

When a cop robs at knifepoint

Charges framed against ASI, 2 associates for stealing auto-rickshaw

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Assistant Sub-inspector Omar Faruk of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police stands accused of stealing an auto-rickshaw, after holding the owner at knifepoint in Gendaria area of Dhaka in February.

In this alleged criminal act, Faruk was accompanied by his brother-in-law, known as Shyhan alias Sayem, and one Kabir Hossain, previously implicated in a 2017 robbery preparation case.

SI Najmul Hasan Molla of Gendaria Police Station on April 9 pressed a charge sheet with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka, formally accusing Faruk, Shyhan, and Kabir of orchestrating the robbery. The incident that led to these charges unfolded on February 18, when the vehicle's owner Mohammad Ali filed a case against unnamed accused.

Police arrested Faruk and Shyhan in the Deennath Sen Road area of Gendaria, while Kabir was arrested in the Railway Colony area of Shahjahanpur on February 21 in connection with this crime.

Prior to his arrest, Faruk, 39, had maintained a consistent presence at his assigned duty station, the Lalbagh Police Station, since November 6, 2022.

From Cumilla's Burichang, Faruk started his career back in 2003. His alleged

involvement in anti-disciplinary activities led to his suspension from duty on the day of his arrest, as detailed in the charge sheet.

"I was too afraid to confront him (Faruk) as he was in a police uniform. Without warning, he entered my vehicle at the Jonopath intersection in Jatrabari and instructed me to proceed. After a few minutes, another individual joined him," said Mohammad Ali, the complainant.

"At one point, the second individual pulled out a knife, and both he and the man in the uniform used this weapon to intimidate me, compelling me to leave my vehicle in their possession," he added.

The auto-rickshaw was his only source of income. It was in police custody for several months after it was recovered from the accused. At that time, his family had to go through hard times, he said.

Contacted, SI Najmul, also the case's investigator, said, "ASI Faruk had faced departmental disciplinary actions on multiple occasions in the past for his misconduct. His cohort Kabir earns a living by trading robbed or stolen rickshaws," he said.

On August 22, Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Sultan Sohag Uddin framed charges against the three accused, who are now out on bail.



DUSTY DHAKA... It may look like a foggy day but it's actually dust in the air at the capital's Gabtoli-Sadarghat-Beribadh road. Ongoing construction works and digging of roads for installing utility ducts have turned the area into a dust bowl. Besides, heavy vehicles that carry construction materials often drop dirt and sand on the road, contributing to air pollution.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

We want to celebrate Durga Puja without worry

Says Puja Udjapan Parishad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad yesterday said they want to celebrate the upcoming Durga Puja without worry and security concerns.

Addressing a press conference in Dhaka, Prof Chandranath Poddar, general secretary of the parishad, said, "When news reports of idol vandalism are published in the media, it indicates that Durga Puja is coming. Such incidents have also occurred in the past two months. We have received news of idol vandalism in about 10 places."

Even then, the parishad expressed confidence in the government's assurances that there would not be any unpleasant incidents surrounding this year's Durga Puja celebrations.

"The home minister and high ranked law enforcement officials have held meetings with us and assured us that there will be no unpleasant incidents during this year's Puja. With confidence in them, we look forward to celebrating puja in a festive

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

No 'night party' at some police check points

DMP forms special team to ensure security on Dhaka roads after midnight

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and DIPAN NANDY

"Night Party" -- this is the name of a newly-formed Dhaka Metropolitan Police team to ensure round the clock police presence on the capital's streets, mostly after midnight.

However, the impact of this initiative remains questionable, as these correspondents saw no police presence at many check points during recent visits.

This newspaper visited police check points near Parbat cinema hall in the Gabtoli area on October 1, Police Plaza in Gulshan-1 on October 4, Manik Miah Avenue and Nilkhet intersection on September 26, and found no police personnel in all the cases.

At Nilkhet intersection, there was a police van nearby but no policemen were seen around.

KH Mahid Uddin, additional deputy commissioner (crime and operations) of DMP, however, said the situation at the check points has improved since the introduction of "night party".

