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**TAQI MURDER**  
**Azmeri**  
**Osman's**  
**driver held**

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
*Narayanganj*

Another man was arrested by Rab from the capital early yesterday in connection with the murder of Tanwir Muhammad Taqi.

The arrestee is Jamshed Sheikh, 36, a driver of Azmeri Osman.

Azmeri, son of late lawmaker AKM Nasim Osman and nephew of former lawmaker Shami Osman, is alleged to have led the murder of Taqi after abduction.

Tanvir Mahmud Pasha, commanding officer of Rab-II, said, "Jamshed was arrested around 4:45am from Mirpur. He had direct link with Taqi murder."

Later in the day, a Narayanganj court placed Jamshed on a five-day remand.

Earlier on Sunday and Monday, Rab had arrested three others -- Shafayet Hossain Shipon, Mamun Mia, and Kajal Hawlader -- in Taqi murder.

They are all close associates of the Osman family.



# Traffic cops crack down on battery rickshaws

**RAFIUL ISLAM**

Traffic police in the capital have launched drives against battery-run rickshaws in various parts of the city following the increased prevalence of three-wheelers on major roads after August 5.

The move has brought some relief to commuters, as the high-speed rickshaws have been causing accidents.

At least two people -- Tania Khanam, 35 and one and half-year-old Mira Sarker -- have been killed in the last two days until yesterday, after being hit by battery-operated rickshaws in the Shahbagh and Mirpur areas respectively. Many others have been injured too.

This correspondent visited some major thoroughfares in Dhaka yesterday, including Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Begum Rokeya Sarani and Shaheed Mansur Ali Sarak, and talked to a number of people in Dhanmondi, and Mirpur to know about the situation of rickshaws.

Traffic police were seen seizing battery operated rickshaws in several places including Ramna, Bangla Motor, Mirpur, and Dhanmondi.

The police personnel are either puncturing rickshaw tyres, keeping the drivers waiting for hours, or towing rickshaws for dumping.

The operations of rickshaws -- both battery-run and pedal-operated -- have become the new normal throughout the city, even though rickshaws are banned from plying most major roads of Dhaka.

But ever since the student-led protests intensified, and especially after the fall of the Awami League government on August 5,



pedal and battery-run rickshaws have been ruling city streets in full view of police.

Rickshaw-pullers started to completely flout the ban when Dhaka's traffic system collapsed amid the absence of police for around a week after the fall of the previous government.

While traffic police have been on the streets since August 12, they are largely limited to directing traffic, and are not enforcing laws.

But a couple of days ago, the traffic police started making rickshaw pullers and drivers aware that they are not to operate their vehicles on major roads.

A battery-operated rickshaw was seen fleeing from the Bangla Motor area around 11:15am. Talking to the Daily Star, the puller said he came on the road as traffic police did not say anything beforehand.

"I will now drive the rickshaws in the feeder roads," he said.

A traffic police official working in the area said they towed several rickshaws since yesterday morning.

In Mirpur 10, traffic police officials were seen puncturing tyres of battery-run-three wheelers.

## FIREARMS LICENCES IN 15YRS Cops in the dark on total count

**MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN**

A week has passed since the government launched a joint drive to recover firearms, but law enforcers have yet to calculate the actual number of firearms licences issued during the 15-year tenure of the Awami League government.

According to police headquarters (PHQ) database, 13,349 firearms have been submitted by civilians till midnight of September 3 as the interim government suspended the licences on August 25.

The officials, however, failed to give any specific data on how many firearms were issued during the past 15 years.

The Student and Labour wing of the police's

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## Rise in partisanship contradicts vision of 'new Bangladesh'

Says Transparency Int'l Bangladesh

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The rise in illegal occupation, partisanship, and extortion in sectors previously controlled by the fallen Awami League government and its leaders, is completely contrary to the vision of a "New Bangladesh," said Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday.

"The students envisioned a 'New Bangladesh' -- a well-governed and democratic nation that is free of coercion and all forms of abuse of power. Yet, since the fall of authoritarianism, we have seen a troubling rise in partisanship, illegal occupation,

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A line of illegally parked ambulances occupies a portion of the road in front of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, blocking part of the entrance. To make matters worse, a few makeshift shops set up illegally on the adjacent footpath further hinder pedestrian movement. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

# Rise in dengue cases rings alarm

Experts blame late hospitalisation, inadequate facilities for higher deaths

**HELEMUL ALAM**

A total of 19 dengue patients died in the first 11 days of September, including five on Tuesday, painting a grim picture this year as well.

Experts said late hospitalisation, lack of proper medical facilities across the country, un-reported dengue cases, and false test results are the major reasons for high casualties this year.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), a total of 17,284 dengue patients were hospitalised this year, while the total number of deaths is 102.

The death rate this year is 0.61 percent, up from 0.5 percent in 2023.

HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital (SSMCH), said, "Of the four types of dengue strains, the NSI report of the Den-2 serotype gives 30 percent false negative, while Den-4 serotype provides 50 percent false negative results."

"When someone gets a false negative result, they do not care much about treatment and when they reach a critical stage and go to the hospital, it is already

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**“ If the government classifies dengue treatment and divides it into three parts -- primary, secondary and tertiary -- it will be easier to manage all the patients and the number of deaths would be reduced. Mushtaq Hossain Public Health Expert**

## Rab warns of anti-state propaganda

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Rab said yesterday that certain anti-state elements are attempting to disrupt law and order by spreading misinformation and propaganda.

In a press statement issued yesterday, Rab reaffirmed its commitment to a zero-tolerance policy towards militancy and extremism.

"Bangladesh is a country of peace and harmony. People of all races, religions, castes, and political affiliations celebrate festivals and events peacefully. Rab is committed to identifying criminals involved in extremism and taking strict legal action against them," the statement read.

Rab also emphasised that it is maintaining strict surveillance to ensure that members of militant outfits, who have been released on bail, do not engage in further subversive activities.

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ইসলামী ব্যাংক

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▶ ৩৯৫ টি শাখা

▶ ২৫৩ টি উপশাখা

▶ ২৮০০ এজেন্ট ব্যাংকিং আউটলেট

▶ ৩০০০+ এটিএম/সিআরএম

▶ আমানত ১ লক্ষ ৫৫ হাজার কোটি টাকা

▶ সর্বোচ্চ রেমিট্যান্স আহরণ

▶ ২০ লক্ষ উদ্যোক্তা তৈরি

▶ ৬ হাজারের বেশী শিল্প কারখানায় বিনিয়োগ

▶ সর্বোচ্চ এসএমই বিনিয়োগ

▶ ১৭ লক্ষাধিক প্রান্তিক পরিবারকে ক্ষুদ্র বিনিয়োগ

▶ ১ কোটি মানুষের কর্মসংস্থান সৃষ্টি

▶ ৪৩ লক্ষাধিক সেলফিন গ্রাহক

▶ সর্বোচ্চ কর প্রদানকারী ব্যাংক

