# METROPOLITAN

# Call to ensure road safety No driver punished 'Improve waterway' in a road accident, among others, spoke on the occasion in a road accident, among others, spoke on the for accidents in 17 yrs Staff Correspondent Staff Correspondent Speakers alleged that there is no further

Several hundred people carrying placards and photographs of road crash victims yesterday staged a several kilometer long street march in the city as part of road safety campaign amid reports of growing road accidents.

Family members and friends of a number of

road crash victims joined the procession organised by cultural personality and parliamentarian Tarana Halim, whose nephew was recently killed in an accident.

"The existing law should be amended to ensure adequate punishment of 'killer drivers'," Tarana told a brief rally

ahead of the start of Families of road accident victims stage a several kilofront of National a road safety awareness campaign.

Press Club to Aminbazar area at the city outskirts. She alleged that weakness in laws and their weak enforcements largely contributed to the rise in road accidents. Tarana Halim, Ekram Ahmed, Member of

editorial board of the daily Samakal Ajoy Das Gupta and Prof Nazrul Islam of Sher-e-Bangla Agriculture University and Sufiya Begum, mother of Farjana Hossain Silvia who was killed

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occasion.

Nearly 500 deaths on a stretch of 12,000 Says Ilias Kanchan kilometre highways in only six months until August this year ranked Bangladesh high in the : TAWFIQUE ALI list of countries with high road crash fatalities caused by all possible factors.

tor of the Accident ' Bangladesh; University of. Engineering and: Technology (BUET) · Shamsul Haque told \* the news agency . recently as the ! police headquarters . released the report: three months ago. · He said in terms of : number of vehicles · compared to popu-

lation, Bangladesh · the march from in meter long street march in the city yesterday as part of ranked in the bot-. tom of the list while :

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tion was second after Nepal. According to the statistics of the police · proper training. headquarters, 2,958 people were killed in : 3,381 road accidents across the country in . 2009, 3,765 in 2008 and 3,749 in 2007 while: 500 deaths were recorded in highways ' alone in between February and August .

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in terms of accident frequency, the country posi- .

No killer driver has ever been "All the reasons which can cause road crashes : brought to justice in nearly two are there in decades with every successive Bangladesh," direc- . government taking benefit of massive extortion from the Research Institute of: transport sector, said a pioneer campaigner for road safety.

"I have not seen a single killer driver being punished in seven-teen years," said Ilias Kanchan, a popular film star, who has been

carrying a vigorous campaign for road safety following the tragic : yesterday. demise of his beloved wife in a road crash in 1993. He launched a countrywide campaign fashioned Nirapad Sharak Chai (We Demand Safe Roads) to create awareness about

He said 47 accidents are caused by every 1,000 motor vehicles in Bangladesh, while the rate is two or three in the developed

benefits from the transport sector, unauthorised and incompetent drivers will continue thriving at the cost of public life and safety, he observed. Private owners of such public vehicles operating across the capital employ drivers either on daily or trip basis. This makes

As long as the law enforcers and politicians take financial

the drivers reckless. More than 90 percent of those drivers lack any education and

Traffic police are hardly seen checking the rundown buses and likes and the fake drivers, said Kanchan.

Demands of the movement, said Kanchan, include government initiative to create a pool of drivers with proper training and education, proper law and enforcement, making the vehicle owners responsible for accidents, incorporating lessons on accidents in the textbooks and building awareness.



Ilias Kanchan

The programme marked the first anniversary of the Coco-4 capsize at Lalmohon in Bhola that killed of over 100 people.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

discussion have demanded.

authorities, they observed.

Following the accident on November 27 last year, a case was filed against officials of the Rahman Navigations, the owning company of the launch. Later they got bail from the court.

: The government must take effective measures to

· improve the country's river transport system

and ensure passengers' safety, speakers at a

viable means for carrying passengers and goods,

but its condition is worsening by the day due to

the negligence and mismanagement of the

prevailing waterway transport system jointly

organised by Green Club of Bangladesh (GCB)

and Safe Waterway Implementation Movement

· at the city's Moni Singh-Farhad Trust Bhaban

Waterway transport is the cheapest and most

The remarks came at a discussion on the

Speakers alleged that there is no further development of the case. Khaleda Zia's son Tarique Rahman is the owner of the shipping company.

Enamul Haque, former director general of Water Development Board, stressed the need for restoration of navigability of the waterways for

smooth movement of watercrafts. Ruhin Hossain Prince, a central committee member of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), urged the authorities concerned to

ensure strict measures against unfit launches. Presenting the keynote paper, GCB General Secretary Asish Kumar Dey placed a set of recommendations to improve the sector including exemplary punishment of the government officials who gave fitness certificate to the MV Coco-

appointing prosecution officer in Marine Court. GCB President Nurur Rahman Selim, Safe Waterway Implementation Movement Member Secretary Aminur Rashul, among others, were present at the discussion.

4, strengthening the shipping department and

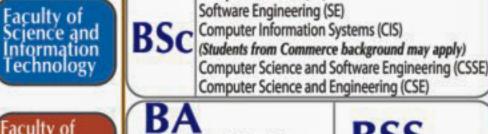
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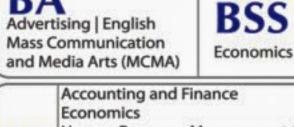
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#### BNP's hartal demonstration against judiciary: Suranjit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League lawmaker Suranjit Sengupta yesterday said main opposition BNP's call for countrywide hartal next Tuesday is nothing but a demonstration against the judiciary and state.

"The country has never experienced a hartal declared against the judiciary or state. BNP is trying to lead the country into a crisis through this," he said.

The people will not support the hartal and protest and resist it if necessary, said Suranjit, also an AL advisory council member, while addressing as the chief guest at a discussion held at Dhaka Reporters' Unity organised by Jonotar Protyasha, a newly formed AL organisation.

The veteran AL leader said BNP chose the day after the hearing on Khaleda's petition with the SC about the cantonment residence for the hartal. This implies they do not have respect for the judiciary.

He censured the BNP leaders who made "controversial" remarks about role played by Inter ServicesPublic Relations (ISPR) in vacating the cantonment house where BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia used to live. "The judiciary and the armed forces should be kept above all

controversy and politics... it is the constitutional obligation," he added.

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One gunned down in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A rickshaw-van garage owner died yesterday as unidentified criminals shot him in the city's Muradpur area.

The victim Mohammad Titu, 45, was admitted to a private clinic at Moghbazar in critical condition and died at 10:00pm.

Police said Titu came under attack around 2:00pm while he was taking tea at a shop in front of his house.

A gang of four gunmen came and one of them shot him on the head. They then ran away leaving him wounded, said witnesses.

Kazi Aiyubur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Kadamtali Police Station said they were vet to ascertain the cause behind the murder and the attackers are yet to be identified.

The OC added that seven years ago Titu came under another gun attack that resulted in one of his legs being disabled by local criminals' gang - Sanaullah group.

Titu's nephew Kabir said Titu is a member of an anticriminal committee in the locality.









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