Teen killed in road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

A teenage motorcyclist was killed after being hit by a sand-laden truck in Kaharol upazila of Dinajpur yesterday, triggering outrage among locals who set the truck on fire.

Hamza, 19, son of Sumon Ali, was from Dwipnagar village in Kaharol upazila.

According to locals, Hamza was returning home on his motorcycle when the accident occurred around 2:30pm at Gar Mallikpur village along the Dinajpur-Panchagarh highway.

A speeding truck loaded with sand struck his motorcycle from behind, killing him on the spot.

A team from the Kaharol Fire Service and Civil Defence rushed to the scene but faced resistance from protesters, preventing them from dousing the flames.

Workers unload large blocks of ice, stored in an unsanitary manner without any covers on the back of this truck. During Ramadan, demand for ice from hotels and restaurants usually increases. The photo was taken in the Fakirapool area yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Road blocked

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deployed to control the situation, Shafiul Islam Patwary, officer-in-charge of Karnaphuli Police Station.

Wasim Akram, a protester, demanded a herd of four elephants to be removed from the area.

"We need a guarantee from the upazila administration, the forest department, and KEPZ authorities that the elephants will be relocated," he added.

Protesters left the spot at 12:00pm upon assurances from forest officials.

"Our higher officials are working on this issue. KEPZ used to run a 15-member elephant response team, but they have not been working after KEPZ stopped paying them salary since January. If the ERT members were present, the incident could be averted," said Nur Jahan, an official of Forest Department in Chattogram.

"KEPZ authorities informed they have 100 trained volunteers for elephant response and they could be deployed to prevent further attacks," she added.

Expanding access

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In an interview with this newspaper, Lopez highlighted that TNE could also help Bangladesh save foreign currency. The cost of obtaining an education through TNE is significantly lower than studying abroad.

"TNE boosts employability and helps curb brain drain by equipping graduates with globally competitive skills while keeping talent within local economies," said Lopez, who visited Dhaka this week.

"On average, the tuition and other academic fees for one year of higher education in the UK range from £20,000 (around Tk 31.50 lakh) to £30,000 (around Tk 47.25 lakh). For a TNE student in Bangladesh, it is about £2,000 (around Tk 3.15 lakh per year)," he added.

TNE refers to higher education programmes where students study in a country different from the one where the awarding institution is based. These programmes are delivered through online learning, overseas branch campuses, or partnerships with academic institutions in other countries. Students in the host country receive the same certificates, with identical validity, as their peers studying at the awarding institution.

Citing a recent report, Lopez said in the 2022–23 academic year, approximately 2,145 Bangladeshi students were studying for UK higher education qualifications in Bangladesh.

However, this number remains relatively low compared to countries such as India and Sri Lanka, which have around 15,000 and 54,000 UK TNE students, respectively.

The report also noted that Australian and Malaysian universities have offered TNE in Bangladesh over the past few decades.

Lopez said the advantages of TNE extend beyond students to both the host country and the country providing the qualification.

For instance, TNE significantly expands access to higher education. In Sri Lanka, one-third of higher education students are enrolled in TNE programmes. In Bangladesh, where the gross enrolment rate in higher education is around 23 percent, TNE presents an opportunity to provide access to more aspiring students, he explained.

The UK higher education model is outcome-based, emphasising employability and strong industry-academia linkages. Another benefit is the increased capacity of teachers.

"In most TNE models, teachers from the local institution receive training from the host institution. Similarly, teachers from the host institution travel to be trained by the local partner. This process fosters substantial capacity-building," Lopez said.

Furthermore, universities have a mission to expand research. By engaging with partner institutions, they can venture into other fields, facilitate mobility for students, teachers, and researchers, and secure funding from industry, international organisations, and governments -- bringing substantial infrastructure benefits to local institutions.

Lopez said TNE enables Bangladeshi students to access high-quality education. Teachers involved in such partnerships gain exposure to the educational systems of both institutions, fostering mutual learning.

