.

The deceased was identified as Abul Mia, 45, of Kanshijuli village.

The incident took place around 10:00pm yesterday in Notun Bazar area of Kanshijuli village, Sreepur Police Station Sub-inspector Matiur Rahman said yesterday.

Motorcycle rider Shahadat Hossain, 30, of Mymensingh, received injuries during the incident, he said.

Citing locals, the official also said that Shahadat along with his two friends was heading to Gafargaon upazila when he lost control over the steering and the bike hit the pedestrian.

The victim died on the spot, the official said.

Sreepur Police Station SI Sujan Kumar Pandit said, “No arrests have been made in this connection.”

One more dies of dengue

UNB, Dhaka

One more death was reported from dengue in 24 hours till yesterday morning, raising the number of fatalities from the mosquito-borne disease in Bangladesh to 570 this year.

The death was reported in the Barishal division, outside the city corporations, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

During the period, 104 more patients were hospitalised with the viral fever.

Of them, 19 dengue patients were admitted to hospitals under Dhaka North City Corporation while 23 were hospitalised in Dhaka South City Corporation.

Currently, 720 patients are receiving treatment in hospitals across the country.

Since January 1, 2024, a total of 100,868 dengue cases have been reported.

Expansion work

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several cases, the contractors abandoned the sites entirely.

For example, at Chaumuhani Government Primary School and Shimulghar Government Primary School, contractors left the worksite multiple times without notice. Currently, at least 50 percent of the expansion work remains unfinished.

At the beginning of December, the contractor's workers returned with a truckload of sand, claiming they would resume work and complete the project soon. However, they disappeared a few days later, without further updates.

The following schools are still waiting for the completion of their upward expansion work – Shahpur, Utar Khadki, Shimulghar, Auliabad, Rasulpur, Puraikhola, Khatura, Bulla, Surma, Utar Bejura, Noapara Tea Garden, Madhabpur Model, and Chaumuhani government primary schools.

Miftaul Islam, a 5th-grade student, said the construction of the new building is still unfinished, forcing them to attend classes in the old building, where classrooms are overcrowded. Their discomfort has worsened due to the cramped conditions, especially during intense heat in the summer.

কমার্শিয়াল ফ্লোর বিক্রয়
ধানমন্ডি সাত মাসলিঙ্গ রোডের প্রাইম
লোকেশনে বিল্ডিং ও গ্যাস সফ্যোয়াস
একটি ফার্সিলাটির ১১৬৭ বর্গফুটের
মার্বেল কমার্শিয়াল স্পেস বিক্রয় করা হবে।
যোগাযোগঃ ০৩৭২০২০২০২২



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

The Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Rupganj upazila of Narayanganj has turned into dust bowl due to construction work and road digging. Road dust has become a major source of air pollution in dry season in the capital and neighbouring districts. The photo was taken recently.

Mothers, the unsung heroes of Liberation War

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Following the military crackdown on March 26, 1971, arms were smuggled into their house for safekeeping.

Rizwan shared the fear of military raids and how his mother comforted them through constant danger.

The tension reached its peak on August 30, 1971, when the military raided their home, arresting freedom fighters and searching for arms. During the raid, his mother was interrogated. She pleaded with the soldiers to spare him, using her fluent Urdu. Miraculously, the major released him, Rizwan recounted.

Cultural activist Lubna Marium referred to her father, Quazi Nooruzzaman, Sector Commander of Sector 7, who documented mothers' contributions in his book.

He wrote about how teenage boys joined the war with dry food, including puffed rice packed by their mothers.

When asked who sent them, they would always say, “Our mothers,” she said.

Lubna also shared how her mother, Professor Sultana Zaman, sent her 15-year-old brother Nadeem to join the war.

Despite the challenges, as Nadeem lived in a bunker with insufficient food, her mother never complained about the hardships.

