

## Rare feat of masonry on verge of destruction

Century-old Neelam Ghar being knocked down by bar association, claiming to run 'renovation' works

HELEMUL ALAM and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Neelam Ghar -- a century-old building in Old Dhaka used by the British and Pakistani rulers to auction off confiscated objects -- has been pushed to the verge of demolition yesterday.

The two-storey building on Court House Street holds immense architectural value, say conservationists.

The Deputy Commissioner's Office of Dhaka, which is the custodian of the 15 decimals of land, leased the building out to the Dhaka Bar Association on February 15 for a year.

According to the lease documents, the lessee shall neither build anything new nor change, modify and repair the existing structure. Selling, handing over, and mortgaging the property is also prohibited.

However, the association started renovation works on the building against the clauses.

Firojur Rahman Montu, general secretary of DBA, claimed that they took permission from the Dhaka district administration to reform the building a month ago.

"The building is being renovated now. It will not be knocked down," Montu told this newspaper.

"At present, there are some 27,760 enlisted lawyers at

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Around 30 to 35 labourers are working to knock down the Neelam Ghar to build a new structure for Dhaka Bar Association. The century-old establishment on the Court Street in Old Dhaka is recognised by conservationists as a rare feat of masonry. The property has been leased out to the association by the deputy commissioner's office. The association is now planning to construct a multi-storey building by demolishing this structure. However, when asked they claimed that they are only running renovation works on the building. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



## PADMA BRIDGE All credit goes to people: PM

AGENCIES

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed gratitude to the nation for standing by her in constructing the Padma Multipurpose Bridge, saying that all credit goes to the people of Bangladesh.

The premier said this while speaking at the beginning of the Cabinet meeting held at the Secretariat, reports BSS. She chaired the meeting virtually from Gono Bhaban.

Hasina said the construction of Padma Bridge, which opened to traffic on June 25,

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## A look into post-pandemic cattle markets in city

HELEMUL ALAM

Rokon Bepary, a farmer from Shibchar, brought 16 bulls to the Dholaikhal cattle market this year, almost half of what he brought last year, due to a huge loss of Tk 3 lakh.

Rokon had to sell 16.5 decimal of his land to recover from the loss.

"I have to leave this business if I face loss again. I do not have any land left to sell," said Rokon who is hoping to make a profit this year provided Indian bulls do not make their way into Dhaka's cattle market.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Not just Rokon, many cattle traders either reduced their production or left the business due to the huge loss last year.

However, the statistics of the Department of Livestock is showing a different picture. According to them, 1 crore 21 lakh 24 thousand sacrificial animals were reared this year against the demand of 97.75 lakh across the country.

About 9,093,242 cattle were sacrificed across the country last year, as per data from the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock.

Last year's loss, high price of cattle feed and cattle in

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## Highways off limit to bikes during Eid



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Motorcycle movement on highways will remain restricted for a week (from July 7 to July 13) aiming to ensure road safety during the Eid rush.

Bikes registered under a particular district won't be allowed to operate outside those districts. Two-wheelers under ride-sharing services will not operate beyond their permitted territory-- areas under the jurisdiction of Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA).

However, bikes will be allowed in case of a "valid and unavoidable situation" by taking permission from the police.

The decisions were taken at a preparatory meeting of the Road Transports and Bridges Ministry ahead of Eid.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader presided over the meeting, said a press release.

What's perplexing however is that the press release didn't clarify what would be considered a "valid and unavoidable" situation. There was also no mention of the process of taking permission from the police.

This move comes at a time when authorities, citing safety concerns, are taking a stricter step against two-wheelers in recent times.

Bangladesh Bridge Authority has banned bikes on Padma Bridge, while the Roads and Highways Department is considering banning bikes on Dhaka-Mawa-Bhanga Expressway.

Besides, a government probe committee has recently recommended banning bikes on national highways as they found a sharp rise of bike-involved road crashes ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr this year.

For the lack of public services and rise in bus fares, many people were forced to use their two-wheelers to go home ahead of Eid. But, the huge number of bikes caused more accidents, different road safety organisations said.

More than 35 lakh bikes got registered with Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) so far. But many unregistered bikes still tread unchecked across the country.

Members of BRTA, Roads and Highways Department, Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC), police, highway police,

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## Hasina to visit Tungipara today via Padma Bridge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to visit her ancestral house Tungipara of Gopalganj with her family members this morning by road.

It will be her first visit by crossing the bridge since its inauguration on June 25.

She will return back to the capital in the evening, a member of the PM's press wing told The Daily Star yesterday.

During her stay at Tungipara, Hasina will pay tribute to Bangabandhu by placing wreaths at his grave. Blanket security measures have been taken in and around Tungipara centring the arrival of the premier.

## 42 hospitalised with dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 42 dengue patients were admitted to hospitals across the country in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

Among the new cases, 10 are from outside Dhaka, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). With the new cases, the total number of dengue patients this year rose to 1,202. Among the patients, 133 are still undergoing treatment.

A total of 1,068 patients have been released from hospitals and one dengue patient has died so far.

## EMBEZZLING TK 26.77 LAKH

## Evaly's ex-chair, CEO sued

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Controversial e-commerce platform Evaly's former chairman Shamima Nasrin and her husband ex-chief executive officer Mohammad Rassel were sued yesterday for embezzling of Tk 26.77 lakh from a customer.

Jannatul Ferdous, a resident of Savar's Hemayetpur, filed the case against the couple at Metropolitan Magistrate Debdash Chandra Adhikary's court.

In her complaint, Jannatul said after being attracted with advertisements of Evaly, she ordered goods worth Tk 26,77,500 and paid all the money at Evaly's account. But the company failed to supply the ordered products.

## SOHEL CHY MURDER CASE

## Court asks for case dockets

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka tribunal yesterday again asked Dhaka Metropolitan Public Prosecutor (PP) and a former inspector of Chawkbazar Police Station to produce the case dockets (CD) of film actor Sohel Chowdhury murder case before it on July 20, the next scheduled date.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Speedy Trial Tribunal 2 of Dhaka passed the order after the prosecution submitted a petition in this regard.

In the petition, the prosecution said Md Farid Uddin, former inspector of Chawkbazar Police Station, did not return the case docket after he received it from the PP office. So, an order is needed asking him for producing the case docket before it the next scheduled date.

**PRAYER TIMING JULY 4**

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	4-10	12-45	5-00	6-55	8-17
Jamaat	4-45	1-15	5-15	7-00	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Death toll from flood crosses 100

Says DGHS; 7 more die in Netrakona, Lalmonirhat

UNB, Dhaka

The ongoing flood claimed seven more lives in Netrakona and Lalmonirhat districts in 24 hours till yesterday morning, raising the total fatalities to 102.

All the deceased died by drowning, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Among the total deceased, 75 people died by drowning in floodwater, 15 from lightning strikes, two from snake bites, one from diarrhoea, and nine due to other reasons.

The total deaths were recorded from May 17 to July 3, said DGHS.



HOMEWARD BOUND... Sitting on bags and looking towards the road, awaiting the bus that will take them home -- this quintessential scene of going home on Eid is becoming quite common at the city's bus stands lately as Eid approaches. This photo was taken at Kalyanpur yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## 'Name-only' newspapers should not be given govt ads

Demands Shampadak Forum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Name-only and irregular" newspapers should not be given government advertisements and supplements, demanded Bangladesh Shampadak Forum (BSF) yesterday.

The forum, formed two years ago, placed a 10-point demand to Information and Broadcasting Minister Hasan Mahmud in this regard. A 12-member delegation of BSF placed the demand at a meeting with the minister at his secretariat office.

The BSF also demanded that the government take measures to stop "talk

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