

## Four of a family killed as train hits auto-rickshaw



STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Five people, including four of a family, died when a train hit a CNG-run auto rickshaw at an unauthorised level crossing in Cox's Bazar's Ramu upazila yesterday afternoon.

The victims were Renu Ara, 35, of Chadakpara village of Cox's Bazar Sadar upazila; her sister Asma Ara, 13; and Renu's two sons -- three-year-old Ashek Ullah and one-and-a-half year old Ata Ullah -- and auto-rickshaw driver Habib Ullah, 50.

All the victims died on the spot, said Tayebur Rahman, officer-in-

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**US TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS**  
**Boeing plane purchase was not talked about**  
**Says commerce adviser, dismisses speculations on secret deal**

UNB, Dhaka

Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin has said the purchase of 25 Boeing aircraft from the US was not raised in the trade talks in Washington DC.

"This issue is one sided. Boeing made 12 aircraft last year. So, according to this agreement, they may be able to deliver the first aircraft in 2023."

"Boeing aircraft is not a very important issue," Bashir said, adding, "You don't buy it every day, but you buy soybean every day."

The US was interested in agricultural products, he said.

The adviser laid emphasis on boosting the operational capacity of aircraft and that the government was trying to do that.

Boeing has the potential to transport an additional 10 million passengers, he said, adding that 25 planes are not much considering this.

The adviser dismissed the speculations about any secret deal with the US in exchange for the reciprocal tariff reduction on Bangladeshi exports from 35 percent to 20 percent, saying that all discussions prioritised the national interests.

"There is no room to ignore our own interests. Whatever we did, we did by prioritising our country -- just as the US prioritises its national security."

He also noted that a Bangladeshi business delegation is now in the US, and "they will not do anything that goes against their own interests".

Bashir said the information in the trade agreement following the negotiations with the US will be released

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## Man 'beaten to death' in Khilgaon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was beaten to death by some members of security forces in the capital's Khilgaon Sipahibagh area yesterday, family members alleged.

The deceased was identified as Nazrul Islam Molla, 43.

Police and family members said they brought him to the emergency department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital from Mugda General Hospital, but DMCH doctors declared him dead around 12:15pm.

Family members claimed Nazrul's body bore several injury marks.

Speaking to reporters at the hospital, Nazrul's uncle Kamal Hossain said that Nazrul, originally from Kalkini upazila in Madaripur, had been living in a rented apartment in Khilgaon's Sipahibagh area with his wife Aklima Begum and their two children. He ran a roadside stall there, selling puri and singara.

Kamal said Nazrul used to take drugs and sell them too, and had narcotics cases against him with Khilgaon Police Station.

"Around 11:00pm on Friday night, a team of army men entered Nazrul's

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## 'How can you decide on women without them?'

Rights groups reject consensus commission's decision on reserved women's seats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women's rights activists and civil society representatives yesterday rejected the National Consensus Commission's decision on reserved parliamentary seats for women, condemning the decision-making process as exclusionary, undemocratic, and an insult to half the nation's population.

Speaking at an event in the capital, they expressed outrage over the complete absence of women in the process.

They also noted that neither the Women's Affairs Reform Commission nor any women's rights organisations were included in the consensus commission or any of the political party delegations it held talks with.

Titled "Our demand: No decision about women without women", the event was organised by the Campaign for Popular Education and partner organisations at the BRAC Centre in the capital's Mohakhali.

During Thursday's consensus talks, political parties agreed to nominate women in five percent of the constituencies in the next election. They also agreed to retain the existing 50 reserved seats for women, with necessary constitutional amendments to follow. Ali Riaz, vice-president of the commission, said, "Almost all parties agreed in principle to gradually raise the number of women's seats to 100." He added that while some parties submitted notes of dissent, "a broad consensus has been established".

At yesterday's event, speakers pointed out that the 433 detailed recommendations made by the Women's Affairs Reform Commission were ignored despite repeated follow-ups. They also criticised the consensus commission as an

elite dominated body disconnected from lived realities, especially of women.

Shireen Huq, chief of the Women's Affairs Reform Commission, said, "We are in 2025, and if we still can't demand a 50-50 share for women, then when will we? When I raised the issue, someone said that if women get 50 percent representation, there will be a female majority in parliament. But men have led for 50 years; now it's time to give women a chance."

### SOME OF THE DEMANDS

- 1 The July Charter must fully incorporate recommendations of the Women's Affairs Reform Commission
- 2 At least 50% women's representation is essential in all national commissions, boards, and committees
- 3 State secularism must be upheld, and women-related laws reformed with women's input

"We aren't asking for something permanent. Let women lead for two terms, then judge the results. If a parliament is formed with a female majority, we should evaluate whether the country benefits from it."

She added, "Our progressive [commission] leaders haven't accepted this idea. They've accepted many things, but not this. That's the reality, and that's why we must keep raising

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## 1 in 3 Gazans going days without food

Says Unicef; 98 more people, including 39 aid seekers, killed

AGENCIES

Gaza faces a grave risk of famine, with one in three people going days without food, the UN Children's Fund (Unicef) has warned.

Unicef also urged the international community to act swiftly as conditions continue to deteriorate due to Israel's genocidal war.

The statement came as the Palestinian Health Ministry yesterday said at least 98 people were killed and 1,079 wounded by Israeli attacks in the last 24 hours.

The figure includes 39 people killed while waiting for food aid.

With that, the death toll from the attacks since October 2023 has gone up to 60,430, with 148,722 wounded.

"Today, more than 320,000 young children are at risk

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Female SAD coordinator quits politics citing harassment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTG

Fatema Khanam Liza, a former coordinator of Students Against Discrimination (SAD) in Chattogram, has quit politics citing harassment by her fellow male activists.

In a Facebook live on Friday night, Fatema, also the former spokesperson of Chattogram unit of SAD, said the same men who stood in front to protect their fellow women activists from bullets during the July uprising are now harassing them.

The SAD leaders in Chattogram, including Khan, Talat, Mahmud Rafi, Rassel Ahmed and Rezaur Rahman, failed to take a proper action against the online harassment of women, she said.

"I remain deeply concerned about the future of women politicians in Chattogram -- if a woman in this city dares to step into the political arena, I fear for what might await her," she told The Daily Star yesterday.

They may face violence, humiliation, disrespect and conspiracy from both within and outside her party, she said.

"I have personally experienced these countless times. I may not have fulfilled every goal with which I entered politics, but I have never betrayed the ideals of the July

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A woman using a bamboo bridge in her yard at home in Sarabhita village of Khulna's Dumuria. Several thousand people in around 100 villages have been waterlogged for over two weeks as the Sholmari and Mayur rivers cannot drain the rainwater. The photo was taken yesterday morning.

**আমরা গভীরভাবে শোকাত**

**আলহাজ্ব আজিম উদ্দিন আহমেদ**  
 (১৯৮০-২০২৫)

এর মৃত্যুতে

আমরা গভীরভাবে শোকাত

চেয়ারম্যান মিউচুয়াল গ্রুপ অব কোম্পানিজ  
 প্রাক্তন চেয়ারম্যান ও সদস্য, বোর্ড অব ট্রাস্টিজ,  
 নর্থ সাউথ ইউনিভার্সিটি  
 প্রাক্তন চেয়ারম্যান ও পরিচালক  
 সাউথইস্ট ব্যাংক পিএলসি  
 প্রাক্তন চেয়ারম্যান ও পরিচালক  
 আরলা ফুডস বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড

**মরণের পরিবারবর্গ**