Prothom Alo Associate Editor Shumona Sharmin highlighted her mother Maleka Khan's vital role in rehabilitating women, under the leadership of Sufia Kamal, tortured by Pakistani soldiers.

“My mother worked as a director and handled the survivors' stories with great sensitivity to prevent retraumatising them. She documented their accounts and worked to make them financially independent,” Shumona shared.

She added, “These women would come to our house with their sewing and stitching skills. However, my mother always warned us not to ask them about their past, fearing it might reopen their wounds.”

Naripokkho founding member Shireen Huq recalled how their home

became a sanctuary for freedom fighters.

“My mother always said that if someone sought shelter, we must provide it. I remember our drawing room being packed with people, and everyone managed to coexist despite the challenges. Many non-Bangalee families also sought refuge at our house. At one point, I had to move to my aunt's home because so many people had come seeking shelter,” Shireen recounted.

Cultural activist Minu Haque shared how her mother bid her farewell during the war with the words, “We will meet again in Maidan-E-Hashar,” praising the bravery of mothers who sent their daughters to join the fight for liberation.

Sufia Kamal's daughters, Sultana Kamal and Syeda Kamal, shared the inspiring story of their mother's unwavering contributions to the movement.

“My mother never feared anything. She always inspired us, saying that we were fighting for our country. With that spirit, she sent us into an unknown future

and taught us to protect ourselves if captured,” said Syeda Kamal.

Sultana Kamal elaborated on how her mother's involvement in the liberation movement began in 1969 when she started organising neighbourhood women to join the cause.

“When it was decided that my sister and I would cross the border, my mother played a crucial role in encouraging us, even though we had never travelled outside Bangladesh before,” Sultana Kamal shared.

Even after the war, Sufia Kamal continued her efforts, working tirelessly to rehabilitate tortured women and ensure they could rebuild their lives in safety and dignity.

Rumana Shafi, daughter of Begum Mushtari Shafi, shared her mother's involvement in the war and the devastating loss of her husband, Dr Mohammad Shafi, and younger brother, Ehsanul Haque Ansari, who were killed by the Pakistani military.

Despite her immense grief, Begum Mushtari

continued her work at Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra until Bangladesh achieved victory on December 16, 1971.

She documented her memories and experiences by writing books about the Liberation War, preserving the stories of sacrifice and resilience for future generations, Rumana said.

Among others, freedom fighter Habibul Alam; social worker Reshma Alam; Prof Tazeen Murshid, daughter of Nurjehan Murshid; Shahana Huda, head of pre-primary section of Panjeree Publications; Shaveena Anam, manager, new content and audience research, The Daily Star; writer Tahmima Anam; Banasree Mitro Niyogi of Manusher Jonno Foundation; freedom fighter and Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam; Liberation War Researcher Rita Bhowmik; Prothom Alo journalist Naznin Akhter Tonni; Kaler Kantha journalist Nikhil Bhadra; and Italy-based Bangladeshi writer, poet and columnist Neeman Sobhan were present at the event.

6 fishermen

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The returnees are Rahmat Ullah, 45, of Patuakhali district; Golam Rafi, 34, of Patuakhali district; Jamal Hossain, 56; Masum Billah, 39; Hussain Ali, 38; Yasin Mia, 31.

Imtiaz Md Ahsanul Quader Bhuiyan, officer-in-charge of Benapole Immigration Police, stated that the fishermen were detained by the Indian Coast Guard while fishing near Patuakhali in the Bay of Bengal.

Rizvi alleges

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truth behind the fire and holding those responsible accountable. He called on the interim government to ensure transparency and take necessary steps to investigate the incident.

Rizvi also visited the home of Shoanur Zaman Nayan, the firefighter who died while combating the Secretariat blaze.

Rizvi extended condolences to Nayan's grieving family and urged the government to support them.

Anti-fascist

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what he described as ongoing injustice towards Islamic scholars in the country.

