

Mugger stabs  
rider to death  
on moving  
motorbike

Caught at Savar  
checkpoint

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mugger, posing as commuter, stabbed a ride-sharing biker to death on a moving motorcycle in Dhaka's Pallabi area early yesterday and tried to flee with the bike.

The deceased was identified as Raja Mia, (34) hailing from Sherpur district.

Savar police caught the alleged killer Kawsar Ahmed (22) at a checkpoint in Birulia area after seeing the blood smeared motorbike, Parvez Islam, officer in-charge of Pallabi Police Station, told The Daily Star.

"During interrogation, he admitted that he killed a biker at Block: Dha in Mirpur-12. Savar police informed us and we recovered the body," he said.

The body was sent to

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The rain does not discriminate; it falls on everyone equally. But some have the privilege to take shelter, while others, like many rickshaw-pullers, just accept their fate. That's not always the case, however. Sometimes, a helping hand comes forward to share that shelter, an example of which was seen yesterday. This photo was taken from the capital's New Market area. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



Nirmal Guha  
passes away

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Awami Swachhchasebak League president Nirmal Ranjan Guha passed away yesterday morning while undergoing treatment at Mount Elizabeth hospital in Singapore.

"Guha breathed his last at 10:30am at the age of 58," a press release signed by Awami League office secretary Biplab Barua.

He is survived by his wife, two sons, and a host of relatives, friends and well-wishers.

Guha was taken to Bangladesh Specialised Hospital in Dhaka on June 12 after he became seriously ill. Later, he was given life support there.

He was flown to Singapore on June 16.

Prime Minister and AL President Sheikh Hasina expressed profound shock at the death.

PRAYER  
TIMING

JUNE 30

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:05	12:45	5:00	6:54	8:17
JAMAAT 4:40	1:15	5:15	6:57	8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

DHAKA-MAWA EXPRESSWAY

# Tk 495 for bus, Tk 140 for car

Bikes may be banned on tollway

CLASS OF VEHICLES	TOLL RATE IN TAKA (FOR 55KM)
Trailer	1,690
Heavy truck	1,100
Medium truck	550
Bus	495
Mini truck	415
Minibus	275
Microbus	220
Four-wheeled vehicles	220
Car	140
Motorbike	30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has fixed tolls for different vehicles for using Dhaka-Mawa Bhanga Expressway, which will come into effect on Friday, a move that will push up transport costs.

Road Transport and Highways Division yesterday issued a circular, fixing the tolls for an interim period.

Although the circular fixed the toll for motorcycles, Roads and Highways Department (RHD) yesterday said it was considering banning the operation of bikes on the expressway.

However, the two-wheelers would be able to use service lanes of the country's first expressway, formally known as Jatir Pita Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Highway.

In another development, RHD yesterday signed a contract with a joint venture firm, led

by Korea Expressway Corporation (KEC), for maintenance and operation of the expressway, which includes collecting tolls and installing ATS there.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) Chairman Nur Mohammad Mazumder said they will refix bus fares in accordance with the tolls.

In that case, bus fares are likely to increase further. Earlier this month, BRTA refixed bus fares for 15 routes in the south-western region, adjusting for Padma Bridge's tolls, and fares for most routes were increased by around Tk 10 on average.

Earlier on June 27, the division had issued a circular, fixing Tk 10 per kilometre as the base tolls and date for starting toll collection on the expressway.

TOLL RATES

As per the circular, to use the expressway, the toll for a medium-sized truck would be Tk 550,

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Trip for tehari  
turns tragic  
for student

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A college student died and two were injured in a road accident near Sikkha Bhaban in Dhaka early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Mohaiminul Islam Sifat, who passed this year's HSC exam and was trying to enroll in university.

The accident happened around 1:00am while Sifat and his two friends were heading towards Old Dhaka on a motorcycle, to have tehari.

Sifat was on the rear end of the bike's seat. On their way, the rider lost control over the wheels and hit a road divider.

The three fell on the ground and Sifat was run over by a lorry passing by, said Mahmudul Hasan, a sub-inspector of Shahbagh Police Station.

They were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared Sifat dead around 3:00am, the SI said.

Sifat's friends – Mehedi Hasan and Shakil – took primary treatment for minor injuries.

The police officer said they seized the lorry and detained its driver Masum Hossain (50) from the spot.

The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Hailing from Cumilla, Sifat used to live in the Matikata area under Cantonment Police Station along with his family members.

