

MOGHBAZAR-MALIBAGH FLYOVER Why girder collapse victims shouldn't get compensation: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain in four weeks why they should not be directed to give the families of Moghbazar-Malibagh flyover girder collapse victims Tk 1.10 crore in compensation.

On March 13, Malibagh, a 24-year-old temporary hourly worker was killed when a 36-metre-long girder weighing about 70 tonnes fell from the flyover near Malibagh Level Crossing in the capital.

It also left Palash Baran Dhar, an LGED assistant engineer, and Noor Nabi, a concrete mixer truck driver, seriously injured. Both of them lost a leg each.

In response to a writ petition filed by Children's Charity Bangladesh Foundation, a rights organisation, the HC also issued the rule asking the respondents to show causes why they should not be ordered to give Tk 50 lakh to Swapan's family and Tk 30 lakh to Palash and Nabi each in compensation for the deaths of the sailing them.

The court also asked the officer-in-charge (OC) of Ramna Police Station to explain why he should not be directed to report in two weeks before it on the action taken after the death of Swapan in the collapse.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) secretary, its chief engineer, chief executive officers of Dhaka north and south city corporations, OC of Ramna Police Station and managing director of Toma Construction Ltd, a contractor organisation of the flyover, have been made the respondents, said the petitioner's lawyer Barrister Abdul Halim.



Long tailbacks are a common sight these days on the Jirani-Amtola road, a vital road in Ashulia outside Dhaka, as it gets inundated by rainwater due to the absence of a proper drainage system. The stagnant water coupled with movement of heavy vehicles is also corroding the busy road, resulting in its structural damage. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH

29 directives issued for smooth Eid journey: PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday in parliament said the government has taken necessary measures for ensuring people's smooth journey during Eid-ul-Fitr as it issued a 29-point directive to make the travel safe and comfortable in the highways.

In reply to lawmakers' queries, she hoped that people's journey to their home during Eid would be better than in the past due to the measures taken by the various wings.

The directives include necessary guidelines for repairing the highways, keeping the national and regional highways free from traffic congestion, maintaining discipline in bus terminals, stopping random parking of vehicles, keeping CNG stations open round the clock, stopping plying of three-wheelers in 22 national highways, introducing special BRTC service and increasing the number of ferry services.

Hasina said the government has

instructed garment owners to give Eid vacation and open the factories after Eid on alternate days to avoid any pressure on public transports.

Helicopters would be used for rescue operations and clearing off roads in case of any major accidents, she added.

She said a central control room would be set up at Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) head office four days ahead of the Eid-ul-Fitr and it will remain open for the next four days after the Eid.

The joint secretary of BRTA would remain in charge of the control room as the focal person who would be available at 01797776651.

The control room would have a land phone 9130662 and a mobile phone 0196662019.

In reply to another query, the premier said the government has taken a project to introduce electronic passport (e-passport).

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BUS, TRAIN SERVICE AHEAD OF EID Ticket sale starts June 12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With Eid-ul-Fitr over two weeks away, private bus operators and the Bangladesh Railway will begin selling advance tickets from next week to ensure hassle-free journey for the holidaymakers.

Private bus operators will start selling advance tickets from June 12 while the state-run Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) from June 20.

On the other hand, Ministry of Railways has called a meeting today to formally announce the date for selling advance tickets. A source in the ministry said ticket selling will start from June 12.

Launch owners do not sell advance tickets through formal announcement. Booking of cabin for Eid vacation has already started, an owner said.

Every year, tens of thousands of

people leave the capital to celebrate Eid with near and dear ones at their village homes. But their journey home always turns bitter largely due to traffic jam, overcharging of ticket and delays in bus and train schedule.

However, on May 29, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said his ministry had taken steps to ensure safe and hassle-free journey on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Fauzul Talukder Sohel, chairman of Bangladesh Bus-Truck Owners' Association, told this correspondent yesterday that they would start selling advance tickets from June 12 morning.

"We will sell advance tickets on the basis of 'first come, first serve' policy," he said.

Meanwhile, Mizanur Rahman, chairman of BRTC, said the state-run corporation will start selling advance

tickets from June 20 and some 900 buses will ensure smooth journey of homebound people.

"We have already given directives to the people concerned so that none can charge extra for tickets. We will monitor it continuously," he told this correspondent yesterday.

Mizanur said there will be several terminals in different terminals, which will work to ensure a hassle-free journey for Eid holidaymakers.

