

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT 87pc vehicles violate rules

*Finds survey by passenger welfare body; puts forward recommendations for safe roads*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 87 percent buses and minibuses ply the roads in the capital recklessly in violation of traffic rules, creating anarchy in the public transport sector, said a passenger welfare platform citing its survey covering over one thousand vehicles.

"The management and order in the road sector has deteriorated severely," said Mozammel Haque Chowdhury, secretary general of Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity, while presenting the findings at a roundtable at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

"Commuters, drivers, transport owners and traffic officials and highway police are acting at will. There are relevant laws and rules but nobody is following those. Actually there is no enforcement of laws on roads," Mozammel said in his written speech.

Based on another survey conducted in 2015 in 16 districts including Dhaka, he said around 72 percent vehicles had no fitness clearance while 16 lakh out of 70 lakh drivers didn't have driving licence.

The platform came up with 10 recommendations including bringing all buses under some particular companies to stop unhealthy competitions that contribute to accidents.

The mismanagement in road transport sector, reckless driving and race among vehicles to pick passengers came to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Tarique to be brought back by any means

*PM says, slams attack on high commission in London*

UNB, London

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her firm resolve to take back BNP acting chairperson Tarique Zia from London by any means and bring him under the ambit of law.

"We'll bring him back to the country by any means Inshallah, and put him on trial," she said.

The prime minister was speaking at a reception accorded to her marking Bangladesh's becoming eligible for graduating to a developing country from a least developed one.

Hasina said she has already talked to the British government in this connection. "[I told them] he [Tarique] is a

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



**Sumi Akhter sobs as she demands justice for her husband Nurul Alam, who was found dead after he was allegedly picked up by law enforcers last year. Family members of victims of such enforced disappearance gathered in the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, demanding the return of their loved ones.**

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



## HOPING against HOPE

*Families of about 80 victims of enforced disappearance relive tragic events, still expect govt to wake up to their cries*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For Rehana Banu Munni, visiting morgues and other places has become routine as she checks unidentified bodies to know if any of those was her younger brother's.

Selim Reza Pinto, a leader of Sutrapur Chhatra Dal, was picked up allegedly by plainclothes law enforcers from one of his relative's house in the capital's Pallabi on the night of December 11, 2013. He has been missing ever since.

Rehana and other members of her family desperately searched for Selim at every possible places, including police stations and Rab offices.

"You cannot live like this," an emotional Rehana told a "mass hearing" on enforced disappearance at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

"Don't you hear us cry and see our tears? Why have you

turned deaf and dumb?" she asked the government.

Members of around 80 families joined the programme under the banner of "Mayer Daak", a platform of victims' family members, from across the country.

Speaking at the event, supported by rights activists, family members slammed the state for denying justice to their dear ones.

According to them, the incidents of enforced disappearance took place in between early 2012 and late last year. Some victims never returned home while bodies of a few were recovered later.

While the families made repeated pleas for tracing the whereabouts of the missing people, the government on several occasions denied the involvement of law enforcement agencies in the incidents.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

**"Do you not hear us cry and see our tears? Why have you turned deaf and dumb?"**

REHANA BANU MUNNI  
SISTER OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE VICTIM SELIM REZA PINTO ASKS THE GOVERNMENT.

## Govt took limited steps to prosecute rights abuses

*Says US state dept report on Bangladesh*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh government took limited measures to investigate and prosecute cases of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances, said the US State Department in its 2017 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.

"There were reports of widespread impunity for security force abuses... public distrust of police and security services deterred many from approaching government forces for assistance or to report criminal incidents," it said.

The annual report, released by the US Acting Secretary of State John J. Sullivan in Washington on Friday, considered extrajudicial killings, torture, arbitrary or unlawful detentions, and forced disappearances by government security forces as the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

## Run over by bus, teen loses leg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenage girl lost her right leg as the wheels of a BRTC bus ran over it on Airport Road near Banani's Chairman Bari on Friday night.

The Uttara-bound BRTC double-decker bus coming from Mohakhali hit Rozina Akhter, 18, a domestic worker, while she was crossing the road in Chairman Bari area at around 8:30pm, Nazrul Islam, a witness of the incident who took her to the National Institute of Traumatology & Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR), told The Daily Star.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Children engrossed in their studies at Grambangla School in Matuail in the capital. An initiative of the non-government organisation Grambangla Unnayan Committee, the school currently has over 225 students whose parents work as waste pickers.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Wonderland in wasteland

*School takes children of waste pickers in another world*

BISHAKHA DEVNATH and SHADMA MALIK

The school is perhaps the only place where Shakib Hasan, 10, gets to enjoy his childhood.

Yards away, his parents toil at the landfill in the capital's Matuail to earn a living. Shakib, who is consid-

ered old enough in his community, often helps them scavenge for materials from tonnes of waste, which can be resold, reused or recycled.

"I don't like going to the site. I like the school.... I play here and get food," Shakib told The Daily Star during a recent visit to the Grambangla School set up in 2008

by non-government organisation Grambangla Unnayan Committee.

The school was born of the thought that children of waste pickers can hardly avail themselves of education, said Khandaker Reaz Hossain, director of programmes, Grambangla.

Their identity becomes a barrier

when it comes to mingling with other children in public schools. Like in Shakib's case, the parents' profession is passed on to their children as a means of survival, he added.

Funded by Big Lottery Fund/ChildHope, a UK charity, and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim



Shazneen Tasnim Rahman

## SHAZNEEN'S 20<sup>TH</sup> DEATH ANNIVERSARY APRIL 23, 2018

When she was but a child of 15, Shazneen was most cruelly and brutally snatched away from us. For the last twenty years, we have lived with a pain and an emptiness that should not befall the fate of any parent or sibling anywhere at anytime. However, we have had to accept everything and continue with our lives in a hurting and excruciating journey.

To share the pain, we call you all once a year to pray with us to The Almighty to grant Shazneen Eternal Peace and help us gather strength to carry on with our lives.

So, once again, we humbly invite you to join us at a Milad-Mehfil to be held **tomorrow, Monday, April 23, 2018 after Asr (5:30pm)** at House No. NE(J)-4, Road 83, Gulshan - 2, Dhaka - 1212.

Latifur Rahman, Shahnaz Rahman and family

Sunday, April 22, 2018