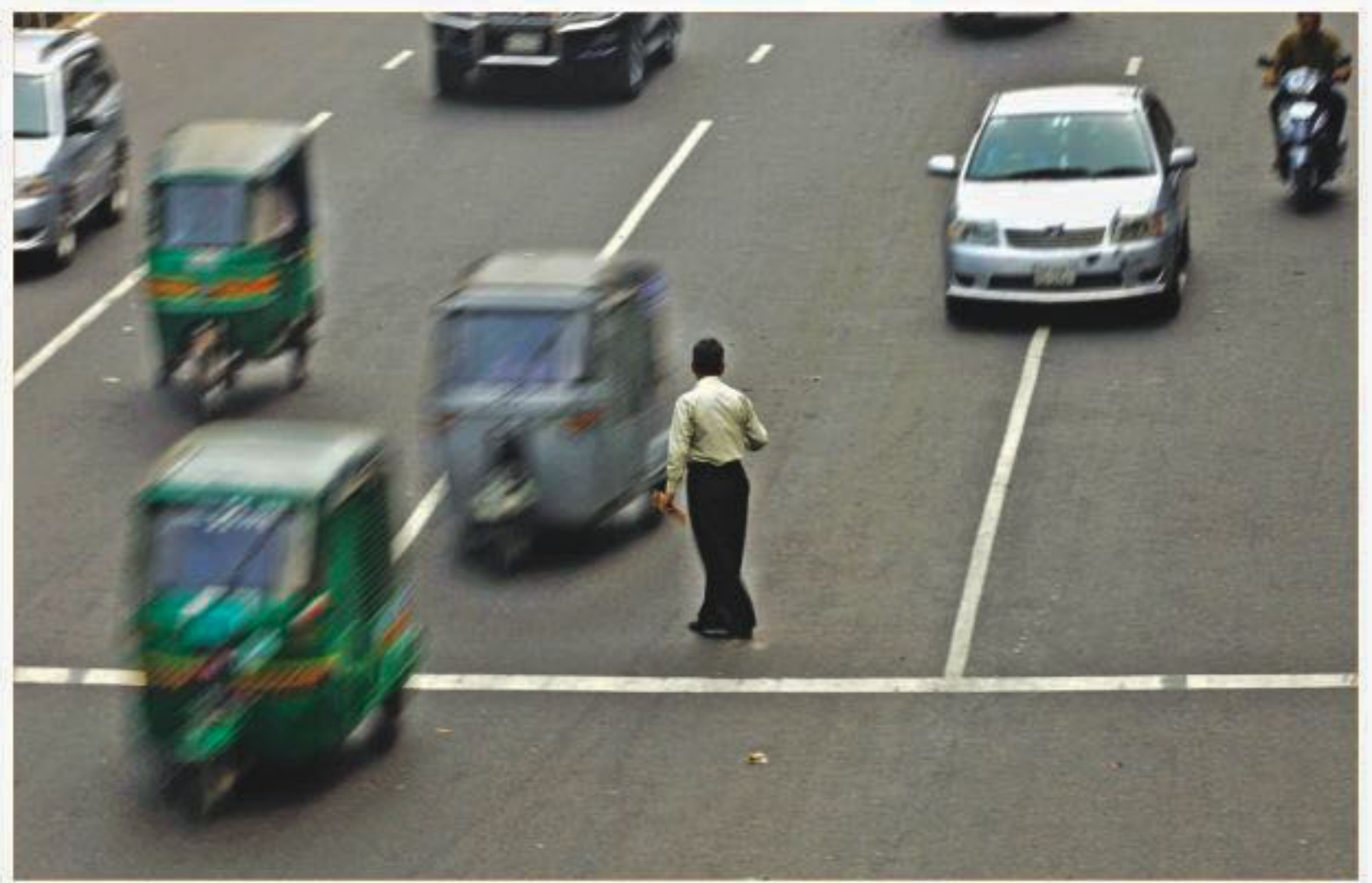




A man carrying a child get off a moving articulated bus at Sonargaon intersection in the capital yesterday while another man tries to get on. At the very intersection less than 24 hours ago, journalist Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury fell on the road when the bus he was getting off of pulled away abruptly leading to his death. At the intersection, motorists drive on when there are pedestrians crossing the avenue using the recently painted zebra crossing, *top right*, and buses sideswipe each other, *right middle*, as they race from stop to stop to get more passengers, endangering people inside the buses, and motorists and pedestrians on the road. A man jaywalking on the avenue, *bottom right*. Students torch buses the Islamic University in Kushtia had leased to carry them after a fellow student was killed under the wheels of a university bus.