In the UK, regulations mandate that universities must comply with the same quality standards, irrespective of where the education is delivered. A robust quality assurance system is in place to maintain and continuously monitor these standards.

When asked how UK universities regulate partner institutions, Lopez suggested that Bangladesh could follow India's example, which requires any institution entering the TNE market to comply with its national quality standards.

Taking eyecare facilities

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from partial discounts on treatment costs.

Since its inception in 1974, a total 14,57,417 patients have been treated in the outpatient department and 88,758 patients have undergone surgeries. Also, a total 7,34,621 patients have been treated through 1,660 free eye camps and 93,666 patients have been operated on. Moreover, the hospital treated some 2,81,724 students through 901 school visits, and 20,668 pediatric patients through 49 pediatric camps.

"BNSB hospital's operation began with eye treatment camps in Moulvibazar. In 1986, with support from the Ministry of Health and various domestic and international donors, the hospital expanded into a full-fledged institution in Matarkapan area," said its junior public relation officer Dewan Ruhul Amin Chowdhury.

To reach remote patients, the hospital now operates primary care centres in Kulaura, Shayestaganj, and Nabiganj upazilas, with plans for further expansions.

The hospital is now a beacon of hope for eradicating blindness and providing medical services to the poor, helpless, and underprivileged communities.

It boasts a dedicated team of 14 experienced doctors, 32 nurses, and 140 full-time staff. Its advanced facilities are A-Scan, B-Scan, laser treatment, one-stop cataract clinics, diabetic and glaucoma units, an ocular microbiological laboratory, intraocular lens services, and specialised pediatric care.

Additionally, the hospital also conducts free eye camps, sight testing programmes in schools, and training sessions for schoolteachers, religious leaders, and healthcare workers.

Visiting the hospital recently, this correspondent found it crowded in outpatient and inpatient departments.

"My mother's physical condition prevents her to be taken abroad for eye treatment, so I brought her here. I am satisfied with the treatment facilities in this hospital," said Jasim Uddin, a resident of London, UK.

"My mother has successfully undergone cataract surgery here and she can now see clearly. I am taking her home today," said Asim Kumar Mallick.

Orbis International and BNSB hospital jointly initiated Sylhet division's lone specialised pediatric eye department at the hospital in 2004.

Dr Shah Aminul Islam, a senior consultant, said, "Our pediatric department is technologically advanced. We treat a wide range of eye issues in children aged one day to 16 years old. People come not only from within Sylhet division but also from Netrakona, Brahmanbaria and Cumilla districts to avail our treatment facilities."

At present, the hospital operates with seven general cabins, 11 AC cabins, 31 general wards, a children's ward, and a camp ward for patients, said Abdul Hamid Mahbub, joint secretary of the hospital's 17-member executive committee.

The hospital was awarded the 'Disability Overcoming Award-2018' in recognition of its contribution.

In absence of specialised eye care facilities in the division apart from Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital, BNSB hospital's facilities to provide eye treatment to the ultra-poor and under-privileged people have been commendable.

Patients can register for specialist consultations for only Tk 100. The institution reinvests its earnings to support free and subsidised treatment for the poor and helpless, reaffirming its commitment to social welfare, said Dewan Ruhul Amin Chowdhury.

Fire breaks out in Sundarbans

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the nearest locality. While five fire service units were dispatched to the Sundarbans, only one unit managed to reach the site, while the other four could not. A pipeline has been laid for 1.5 kilometers to carry water from the Bhola River, but another 1.5km is needed to establish a connection.

Firefighters said that efforts to douse the fire with water would not be possible before Sunday morning.

Aftab-e-Alam, the acting station officer of Sarankhola Fire Station in Bagerhat, said, "By Saturday evening, we managed to lay pipelines for 1.5 kilometers. Work was halted due to nightfall, and the remaining 1.5 kilometers of pipelines will be installed on Sunday morning before we begin spraying water."

