

## Garbage truck claims yet another life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was killed after a garbage truck hit his motorcycle in Dhaka's Kafrul area yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Sabbir Ahmed Rokey, aged around 25, police said.

A garbage truck of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) hit the motorcycle around 4:45pm in Mirpur-14 area, leaving him critically injured, said Hafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Kafrul Police Station.

He was rushed to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital, where the on-duty doctor declared him dead, he said.

Police seized the truck and detained its driver, Abdus Salam (50), following the incident, the OC added.

In November last year, two people -- a Notre Dame College student and a pillion rider -- were killed

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## Following in his brother's footsteps

Abrar Fahad's younger brother to enrol at Buet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abrar Faiyaj, the younger brother of Buet student Abrar Fahad, who was murdered by Chhatra League members in 2019, has decided to enrol at the same university.

"I took the decision after discussing with my family," Faiyaj told this correspondent.

Asked whether he would stay in the university dormitory, Faiyaj said there are some formalities regarding that.

"My classes will start after four to five months; besides it is uncertain whether I will get a seat in the hall this year. But I will move to the dorm once my seat is confirmed," he added.

Faiyaj also said earlier, he got admitted to Islamic University of Technology (IUT) and is going to cancel the admission.

Faiyaj secured 450th position in the Buet entrance exam. He has been selected for the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

In the early hours of October 7 of 2019, Abrar Fahad, a sophomore student of Buet's EEE, died after he was brutally beaten by some BCL activists at Sher-e-Bangla Hall of the university.

The Buet authorities on October 11 that year banned

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## 51 more hospitalised with dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 51 dengue patients were admitted to different hospitals across the country in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

With the 51 new cases, the total number of dengue patients rose to 1,528, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Among the patients, 169 are still undergoing treatment.

A total of 1,358 patients have been released from hospitals and one patient has died so far.

PRAYER TIMING		JULY 14	
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-10	12-45	5-00	6-55 8-17
JAMAAAT 4-45	1-15	5-15	7-00 8-45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION			



Due to indiscriminate dumping of construction materials on the road, this entire area in front of Shahbagh's Aziz Super Market was covered with dust yesterday. Contributing to the ever-existing air pollution in the capital, the dust created serious inconvenience for pedestrians and patients commuting to adjacent hospitals.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

# Living with struggles and uncertainty

Survival gets hard for Bangladeshi migrants in Lebanon with ongoing economic crisis

JAMIL MAHMUD

Bangladeshi migrant workers continued to face financial hardship in Lebanon, while many found it difficult to remit money home after making ends meet, due to a prolonged economic crisis there.

Because of the Lebanese pound's depreciation against US dollar, many Bangladeshi migrant workers saw their purchasing capacity drop drastically as prices of food and fuel soared.

In August last year, Al Jazeera published an analysis on Lebanon's price hike situation. It showed that in July 2019, one kilo each of rice, chicken, milk (one litre), cucumber, tomato, orange, and apple would cost 10,250 Lebanese pounds (LBP).

Spending the same amount in July 2020, a consumer would get only one kilo each of milk, tomato, and orange. In July 2021, to get one kilo of each of the seven basic items, a consumer was required to spend 90,230 LBP.

According to the Al Jazeera report, the price of one-kilo rice in Lebanon increased to 21,000 LBP in July 2021 compared to 1,100 LBP in July 2019.

Zakir Hossain (39), a Bangladeshi migrant worker in Beirut, said he recently bought a 20-kilo sack of rice at 37,500 LBP per kg.

Pointing to Lebanon's recent

parliamentary elections, Zakir said many Lebanese and foreign workers like him were expecting an economic change with the formulation of a new government.

"But there is little hope as of now," he said, adding that he and his wife were barely surviving with their dual income.

Although many companies were supposed to pay foreign workers in

LEBANON'S ECONOMIC CRISIS
Price of one-kilo rice increased to 21,000 LBP in July 2021 compared to 1,100 LBP in July 2019
Defaulted on debt worth \$90 billion, GDP's 170pc in March, 2020
Black market traders selling USD for approx 27,850 LBP
LBP lost nearly 90pc value in June 2021

US dollars, only a handful of them now pays workers a portion of their wage in US currency and the rest in local currency. The majority of companies pay full wages in local currency, he added.

Lebanon's crisis began in late 2019 after the government announced newly proposed tax schemes, according to an AP report, recently published by

Lebanese online media outlet Naharnet.

In March 2020, Lebanon defaulted on paying back its massive debt, worth at the time about \$90 billion or 170 percent of GDP -- one of the highest in the world.

In June 2021, with the currency having lost nearly 90 percent of its value, the World Bank said the crisis ranked as one of the worst the world has seen in more than 150 years, reports AP.

Before the crisis unfolded, the Lebanese Pound was exchanged at 1,500 to the US dollar.

On June 29, black market traders in Lebanon were selling the US dollar for 27,850 Lebanese pounds, says a report by Lebanese online news outlet the961.com.

The dollar's current official rate still stands at 1,500 Lebanese pounds, while the bank rate is 8,000 Lebanese pounds.

Towards the end of last year, Lebanon was hosting nearly 1.20 lakh Bangladeshis. Around 20,000 of them were estimated to be undocumented.

Amid the economic crisis, at least 14,000 undocumented migrant workers returned home from Lebanon till 2021 under different voluntary repatriation programmes by the Bangladesh mission.

Mashiur Titu (40), a service technician at a packaging

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## France keen on bolstering economic, social ties

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Based on the strong foundation of bilateral ties, France wants to consolidate its economic and social relations with Bangladesh to face the numerous challenges to come.

"Let me assure you that the French embassy will continue to play an active role to further strengthen the friendly relations between our two countries," said France Embassy Charge d'Affaires Guillaume Audren de Kerdel yesterday, in a message marking French National Day, to be observed today.

France and Bangladesh share many views, in particular the vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific, respectful of international law. The two countries again reaffirmed their determination to strengthen partnerships in the field of blue economy, defence and science in particular, said Kerdel in a statement.

French Development Agency (AFD), which opened its Dhaka office in 2012, has become a key player in development cooperation in Bangladesh, with involvement in projects in different areas such as energy, water,

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## Ignoring directives, DNCC councillor goes on foreign trip

MAHIBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

The government's request to save money during the economic crisis seems to have fallen on deaf ears, as a city councillor has flown to Thailand for tourism purposes, even though Local Government Division (LGD) had questioned the trip's motive.

On July 7, in three separate letters, LGD asked whether the trips of three councillors to Thailand and Singapore for tourism purposes are important and necessary.

However, Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) ward councillor Jahidul Islam Mollah, one of the three councillors, did not wait for LGD's consent. He flew to Thailand yesterday, a staffer of his office confirmed to The Daily Star.

The two others are Dhaka South City Corporation ward councillors Akash Kumar Bhowmik and Mahmudul Hasan.

Signed by LGD Deputy Secretary Shamsul Islam, the letters mentioned that Finance Division in a circular on May 12 gave directives to keep all foreign trips for officials suspended until further notice, due to the global economic crisis and post-Covid recovery.

Against this backdrop, LGD inquired about the councillors' trips.

Contacted, Mahmudul declined to comment on the matter. "I'm busy right now," he said before cutting the call. Both Bhowmik and Jahidul could not be reached for comment.

While taking part in the general discussion on the proposed national budget in parliament on June 29,

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## Journo found dead at home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a journalist from her residence in Dhaka's Hazaribagh area yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Shohana Parvin Tuli (38), a member of Dhaka Union of Journalists and Dhaka Sub-editors Council.

On information, police recovered the body, hanging from a ceiling fan with a scarf, around 3:30pm and sent it to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Muktaruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Hazaribagh Police Station. The OC said police are investigating the incident.

A former student of mass communication and journalism department at Dhaka University, Shohana worked for different national dailies and online news portals before starting an online shop recently. Police said one of her friends first came to the house after failing to communicate with her over the phone. The friend then informed police.

## 'Demolish all illegal structures' Taposh directs officials to free Buriganga channel from encroachment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday directed officials concerned of the DSCC to demolish all illegal structures from Adi Buriganga channel and its adjoining canal.

Taposh directed this during a surprise visit to the Kalunagar area.

During the visit, the mayor found walls of buildings on the land of Kalunagar canal. He directed the officials concerned to take action immediately. Earlier, Taposh said they will recover the Adi Buriganga channel based on a CS map.

## Flood death toll stands at 118

UNB, Dhaka

The death toll from the devastating floods in Netrokona and Habiganj districts rose to 118 yesterday morning, with the recovery of two more bodies in the past 24 hours.

These two victims had drowned in floodwaters, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Of the total deceased, 91 people drowned in floodwaters, 15 were struck by lightning, two died from snake bites, one from diarrhoea, and nine due to other reasons.

Of the deceased, 64 people died in Sylhet, 41 in Mymensingh, 12 in Rangpur and one in Dhaka division, the DGHS said.

Of a total of 70 flood-hit upazilas, 33 are in Sylhet division, 16 in Rangpur division, 20 in Mymensingh division and one in Chattogram division, according to the DGHS.

## Dhaka Gate to return to its past glory

HELEMUL ALAM

Once upon a time, it used to mark the terminus of the largest city of undivided Bengal; currently it lies uncared for, surrounded by bushes, covered by posters, in a shadowy corner of Dhaka University campus.

It is the Dhaka gate, popularly known as the gate of Mir Jumla, the Mughal governor of Bengal, renowned for securing Dhaka and its inhabitants from the raids of pirates. From 17th to the beginning of the 19th century, this gate was the main entrance to Dhaka city which, at that time, flourished on the banks of the Buriganga.

Currently, its side walls are covered with moss and algae. The central pillar is being used as a panel for sticking posters and advertisements.

Dhaka Gate is enlisted as one of the oldest Mughal architectures in Dhaka.

After the re-establishment of Dhaka as the capital of Bengal in 1660, the city expanded rapidly -- stretching up to Jafraabad in the west, Postogola in the east, and Tongi Bridge in the north. Mir Jumla II was appointed as the subahdar of Bengal by Mughal emperor Aurangzeb at the time, and it was he who constructed the gate.



This is the current state of Dhaka Gate, uncared for and surrounded by weeds. If all goes according to plan, however, the structure will take on a new look, as seen in the proposed design.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

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