

Biker dies after crashing into road divider

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Munshiganj

A 25-year-old man was killed yesterday morning when his motorcycle crashed into a road divider on the Dhaka-Mawa Expressway in Sreenagar upazila.

The victim, Mohammad Siam, son of Ali Akbar from Hatupara village in Madaripur, was reportedly returning to his Bangshal home in Dhaka after visiting Mawa Ghat the previous night.

According to Dewan Azad Hossain, station officer of Sreenagar Fire Service and Civil Defence, the accident occurred around 6:30am in Ompara on the Dhaka-bound lane of the expressway. Siam is believed to have lost control of his motorcycle.

Fire service personnel recovered his body from the scene and handed it over to Hashara Highway Police.

Mohammad Abu Naim Siddiqui, OC of Hashara Highway Police Station, said excessive speed was the likely cause of the crash, adding that Siam died instantly after falling onto the road.



A battery-run auto-rickshaw dangerously overtakes between two buses, risking being sandwiched -- a reckless move that often leads to accidents on city streets. The photo was taken in the Shahbagh area of the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

26km highway in Natore turns deadly

72 killed in road crashes on 26-km Bonpara-Hatikumrul stretch since 2021



AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU

The 26-kilometre stretch of the Bonpara-Hatikumrul highway in Natore has turned into a death trap, with frequent road accidents claiming dozens of lives over the years.

On July 23, eight people, including seven from the same family, were killed in a head-on collision between a truck and a microbus in the Shreerampur area. Within a week of that incident, two more accidents occurred on the same road, leaving one dead and several injured.

In 2014, 33 people were killed in a single accident at Rijur More area, which had sparked widespread criticism over road safety. Despite the tragedy, frequent accidents continue to occur on this stretch of highway, raising concern among locals and transport workers.

According to highway police, 72 people were killed and 40 critically injured in dozens of accidents along the 26-kilometre stretch between January 1, 2021 and July 31, 2025.

Md Ismail Hossain, officer-in-charge of Bonpara Highway Police Station, said this section of the road is the most accident-prone in Natore and the northern region. "There is no three-wheeler movement here, and the highway is

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

From the kitchen to continents Nasima and Shanta's homemade achaar goes global



MASUK HRIDOY, Brahmanbaria

It began with a storm and some fallen mangoes. During a nor'wester around five years ago, a cluster of raw mangoes dropped from the trees in Nasima Begum's village home. Not one to let them go to waste, she turned them into jars of homemade pickles -- an idea sparked by her expatriate brother. By her side stood her daughter-in-law, Shanta.

Together, the mother-in-law and daughter-in-law duo launched a Facebook page called "Paker Ghor Dotcom", hoping to share their homemade flavours with others.

What began on the kitchen floor of a rented house in the Imampara area of Brahmanbaria's Kasba upazila has since travelled far, reaching the dinner tables of Bangladeshi expatriates across Europe and the Middle East.

In the past five years, Nasima and Shanta have expanded beyond mango pickles, crafting over 20 varieties of traditional achaars -- olive, hog plum (chalta), jujube (boroi), garlic, beef, and naga chili -- alongside coconut sweets (narus), intricately designed pithas, and homemade cakes.

From their modest kitchen, they now earn Tk 60,000 to 70,000 per month while supporting household expenses. Their commitment to hygiene and quality has earned them a loyal following both online and in local markets.

Today, Nasima and Shanta are widely celebrated in their community as successful women entrepreneurs.

"Each item is made with the same care as a home-cooked meal," Nasima told this correspondent. "In an era of adulterated food, we make sure to use high-quality ingredients like pure oil and molasses. That's how we built our reputation for reliability."

Shanta, a college student, added that they also

SEE PAGE 9 COL 6

LAUNCH GHATS IN PATUAKHALI

Lack of pontoons hampers travel

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Without pontoons at several launch ghats in the coastal upazilas of Rangabali, Galachipa, Dashmina, and parts of Bauphal in Patuakhali, passengers face serious hazards while boarding and disembarking vessels.

These areas heavily rely on waterways, as boats, trawlers and speedboats are the only means of transportation to and from the district and upazila headquarters.

However, due to the absence of pontoons or connecting roads at many ghats, people are forced to wade through mud or tidal water to reach vessels, often risking accidents and injuries.

"There is no pontoon or jetty here. The approach road was damaged years ago and has never been repaired. Now passengers and goods must be carried through knee-deep mud," said Gazi Mehedi Hasan, a local trader.

"The sufferings intensify during the rainy season. This ghat connects our area with Galachipa, the district town, and other parts of the country. Had there been a pontoon here, the government could also earn revenue," he added.

Another passenger, Jakir Hossain, 48, said, "We have to walk through dirty water and mud to board launches. It's extremely difficult when you're travelling with kids."

According to the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), Patuakhali has 55 designated launch ghats, among

which 10 currently lack pontoons.

The authorities are also in the process of withdrawing pontoons from five more ghats -- Bahechar and Karkhana in Bauphal, Amkhola in Galachipa, Tulatali in Rangabali, and Payrakunj in Sadar upazila.

However, locals claim there are around 70 to 75 ghats in the district, including informal and small-scale ones, and about 30 to 35 of them operate without pontoons, mostly in remote or char areas.

this route to travel to Galachipa, Kalapara, the district town, and even Dhaka."

Rangabali Upazila LGED Engineer Md Habibur Rahman said a proposal for the construction of the approach road to the ghat has already been submitted. "Once funds are allocated, we will begin the work through the tendering process," he said.

Rangabali UNO Rajib Das Purkayastha said, "We've taken



Abdus Salam Mia, master of "MI. Prince of Hamza-5", a vessel operating on the Galachipa-Rangabali route, said, "It's not only the passengers, we, the boat operators, also face severe difficulties due to the lack of pontoons."

Jafar Mridha, panel chairman of Boro Baishdia Union Parishad, described Gaiyapara ghat as crucial for the people of Boro Baishdia and Maudubi unions. "Residents use

steps to build the connecting road to ease public suffering. We will also communicate with BIWTA regarding pontoon installation."

Contacted, Zaki Shahriar, assistant director of BIWTA in Patuakhali, said, "Pontoons may be installed if launch operators and locals make formal requests, preferably through their public representatives. Revenue potential from the ghat will be a major factor in our decision."



Farmers in a process to dry jute in the sun along village canals and wetlands. This year, Rajshahi has seen a bumper jute harvest, prompting many farmers to seize the opportunity to maximise their earnings. The photo was taken near Baghmari Bridge in Paba upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Trader stabbed to death in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A trader was stabbed to death by assailants at his shop in Moulvibazar town on Thursday evening.

The victim -- Faizur Rahman Rubel, 53, from Kadiপুর union under Kulaura upazila -- was the owner of F Rahman Trading at Shamsheernagar.

His brother-in-law Emon Tarafdar said, "He [Rubel] had his own reputable establishment called Sadaipati (F Rahman Trading). We suspect he might have been killed due to some old enmity."

According to locals, Rubel was reportedly attacked inside his shop between 6:00pm and 8:00pm. Hearing his screams, nearby residents rushed to the scene and found him critically injured.

He was first taken to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital and later transferred to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead around 10:00pm.

Physician Ahmed Faisal Zaman, resident medical officer of Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital, said the man was admitted to the hospital with stab injuries. His condition was critical, so he was referred to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, he added.

Quoting locals, Moulvibazar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Gazi Mahbubur Rahman said Rubel had been under financial stress due to debt, but it was unclear who was behind the attack or what the motive was.

OC Mahbubur said, "An investigation is underway. Further details will be shared once we have more information." Badrul Islam, another trader in the area, said he found Rubel in a pool of blood after hearing his cries and helped transport him to the hospital.

Body found in abandoned travel bag

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Gazipur

Police recovered the dismembered body of an unidentified person from an abandoned travel bag in Tongi yesterday morning.

The recovery was made around 10:00am on Tongi Station Road, along the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway. Inside the travel bag, police found body parts wrapped in polythene.

Tongi East Police Station Officer-in-Charge Faridul Islam confirmed the incident, saying that they believe the victim was killed elsewhere two to three days ago before being dumped at the location. "After inspecting the scene, the body parts have been sent to the morgue of Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital," Faridul said, adding that police were reviewing CCTV footage to identify those involved.

প্লট বিক্রয়

নিকুঞ্জ-১, রোড নং-৮/এ,
প্লট নং-১৪/১৬, আয়তন ৬
কাতার প্লট বিক্রি হবে।
প্রকৃত ক্রেতাপণ যোগাযোগ
করুন- ০১৩৩৮৬৯৮৮০৭।

The Daily Star
FOR ALL LATEST NEWS FOLLOW US

f /dailystarnews
in /n/dailystarnews
t /dailystar_bd
s /dailystarnews

www.thedailystar.net

FOR RENT

3-STOREY BUILDING, ROAD-23/A, GULSHAN-1
Individual 3-storey building available for rent in prime Gulshan-1 location.

- 2,500 sq.ft. per floor/Total 7,500 sq.ft. • 3 car parking spaces.
- Suitable for corporate offices, embassies, NGOs, commercial use.
- Available floorwise or full building.

Adjacent to Gulshan-1 Post Office & Many banks.

Contact: Zaman (Direct or WhatsApp) + 88 01613000023