“Over the past decade and a half, the nation's Islamic scholars have been subjected to unprecedented levels of injustice and vendetta,” he said.

The conference was attended by leaders and activists from various Islamic political organisations.

Dr Sultan Ahmed Choudhury fund award event held



CITY DESK

Emeritus Professor Dr Sultan Ahmed Choudhury Scientific Talents Nurture Fund Award Ceremony, an initiative of Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, was held yesterday at the auditorium of the National Science and Technology Complex, Dhaka.

National Professor Dr AK Azad Khan was the chief guest, and Zakia Rouf Chowdhury, Chairman of Dr Sultan Ahmed Choudhury Foundation was the special guest of the programme.

Emeritus Prof Dr AK Azad Chowdhury, president, Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, presided over the event, said a press release.

Emeritus Prof Dr M Shamsheer Ali, convener, Scholarship Award Committee, and Prof Dr Haseena Khan, secretary of Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, were also present.

Salma Samad, Arman and Saif were also present on behalf of Dr Sultan Ahmed Choudhury Foundation.

Dr Sultan Ahmed was a renowned child specialist of the country and one of the founding members of Bangladesh Academy of Sciences.

Revive Khulna

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impact of the Padma Bridge, Khulna has seen little progress over the past years. No new industries or garment factories have been established in the district, while employment opportunities remain alarmingly scarce.

The speakers also called for accelerating land acquisition process for the Khulna Medical University, approving the Khulna Agricultural University project through the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council, establishing a deep-sea port at Akram Point to boost Mongla Port's operations while safeguarding the Sundarbans, and reopening of all state-owned industrial factories, jute mills, newsprint and hardboard mills in Khulna.

They further demanded improvement in railway services, including increasing the number of trains on the Khulna-Dhaka-Khulna route from one to three pairs daily, and prompt completion of the existing development works of KCC, cleaning of 22 canals, eviction of all illegal

encroachments, mitigating waterlogging, expediting the construction of Gallamari Bridge, and reclaiming unused railway land for planned urban development.

Their other demands include establishing a Marine Academy and Cadet College in Khulna, constructing an airport, ensuring gas supply via pipelines, and developing an economic zone to attract investment and create jobs.

I have no one

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“My wife, two daughters, and grandson are gone. They left home at 10:30am for Gopalganj to attend a Milad. Just last week, my sister-in-law lost her husband.”

“I have no one left to live for...,” he said.

Struggling to contain his grief, he voiced his anger: “The country has developed roads, but drivers have not improved. Hundreds die on the roads every day, and no government has ensured safety. We need to raise awareness about road safety.”

Corruption behind

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Additionally, migration to Italy and Serbia was halted due to the use of fake documents.

The report further pointed out that while migration slowed during the mass uprisings and economic instability, it has regained momentum in recent months.

In response to the challenges, Prof Tasneem recommended that the interim government prioritise good governance in the migration sector.

She called for the establishment of a

dedicated migration commission, an increase in budget allocations, and the formulation of effective policies to address international migration challenges.

She also stressed the need for policy reforms, improved skills development for workers, and the creation of safe employment opportunities for women.

Transparency in the recruitment process and the strengthening of training centres were also emphasised as key to improving the migration system.

Senior cops complicit

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He also pointed out that political leaders are equally responsible for not addressing the issue.

Zillur referenced ex-DB chief Harun Or Rashid, who received awards despite allegations of killing, due to recommendations from senior officers.

M Khurshed Alam, chairman of BISR Trust, who chaired the seminar, revealed that only 25 percent of victims of petty crimes such as mugging or theft in Dhaka report them to the police.

“In a survey of 400 people, we found that victims of mugging were often forced to file theft complaints instead,” he said.

Mamun Or Rashid, deputy commissioner (crime) of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said although the police became ineffective after August 5, the situation has improved.

PRAYER TIMING
DECEMBER 29
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:30 12:45 4:00 5:27 7:30
JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:15 5:30 7:40
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION