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Driver knifed to death for not letting bikes overtake

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

His only fault was that he failed to give motorcyclists room to overtake.

The motorcyclists stabbed a lorry driver to death in Pipolya village of Dinajpur's Biral upazila yesterday afternoon.

Victim Golam Mostafa, 35, was the son of Mokaddesh Hossain of Tangail's Dhonbari upazila.

According to Aminul Islam, helper of the lorry driver, Mostafa was heading to Dinajpur town after delivery of goods of a company in Bochaganj. After the vehicle passed Dhukurjhari village in Biral upazila, eight people on three motorcycles gave signal asking for room to overtake the lorry.

But the driver was not in a position to do so as Bochaganj Dinajpur road is quite narrow, said the helper.

As the driver let the bikers overtake in Pipolya village, they stopped

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Pedestrians struggle to walk on a pavement mostly occupied by parked cycle-vans in the capital's Karwan Bazar. Sidewalks across the city are often used for parking such vehicles or are sometimes even illegally occupied by hawkers, rendering them useless for their actual purpose. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

First Covid death after 20 days

Positivity rate jumps to 10.87 percent

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh registered one Covid-related death with 873 fresh cases in 24 hours till yesterday morning.

This is the first death from the virus in the current month. The previous death was recorded on May 30.

The daily positivity rate jumped to 10.87 percent from Sunday's 7.38 percent as 8,028 samples were tested during the 24-hour period.

The country's total caseload rose to 1,957,200 while the total fatalities reached 29,132 with the new numbers, according to the Directorate General of Health Services.

On Sunday, the country logged 596 cases with zero death.

The mortality rate remained unchanged at 1.49 percent. The recovery rate declined to 97.38 percent from Sunday's 97.42 percent as 92 patients recovered during the same 24 hours.

Last month, the country reported only four Covid-related deaths and 816 new cases, while 7,356 patients recovered from the disease, according to DGHS data.

Among the four deaths, one was vaccinated with single dose of Covid vaccine while the three others were vaccinated with two doses.

The country reported its first zero Covid death in a single day on November 20 last along with 178 cases. The pandemic broke out here in March 2020.

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HIKING FUEL PRICES

Without public hearing, it's 'illegal': CAB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Consumers Association of Bangladesh has said the process of fixing fuel prices without holding any public hearings is "illegal".

Only the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) has the jurisdiction to fix fuel prices, not the government, CAB leaders said at a virtual press conference yesterday.

Last week, two ministers hinted at raising fuel prices amid the price hike of crude oil and diesel in the international market.

Speaking at the press conference, CAB Vice President Prof M Shamsul Alam said the government is again trying to increase fuel prices, which were hiked last November.

"They [the government] want to cut the subsidies by Tk 90 crore a day. But if the fuel prices are increased, the consumers' living costs, including transportation costs, will go up by hundreds of crores of taka."

Citing the BERC Act, Shamsul said the commission has all the jurisdictions to set prices of petroleum products after holding "public hearings", according to clauses 22

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

La Nina behind floods in Bangladesh

Climatologist Rashed Chowdhury tells Star

PINAKI ROY

La Nina is moderately active in the Pacific Ocean this year. This would cause more rains across the Ganges and Brahmaputra basins ultimately leading to more floods, said Dr Rashed Chowdhury in an interview with The Daily Star.

Adjunct faculty at the School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment in Arizona State University, he said there was a direct link between La Nina being active and floods in Bangladesh.

Bangladeshi-born Rashed, who had also worked as a principal scientific officer at Pacific Climate centre, said La Nina was active in the Pacific even during earlier floods in Bangladesh like in 1954, 1955, 1968, 1974, 1987, 1988, 1998, 2004, 2007, and recent ones in 2017 in 2019.

"It means, if there is active La Nina, there is high probability of flood in Bangladesh."

La Nina is a climate pattern that describes the cooling of surface ocean waters along the tropical



west coast of South America.

Saying that predictions are never 100 percent accurate, he said, "The connection between La Nina and floods in the country, however, is very clear."

"The severity is not clear. It could be catastrophic or could be normal. But those who work on atmosphere and oceanic dynamics have been discussing the possibility of floods this year."

"I have written about it for a newspaper in April and have been writing about it on social media ... It is not sudden and I am not at all surprised by it."

About is the La Nina phenomenon, Dr Rashed said it is very hard to explain briefly.

"We can say it is an interaction between the ocean and the atmosphere. Sometimes, the sea surface temperature of a certain place - what we call Nino 3 or 4 - in the eastern Pacific Ocean either increases or decreases."

"Now the temperature is colder than normal."

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Singles charmed by Japan letter-writing scheme

AFP, Tokyo



Sick of swiping and tired of Tinder? Old-fashioned love letters may be the answer, says one Japanese city whose unusual matchmaking scheme has been a surprising success.

Singles in southern Japan's Miyazaki are being encouraged to put pen to paper in a low-tech search for their soulmate, an effort to boost low birth rate.

Compared to online dating, "it takes longer, and inspires you to imagine the person you're in communication with," said Rie Miyata, a consultant to run the scheme.

"It's less about how good your penmanship is," she told AFP, "and more the fact that you write every single character sincerely and with care, thinking deeply about the person you're writing to."



A covered van collided with a Dhaka bound passenger bus on the Jamurki bridge in Tangail's Mirzapur upazila yesterday morning, leaving several people injured. However, the bus luckily escaped falling into the river even though the accident caused the bridge's railing to break.

PHOTO: STAR

PADMA BRIDGE Envoys laud Sheikh Hasina

STAR REPORT

Three foreign envoys in Dhaka have lauded Bangladesh for constructing the Padma Bridge.

Envoys of European Union, China, Saudi Arabia and the Russian embassy yesterday congratulated Bangladesh for the bridge to be inaugurated on June 25, reports UNB.

The Saudi ambassador said the Padma Bridge will help open up the eyes of international investors, including Saudi companies, to give a serious look at Bangladesh.

"I admire Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for taking the revolutionary step of self-financing to build the Padma Bridge," Ambassador Essa Yousef Essa Al Duhaillan told reporters at the Saudi embassy.

On behalf of the custodians of the two holy mosques, King Salman Bin Abdulaziz and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the ambassador congratulated President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her government as well as the people of Bangladesh.

Duhaillan said Saudi companies are increasingly looking at Bangladesh. He said the Padma Bridge will help Bangladesh build more infrastructures in future.

The envoy said Hasina has proven repeatedly that she is the daughter of Bangabandhu whose visionary idea had boosted the country's economy to new heights.

"Her capacity to make swift decisions on keeping the country's economy on track is marvelous despite the fact that many big nations have struggled under similar circumstances," said Duhaillan.

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ঢাকা পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড (ডিপিডিসি)
Dhaka Power Distribution Company Ltd.
বিদ্যুৎ ভবন, ১ আব্দুল গণি রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০

সম্মানিত গ্রাহক, দেশের বৃহত্তর স্বার্থে এবং বিদ্যুৎ ও জ্বালানি সাশ্রয়ের লক্ষ্যে আসুন আমরা রাত ৮ টার পর দোকান, শপিংমল, মার্কেট ও কাঁচা বাজার বন্ধ রাখতে সচেষ্ট হই

তদ্ব্যতী, নিম্নোক্ত ব্যবস্থাপনা প্রতিপালন করি :

- আমার কক্ষের সুইচ আমি নিজেই বন্ধ করি - মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রীর এ আহ্বান মেনে চলি এবং ভবিষ্যতের জন্য বিদ্যুৎ অপচয় বন্ধ করি।
- বিদ্যুৎ সাশ্রয়ী LED বাল্বসহ অন্যান্য সাশ্রয়ী বৈদ্যুতিক সরঞ্জাম ব্যবহার করি।
- প্রি-পেইড মিটার ব্যবহার করি ও সাশ্রয়ী হই এবং বিদ্যুৎ বিলের বামেলা থেকে মুক্ত থাকি।
- প্রাকৃতিক আলো ব্যবহারই উত্তম। পরিমিত বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহারে সঞ্চিত বিদ্যুতের মাধ্যমে আগামী দিনকে উজ্জ্বল করে তুলি।
- বাসা-বাড়ির পরিবেশ বান্ধব রক্ষণ সৌলারটিকে সচল রাখি এবং নেট মিটারিং এর মাধ্যমে তা থেকে বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন করি।
- বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহারে সাশ্রয়ী হই এবং নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি ব্যবহার করি, পরিবেশ রক্ষায় এগিয়ে আসি।
- আমাদের বৈদ্যুতিক সরঞ্জাম এবং ফ্রিজারগুলি নিয়মিত রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ ও পরিষ্কার রাখি।
- অপ্রয়োজনে লাইট, ফ্যান, এসি ইত্যাদি ব্যবহারে বিরত থাকি। এসির তাপমাত্রা ২৫ ডিগ্রি সেলসিয়াসে সীমিত রাখি এবং কক্ষ থেকে প্রস্থানের সময় এসি বন্ধ হয়েছি কি না নিশ্চিত করি।
- ফ্যানের জন্য সাধারণ রেজল্টেরের পরিবর্তে ইলেকট্রনিক রেজল্টের ব্যবহার করি।
- দিজার থার্মোস্টেট সর্বনিম্ন পর্যায়ে রাখি।
- নির্ধারিত সোডাসীমার বেশি ওয়াশিং মেশিন ভর্তি না করে কাপড় পরিষ্কার করি।
- সার্ভিসের ত্রুটিপূর্ণ সংযোগ এড়িয়ে চলি। বৈদ্যুতিক মটরের সাথে ক্যাপাসিটর ব্যবহার করি।

বৈদ্যুতিক দুর্ঘটনা হতে রক্ষার জন্য সকল বৈদ্যুতিক সরঞ্জামের যথাযথ সুরক্ষা বজায় রেখে নিরাপদ বৈদ্যুতিক ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করি।

যে কোনো প্রয়োজনে ডিপিডিসি'র কল সেন্টার ১৬১১৬ নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করুন

-ডিপিডিসি কর্তৃপক্ষ