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# Want a bike? Get a licence

**BRTA mandates motorcycles can only be sold to people with at least learner's licence**

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

With an aim to reduce the gap between the numbers of motorbikes on the road and rider licence holders, having at least a learner's licence has been made mandatory for buying a bike.

The Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) also made it mandatory for all motorcycle manufacturers and sellers to train bikers and submit a compliance report.

The BRTA on June 13 sent a letter to all major motorcycle assemblers, manufacturers, and sellers in this regard.

"There is huge gap between motorcycles [registered with the BRTA] and number of bikers with licence. We have decided to reduce the gap and ensure road safety," said Lokman Hossain Mollah, director (engineering) of BRTA.

The manufacturers and sellers will convey the message to their dealers and the BRTA, through its local offices, will follow up, Lokman, who signed the letter, told The Daily Star on June 17.

"We will take action if anyone ignores the directive," he added.

As of May, of the 40.18 lakh vehicles registered with the BRTA, 26.23 lakh were motorbikes. Of these motorbikes, 14.71 lakh were registered in the last four years and five months.

Only around 10.53 lakh rider licences were issued between the birth of Bangladesh and March this year.

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Day labourers sleep on a footpath on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in Dhaka. They will have to wake up around mid-night when goods-laden trucks arrive and help carry the goods from the trucks to shops in Karwan Bazar.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## DU QUESTION LEAK CID charges 87 DU students, 38 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police yesterday pressed charges against 125 people, including 87 students of Dhaka University, in a case filed over their alleged involvement in question leaks and cheating their way into the university.

Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police of CID Sumon Kumar Das, also the investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet before a Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court.

Police submitted the charge sheet following a year and half long investigation in a case filed with Shahbagh Police Station under the Public Examinations Law and the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act on October 20, 2017.

The CID arrested 47 of the 125 suspects, including the alleged mastermind Alip Kumar Biswas, a suspended

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## DBBL ATM THEFT 3 more foreigners involved

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three more foreigners were found involved in the recent Dutch Bangla Bank Limited's (DBBL) ATM theft by an international hacker group, police said.

One of them is a Russian citizen and the rest are yet to be identified, an official of Detective Branch (DB) of police said.

The three withdrew money illegally from different ATM booths in Nikunja and Rampura area sometime between May 31

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 24

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-52 8-17  
JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## EXPIRED DRUGS IN STORES Producers, importers to destroy them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The drug producers and importers have declared to collect best-before-date expired medicines from pharmacies across the country and destroy those within July 2.

The announcement came from a meeting among Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries (BAPI), Importers Association of Bangladesh (Drug section) and Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) held at the latter's office yesterday.

The meeting was presided over by Maj Gen Mahbubur Rahman, director general of DGDA.

The expired drugs would be destroyed following proper procedures, read a press release issued by DGDA.

Importers Association of Bangladesh and BAPI will submit a detailed report to DGDA after destroying the expired drugs, the press release added.

The drug producers and importers are bound to destroy the expired medicines as per the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) of World Health Organization.

On Tuesday, a High Court bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice

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## DAIRY FARMS & COs WITHOUT LICENCE

# HC blasts BSTI for skirting onus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday expressed serious dissatisfaction at the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution's (BSTI) statement where it claimed that the institution had no responsibility over the companies producing and supplying pasteurized milk and curd without any licence.

"We are astonished at your statement. Who has given you the right to play ducks and drakes with the people's health? They have no license, but they are producing and supplying milk! Who is responsible for looking into it?" the HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam and Justice KM Hafizul Alam put the questions while hearing a suomoto rule.

The bench made the comments to BSTI's lawyer Barrister Sarkar MR Hassan and Deputy Director Nurul Islam when they told the court that BSTI looks into the matters of only 18 companies which were given license for producing and supplying pasteurized milk and curd.

The BSTI lawyer replied that the department of agriculture extension and the ministry of livestock and fisheries are responsible for taking steps about the companies with no license.

