

	Registered vehicles 35 lakh
	Unregistered vehicles 20 lakh
	Driving licences issued 26.39 lakh
	Professional driving licences 12.15 lakh
	Permitted to drive public service vehicles 11,166

SOURCE: BRTA/TRANSPORT OWNERS



10 lakh vehicles are supposed to obtain annual fitness clearance, but on an average **6.5 lakh** take it



Locally made illegal **3-wheelers** continue to run on all highways despite High Court ban

Transport owners have to pay up to Tk 8,000 extortion for a trip from Dhaka to Panchagarh

5 killed as reckless driving on

Tangail schoolgirl, Dhaka motorcyclist among victims

STAR REPORT

Reckless driving claimed five more lives yesterday amid the nationwide student protest for road safety.



Sadia

Three people were killed in a head-on collision between two buses in Savar on the outskirts of the capital around 7:00pm. Earlier in the day, rash driving left a schoolgirl and a nurse dead in Tangail and Dhaka respectively.

Police said a speedy bus heading for Faridpur from Dhaka and a local bus

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Police to go tough if road safety demo turns unruly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia last night claimed a vested quarter infiltrated into students' road safety movement and police will take legal actions if the infiltrators create anarchy.

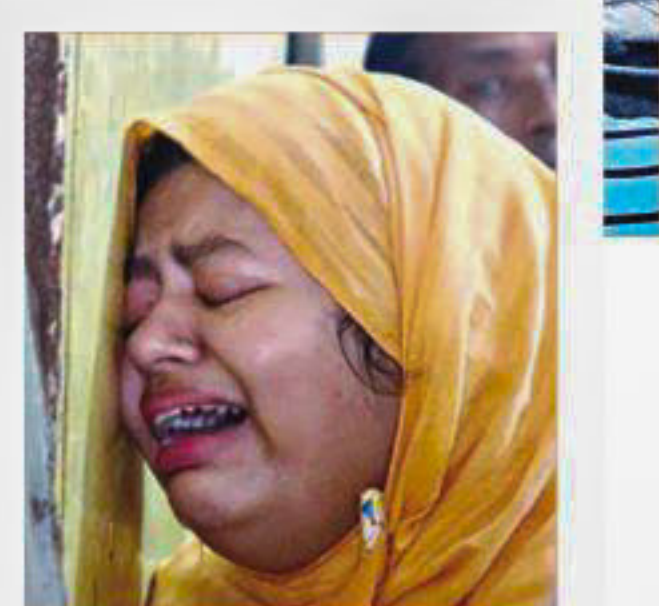
"We have to take legal actions as per the

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Firefighters douse a bus, set ablaze by angry locals, after it hit a motorcycle and a rickshaw in the capital's Moghbazar Wireless Gate area yesterday afternoon, leaving the biker killed and three others injured. *Inset*, sister of the dead breaks down in tears at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Total disorder

Unlicensed, unskilled drivers and unregistered, unfit vehicles rule transport system putting lives of passengers, pedestrians at risk

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It's anarchy of an incredible scale.

Consider this: There are some 35.36 lakh registered vehicles in the country. So far, the BRTA, a transport regulator, has issued 26.39 lakh driving licences. This means, around 9 lakh vehicles are in the hands of drivers who do not have licences.

There is no data, but many of these "drivers" are children as young as 14 or 15.

Add to this around 20 lakh unregistered vehicles that hit the road across the country with blessings from politicians and government officials, creating chaos and indiscipline in the sector, sector people have said.

Many of these unregistered vehicles are slow-moving and so off-limits to highways. Still, they continue to ply the highways, defying High Court orders.

KEY PROBLEMS

Shortage of skilled drivers, inadequate training facilities

Extortion by traffic police, ruling party men

Over speeding, reckless driving

Faulty road design

Lack of coordination among multiple agencies

The authorities cannot punish their owners and drivers because of their patrons, who consider transport workers their vote bank.

The issue of road safety came to the forefront in the wake of the ongoing student protest demanding road safety.

Thousands of school, college and university students have been staging street protests since Sunday, after two college students were killed in rash driving at Kurmitola in the capital.

A race for passengers between three buses led to the accident, initial police found. None of the three of whom have been arrested professional driving licences, investigation drivers, all since, had police said.

One of the buses of Jabal-e-Noor Paribahan did not even have the route

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Bus 'strike' makes people suffer

Public transport taken off roads apparently to counter students' road safety movement

STAR REPORT

In what appears to be an old trick to counter the ongoing student movement for safe roads, transport owners and workers yesterday suspended bus services between the capital and other districts in an undeclared strike, causing untold sufferings to thousands of people.

The passengers had to either return home or remain stranded at bus terminals in the city and elsewhere as transport operators refused to run buses.

Transport owners said they made the



decision for fear of vandalism amid protests over the deaths of two students on Airport Road on Sunday. The agitating students demand safety on roads through a total reform to the transport sector where corruption and mismanagement are rife.

Khandaker Enayetullah, secretary general of Bangladesh Transport Owners' Association, claimed that around 400 buses were vandalised and eight buses were torched across the country over the last six days.

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Tigers face uphill climb in 2nd T20I

SPORTS REPORTER

Being thoroughly outclassed in the first game, Bangladesh will be looking to save the three-match T20I series against West Indies when they take the field for the second game at the Central Broward Regional Park in Florida tomorrow.

The match, Bangladesh's first in the United States of America, will start at 6:00am on Sunday.

After winning the three-match ODI series 2-1, the Tigers got off to a disastrous start in the first T20I in St Kitts when they lost both

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3rd EXPORT IDEA COMPETITION BEGINS

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