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Today's Spelling Bee words from
 Topic: The New, the Old, the Unknown
 Page: 34-35, The Star

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2G SCAM
 India court cancels 122 telecom licences awarded to several companies

PAGE B1

'ENOUGH BIAS FOR ISRAEL'
 Palestinians throw shoes at convoy carrying UN chief Ban Ki-moon

PAGE 7

School-goers at grave risk

Jaywalking, reckless driving make rush hours all the more deadly

WASIM BIN HABIB and MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Pedestrians in the capital remain exposed to the constant danger of losing life or limbs as reckless driving continues with impunity.

Though too many lives are cut short in accidents resulting from rash driving every year, the authorities seem little concerned about taking any action to check the menace.

Coupled with reckless driving and jaywalking, a lack of strict enforcement of traffic rules only makes matters worse.

In recent times, disregard for traffic rules and callousness on the part of drivers and sometimes pedestrians have accounted for many a tragic accident in the city and elsewhere. In particular, the deaths of school-going children owing to rash driving have moved all but those who are responsible for ensuring road safety.

Nine-year-old girl Sidratul Muntaha Paloma, the brightest student in class-II of the Ibrahimpur branch of Monipur High School and College, is the latest victim of reckless driving.

Paloma was killed when a bus rolled over her in Mirpur on a wintry morning on Wednesday last week. She was going to school with her mother.

Earlier on February 3, 2010, tragedy of a similar kind occurred before Willes Little Flower School when class-I student Hamim Sheikh was crushed to death by a bus as his mother looked on in horror.

Yesterday, a young day labourer, Helen Mollick, was killed when a speeding bus hit him in the capital's Tejgaon area near Nabisco intersection.

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority and police

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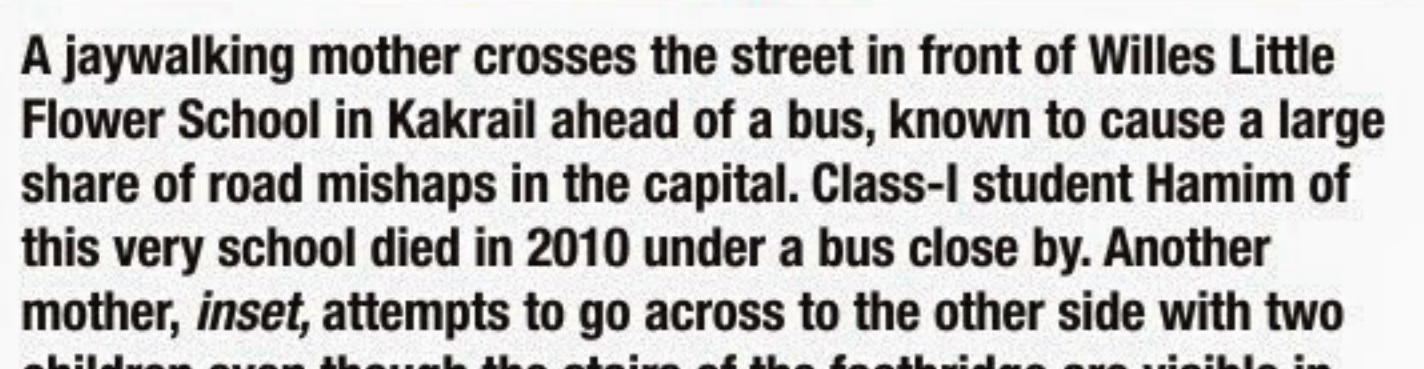


Step taken 2 years after decisions

ROAD SAFETY

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Road Transport Advisory Council has finally moved to implement the decisions taken nearly two years back to remove



A jaywalking mother crosses the street in front of Willes Little Flower School in Kakrail ahead of a bus, known to cause a large share of road mishaps in the capital. Class-I student Hamim of this very school died in 2010 under a bus close by. Another mother, inset, attempts to go across to the other side with two children even though the stairs of the footbridge are visible in the background.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Overtaking bus kills 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A passenger hanging on to the door of an over-crowded bus was smashed to death as another speeding bus trying to overtake from the wrong side hit him in the capital's Tejgaon industrial area yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Helen Mollick, 20, a day labourer and resident of Sattala slum in Mohakhali.

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Ashraf critical of media Tarana protests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

LGRD Minister Syed Ashraful Islam in parliament yesterday termed road crash fatalities "mere accidents" and criticised the media for describing those as "killings".

His comments sparked off protest from his party colleague and lawmaker Tarana Halim.

Responding to lone independent lawmaker

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1



Dhirendranath Dutta's demand for Bangla

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

Dhirendranath Dutta's place in history is assured. As the first Bengali lawmaker in the Pakistan constituent assembly to demand the use of Bangla in the proceedings of the House in February 1948, he made it clear to the powers that be that

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No graft in Padma Bridge project

ACC writes to WB after probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has found no evidence of the World Bank's allegation of corruption in appointing the contractor of the proposed Padma Bridge project.

"The graft allegation [by WB] hasn't been proved, based on the documentary and verbal evidence we have," ACC Chairman Ghulam Rahman told a



press briefing at the commission yesterday.

The commission yesterday sent the synopsis of its inquiry report to the Integrity Vice-Presidency (INT), a WB component responsible for investigation of internal and external allegations of misconduct and fraud.

"We think there is no need for further inquiry into the allegation. If the World

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Stop 'suicidal game'

Hasina warns Khaleda Zia over army, caretaker govt issues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon opposition leader Khaleda Zia to stop playing a "suicidal game" centring on the army and the caretaker government system in the name of movement.

She also said restoring the caretaker government provision was not possible and even if it was anyhow reinstated, there would be still no guarantee of elections.

A caretaker administration might send BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to jail and

hang her two sons Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman Koko after bringing them from abroad, warned Hasina.

The premier was exchanging views with leaders of Jessore district Awami League at her official residence Gono Bhaban.

"Recently the BNP chairperson spoke about disappearances in the army in a bid to create chaos in the force. You [Khaleda] want to play with the military and provoke the army. Stop this suicidal game; speak

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President asks army to stay watchful

UNB, Tangail

President Zillur Rahman yesterday asked the army to fully follow the 'command channel' and always remain alert and watchful against any heinous move.

"Recently our army has foiled a dastardly attempt to disrupt the democratic process. For this, I

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

Another share investor takes his life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Troubled over heavy losses in the share market, a second stockmarket investor committed suicide in Chittagong yesterday.

This comes just three days after a small investor

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Egypt mourns as 74 die in football clash

AGENCIES, Cairo/Port Said

Egypt began three days of mourning on Thursday after 74 people were killed in an eruption of violence at a football match that sparked new anger against the military rulers for failing to ensure security.

The rioting Wednesday night in the northern city of Port Said marked one of the deadliest incidents in football history. Clashes erupted as soon as the referee blew the final whistle in a match which saw home team Al-Masri beat Cairo's Al-

Ahly 3-1. Al-Masri fans flooded the pitch, throwing rocks, bottles and fireworks at Al-Ahly supporters, causing chaos and panic as players and fans ran in all directions trying to flee, witnesses said.

Photos of bleeding players circulated on the Internet.

Gunfire was also reported on the main road leading to Port Said from Cairo, and troops were deployed to prevent further clashes.

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