



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

**TIGERS OFF TO CARIBBEAN**

Bangladesh cricket team leave for the West Indies to play 2 Tests, 3 ODIs & 1 T20I

PAGE 14

MERKEL'S DIPLOMACY

The German chancellor warns against cutting ties with Putin

PAGE 8



Cut casualties in road crashes

Worried at loss of lives, experts call for govt-private sector joint efforts to tackle the menace

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Combined efforts of the government and the private sector are needed to bring down the number of road accidents that have become endemic, say some leading experts.

They emphasise improving road conditions, updating the age-old motor vehicles law, punishing culprit drivers, preventing unfit vehicles from plying and strict screening for issuing driving licences to infuse discipline in the transport sector.

It is time to deal with the issue seriously, they said, hoping the government would show political will to that end.

The experts were speaking at the launch of the report, "Road Safety in Bangladesh: Realities and Challenges", at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Brac, and Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) prepared the report on the basis of official data and media reports, interviews of stakeholders and drivers, and on-the-spot survey.

"Accidents are concentrated in 57 kilometres of nine national highways." Forty-two percent of accidents are hit-and-run and 19 percent head-on collisions, says the report.

It identifies Dhaka, Chittagong, Comilla, Tangail and Sirajganj as accident-prone districts.

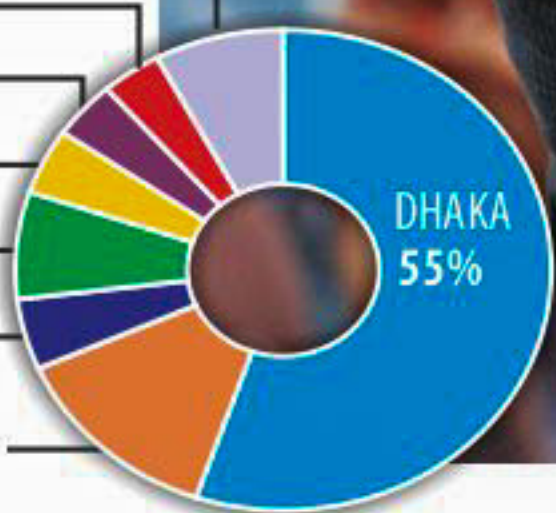
Around 20 percent of the drivers surveyed obtained licences without tests and 92 percent reported paying bribes for getting it, the report says.

In a presentation, PPRC Executive Director Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman said the majority of road accidents don't occur at isolated places. They rather happen at crowded

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

MAIN REASONSReckless driving
unfit vehicles
untrained drivers**ACCIDENT SPOTS**41% around bus stands
28% roadside markets
18% at intersections**PERPETRATORS**38% buses
31% trucks
12% motorcycles**PROFILE OF DRIVERS**47% between 24-35 years
70% single earner families
81% learnt driving informally
42% faced no penalty

An examinee of Rajuk Uttara Model College celebrating the HSC results released yesterday. The college topped the chart in the country this year.

PHOTO:
SK ENAMUL HAQ**GPA-5**TOTAL 57,789
STUDENTSDINAJPUR 8%
SYLHET 4%
BARISAL 4%
CTG 5%
JESSORE 7%
COMILLA 4%
RAJSHAHI 13%

System faulty, needs overhauling

Nahid for uniform admission system at public universities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday termed the existing enrolment system at public universities faulty and suggested a uniform system to better assess students and minimise their hassles.

"A one-hour admission test through an MCQ examination cannot truly assess the quality of a student," he told journalists while presenting the results of the HSC and equivalent exams of 2014 at the secretariat.

Under the current arrangements, each public university takes admission tests mostly through multiple-choice questions (MCQ) as per its own schedules.

Nahid observed that students seeking admission in public universities had to travel a lot to take the tests. The students, especially those from poor or middle class background, face hassles and financial burdens.

"The students travelling from far do not

MORE ON PAGE 12, 16

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Explore Asian markets

Japanese envoy sees huge potential for Bangladeshi products

STAR REPORT

Rising labour cost in East and South East Asian countries has opened up a highly lucrative export market for Bangladesh, and it just has to have the right kind of policy vigour to lift the pie, Japanese Ambassador in Dhaka Shiro Sadoshima said yesterday.

"Bangladesh is so close to that bloc that consists of Japan, Korea, China and the Asean," he said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Shiro Sadoshima

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- Monash University
- Study Group Australia
- TAFE NSW
- The University of New South Wales
- The University of Sydney
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PINAK-6 DISASTER It's BIWTA at fault

Claims launch owner after arrest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hours after his arrest, Abu Bakar Siddique, the owner of Pinak-6, blamed BIWTA officials and some influential people at the launch terminals for the disaster that claimed over 100 lives.

"I am an owner. I don't stay all the time at the launch terminal ... How can I know the number of passengers getting on my launch?" he said.

A joint team of Rab-7 and Rab-11 arrested him at his relative's house in Agrabad Housing area in

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Abu Bakar

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