

High risks on highways

219 points identified as death spots; faulty construction, design, and obstructive billboards mostly lead to accidents; no remedial measures taken in years

MUKHLESUR RAHMAN

A research of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) has identified 219 "black spots" on ten major highways where every year hundreds of people die in frequent accidents due to engineering and design faults.

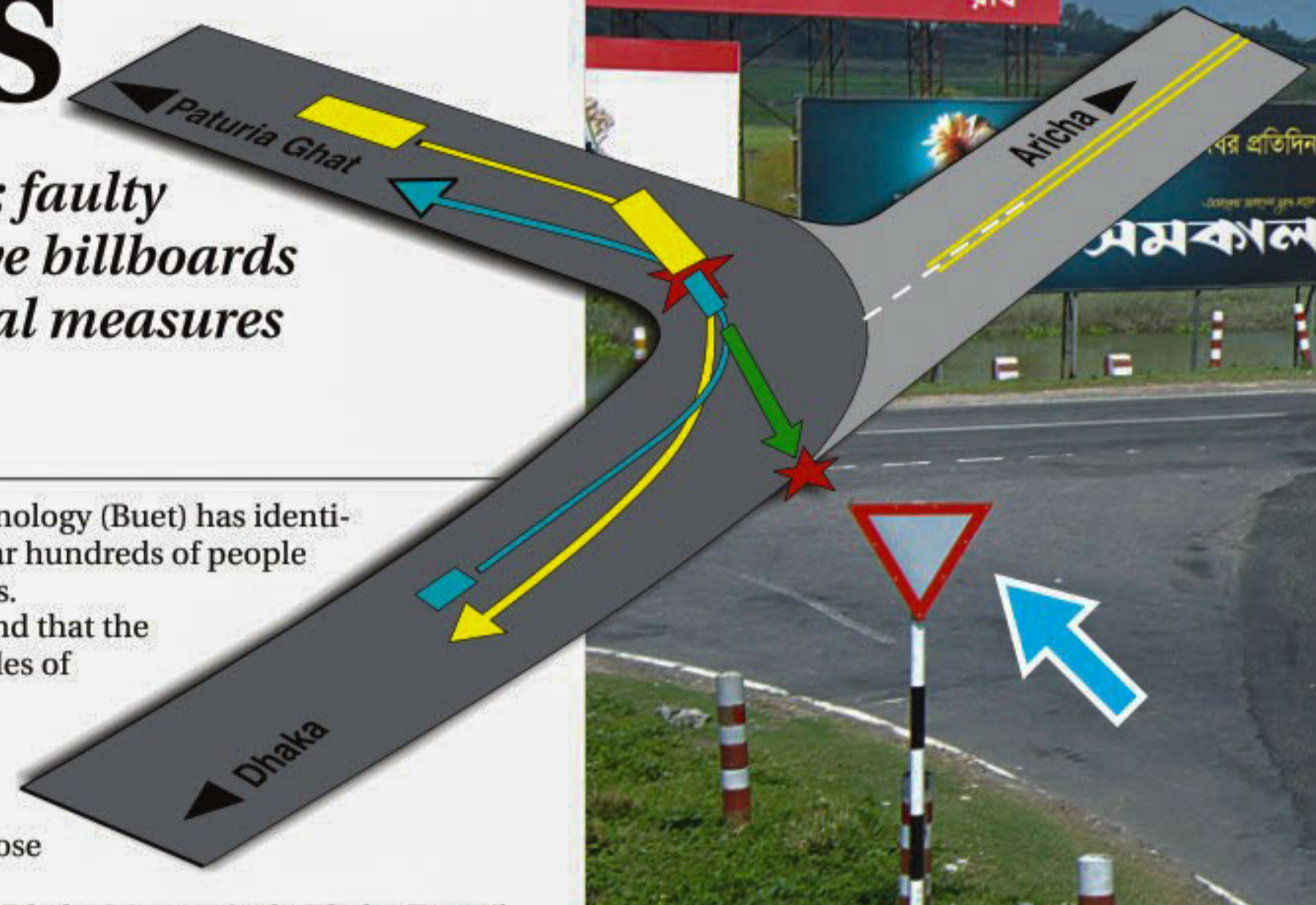
The Accident Research Institute (ARI) of Buet has also found that the faults occur as the responsible authorities don't follow the rules of road safety audit during road construction.