Sakaria Haidar, deputy assistant director (DAD) of Bagerhat Fire Station, said, "Five fire units from Bagerhat, Morrelganj, Mongla, Sarankhola, and Kochua are working to extinguish the fire. Firefighters are actively engaged in the operation. So far, only the Sarankhola unit has reached the fire site."

29 FIRES IN 19 YEARS

According to the Forest Department, the Sundarbans has experienced 29 fire incidents over the past 19 years, burning approximately 85 acres of forest land.

On May 4, 2024, a fire broke out in Latifer Chhila under the Amurbunia Forest Camp of the Chandpai Range in the Sundarbans East Division. A forest department investigation revealed that 7.98 acres of forest were burned in that incident. However, the committee could not determine the exact cause of the fire. Previously, on May 3, 2021, a fire broke out in the Daser Bharani area of the Sundarbans. On May 26, 2017, another fire occurred in Abdullah Chhila under the Nangli Forest Camp of the Chandpai Range in the Eastern Sundarbans.

Don't allow the return

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alliance hosted the iftar event in the capital's Malibagh.

Tarique urged political leaders to prioritise unity at any cost.

"There will be differences in opinions, but we must sit together and discuss. We will try to avoid anything that could, in any way, allow the return of autocracy or its followers. This should be our commitment, our pledge," he said.

The BNP leader also said that there are ideological differences among political parties.

"We do not all share the same ideology, and there are some disagreements. But there is one thing that unites us all -- Bangladesh, its people, and democracy. There is no division on this basic issue."

Expressing concern over the way reforms and elections are being pitted against each other, Tarique said, "To an ordinary citizen, democracy means one thing -- elections. A system that ensures free and fair voting without fear is what we define as democracy."

"But now, reform and elections are being set against each other," he said.

"I personally believe that reforms cannot be considered complete. Reform is a continuous process..." he added.

Illegal soil extraction chokes

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blocking the water flow while the other was being used for the movement of soil-laden trucks.

Excavators were also seen extracting soil from the river and agricultural land.

A private car belonging to Shooter Arif was spotted at the site, but he was found nearby.

"Due to the road-like embankments, I am struggling to irrigate my cropland. I am even forced to seek permission from those controlling the embankment to retrieve water for irrigation," said Fazlul Haque Bhuiyan, a farmer.

Abul Khayer, another farmer from Dharkhar village, said despite submitting complaints to the UNO, no action has been taken so far.

Shooter Arif could not be reached over the phone for his comment. A visit to his residence in Uzanisar village also yielded no result.

Contacted, Mohammad Didarul Alam, deputy commissioner of Brahmanbaria, acknowledged the issue.

"Previously, such embankment-like structures in Akhaura were dismantled. If necessary, we will conduct another operation. However, the lack of excavation equipment is preventing us from removing the structures effectively," he said.

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RE - TENDER NOTICE

Tender No. NSU/24-25/T-09

North South University is inviting sealed offers from bona fide/ reputed organisations/ business partners/ agents for **Lease for the supply and operation of the NESCAFE coffee kiosks at the NSU Campus.**

Interested bidders may collect a schedule of tender from **Southeast Bank Ltd. Bashundhara Branch, Dhaka-1229,** within banking hours on all working days till **Tuesday, April 22, 2025,** by paying the non-refundable amount of Taka 2,000.00 (Two Thousand) in cash for each schedule. The bidder has to bid for all works mentioned in the Tender schedule.

The bidders must submit **earnest money @ 10%** of the yearly quoted rent in the form of a Pay Order issued from any scheduled bank drawn in favor of North South University along with their offer. The sealed offer must be submitted on **Wednesday, April 23, 2025, by 2:15 p.m.** at the office of the undersigned. The offers will be opened at 2:30 p.m. on the same day. Representatives of the participating bidders may remain present at the time of opening the bids. NSU authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without showing any reason.

Director, Internal Affairs
NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
Bashundhara, Dhaka-1229
Phone: +88-02-55668200, Ext. 1204
Fax: +88-02-55668202
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জেলা জজ আদালত,ঢাকা,নারায়নগঞ্জ,গাজীপুর এবং চট্টগ্রামে চলমান বা ভবিষ্যতে উদ্ভূত বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কল্যাণ ট্রাস্টের বিভিন্ন মামলা/মোকদ্দমা পরিচালনার জন্য উক্ত জেলা জজ বারের তালিকাভুক্ত (Enrolled) আগ্রহী বিজ্ঞ আইনজীবীগণকে ট্রাস্টের আইনজীবী হিসেবে প্যানেলভুক্ত করা হবে।

০২. মাননীয় সুপ্রিম কোর্টে চলমান বা ভবিষ্যতে উদ্ভূত বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কল্যাণ ট্রাস্টের বিভিন্ন মামলা/মোকদ্দমা (রিট মামলাসহ) পরিচালনার জন্য হাইকোর্টে তালিকাভুক্ত (Enrolled) আগ্রহী বিজ্ঞ আইনজীবীগণকে ট্রাস্টের আইনজীবী হিসেবে প্যানেলভুক্ত করা হবে।

০৩. উপরিউক্ত মতে বিজ্ঞ প্যানেল আইনজীবী নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। আগ্রহী ও যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের তাদের জীবন বৃত্তান্তসহ শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদপত্র, বার কাউন্সিলের সনদপত্র অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি, সদ্য তোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ০২(দুই) কপি ছবিসহ আগামী ০৮/০৪/২০২৫খ্রি: তারিখে অফিস সময়ের মধ্যে পরিচালক (প্রশাসন), বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট, স্বাধীনতা ভবন, ৮৮ মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-এর নিকট ডাকযোগে আবেদন করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা এবং শর্তাবলী :
১. আগ্রহী প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই ক্ষেত্রমতে ঢাকা/নারায়ণগঞ্জ/গাজীপুর/চট্টগ্রাম/হাইকোর্ট বারের তালিকাভুক্ত (Enrolled) সদস্য হতে হবে।
২. ক্ষেত্রমতে জেলা পর্যায়ে স্বতন্ত্রভাবে দেওয়ানী বিষয়ক মামলা পরিচালনার ক্ষেত্রে এবং মাননীয় হাইকোর্টে দেওয়ানী বিষয়ক/রিট মামলা পরিচালনার ক্ষেত্রে কম পক্ষে ১০(দশ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।
৩. জমিজমা/স্থাবর সম্পত্তি সংক্রান্ত কাগজপত্র পর্যালোচনা করার ক্ষেত্রে, ট্রাস্ট কর্তৃক দায়েরকৃত বা ট্রাস্টের বিরুদ্ধে দায়েরকৃত মামলার আর্জি প্রস্তুতি/জবাব দাখিল, মামলা সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য কার্যাবলী এবং ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের সাথে সম্পাদনযোগ্য চুক্তিপত্র /অংশিদারী চুক্তিপত্র/ডেভলপারের সাথে সম্পাদনযোগ্য চুক্তিপত্র বা আমমোক্তার নামা ড্রাফটিং-এ পারদর্শী হতে হবে।
৪. আপিল বিভাগের তালিকাভুক্ত (Enrolled) সদস্যগণকে অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে।
৫. প্যানেলভুক্ত বিজ্ঞ আইনজীবীগণ সম্পাদিত কাজের জন্য বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কল্যাণ ট্রাস্টের অনুমোদিত হারে সম্মানি প্রাপ্য হবেন।
৬. নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তিটি বাতিল/সংরক্ষণ, বিজ্ঞ প্যানেল আইনজীবী বাছাই, চূড়ান্তকরণ এবং এ সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য কার্যাবলী বিষয়ে ট্রাস্টের ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালকের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত হিসেবে গণ্য হবে।

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