

## THIRD MEETING OF TASKFORCE ON ROAD CRASHES

# Old decisions taken afresh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A taskforce aiming to curb road crashes and bring discipline in road transport sector, led by Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, sat for its third meeting yesterday after a six-month hiatus.

Apart from the minister, two lawmakers, several secretaries, inspector general of police, experts and top transport leaders took part the three-hour closed-door meeting.

And finally, they came up with almost similar decisions, which they had taken in the previous meetings, and or in different platforms, and remained unimplemented for a long time.

For example, the home minister after the meeting said they have decided to stop battery-run rickshaw across the country and the ministry concerned will issue necessary directives in this regard soon.

However, the same decision was taken around a decade ago.

The government in May 2011, following an inter-ministerial meeting, banned import and assembly of such vehicles and decided to send off-road those already plying the roads.

Besides, the High Court on July 3, 2014, banned plying of battery-run rickshaws across the country for not running with valid licences as per the law.

Moreover, the taskforce, in its second meeting on December 23, also asked the north and south city corporations and Dhaka Metropolitan Police to take effective measures to stop battery-run rickshaws in

DECISION	FIRST TAKEN
Banning battery-run auto-rickshaws	May 2011
Recruitment letters for transport workers	Dec 2020
Maximum two persons on a motorbike	Jun 2016
Toll collection only from terminal, dedicated place	Jun 2020
Survey to determine number of vehicles	Dec 2020

the city.

In the second meeting, the taskforce decided that drivers, conductors and helpers of public transports have to be given appointment letters.

After yesterday's meeting, the home minister said they have taken the decision that transport workers have to be given recruitment letter and transport leaders would implement the decision soon.

The minister said they have decided to take stern action so that no motorbiker would be allowed to carry more than one pillion.

However, the road transport and bridges ministry on June 6, 2016, following several recent murders committed by bike-riding criminals, issued a circular saying that the government would ensure that no more than two people ride a motorbike.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Two traffic police personnel corner a callous motorbiker in Sylhet city's Court Point area. With a 'traffic fortnight' going on in the city, law enforcers are putting in special emphasis on motorcyclists without helmets and masks, as well as vehicles without proper documents and fitness. The drive, which started on June 16 at all major intersections of the city, will continue till June 30.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASTIR



The microbus was smashed into a pulp of metal after the accident at Panchdona-Ghorashal-Tongi road in Narsingdi.

PHOTO: COLELECTED

## Five killed, seven hurt in truck-microbus collision

STAR REPORT

Five passengers of a microbus were killed and seven others injured in Narsingdi on Saturday midnight, as the vehicle collided head-on with a truck.

The accident took place at Bhatpara Sakura intersection on Panchdona-Ghorashal-Tongi road, said Sub-Inspector Zahidul Islam of Madhabdi Police Station.

The deceased were identified as Rubi Akter (33), his daughter Raima Khan (5), and his nephew Sadek Khan (8), their

relatives Rokeya Begum (52), and Mukti Akhter (30), reports our Brahmanbaria correspondent.

The injured have been identified as Shamsunnahar Begum (60), Kazim Uddin (42), Abdur Rashid (40), Razia Akter (40), Sharmin Akhter (38), Saifa (12), and Israt Jahan (6).

SI Zahidul said the victims were first taken to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital, from where four injured were sent to Dhaka.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## DEATH OF DOCTOR

### Three physicians sued

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Prof Dr Mamun Al Mahtab Shwapnil, chairman of Hepatology department at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), and two other doctors were sued for the death of Dr Mohammad Towfiq Enam.

The two other doctors are Prof Dr Abdul Wahab Khan, consultant laparoscopic surgeon of Islami Bank Central Hospital in Kakrail, and Prof Dr Mohammad Ali, hepatobiliary surgeon of BRB Hospital in Kalabagan.

Senior physiotherapist Akteruzzaman Mia, father of the victim, filed the case with the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Rajesh Chowdhury yesterday, court sources said.

The magistrate took the case into cognisance and recorded the complainant's statement.

The court also directed CID to investigate the case with an assistant superintendent of police (ASP) ranked official and submit a probe report before it by July 19.

In the complaint, Akteruzzaman said the three doctors are responsible for the death of his son Towfiq.

"The accused treated my son wrongly with serious negligence, while he [victim] was taken to them at their respective private chambers. Instead of right treatment, the accused took money from us in name of various tests through fraudulence by breaching the trust," the complainant alleged.

Towfiq died while undergoing treatment at BRB Hospital on May 30.

The complainant on June 15 went to Kalabagan Police Station to file a case, but police suggested to file a case with the court, the case statement added.

## PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2021-22

### Allocation for hygiene insufficient: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Insufficient allocation and lack of focus in the budget will hinder the hygiene sub-sector, which remains a key priority for Covid-19 and the SDG Goals, speakers at a post-budget press conference said yesterday.

They also stressed the need to reduce the gap in resource allocation for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in rural and urban areas.

The press conference was jointly organised by WaterAid Bangladesh, Unicef, Power and Participation Research Center (PPRC), FANSA-BD, FSM Network, Sanitation and Water for All, WASH Alliance, and MHM Platform.

The analysis presented at the session reflected the proposed national budget (2021-22 fiscal) allocation for WASH, which shows a slight decline in WASH budget allocation, from Tk 122.27 billion last year to Tk 119.55 billion for the current fiscal.

Following the legacy of previous years, the allocation for hygiene has been overlooked in the 2021-22 fiscal, regardless of the predominance of the pandemic, the speakers claimed.

The proposed allocation remains skewed toward urban areas, and that too mainly on major cities with Wasa services, and substantially ignores the rural and hard-to-reach areas, they said.

Currently, the Covid-19 infection rate is showing a notable upward trend in districts outside the capital, indicating the need to scale up hygiene and WASH facilities to contain further spread of the virus transmission, they said.

PPRC chairman Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman said, "Geographical

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## 'Inoculate us, now'

### Kuwait expat workers stuck at home urge govt to vaccinate them with Gulf country-approved jabs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Migrant workers, who are stuck at home after coming from Kuwait on holiday, yesterday urged the government to immediately inoculate them with Covid-19 vaccine approved by the Gulf country to make way for their return to workplace.

They urged the government to allow them register for vaccination using data in passport, saying most of them don't have national identity (NID) card required for the registration.

They said this at a press conference held under the banner of "Bangladesh-e Atkeypora Kuwait Probashi Forum" at the capital's Dhaka Reporters Unity, which was aired live on Facebook.

The migrant workers said Kuwait's health ministry has announced that expatriates with valid iqama or residence permit will be able to enter there after taking one of four vaccines approved by the Gulf country from August.

The four types of vaccines approved by Kuwait are -- Pfizer/BioNTech, AstraZeneca, Moderna and Johnson and Johnson.

Migrant worker Saiful Islam said at present about 12,000 to 14,000 of them with valid iqama are stuck in Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## TRIPLE MURDER IN CAPITAL

### Mother forced her to 'anti-social activities'

Accused daughter tells police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mehjabin Islam Moon killed her parents and sister in Dhaka's Kadamtali area as she was forced into "anti-social activities", police said yesterday, quoting her.

"As her mother forced her into anti-social activities, her father did nothing even after she complained to him about it, and her sister didn't listen to her despite warning, she decided that death is their only punishment," Shah Iftekhar Ahmed, deputy commissioner of Wari Division Police, said.

Mehjabin told police that her mother forced her into "sex work" after she passed SSC, and she was aggrieved over it.

Kadamtali police recovered the bodies of Masud Rana (50), a Saudi expat; his wife Mousumi Islam (45); and their daughter Jannatul Islam from a building on Rajjab Ali Sarder Road around 11:30am after Mehjabin called 999.

Mehjabin's husband Shafiqul Islam (40) and their five-year-old daughter were found unconscious in the flat.

Masud's brother Shakhawat Hossain

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## 12-YEAR-OLD WRONGFULLY CHARGED OF MURDER

### Five lawyers challenge trial

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Five Supreme Court lawyers yesterday filed a criminal revision petition with the High Court (HC) challenging the legality of the trial proceedings at the Juvenile Court in Bogura, in connection with a case where an underage boy was accused of murdering his eight-year-old brother.

Advocate Shishir Manir submitted the petition to the HC bench of Justice Jahangir Hossain and Justice Md Ataur Rahman, along with a copy of The Daily Star report on the matter, as well as its video report, as supportive documents.

In the petition, Shishir Manir prayed to the HC bench to summon case documents from the juvenile court and take necessary step to give remedy for the "gross injustice".

The Daily Star on June 11 published a report titled "Bearing the unbearable", and a follow-up video about the ordeal of Mohidul Islam's family.

On August 25, 2015, body of Mohidul's

son Sohag was found in a jute field in Bogura's Katakhal. A day later, Mohidul filed a case with Sariakandi Police Station.

On November 29 that year, local police came to his house and took away Mohidul's other son Sourav, saying they needed him for questioning. Twelve-year-old Sourav was shown arrested in the case for murdering his brother Sohag, and a confessional statement was recorded under section 164.

Sourav later claimed he was forced to give the statement in face of police torture.

Police submitted a charge sheet naming Sourav as the lone accused, but the father filed a no-confidence petition and the court handed over the investigation to Police Bureau of Investigation on July 11, 2017.

After investigating for last four years, PBI found Sourav to be innocent and arrested two persons in connection with the murder.

Police took benefits from the murderers since they are influential people and forced Sourav to confess to the killing of Sohag, Mohidul claimed.

## Recruits of former RU VC at it again

### This time confine treasurer for 4hrs, besiege admin building

OUR CORRESPONDENT, RU

For the second consecutive day, a number of the 137 staffers at Rajshahi University, who were unlawfully recruited by former Vice Chancellor Prof Abdus Sobhan, obstructed campus operations with their demand to allow them to join their posts.

Yesterday, a group of them confined treasurer Prof Akm Mostafizur Rahman Al Arif to his office for four hours.

Around 10am, around 50 of them -- mostly former and current Chhatra League leaders of the campus -- went to RU administrative building to meet acting VC Prof Ananda Kumar Saha.

Failing to find him, they proceeded to take position in front of the treasurer's room and kept him there till 2:30pm.

Acting proctor Md Leaket Ali said the agitators afterwards took position at the administrative building and stayed there till this report was filed around 8pm.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## আমরা শোকাহত

দি কনসোলিডেটেড টি এন্ড ল্যান্ডস কোং (বাংলাদেশ) লি:  
এর সম্মানিত চেয়ারম্যান

জনাব আজম জে চৌধুরী'র সর্বস্বমী

বেগম মেরিনা ইয়াসমিন চৌধুরী  
পরিচালক, গ্রাইম ব্যাংক  
ভাইস চেয়ারম্যান, ইস্ট কোস্ট গ্রুপ

গত ১৯ জুন, ২০২১ রোজ শনিবার সকাল ০৯:১৫ মিনিটে  
শেষ নিঃশ্বাস ত্যাগ করেন  
(ইন্না লিল্লাহি ওয়া ইন্না ইলাহিহি রাজিউন)

তার মৃত্যুতে আমরা গভীর শোক প্রকাশ করছি  
এক শোকাহত পরিবারের সদস্যদের প্রতি  
আন্তরিক সমানুভূতি ও সমবেদনা জ্ঞাপন করছি