The research revealed some of these "black spots" are accident-prone only because the drivers' vision is obstructed by billboards and roadside trees.

As many as 2,349 people were killed in 2,515 accidents at those spots from 1998 to 2007, ARI said.

These spots are located on Dhaka-Chittagong, Dhaka-Sylhet, Dhaka-Mymensingh, Dhaka-Tangail-Jamalpur, Dhaka-Aricha, Nagarbari-Banglabandha, Nagarbari-Rajshahi, Daulatdia-Jhenidah-Khulna, Dhaka-Mawa-Barisal highways and Jamuna Bridge Approach Road.

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The road sign (pointed by a blue arrow) at this T-junction on Dhaka-Aricha-Paturia highway in Manikganj is wrong. There should be a "T" sign inside the triangle to alert the drivers of approaching vehicles from the right and left.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Ulema urged to launch anti-govt agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Blaming the government for acting against Islam, Sammilito Olama-Mashayekh Parishad yesterday called on the ulema to launch movement from mosques of the country.

"Voice of protest should be raised from the mimbar (a pulpit in the mosque where the imam stands to deliver

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CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION Govt moves to dispel confusion on religion

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government would exchange views with the religion-based political parties to dispel confusion over constitution amendments.

Presiding over the weekly cabinet meeting, she also said Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim in the preamble to the constitution would stay, and so would Islam as state religion.

Besides, the government would not seek any constitutional ban on religion-based politics,

she told the meeting.

The prime minister said she wants the Islamist parties to have a clear understanding of the government move regarding constitution amendments, cabinet sources said.

However, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote, components of the BNP-led four-party alliance, would not be invited to the talks, a senior minister told The Daily Star last night.

At the meeting, the premier directed the cabinet members to make people understand

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Canal drive postponed Encroachers march against eviction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka District Administration postponed for two days their drive in Ramchandrapur canal yesterday, as agitating encroachers brought out a procession against the drive.

Dhaka Water Supply Authority (Wasa) officials who are in charge of maintaining

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FAILURE TO DISCLOSE WEALTH 148 Pak MPs suspended

AP, Islamabad

Pakistan's election commission says 148 lawmakers have been suspended for failing to disclose details of their wealth.

The lawmakers come from the national and regional assemblies, which together have more than 1,000 members.

Election commission spokesman Afzal Khan said yesterday those who submitted the required reports to the body would be reinstated.

Lawmakers must submit yearly reports of their wealth to try

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ARMY RECRUITMENT Candidates clash with cops, 20 hurt

UNB, Savar

Twenty people were injured in a clash between police and Army recruit candidates at Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishthan (BKSP) in Savar yesterday.

The clash ensued over employment in 13 divisions of Bangladesh Army under the players' quota.

Police and witnesses said

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Trader shot dead in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A trader was shot dead at his shop in the city's Jatrabari last night.

Deceased Pronab Mondol, 32, used to run a signboard and banner shop, "Sign Maker" behind the Elish Paribahan

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Girl rescued 7 teen kidnappers arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion yesterday rescued a three-year-old girl and arrested seven amateur kidnappers, six of whom are teenagers, at Chasara, Narayanganj.

Neha Akhter was kidnapped from Baro Moghbazar Friday

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War crimes committed Admits Jamaat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a surprising shift from his party's earlier stand on war crimes issue, acting Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami ATM Azharul Islam yesterday admitted that war crimes were

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