PHOTO: STAR



Chaos all around

FROM PAGE 1

noon, the very spot where Zaglul died, passengers were seen jumping off moving buses as usual. Police sergeants were seen standing close by without bothering to book the drivers. Rather, they were busy checking jaywalkers.

Private bank employee Mohammad Ismail almost jumped off a running Farmgate-bound bus amid busy traffic at the crossing. He was in a rush, he said.

"I need to go to my office on the other side. If I didn't get down, the bus would take me to Farmgate and I would have to walk back all the way," said a nonchalant Ismail, admitting he was well aware that the place was not a designated bus stop.

Asked, he said he knew how Zaglul, 66, was killed there while trying to get off a running bus. Yet, he sounded careless about saving his own life.

Amid such reckless behaviour all around, two more people died in Dhaka and another in Kushtia in road crashes yesterday.

There are over 70 traffic signals in the capital. Buses and other vehicles

stop at almost all crossings, including at Shahbagh, Airport, Asad Gate, Shishu Mela and Science Laboratory, violating rules.

Asked why they stopped bus at crossings, a conductor of a Mirpur-Gulistan bus said they did it because most of the time passengers wanted to get down at crossings. Also, those who want to get in wait at crossings.

On whether police allow them to do so, the conductor said traffic cops chased them sometimes, but they could "manage" the law enforcers.

Mosleh Uddin Ahmed, joint commissioner (traffic) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said he did not know that buses stop at Sonargaon and other crossings.

"I will gather information about it and take steps to stop it," he told The Daily Star by phone.

Since 2009, at least 950 pedestrians died in 1,102 accidents in the city. Many have been crippled for life, said Ahmed.

According to The Daily Star reports, at least 8,270 lives have been lost in road accidents between January 2010 and June 2014 across the country,



meaning at least five people died every day.

During the same period, at least 21,886 people were injured in 5,674 accidents. Many of them later succumbed to their injuries while some others became permanently disabled.

An analysis by this newspaper shows about 73 percent of all road accident victims belong to the most productive segment of the population. They, belonging to the 14-50 years age group, are either engaged in economic activities or are students.

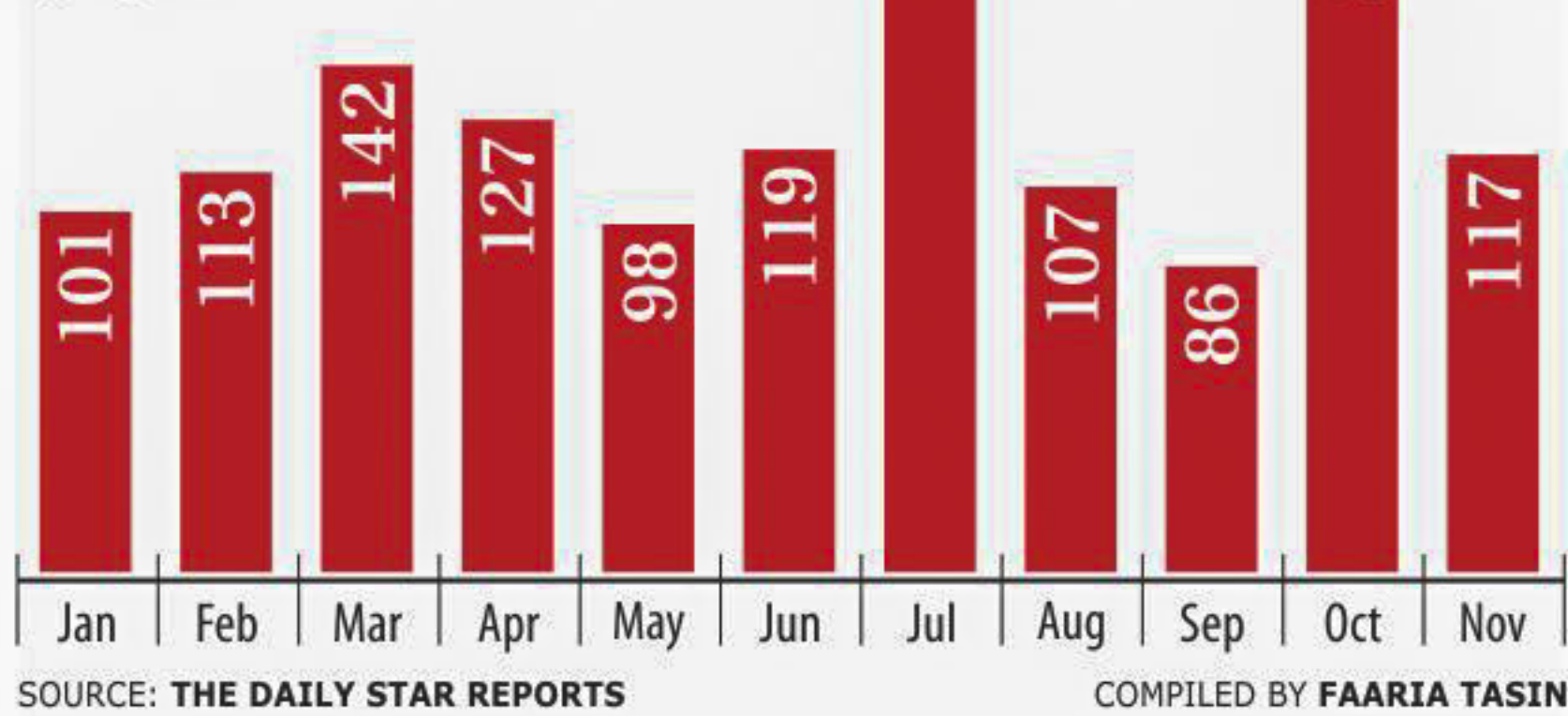
According to police record, on average 3,000 people die each year in road accidents across the country. The World Bank and the World Health Organisation put the figure at 12,000 and 18,000 respectively, says a 2011 report of the Accident Research Institute at Buet.

TWO MORE DIE IN CITY

Private university student Mozammel Kanchan, 23, died after being sandwiched between two buses in Malibagh around 9:00am yesterday.

Sanjay, a witness, said, "The victim remained pressed for about five to

PEOPLE KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENTS In 2014



seven minutes. Locals rushed him to a hospital."

The two buses involved are of Karnaphuli Paribahan and Dibanishi Paribahan, he said.

Doctors at Dhaka Medical College Hospital declared Kanchan dead.

He had been working as an intern at a private company after completing his BBA, family members said.

The accident happened when he was going to his office.

In Kalyanpur, a BRTC bus conductor died after being hit by a BTRC bus.

The victim is Helal Khan Hridoy, 18. The accident happened early in the morning when the bus was trying to depart from a bus depot.

Hridoy was standing at the depot entrance. The driver ran the bus over him while reversing, said his uncle Abul Kalam.

Police, however, said Hridoy was about to cross the road.

Student's death

FROM PAGE 1

Right then, another bus carrying IU students came from behind and ran over him, killing him on the spot.

The killer bus sped away. Intriguingly, the students inside that bus saw a fellow of theirs being crushed but did not stop their vehicle. Later, the driver and his assistant dropped the students and fled.

As the news of Titu's death spread, agitating students went on the rampage on the campus.

They either vandalised or torched 30 vehicles. All these vehicles were either owned or rented by the university for transporting its students.

Several thousand students in groups attacked the IU administrative and the Arts Faculty buildings, and the university medical centre. They blocked the Kushtia-Khulna highway that runs in front of the university campus for around three hours from 12:30pm.

The unruly students also attempted to break into the vice-chancellor's residence but failed due to police resistance.

Additional police forces from Kushtia and Jhenidah rushed to the campus.

As the law enforcers tried to contain the situation, clashes ensued. Police charged batons and fired around 70 teargas canisters to disperse the agitating students.

"The situation came under control after around three hours," said Superintendent Proloy Chishim of Kushtia police.

Later, the university authorities held an emergency meeting at the VC's residence and decided to suspend the academic activities for an indefinite period.

Male students were asked to vacate the university dormitories by 6:30pm yesterday and the females by 8:30am today, Proctor TM Lokman Hakim told The Daily Star.

The university authorities also donated Tk 30,000 to the victim's family, which hails from Shailkupa in Jhenidah, and promised to provide a member of the family with a job at the university.

A six-member probe body was formed with Prof Kamal Uddin, dean of Science Faculty, at the helm and Dr Amanur Rahman as member secretary. The committee has been asked to submit its report on the incident in 21 working days.

Meanwhile, Kushtia Bus Owners' Association enforced an indefinite strike on Kushtia-Khulna highway from yesterday.

The strike was called to protest the vandalism by IU students as most of the damaged buses were owned privately, said Abul Fazal Md Selim, general secretary of the association.

Into the unknown

FROM PAGE 1

Unconscious, he was whisked off to the nearby Combined Military Hospital by an ambulance.

CMH Commandant Brig Gen Mohammad Nasir Uddin told the media that the noted painter suffered a massive cardiac arrest and breathed his last around 9:00pm.

Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman got on the stage at the music festival and announced that Qayyum had passed away.

"I never imagined that I have to convey the message of his demise in such a way," said Anisuzzaman, who has been a friend of Qayyum for over six decades.

Qayyum left behind his wife, only son, and a host of friends, numerous admirers and well-wishers to mourn his death.

Born in Feni in 1932, Qayyum graduated in 1954 from the Government Institute of Arts, now Faculty of Fine Arts at Dhaka University. In 1960, he married Tahera Khanum, also an artist.

His father Abdul Quddus Chowdhury was an inspector of cooperatives, a job that saw frequent transfers. It gave Qayyum the opportunity to know a lot about the rural Bengal and that had a great influence on the themes of his artwork.

Mentored by maestro Zainul Abedin, who established the first art school in Dhaka, Qayyum pursued his passion during the most exciting stages of the art movement in the 50s.

Many of his early works are character-



Qayyum Chowdhury delivering his speech minutes before he collapsed on stage at the Bengal Classical Music Festival 2014 last night. People trying to help the artist, *right*, after he fell on the floor.



PHOTO: COURTESY

ised as neat compositions thematically based on rural life but treated with a contemporary flavour using geometric shapes and lines.

His depiction of the traditional mahajan (money lender), oil on canvas done in 1956, is remarkable in its details and treatment.

"Boat in the moonlight" (1956) has the familiar balance and sharpness as well as the realistic imagery made dreamlike through watercolour that dominated his early works.

A lithograph called "village woman",

a favourite subject for the artist, shows the beginning of Qayyum's knack for creating perfectly balanced collages, often a trademark of his book covers for which he is well known.

In the 70s, Qayyum's works were influenced by political movements in which he had been involved.

His "7th March, 1971" captures the spirit of the Liberation War in a glorious design of festive colours -- blue, red, yellow and green.

In "Protest", a work done after the Liberation War, countless oars are seen

held by pronounced figures and the colours were muted enhancing the sombre expressions of the faces.

Qayyum's artistic sensitivity towards the turbulence around him recurs in "Bangladesh 71" (oil on canvas, 1972), representing the genocide of 1971, the anguish, terror and the destruction.

He became a teacher at Dhaka Art College in 1957. He left the job in 1960 to join the newly established Design Centre to work under Quamrul Hasan. Within a year, he decided to leave this job and joined the then Pakistan

Observer as chief artist.

At the same time, he also worked for the Observer group's other publications namely Chitrani, a cine magazine, and Purbadesh, a news magazine.

President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia expressed deep shock at the renowned painter's death.

Around 10:30pm, his body was taken to the Square Hospitals, and will be kept at the hospital mortuary.

Qayyum's body will be taken to the Institute of Fine Arts around 10:00am today and then to Central Shaheed Minar where it will be kept from 11:00am to 1:00pm to allow people of all walks of life to last tribute to the great artist, Cultural Minister Asaduzzaman Noor told reporters at the hospital.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at the Dhaka University Central Mosque after Zohr prayers. The artist will be buried at Azimpur graveyard, added the minister.

Qayyum won innumerable awards including the Imperial Court Prize, Tehran Biennale, Gold medal for book design from the National Book Centre of Dhaka, the Shilpakala Academy Award, the Leipzig Book Fair Prize for Book Illustration, the Ekushey Padak, the 6th Bangabandhu Award and the Sultan Padak.

The artist was awarded Swadhinata Padak this year.