



Autorickshaw driver killed; Dhaka-Mymensingh highway blocked for 4hrs in protest



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A Taqwa transport bus broke his rickshaw's side mirror, leading to an argument between Liton and the transport workers. Later, it is alleged that he was taken onto the bus, where he was murdered by having his tendons severed. In response, the protesting drivers staged a roadblock in the New Bazar area on Tuesday from 7:30am to 11:30am, causing severe traffic congestion on both sides of the highway. This resulted in immense suffering for passengers, drivers, and garment workers commuting to their workplaces in the morning.

The protesting auto-rickshaw drivers left their vehicles on the highway, obstructing traffic. Smail Hossain, a lawyer at the Gazipur District Court who frequently uses this road, expressed his frustration: "Taqwa transport buses drive recklessly. I heard that last night, they pushed an auto-rickshaw driver off the bus and ran him over, killing him." Tahajjud Hossain, an official at a garment factory in Bhaluka, Mymensingh, criticized the protest: "There were other ways to resolve this issue. Every time something happens to the workers, they hold the public hostage by blocking roads. During Ramadan, several frustrated passengers echoed similar sentiments: "Whenever we step out of our homes, we worry about road blockades. Every day, a highway is blocked somewhere due to some incident. Such protests shouldn't be allowed, yet law enforcement and the administration do nothing. "

Abdul Latif, a local resident and eyewitness who reported the murder, said: "On Monday at around 8:30pm, I was standing near New Bazar by the highway. A Taqwa transport bus took auto-rickshaw driver Liton Mia onboard, severed the tendons in his hands and legs, and dumped his body in the New Bazar area. Upon receiving the news, the police arrested the bus driver, Jony, and seized the Taqwa transport bus. Auto-rickshaw drivers Hasmat Ali, Dulal Mia, and others alleged: "Liton Mia was deliberately murdered inside the bus by having his tendons cut. "