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REGULATING PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Going from bad to worse

Drivers with faulty or no papers, unfit vehicles way too common on roads

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The Anabil Paribahan bus that ran over and killed SSC examinee Mainuddin Islam in the capital's Rampura on Monday had neither a route permit nor an updated tax token.

Two of the three buses that were vandalised following the incident, as mentioned in documents of cases filed with police, were also without route permits.

Such cases of vehicles or their drivers being found without proper documents after fatal road crashes are by no means isolated.

Following the widespread student protest for safe roads in 2018, triggered by the deaths of two college students, students and the general public hoped for a change for the better.

Those hopes were in vain as the situation has since deteriorated further and a new wave of protest has taken hold following the death of Notre Dame College student Nayeem Hasan on November 24 -- five days before Mainuddin's death.

The latest data of the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority indicates that at least 10 lakh registered vehicles are being operated by drivers without licences.

The data also shows that the number of vehicles getting fitness clearances dropped by around 75,000 in the last fiscal year compared to the figures in 2019-20 fiscal.

"The system to ensure road safety is totally dysfunctional," noted transport expert Prof Shamsul Hoque said.

A driver can operate a vehicle without a proper licence for years without any fear of surveillance because the system is not working, he said.

BRTA and police are responsible for issuance and checking of fitness clearances, registrations, route permits and licences to drivers, Prof

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REGISTERED VEHICLES
As of June 2021
47,76,944

LICENCES ISSUED
As of June 2021
37,63174

LICENCES ISSUED

| | |
|---------|----------|
| 2020-21 | 4,62,093 |
| 2019-20 | 5,11,464 |
| 2018-19 | 6,17,162 |

FITNESS CLEARANCE CERTIFICATES ISSUED

| | |
|---------|----------|
| 2020-21 | 6,75,460 |
| 2019-20 | 7,50,722 |
| 2018-19 | 7,06,413 |

NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS

| YEAR | ACCIDENT | DEATH |
|--------------------|----------|-------|
| 2021 (till August) | 3,701 | 3,502 |
| 2020 | 4,198 | 3,918 |
| 2019 | 4,147 | 4,138 |
| 2018 | 2,609 | 2,635 |

LICENCES ISSUED

| | |
|---------|----------|
| 2020-21 | 4,62,093 |
| 2019-20 | 5,11,464 |
| 2018-19 | 6,17,162 |



UNSAFE ROADS Now father, 7-year-old son killed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

When students are demonstrating for safe roads, accidents continue to take place, claiming lives and injuring people.

At least four people, including a man and his son, were killed yesterday and several others injured in road crashes in the capital and elsewhere of the country.

In Rajshahi, the man and his seven-year-old son died after a BRTC bus hit their motorcycle in Godagari upazila. The father was taking his kid to school in the morning.

The victims, Sazu Mia, 31, a NGO employee; and his son Abdullah Al Alif, a first grader of Kumorpur KG School; were from Dinajpur's Ghoraghat upazila.

"The BRTC bus driver lost control and hit them while they were waiting beside a highway at Bijoyagar Basalitola around 9:30am. The bus

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"The system to ensure road safety is totally dysfunctional"
PROF SHAMSUL HOQUE, TRANSPORT EXPERT



SOURCE: BRTA, BANGLADESH POLICE

Alesha Mart suspends operations

Cites harassment of employees, lack of security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Beleaguered e-commerce platform Alesha Mart has halted its official operations until further notice citing an unwanted situation and inadequate security.

In a Facebook post around 12:30am on Wednesday, it said, "We are being forced to make such a decision because some people physically harassed our office staff yesterday."

"Note that those people are not our customers and they did not have a payment schedule as they didn't receive any SMS. Our activities will resume as soon as we get adequate security."

Contacted, Manjurul Alam Sikder, chairman and managing director of Alesha Mart, claimed that a vested quarter began taking money from customers assuring them of faster refunds from the platform.

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QUARANTINE FOR PEOPLE FROM AFRICA

Stern action if rules breached

Omicron cases detected in India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Stern action will be taken against both hotel authorities and the incoming passengers from southern Africa, the epicentre of the Omicron variant of coronavirus, for breaching quarantine protocols.

Health Minister Zahid Maleque said this yesterday as the high-risk variant is now present in more than 30 countries including neighbouring India.

Passengers arriving from South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Malawi, where the new potentially more contagious variant is dominant, will have to go for an institutional quarantine for 14 days.