# ‘We have won’

Construction of Padma Bridge delayed for 2yrs due to conspiracy, PM tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday told parliament that construction of Padma Bridge had been delayed for two years due to conspiracy. The PM said this in reply to a query from Awami League MP Marina Jahan.



With Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair, the question-answer session of yesterday's House was held.

In a scripted answer, Hasina said the people's passion, creativity, courage, patience and commitment are a part of Padma Bridge. "Bangabandhu had said that no one could suppress the Bangladeshis. They couldn't; we have won."

Hasina, also leader of the House, said the conspiracy started when the tender process for hiring a contractor for construction started.

She said the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency and IDB had suspended loan agreements, alleging corruption.

In 2017, when allegations of corruption were proven false in a court in Toronto, Canada, the World Bank wanted to return to the project. "But in the interest of the country and people, we took the bold decision to implement Padma Bridge with the government's own funds, instead of taking the World Bank loan," she mentioned.

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# Tk 545cr needed for flood victims

Says UN report; nutrition, food biggest challenge



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As much as USD 58.4 million or Tk 545 crore will be needed to provide humanitarian support, including relief and rehabilitation for flood victims.

This figure was stated by the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office's Humanitarian Coordination Task Team in a report published on Sunday. Food and nutrition assistance is the biggest need, with USD 18.5 million needed to support around half a million people.

Shelter is the second biggest need, calling for USD 17 million for 2.5 lakh people whose homes have been destroyed. "As of now, it is unclear how these many people have been permanently displaced from the flash flood. Once flood water recedes, a clearer scenario of houses damaged will have appeared," said the report.

The third biggest need involves hygiene, safe drinking water and sanitation services, and to meet this need USD 8.5 million will be needed.

"According to initial assessments from DPHE, it [the floods] left 45,976 water points damaged and 50,885 latrines damaged. Unaddressed, this can lead to widespread contamination and spread of water-borne disease."

Education, health and displacement management collectively need USD 4.6 million.

Compared to the vast need the government's own response has been inadequate, with the government having mobilised Tk 4.67 crore (half million USD) and 3,720 tonnes of rice during the floods as of data from June 26, said a report published by Needs Assessment Working Group.

DENGUE OUTBREAK

# Mugda the worst-hit?

HELEMUL ALAM

Tamanna Yesmin, a homemaker from Manda Kazibari, is currently undergoing treatment at Mugda Medical College Hospital for dengue. She has been admitted to the hospital since Tuesday.

Yesmin's brother Md Rakib said their area gets a cleaning regularly. However, there are breeding sources of Aedes mosquitoes on different rooftops and corners of the houses, resulting in dengue infection.

A large number of admitted patients at the dengue ward of Mugda hospital were from Manda.

According to data acquired from Mugda Hospital, 14 patients were admitted yesterday, of whom, six came from Manda, two each from Mugda and Maniknagar, and one each from Madina Bag, Basabo, Khilgaon and Manikdia.

Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) says at least 40 dengue patients were admitted to different hospitals across the country

in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, of whom, 14 got admitted to Mugda Medical College Hospital.

The total number of dengue patients this year is 1,056, of whom, 428 were admitted to Mugda Hospital so far. Forty-five are currently undergoing treatment, according to DGHS.

**The total number of dengue patients this year is 1,056, of whom, 428 were admitted to Mugda Hospital so far.**

Entomologist of Jahangirnagar University Prof Kabirul Bashir said it is very important to carry out extensive drives collecting the addresses of the dengue patients from Mugda hospital.

Contacted, Md Khairuzzaman, councillor of ward 71, said the main reason behind the increased infection is that most residents of the area did not allow the authorities

to clean and conduct anti-mosquito drives at their homes before Eid.

"We are now conducting regular drives but it is not enough if people do not become aware," he said.

However, Chief Health Officer of Dhaka South City Corporation Dr Fazle Shamsul Kabir said most of the addresses provided to them from Mugda hospital are false.

They showed many dengue patients as Dhaka residents though they are from outside the city, he added.

"The number of actual dengue patients is half of what is shown by the hospital authority," he claimed.

"Their [DSCC] allegations are wrong. We are also sending the data to IEDCR and CDC of the DGHS. None of them has made any such complaints," said Dr Md Niyatuzzaman, acting director of Mugda Hospital.

Asked about the false addresses, he said if a patient provides a false address they have nothing to

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With her child sleeping soundly underneath a mosquito net, as a preventive measure against the ongoing dengue outbreak, a woman makes garlands for sale under a tree in Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday.