



## A promising life cut short in the skies

### Flight Lt Towkir buried with due honour in Rajshahi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Flight Lieutenant Towkir Islam Sagar, who tragically lost his life after a Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) training aircraft crashed in Dhaka's Uttara on Monday, was laid to rest in his hometown Rajshahi yesterday.

The young officer's first namaz-e-janaza was held with full military honours at the Kurmitola Parade Ground around noon.

His body arrived in Rajshahi at around 3:20pm and was first taken to his family home in the Upashohor area, where relatives, neighbours, and well-wishers gathered to bid him farewell.

A second janaza took place at Rajshahi District Stadium at 4:30pm, followed by his burial at Sapura Graveyard.

Towkir, a member of the 35 Squadron, 76 BAFA course, was on his first solo flight when the accident occurred.

To avoid a major disaster, Towkir attempted to steer the FT-7 BGI aircraft away from densely populated areas and towards a sparsely inhabited zone, said Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

However, despite his efforts, the aircraft smashed into a two-storey building of Milestone School and College in the Diabari area of Uttara.

He was rescued and taken to the Combined Military Hospital, where he passed away while undergoing treatment in the ICU, said ISPR.

Born and raised in Rajshahi, Towkir joined Pabna Cadet College in 2010 and later enrolled in the Bangladesh Air Force in 2016.

His family described him as driven and compassionate. "He got married just a few days ago. They had just begun a new life together," said his grandfather, retired teacher Azizur Rahman. "This was his first solo flight. We were so happy. But suddenly, everything is gone."

"The pain of losing someone like him [Towkir] will haunt us forever," said his uncle Sadikul Islam.

Monirul Islam, vice principal of Pabna Cadet College, recalled Towkir's deep connection to the institution. "Even after graduation, he would return to guide students, especially during cultural events. He had a thoughtful presence, alongside brilliance and vision," he said.

Rubina Afrose, a neighbour from the Upashohor area, expressed the community's grief. "Towkir was so humble, and brilliant in his studies. He was a talented pilot, too."

"Why do mothers have to keep losing their sons? Towkir is gone today, and maybe things will quiet down tomorrow, but the family will carry this pain forever," she said.

Towkir is survived by his wife, Nijhum, a university teacher in Dhaka; his parents, Tohurul Islam and Saleha Khutun; and his only sister, Tasnia Islam Srishti, a medical student.



**ABU SAYED MURDER**  
Hearing of charge framing on July 28

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal 2 yesterday set July 28 for the hearing on charge framing in the Abu Sayed murder case against 30 individuals.

Abu Sayed, a student of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur, was killed in police firing on July 16 last year during the anti-discrimination protest.

Former BRUR vice-chancellor Md Hasibur Rashid, former Rangpur Metropolitan Police commissioner Md Moniruzzaman, several university officials, police personnel, and activists of the Awami League and its affiliated organisations are among the accused.

The three-member tribunal, led by Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury, passed the order after six accused

## Rest well little angels

Near and dear ones grieve the young lives lost in Uttara fighter jet crash



### STAR REPORT

On a seemingly ordinary Monday morning in Dhaka, dozens of children headed to school with lunchboxes in hand and dreams in their eyes.

But by afternoon, the nation was shaken by a horrifying tragedy -- a Bangladesh Air Force training jet had crashed into a building of Milestone School and College in Uttara's Diabari area.

The crash has claimed at least 32 lives, including those of little ones -- each with a story, a future, and a family now shattered beyond repair.

#### TATA BYE-BYE, MOM!

"Mom, I'm going to school, tata bye-bye!"

Those were the last words nine-year-old Saima Akhter said to her mother before leaving for school on the day of the tragedy. Little did her mother know, it

would be the last time she'd see her daughter.

Hours later, Rina Begum learned through social media that Saima had died in the crash.

"My daughter will never sleep hugging me again," said an inconsolable Rina, after Saima was laid to rest in Bipravardha village of Gazipur.

Saima, a third-grade student, lived with her family in Uttara.

Her father, Mohammad Shah Alam, was also devastated.

"Last night, she hugged me so many times before going to sleep," he said. "Now she won't hug me ever again."

Saima's elder brother, Sabbir Hossain -- who had just passed his SSC exams from the same school -- broke down in tears.

"You were my heart. Who will I take to school now?" he cried.

Saima was buried at the family graveyard after her funeral prayers at the local mosque.

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Humaira



Samiul



Shamim



Ukyra Ching



Tanvir



Saima

## Farewell to a heroic teacher

Maherin Chowdhury, who died trying to save her students, laid to rest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Maherin Chowdhury, 46, who suffered fatal burns while trying to escort students to safety during Monday's tragic jet crash at Milestone School and College, was laid to eternal rest yesterday at her village home in Nilphamari.

An ambulance brought her body to Bogulagari village under Jaldhaka municipality, where her namaz-e-janaza was held around 4:00pm. She was buried beside her parents' graves.

Maherin, a coordinator at Milestone School and College in Dhaka's Uttara, died around 10:00pm on Monday at Dhaka Medical College Hospital's ICU, hours after she was placed on life support with 80 percent burns.

Before being placed on life support, she briefly spoke with her husband, Monsur Helal. "She told me school had just ended and she was helping the children leave when the plane crashed right outside the gate," he said. "Even after being burned herself, she tried to save them."

Maherin was responsible for escorting students to the gate to ensure they safely reached their parents. According to news reports, she managed to lead around 20 children out of the premises even after sustaining severe injuries herself.

Her act of bravery has left an enduring mark. "She didn't think about herself. She only thought of the children," said speakers before her janaza took place. "She has glorified the teacher's community with her sacrifice."

Maherin was the eldest daughter of Muhit Chowdhury and Saderia Chowdhury of the village. Despite living and working in Dhaka, she remained closely connected to her roots.

In fact, she had recently been elected president of the management committee of the local Bogulagari School and College. Her husband said she dreamt of transforming the institution into one as reputed as Milestone, where she had worked until her final day.



## Global support pours in as Dhaka seeks medical aid

### DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka is seeking medical experts and equipment to treat burn victims of Monday's military aircraft crash in Uttara, as several countries have offered to extend their support.

"We are preferring experts, nurses, and related equipment for burn treatment, not money, as one of the countries offered," a foreign ministry official told The Daily Star.

"A medical team from Singapore is on the way to Dhaka, while the governments of China, Japan, and India have offered to assist in the treatment of burn patients," he also said.

The crash, which occurred at Milestone School and College in Uttara, has left at least 32 people dead, most of them children, and injured 165 others.

As of yesterday, 68 patients remained hospitalised, according to the health ministry.

During a press briefing at the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery yesterday,

Prof Sayedur Rahman, special assistant to chief adviser for health ministry, said a team from Singapore General Hospital, which includes a senior consultant, was en route to Dhaka.

The team would evaluate current treatment protocols for the burn patients, he said.

Health Adviser Nurjahan Begum said the Singapore team will assess the patients' conditions and determine if anyone needs to be sent abroad for further treatment.

Chong Si Jack, a senior consultant who's part of the medical team from Singapore General Hospital, had already arrived last night, while the rest of the members of the team are set to arrive today, said a health ministry official.

Meanwhile, India said it will send a team of burn specialist doctors and nurses with necessary medical support.

They are scheduled to visit Dhaka soon to treat the victims of the jet crash in Uttara, said a statement of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs.

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## LAND WANTED

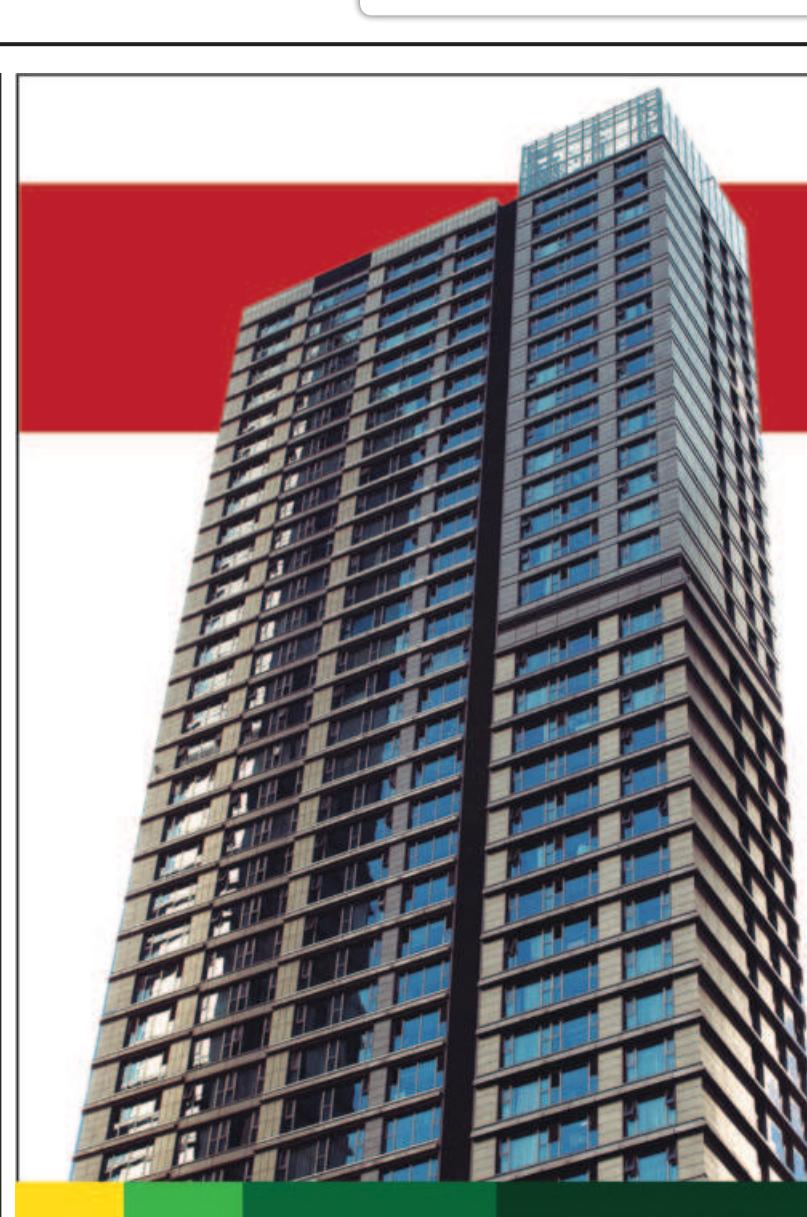
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