"Achieving 100 percent success is not feasible, but security measures are indeed improving. Our goal is to provide round-the-clock security for Dhaka residents," Mahid said.

Meanwhile, the DMP on August 1 in a special order

directed its units to form 31 special monitoring teams, led by a deputy commissioner each, to visit and monitor the checkpoint activities from 1:00am to 6:00am daily, according to officials.

If any check points are found empty, then the monitoring teams were instructed to send their report to the DMP high officials immediately.

The DMP on August 1 in a special order directed to form 31 special monitoring teams, led by a deputy commissioner each, to visit and monitor the checkpoint activities from 1:00am to 6:00am daily.

A member of the special team said many policemen perform night duties with a careless attitude.

"Some often spend their time sleeping. However, after formation of the surveillance teams, police personnel in Dhaka are now on full alert," said the officer, requesting

anonymity.

Meanwhile, cops were also seen performing duty in some of the check points.

At the check point near Navana Tower on September 26, policemen were seen stopping every vehicle for a security check.

A police constable, who was on duty, said, "We are checking almost every vehicle which passes the check point. Our superiors always monitor us... now more than before."

One of the correspondents was also stopped for a security check at the check point in the Gulshan Lake area.

Another policeman, on duty at a at Doyagonj intersection, said, "We've increased our patrols to combat mugging. Special teams from the headquarters are monitoring our activities."

And yet, despite DMP's recent moves to intensify security checks, miscreants in separate groups robbed a number of commuters and looted dozens of shops in Basila Garden City Housing area on September 29.

In this regard, on October 2, newly-appointed DMP Commissioner Habibur Rahman said, "We are committed to bringing down such incidents. We will form a special task force soon to prevent such occurrences."

DENGUE OUTBREAK 13 more die, 1,673 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 13 more people died from dengue in 24 hours preceding 8 : 0 0 a m yesterday, as the country grapples with a record outbreak of the mosquito-borne disease.

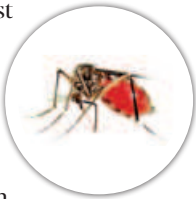
Of the 13 deaths, eight were reported in the capital.

At least 1,673 dengue patients were hospitalised in the 24-hour period, according to DGHS.

Dengue has so far claimed at least 1,148 lives this year and nearly 2,35,204 were infected, making this the deadliest year since the first recorded epidemic in 2000.

According to the DGHS data, 4,248 dengue patients were undergoing treatment at different hospitals as of yesterday morning. A total of 2,25,808 patients have so far been released from hospitals this year.

There is no vaccine or drug that specifically treats dengue, which is common in South Asia during the June-to-September monsoon season when the Aedes aegypti mosquito, the carrier of the deadly virus, thrives in stagnant water.



Annie lied in court about his torture

Says home minister

BSS, Dhaka

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday said BNP's Publicity Secretary Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Annie, arrested in two cases, was not tortured in police custody.

Moreover, he accused Annie of lying in court.

"Annie did not take bail. So, he was arrested by the law enforcers. He was not tortured. But he made false allegations in court. No door of his house was broken (during arrest). He lied to draw the attention of the court," he said.

The minister made the remarks in response to a question from journalists after inaugurating the autumn festival organised by Satyen Sen artists' group at Bakultala of Faculty of Fine Arts of Dhaka University.

The minister said an accused with warrant has to appear before the court for bail, which the BNP leader didn't.

"What he said [about torture] in the court is false. Because he could not show any evidence. There are CCTV cameras. We did not find the evidence," the home minister said.

Kamal denied the allegation that police broke down the door of Annie's residence to arrest the BNP leader.

He also said the police knocked on the door and requested Annie's relatives to open the door, but they did not respond.

Police arrested Annie from his Dhanmondi house on October 10 and later produced him before a court in a sabotage case. The court granted him a four-day remand after the hearing case.

In the court, the BNP leader alleged that police acted like robbers when they broke into the flat around 2:00am and took Annie, the party's publicity secretary, to the police station.

Annie said police hit him, shoved him around and mentally tortured him there.