Meanwhile, Baduzaman Badal, senior vice chairman of Bangladesh Inland Waterways (passenger carriers) Association, said passengers have already started buying advance tickets for launch cabins.

He, however, hoped that this year's launch journey would be smoother than the previous years' thanks to a relatively long Eid vacation and an increased number of launches.



Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina places wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in front of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum in the capital yesterday commemorating the historic Six-point Day.

KORAIL SLIM WOMAN RAPE CASE Victim support centre arrests three accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three of the four accused in the case over raping a garment worker of Korail slum twice in the capital in March were finally arrested but by the Victim Support Centre of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) on Tuesday, thanks to Banani police's negligence to this end once again.

The arrestees are Junaid Hossain, Nayeb Ali and Sohag, said Farida Yasmin, deputy commissioner of victim support centre at DMP.

On March 3, the garment worker, aged 23 years, went to Banani Police station to file a general diary (GD) after she was allegedly assaulted by the four influential local youths, who provided water and electricity connections to the slum, a venture involving a huge amount of money, on her way home from work.

After five hours of requesting assistance, Banani police finally lodged the GD in exchange for Tk 300, claimed the victim. Afterwards, fearing for her safety, she requested the

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9th Death Anniversary



Today is the 9th death anniversary of our Maa, Rezia Begum. She was a freedom fighter, a writer & above all a loving mother.

The family members of late Rezia Begum have requested all her relatives, friends & well-wishers to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Police officer faces allegations of assault

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajibali

The Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) yesterday started an investigation into allegations that a superintendent of police assaulted four commuters including a college teacher on the street in Rajshahi city the day before.

Nasirul Islam, the SP and deputy commissioner of RMP's West Zone, however, denied the allegation, saying there was no incident of assault.

RMP Commissioner Md Shafiqul Islam said an additional deputy commissioner of RMP was investigating the matter and was asked to file a report within the shortest possible time.

Meanwhile, teachers and students of Bangabandhu College formed a human chain in front of the college yesterday, protesting the alleged assault on Nasirul Islam, a botany teacher. They demanded punishment for the official within seven days.

The incident occurred around 12:00pm on Tuesday when Sadikul was going to office riding the motorcycle of Fakruddin Ali Ahmed, a ward secretary of Rajshahi City Corporation.

Sadikul said they were at the gridlocked Borali intersection when they heard a police vehicle honking from behind. "There was no space to give it passage," he said. "Suddenly the police official stopped and started beating Sadikul. Even though I did not exchange any words with him, I heard him."

At that time, Sabhir Ahmed, vice president of Rajshahi unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League, was walking by. "As I went there to look into the matter, the police official turned towards me and beat him."

He had beat up another motorcycle, Mirdul to police custody, said Sabhir.

Rajshahi chapters of the National Front of Teachers and Bangladesh College Teachers Association, and local Awami

Govt officer arrested while taking bribe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday arrested a government official red-handed from Lalpur Upazila Account Officer's office while taking bribe from a pensioner.

Sources said an ACC team arrested Accounts Officer Momin Ahmed with the bribe Tk 25,000 around 2:30pm.

Momin has been demanding the money from staff of Family Welfare Centre of Lalpur Upazila, for processing her pension documents.

As Kohinur did not give him the money, Momin held back her medical allowance documents for about four months.

She informed ACC and after completing all legal procedures, a special team yesterday arrested Momin while Kohinur Chapal was giving him Tk 25,000. ACC's Deputy Director Sheikh Faiz Alam filed a case in this regard.

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DIPAN
MURDER

Court asks DB for 17th time to submit probe report
Court Correspondent

A Dhaka court yesterday for the 17th time asked the Detective Branch of police (DB) to submit on July 17 the probe report of the case filed over the killing of publisher Faisal Arefin Dipan in October 2015.

The order came after Faisal's wife, a DB inspector and the investigation officer, failed to submit any probe report yesterday.

Earlier on May 7, the same court asked the detectives to submit the report yesterday.

Dipan, 43, publisher of Jagriti Prokashani, was hacked to death inside his office on the second floor of Aziz Cooperative Super Market in the capital's Shahbagh on October 31.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT
HC questions
DU teacher's
dismissal
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of Dhaka University authorities' decision to dismiss Prof Md Shahdat Hossain on charge of sexually harassing two students.

The court issued a rule asking the authorities to explain in three weeks why their decision to dismiss Prof Shahdat should not be declared illegal.

Vice chancellor of Dhaka University, its syndicate, registrar and a deputy registrar concerned have been made respondents to the rule.

The HC issued the rule following a writ petition.