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COMPENSATION FOR DEATH, INJURY Road crash victims can now legally claim it

RTA rules take effect four years
after enactment of law

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The family of a person killed in a road crash due to reckless or negligent driving will get at least Tk 5 lakh in compensation.

Those who lose a limb or suffer other forms of life-changing injuries will get Tk 3 lakh each, while the victims who are likely to recover from injuries and return to normal life will get Tk 1 lakh, according to the newly formulated rules of the Road Transport Act-2018.

Compensation claims will be settled by a 12-member trustee board, which will be able to raise or lower the amount from time to time upon approval from the government.

The authorities issued a gazette on the rules on December 27, more than four years after the enactment of the act in September 2018.

Several sections of the law, including the one related to compensation, could not be enforced in the absence of the rules.

The rules, which took effect immediately, also mention how much money a vehicle owner must pay to the compensation fund regulated by the trustee board.

The board, led by the BRTA chairman, was formed in October 2022.

RTA RULES

- ➔ Road crash victim/family members to get Tk 1 lakh to Tk 5 lakh
- ➔ They can seek compensation within a month after accident
- ➔ Driver to get demerit points for violating 13 traffic rules
- ➔ Licence to be revoked if a driver gets 12 demerit points
- ➔ Govt has re-fixed fees for different BRTA services

But it could not perform its tasks in the absence of the rules that are supposed to regulate the fund and the board.

Under the new rules, there is a system of "demerit points" for traffic violations.

As per the act, there will be 12 points for each driver's licence and a traffic violation will result in deduction of one or two points. A licence will be revoked if a driver loses all 12 points.

The rules also re-fixed the fees for different services provided by Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA). The authorities increased many of the fees.

As per the act, conductors of large vehicles, popularly known as helpers, must have licences. According to the new rules, the conductors must have studied past class 5 and be aged over 20.

The Road Transport Act was passed by lawmakers following demonstrations for safer roads across the country in July and August of 2018.

But the law was not put into effect until November 2019 allegedly due to pressure from transport associations.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE FUND

Under the Motor Vehicles Ordinance-1983, victims or their family members could seek compensation at the Motor Accident Claim Tribunal for death, injury, and damage to properties caused in crashes.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



School students flipping through their new books on the first day of the year at the textbook festival organised by the Directorate of Primary Education at the playground on Dhaka University campus. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

AL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Old faces reign as members too

Party decides to contest by-polls
in 3 of the 6 vacant JS seats

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and
ASHIK ABDULLAH APU

The ruling Awami League kept faith in old faces while choosing members for its central executive committee, the party's apex body, just like it did when electing office-bearers.

It did, however, induct four new faces to vacant member posts of the executive committee.

The ruling party yesterday announced the names of 27 out of 28 members of the committee, a presidium member and a member's promotion to a secretariat post following the party's 22nd triennial council on December 24, 2022.

The party elected Syeda Jebunnesa Haque as a presidium member while Syed Abdul Awal Shamim, a member of the previous central committee, was promoted to deputy publicity affairs secretary.

Sakhawat Hossain Shafiq, who was the organising secretary of the immediate past committee and lost the post, was made a central committee member.

ABM Reazul Kabir Kawsar was the only member to be dropped from the central committee.

Besides, Hasan Mahmud, who was third on the list of joint general secretaries, climbed to the top, pushing Mahabubul Alam Hanif to second spot.

Dipu Moni, who was second on the list of joint general secretaries in the previous committee, dropped to fourth in the incumbent committee. AFM Bahauddin Nasim, who was fourth previously, moved up to third on the list.

With the announcement, only three posts – one presidium member, labour and employment secretary, and a member – of its 81-member central working committee, the highest decision-making body of the party, remain vacant.

The 81-member central working committee comprises a president, general secretary, 17 presidium members, four joint general secretaries, eight organising secretaries, a

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

NEW OMICRON SUBVARIANT

Experts sound alarm as four cases detected

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

As health officials yesterday confirmed four cases of the new subvariant of Omicron, the BF.7, experts urged everyone to wear masks and maintain physical distance to stay safe from Covid-19.

They also urged the government to beef up testing and surveillance to track the virus.

The BF.7 subvariant was detected in four individuals who travelled from China's Kunming. They tested positive for coronavirus at Dhaka airport on December 26.

The Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control, and Research (IEDCR) detected the new subvariant through genome sequencing.

Since Thursday morning, 10 more people from China tested positive for Covid at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, officials said yesterday.

All passengers from China are now being tested with the rapid antigen kits, according to officials.

The passengers who tested positive have been sent into quarantine at the DNCC Dedicated Covid-19 Hospital.

Yesterday, the Directorate General of Health Services

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



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