

Three killed in road accidents BNP hasn't learned

STAR REPORT

Three people were killed in separate road accidents in Thakurgaon, Gazipur, and Noakhali in the last two days, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Thakurgaon Sadar, tailor Sunil Barman, 35, of Dakkhin Boikanthapur village, died when he lost control of his motorcycle and crashed into a roadside tree at Barunagaon around 7:00am yesterday.

He was taken to Thakurgaon General Hospital, where doctors declared him dead. An unnatural death case has been filed.

In Kapasia upazila of Gazipur, microbus driver Kamrul Hasan, 30, of Boyra village in Mymensingh Sadar, was killed Wednesday evening when the vehicle lost control and hit a roadside palm tree.

A child and other passengers were injured and taken to Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital.

In Companiganj, Noakhali, businessman Abu Taher, 48, was crushed under a tractor around 9:00am Thursday in Bagdhara Bazar while trying to overtake it.

FROM PAGE 3 not get remedies from the courts, he said, adding that the current government appears to have forgotten that experience.

He also questioned whether BNP plans to reinstate "sworn in judges" or appoint similar figures again. "This is a warning sign. If this continues, none of us will remain safe. Some ordinances approved by the government could be misused," he said.

On local government, Badiul said the interim government had issued four ordinances allowing the appointment of administrators after many elected representatives went into hiding following the mass uprising and the terms of several bodies expired.

He noted that the interim government had planned

local government elections before the national polls but could not hold them due to BNP's opposition. BNP had promised to hold those elections after the parliamentary polls, but "the opposite has happened," he said.

He termed the appointment of administrators a violation of BNP's 31-point reform outline, its election manifesto, Article 59 of the constitution, and a High Court verdict.

"In my view, whichever party is in power should enact laws that will protect it when it goes into opposition. But BNP is moving in the opposite direction," he said, warning that the consequences would not be good for either citizens or those in power.

At the event, HRSS

Chairman Sahjada Al Amin Kabir gave opening and closing remarks, while Executive Director Ijazul Islam presented a paper.

HRSS urged the government to keep the ordinances in force, publish a roadmap for revised laws, ensure participation of civil society and rights groups, and guarantee judicial independence.

It also called for prompt and impartial investigations into enforced disappearances and rights violations, greater transparency through regular progress reports, and alignment of laws with international human rights standards.

Among others, senior journalists, rights activists, and political representatives also spoke at the discussion.

DSCC declares zero-tolerance

FROM PAGE 3 were also demolished.

Previously, during a meeting on March 10 at Nagar Bhaban, a decision was jointly reached by DSCC, Dhaka Metropolitan Police, transport owners and workers' leaders to remove all illegal counters outside the Sayedabad terminal and to allocate counters inside the terminal in an organised manner.

Meanwhile, in the GPO

Link Road drive, roads and footpaths on both sides of the road near the south side of the Baitul Mukarram Market were cleared of encroachment.

Temporary shops and illegal structures that had occupied the footpaths for a long time were removed, reopening pathways for pedestrians.

To ensure roads and footpaths remain free from encroachment, DSCC issued an urgent public

notice yesterday. The notice states that no goods can be placed on the footpaths in front of any shopping malls or markets under DSCC jurisdiction.

Encroachers have been instructed to remove all goods immediately on their own initiative. Failure to comply will result in strict legal action, including cancellation of the trade licence of the concerned shop or establishment, according to the notice.

No masks

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in the procession will be allowed to carry masks in their hands, but they will not be allowed to wear them, according to the directives.

The government has also ordered all events at Ramna Park, Suhrawardy Udyan, Dhaka University, Hatirjheel, and Rabindra Sarobar, as well as other celebration venues across the country, to wrap up by 6:00pm. Authorities will not allow fresh entry to those venues after 5:00pm.

Strict measures will also be taken to stop motorcycle and car racing in the 300 Feet area.

As part of the security plan, dog squad sweeps will be carried out at Ramna Batamul, Dhaka University, and other key points, while watchtowers, CCTV cameras, and archways will be installed at important venues.

To prevent eve-teasing, snatching, and pickpocketing, plainclothes intelligence surveillance will be in place across the country, alongside mobile courts led by executive magistrates, reads the ministry directives for ensuring security.

Fire service vehicles, ambulances, and medical teams will be deployed at all major venues, while divers will remain on duty at Ramna Lake to prevent accidents.

For security reasons, authorities have requested closure of the TSC metro rail station on April 14. From 7:00pm on April 13, no vehicle without a university sticker will be allowed to enter the Dhaka University area.

The public has also been requested not to carry bags, backpacks, matches or lighters. Guardians have been advised to keep children with notes containing their identity details.

Administrators

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representatives is unlawful.

State Minister for Local Government Mir Shahe Alam responded to the objections separately.

He said the current "special circumstance" is that elections cannot be held as the law has not yet been finalised.

Since the provision for party symbols has been removed, administrators have been appointed, he said.

PRAYER TIMING APRIL 10 Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha AZAN 4-40 12-30 4-45 6-21 7-45 JAMAAT 5-15 1-15 5-00 6-24 8-15 SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Govt to display

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to restore discipline in the transport sector, the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) has taken steps to introduce GPS technology in public transport operating on highways.

Once implemented, the location and speed of vehicles can be monitored easily. This will help control irregularities such as indiscriminate stops, overcharging passengers, and traffic violations. Any breach of speed limits or traffic laws will be automatically recorded, and legal action will be taken against the driver and the vehicle owner concerned.

In response to a question from NCP MP Hasnat Abdullah, the minister said between January 1, 2024, and the present, 81 contracting firms have been declared ineligible for procurement activities for varying periods due to proven involvement in fraudulent practices.

Legal action has also been taken against individuals or officials involved in professional misconduct under relevant laws and regulations,

with several government officials currently facing departmental cases under the Government Servants (Discipline and Appeal) Rules.

Responding to separate questions from Jamaat MPs Ilyas Molla and Ruhul Amin, Rabiul, also the railways minister, said Bangladesh Railway will begin receiving 200 broad-gauge coaches from India, financed by the European Investment Bank, by this year.

Under a project, 200 broad-gauge carriages are expected to be added to the Bangladesh Railway fleet between June 2026 and December 2027, said the minister.

"Once the coaches arrive, new train routes will be determined," he added.

In response to a question from ruling party MP Mohammad Shamim Kayser, the minister said 15 intercity trains currently operate between Dhaka and the northern districts. Once the new coaches arrive from India, the number of intercity trains connecting Dhaka with the northern districts will be increased.

Lack of plan

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At the discussion, Information Minister Zahir Uddin Swapan said his government has been working to introduce allowances for retired journalists, with his ministry currently drafting eligibility criteria for the benefit.

He added that the government is also working to formulate an advertisement policy so media outlets can benefit from government advertising.

Nurul Kabir, editor of New Age, said economic reforms cannot take place without democratic reforms.

He also criticised the interim government's signing of the US Agreement on Reciprocal Trade with the United States.

Shamsul Huq Zahid, editor of The Financial Express and a member of the media reforms commission of the interim government, expressed disappointment that not a single recommendation suggested by the commission was implemented.

Shawkat Hossain Masum, head of Online at Prothom Alo, suggested conducting impact analyses on reform progress so journalists can report based on the economic impact.

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