However, Anti-Corruption Commission's (ACC) lawyer Advocate Syed Mamun Mahbub and Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik opposed this statement, saying the BSTI is empowered by law to take action against the companies and dairy farms which have no license.

The BSTI is diverting the responsibility to others, they said, adding that the court needs to be rigid on this issue.

The HC bench then ordered the BSTI to submit a report with the particulars of the companies and farms that are producing and supplying milk and curd in Dhaka with and without having a valid license within two weeks.

The HC bench also asked the concerned government organisations not

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## India keen on delivering 20 locomotives

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

India is positive about Bangladesh's proposal seeking 20 railway engines from them, according to a delegation led by the Ministry of Railways that held meetings with their Indian counterparts last week.

"We went there [New Delhi] to do ground work and found them very positive about our proposal," said a member of the delegation, wishing not to be named.

Manoj Kumar Srivastava, executive director of traffic transportation (freight) at India Railway Board, led the Indian side during the meetings held on Wednesday and Thursday.

Monjur-Ul-Alam Chowdhury, joint director (mechanical), Rashida Sultana Ghani, joint director (operation), and Kali Kanta Ghosh, deputy director (marketing) were in the Bangladesh

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## New romantics! DNA-based matchmaking launched in Japan



MAIL ONLINE

Down on their luck singles in Japan have taken a very modern approach to dating - by signing up to a service that matches their DNA with a potential mate.

Nozze, a Tokyo-based matchmaking service that's been running for more than 25 years, launched a DNA matching course in January and has seen hundreds of singletons sign up in the hope they'll find their perfect genetic match.

The singles hope to find a partner well matched to their HLA - a gene complex with more than 16,000 variations that's related to the immune system.

Last month the company held their first ever DNA matching party in Tokyo's trendy Ginza neighbourhood, in the hope they'd be able to match 26 men and women.

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## BNP prepping for 7th council

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The BNP is preparing to hold its seventh national council in mid-October.

BNP insiders said the party is planning to bring young blood to leadership positions to overcome stagnation.

Young leaders will get priority in all tiers while the elders will be placed in advisory councils, they said.

"We hope that Khaleda Zia will be released soon. We will complete our preparation for holding council so that we can hold it soon after her release," a vice-chairman of the party told The Daily Star wishing not to be named.

The holding of the council was discussed in the party's standing committee meeting on Saturday where BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman talked about the preparations.

Party sources said this time the council might be smaller in scale and less flamboyant.

On Saturday, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir told

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A man on the phone jaywalks across the road in front of a bus in Dhaka's Bangla Motor. Other pedestrians too violate road rules in a similar manner, putting themselves and others at risk.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## RETALIATION TO DRONE DOWNING US conducted cyberattacks on Iran targets

Say reports; Bolton warns Tehran not to mistake US 'prudence' for 'weakness'

AFP, Washington

The United States launched cyberattacks against Iranian missile control systems and a spy network after Tehran downed an American surveillance drone, according to US media reports.

US president Donald Trump secretly authorised US Cyber Command to carry out a retaliatory attack on Iran, The Washington Post reported Saturday, shortly after the US president pledged to hit the Islamic republic with major new sanctions.

The attack crippled computers used to control rocket and missile launches, according to the Post, while Yahoo News said a spying group responsible for tracking ships in the Gulf was also targeted.

Tehran is yet to react to the reports, Iran's Fars news agency said yesterday.

It added that it was "still not clear whether the attacks were effective or not," and suggested the US media reports were a "bluff meant to affect public opinion and regain lost reputation for the White House" following the downing of its drone.

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif tweeted a map yesterday showing a previous border incident with a "spy drone" encroaching its airspace in late May.

He said the reconnaissance aircraft, a US-made MQ9 Reaper -- also widely used for carrying out military strikes -- had encroached on Iranian territory

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