Man dies after being hit by pick-up

UNB, Dhaka

An unidentified man died when a pick-up van hit him in Dhaka's Kamrangirchar early yesterday.

The deceased was approximately 36 years old, said Kamrangirchar Police Station Sub-inspector Nusrat Jahan Nupur. The accident took place in front of Suruchi Hotel.

He was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead at 7:45am. The body has been kept at the morgue for an autopsy, she said.

The pick-up van has been seized and the driver has been arrested, added SI Nupur.

'High price, low quality'

Students struggling with rising food prices at DU dorm canteens

SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

Many students of Dhaka University are facing difficulties as meal prices in the dorm canteens have increased by up to 25 percent since the pandemic.

While prices have gone up, the food quality has not improved, they said.

The situation has reached a point where students were having to forego one meal a day and other necessary expenses.

Meanwhile, the food quality in dormitory canteens have not improved much. It actually went down in some of these canteens, alleged students.

There are 19 residential halls at DU and each has a canteen operated by private owners. The authorities give lease and provide facilities to the canteen owners.

Sayed (not his real name), one of the residential students of Shaheed Sergeant Zahurul Huq Hall, said he receives TK 4,500 allowance per month from his mother, who is a garment worker.

"I depend on my mother's income and often skip breakfast to save money," the student said.

Hasan, another first-year student,



Canteen of Kabi Jasimuddin Hall of DU.

gets an allowance of Tk 3,000 from his father, who is a farmer, but finds it insufficient due to rising food prices.

"Before Covid, I used to spend Tk 2,500-3,000 a month on canteen food. Now it has risen to Tk 4,500 to 5,000, but the quality hasn't improved... in some cases, it actually went down," Nur Nabi, another frustrated student, said.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, the cost of one portion of chicken was Tk 40, and fish was Tk 30-35, according to the price charts. These prices have now gone up by Tk 5-10.

At Surja Sen Hall, chicken is sold for Tk 50, beef Tk 60, Powa fish for Tk 50, and gourd for Tk 10.

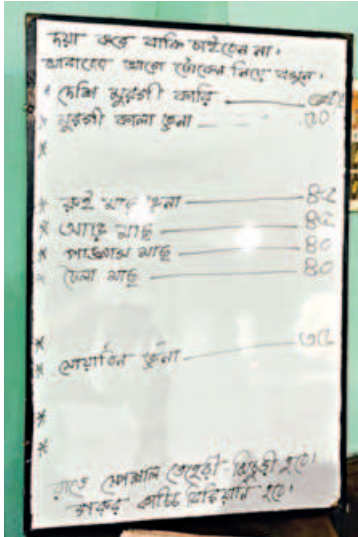
Kabi Jasimuddin Hall charges Tk 65 for beef, Tk 60 for duck, Tk 50 for

chicken, and Tk 50 for fish.

At Bijoy Ekattor Hall, the price of chicken is Tk 50 and fish Tk 45.

Mohammad Shahin Khan, the hall's provost, said the authorities have fixed the prices. "The prices are a bit higher than before due to rising commodity prices," he said, adding that reducing prices would mean compromising with

PHOTO: STAR



Man stabbed to death in Dakshinkhan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was stabbed to death in the Dakshinkhan area in Dhaka on Thursday night.

The deceased was identified as Musabbir Hossain Chowdhury, 25, resident of Bashundhara Residential Area and an employee of a private software company, said police.

The incident took place around 7:30pm near Kosai Bari rail gate area when Musabbir was attempting to break up a quarrel between two groups, his friend Ashik Hossain told The Daily Star.

After being stabbed, he was taken to Uttara Crescent Hospital where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Inspector (investigation) Abdul Kuddus of Dakshinkhan Police Station said Musabbir died from the stab wound.

Police are looking into the matter and conducting drives to arrest the miscreants, added the police official.

PRAYER
TIMING
OCTOBER 14

Fazr

Zohr

Asr

Maghrib

Esha

AZAN 4:45

12:45

4:15

5:45

7:15

JAMAAT 5:20

1:15

4:30

5:50

7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION