

NEWS

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 Bangshali 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.

Global outcry as Israel

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Israeli taxpayers tens of billions, and lead to diplomatic bankruptcy".

The main campaign group for hostages' families also slammed the plan, saying it amounted to "abandoning" the captives.

The cabinet chose last night to embark on another march of recklessness, on the backs of the hostages, the soldiers, and Israeli society as a whole," the Hostage and Missing Families Forum said.

An expanded Israeli offensive could see ground troops operate in densely populated areas where hostages are believed to be held, local media have reported.

Other Israelis, meanwhile, offered their support.

"As they take control of Gaza, they will eliminate Hamas completely -- maybe not completely, but at least a good percentage of them," said Chaim Klein, a 26-year-old yeshiva student.

The Israeli army said last month that it controlled 75 percent of the Gaza Strip, mainly from its positions in the territory along the border.

Out of 251 hostages captured during Hamas's 2023 attack, 49 are still

DMCH overrun

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outside Dhaka, adding to the hospital's growing burden.

During a visit to DMCH yesterday afternoon, many patients in the dedicated dengue ward on the fourth floor were found to be from outside the capital.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), 95 dengue patients have died and 23,410 have been hospitalised across the country this year.

Among the deaths, DMCH recorded the highest number at 23. It also ranks second in total dengue admissions, with 892 patients till yesterday.

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He further stressed that patients in shock should only be transferred after initial stabilisation. "Unfortunately, many hospitals fail to do this, resulting in patients arriving in decompensated shock, where the risk of death is significantly higher."

Women

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the July Kanya Foundation to continue working for women's advancement.

The event was chaired by Foundation President Jannatul Naim Promy and attended by several notable guests, including the mother of Shaheed Abbar Fahad, Stamford University student Nasrat Jahan Tumpa, the mother of Shaheed Nayma Sultana, and July warrior Ayman.

A total of 100 women were honoured with the "July Kanya Award 2025" at the programme.

Ex-secy alleges corruption by

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the mass uprising -- at least eight advisers -- I can prove with evidence that they are involved in widespread corruption."

Sattar alleged that no major appointments or transfers are made without prior deals. "There is evidence of this. The matter has reached the highest levels of government through intelligence agencies," he said.

He also questioned why no action had been taken against an adviser whose personal officer allegedly has Tk 400 crore in their account and another adviser whose assistant personal secretary reportedly has Tk 200 crore. However, he did not name any of the advisers.

Sattar also raised concerns over the appointment of an "inexperienced individual"

to key posts in the local government ministry and the youth and sports ministry. He said Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus knows "what is happening there, but no steps are being taken".

While pointing out these concerns, Sattar acknowledged some achievements of the government over the past year. He noted that economic discipline has been restored, fascists were being brought to justice, the July Declaration had been announced, and the July Charter would be adopted soon.

He also termed the announcement of the national election date as a major success of the current administration.

In his speech as chief guest, M Siraj Uddin Miah, principal secretary to the chief adviser, said, "The

July uprising has shown that corruption will no longer go unpunished in this new Bangladesh."

He added, "The public administration is now at a crossroads -- either return to the old ways or engage in self-reflection to forge a new path. Everyone must decide which way to go."

The keynote speaker at the seminar was Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan while the keynote paper was presented by Sanowar Jahan Bhuiyan, secretary of the Bangladesh Public Service Commission Secretariat.

The event was presided over by Nazrul Islam, secretary of the housing and public works ministry and president of BASA. Officers from various levels of the administration cadre were present at the seminar.

No govt interference in media

FROM PAGE 1

of expression or media independence over the past year.

Since taking office, the interim government has shown "exceptional restraint, avoiding interference in any media outlet's editorial, operational, or business aspects even in the face of misinformation and politically motivated broadcasts", it said.

"Television talk shows and columns have frequently featured false and incendiary claims about this government. Yet, we have neither censored nor retaliated," the statement reads.

The government has not censored, retaliated, or filed complaints. The interim government even paved the way for some media that had been forcibly closed down by the past regime to republish or return to on air, it said.

The statement also said journalists have had full access to advisers and special assistants to the chief adviser. No one has been denied interviews or briefings based on their outlet or editorial stance.

Describing NOAB's criticism of the reformed accreditation system as "misplaced and misinformed", the press wing said the previous system was deeply compromised, allowing access to non-journalists including politicians, lobbyists and opportunists who used it to unfairly influence policy.

That compromised structure has been replaced by a temporary pass system, ensuring only genuine journalists retain access to the Secretariat to restore integrity to a process that had been corrupted, it said.

The press wing said the previous accreditation policy also pressured accredited journalists to toe the government line.

Some humiliating clauses that undermined their constitutional rights have been amended. The process of issuing fresh accreditation cards with extended renewal period is underway, it added.

The statement said journalists were let go due to editorial and corporate decisions by media owners, not under any instruction or pressure from the

interim government.

The statement also reads, "We are fully committed to the physical safety and dignity of all citizens, including journalists." Ensuring their protection is a shared responsibility of the media, government, and law enforcement. It also said the government is considering promulgating "Journalists' Protection Law" to strengthen legal safeguards and reduce intimidation as recommended by the Media Reform Commission.

"While we remain open to constructive criticism, we suggest that NOAB look internally before attributing blame," the press wing said.

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