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DHAKA ELEVATED EXPRESSWAY

Tolls fixed for Airport-Farmgate section

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has fixed toll rates for vehicles to use the Airport to Farmgate section of Dhaka Elevated Expressway, which will partially open this September. Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday presented the information at the Secretariat. Vehicles with no more than 16 seats, including cars, taxis, SUVs, and minibuses, and light-weight ones with a capacity less than three tonnes will have to pay Tk 80 as tolls. Meanwhile, medium-sized trucks (up to six wheels) have to pay Tk 320, and the ones with more than six wheels will have to pay Tk 400. All types of buses (16 seats and above) will pay Tk 160. The prime minister will inaugurate the 11.5km section

Category	Types of Vehicles	Toll Fee (Taka)
Category 1	Car, taxi, jeep, SUV, microbus (under 16 seats), and any light truck (below 3 tonnes)	80
Category 2	Medium-sized truck (up to 6 wheels)	320
Category 3	Truck (with over 6 wheels)	400
Category 4	All types of buses (16 seats and above)	160

of the expressway on September 2, after over a decade of the project's initiation. The road will be open to the public the following day. The Airport-Farmgate section will have 15 ramps with a length of 11km -- 13 of which will be opened initially. Two other ramps -- one at Banani and another at Mohakhali -- will be opened later. Users have to pay the set tolls for the whole road, regardless of the distance they intend to travel on this expressway, said AHMS Akter, the director of the project. New toll rates would be fixed once the entire 19.73km expressway from Airport to Kutubkhali on Dhaka-Chattogram highway is opened next year, he added. However, three-wheelers, motorbikes, bicycles and pedestrians would not be allowed on the expressway. This is the first transport sector project being implemented under the public-private partnership model with foreign investment.



Two individuals consume narcotics in broad daylight while people, including impressionable school students, walk past them on the busy footbridge near the Dhanmondi Govt Boys School yesterday. The sight is common in many footbridges across the capital, resulting in awkward situations for pedestrians.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Finally, road crash victims to get compensation

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Authorities have finalised a compensation package for families of road accident victims, five years after parliament enacted a law in this regard. At least Tk 5 lakh will be given to the family of a person killed due to reckless or negligent driving. The ones who have lost a limb or suffered other forms of life-changing injuries will receive Tk 3 lakh each, while the victims who are likely to recover and return to normal life will get Tk 1 lakh, according to the relevant rules. Compensation claims will be

settled by a 12-member trustee board. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the compensation programme on October 22, marking National Road Safety Day, a new process to compensate road accident victims or their family members. Thousands lose their lives in road crashes every year, while many suffer from life-changing injuries. However, compensation is still a rare concept in the country. Under the Motor Vehicles Ordinance-1983, which was repealed after the 2018 act came into force in November 2019, 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 4 COL 4

AUG 21 GRENADE ATTACK 19 yrs on, survivors, victims' families still wait for 'final justice'

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The August 21, 2004 grenade attack victims are yet to receive justice for the horrifying tragedy that took place at an Awami League rally, in the capital's Bangabandhu Avenue. The incident claimed 24 lives and left 300 injured. The then opposition leader Sheikh Hasina, now the prime minister of the country, narrowly escaped death in the ghastly incident on this day, 19 years ago. Trial proceedings of the cases filed over the incident -- which is considered to be one of the most sensational political crimes in the country's history -- have been finished by a lower court nearly five years back.



Now, the cases are waiting on the High Court, as its bench of Justice Shahidul Karim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman started hearings on the death references (trial court documents for confirmation of death) and appeals (filed by convicted accused) on December 4 of last year. So far, the bench has held hearings for 80 working days till July 25, court sources said. Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Bashir Ahmed, who is assigned as a state counsel for dealing with the cases, said on August 16 that statements from 224 witnesses of the total 225, have been read out before the HC during the hearings. The judgement delivered by the trial court will be read out before the HC bench after all testimonies are recorded. DAG Bashir Ahmed also said that the HC bench is not currently holding hearings as its senior judge is on ill. The hearing will resume after the judge joins office. He also said it cannot be determined how much time will be needed to complete hearings of the death references and appeals of August 21 grenade attack cases. So, there is no time frame on when the judgement will be delivered. Earlier, on August 10, Attorney General AM Amin Uddin told reporters that 10 to 12 more working days might be needed to complete hearings for the cases. Court readings from around 30,000 pages of SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



A BTCL employee, navigating through a maze of wires, is seen fixing a telephone line in response to a complaint. The sight is becoming rare these days as the charm of land phones are on the decline. The photo was taken yesterday in the capital's Adabor.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

SULTANA'S DEATH IN CUSTODY Probe report submitted to HC bench

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A probe committee formed by the government to investigate the detention and custodial death of Sultana Jesmine of Naogaon has submitted its report to the High Court. The sealed report, sent to the Supreme Court registrar general's office on Thursday afternoon, was received by the HC bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice Mohammad Mahbub Ul Islam yesterday. The bench, however, refrained from disclosing the contents of the report saying it is a very confidential and sensitive SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

LABOUR LAW VIOLATION SC dismisses Yunus' petition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday dismissed a leave to appeal petition filed by Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus challenging a HC verdict that rejected his petition against labour court's indictment order. A seven-member bench headed by Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique passed the dismissal order as it heard arguments on the petition on August 17. Complainant's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that there is no legal bar for the labour court concerned to run the trial proceedings of SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

'Unstable' migrant worker returns home, thanks to Brac

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Brac Migration Programme yesterday handed a man to his relatives after he was found by police in 'unstable' condition at the capital's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. The man, identified as Mizanur Rahman, is in his early 50s. He was in Saudi Arabia for more than two decades working as a driver, Shariful Hasan, associate director at Brac Migration Programme said. Shariful said Mizanur returned to Bangladesh on Friday and was

found in 'unstable condition' by on-duty police officials at the airport. Following a recent Facebook post detailing his ordeal, an expatriate from Dubai contacted with Brac identifying him as Mizanur's brother. Through him, Brac could locate Mizanur's family members in Cox's Bazar's Chakaria, added Shariful. Later, one of Mizanur's brothers and a cousin communicated with Brac and met them yesterday noon. After being confirmed about their identities, Brac handed Mizanur to them in the evening, he said.

Earlier on Friday, Mizanur was found by policemen "wandering aimlessly at the airport premises, he said. At that time, he could not clearly tell about the identities of his family and relatives. Members of Armed Police Battalion handed Mizanur to Brac on Saturday for his safe return home, according to a press release. As part of its activities, Brac Migration Programme provides various support services to both outbound and returnee migrant workers at HSIA.

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