The armed forces, the police and the Directorate General of Health Services will oversee the institutional quarantine, he told reporters after inspecting the Covid-19 testing facilities for Dubai-bound passengers at the Hazrat Shahjalal



OMICRON
NEW WORRY

International Airport.

More than 100 hotels have been listed for quarantine purposes, with the passenger bearing the expense of the fortnight's stay.

"There are many irresponsible persons who do not think about themselves and their country -- they leave their hotels for their homes and roam around. We will penalise the hotels for letting anyone leave early."

The foreign returnees' passports will be held until the completion of the quarantine.

"We are going to take strict measures this year."

Last year, the coronavirus was able to sneak into Bangladesh because of lax measures.

And earlier this year, the Delta variant, the most aggressive strain of the coronavirus yet, had spread in the country as the government could not keep the returnees from abroad for the full duration of the quarantine.

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IN-PERSON CLASSES

Govt shelve plan to raise the number

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has suspended its plans to increase the number of in-person classes next year as the world braces for the impact from new Covid-19 variant Omicron.

Education Minister Dipu Moni yesterday communicated the change in the government's plans while visiting Government Shaheed Suhrawardy College exam centre in the capital on the first day of HSC and equivalent exams.

She said the government had earlier planned to increase the number of in-person classes next year, but the move has been suspended due to the emergence of the new variant. She added that the government may also shut down all educational institutions if the Covid-19 situation deteriorates.

She also said next year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) exams might take place in mid-2022.

"We have shortened the syllabus for the exams of 2022. We'd like students to be able to attend more classes, so we're hoping to hold the exams in the middle of the year," Dipu Moni said.

Partial reopening of schools and

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AMINBAZAR KILLING OF SIX STUDENTS

13 sentenced to death, 19 to life

CHATIANYA CHANDRA HALDER and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced 13 people to death and 19 others to life imprisonment for the killing of six students in Aminbazar on the outskirts of the capital more than 10 years ago.

Judge Ismat Jahan of the Second Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka handed down the sentences in presence of 47 accused in a packed courtroom, said Assistant Public Prosecutor Shakila Jeasmin Mitu.

The death-row convicts are: Abdul Malek, Sayeed Member, Abdur Rashid, Ismail Hossain Repu, Nihar alias Jamsheer Ali, Mir Hossain, Majibur Rahman, Anowar Hossain, Razzab Ali Sohad, Mohammad Alam, Mohammad Rana, Abdul Hamid and Aslam Mia. They were also fined Tk 20,000 each.

Twenty-five other accused were acquitted by the court as their involvement in the killings was not proved beyond doubt. Accused Kabir Hossain, Mohammad Rashed and Sabbir Ahmed were acquitted as they died during the trial.

Soon after the delivery of the verdict, some convicts broke down in tears in the dock, said court sources.

The judge in the verdict said the prosecution was able to prove the charges against 32 accused beyond doubt and they were given punishments.

The convicts with a common intention killed the victims, treating them robbers, which was a heinous offence, said the judgement.

The punishment of the fugitives will be effective from the day of their arrest or surrender, it added.

The convicts can now appeal to the High Court within seven days from the receipt of the judgement copy.

The 19 accused sentenced to life in prison are: Shahin Ahmed, Farid Khan, Rajib Hossain, Mohammad Wasim, Mohammad Sattar, Mohammad Salim, Monir Hossain, Mohammad Alamgir, Mobarak Hossain, Akhil Khondaker, Mohammad Bashir, Mohammad Rubel, Nur Islam, Shahadat Hossain Jewel, Mohammad Tutul, Mohammad Masud, Mohammad

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Sitting next to her father on a parked rickshaw, an HSC examinee busy with last-minute preparation before entering the test centre at Shiddheswari Girls College in the capital's Bailey Road yesterday morning. Higher Secondary School Certificate and equivalent exams began across the country yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

CUMILLA TWIN MURDER

Now prime accused killed in 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT

The prime accused in the Cumilla double-murder case was killed in a "gunfight" with police in the city early yesterday.

Shah Alam, 28, was a resident of the city's Sujanager Bou bazar area.

He had gone into hiding with his family on November 22, when Cumilla City Corporation Councillor Syed Mohammad Sohel, 48, and his close aide Haripada Das, 45, were shot dead by masked gunmen in the councillor's office in the city's Pathuriapara area.

Two days after the murder, Sohel's younger brother Syed Mohammad Roman filed the case with Kotwali Police Station against 11 named and some eight to 10 unnamed people.

Two other accused -- Mohammad Sabbir Hossain, 28, and Sajon, 32 -- were also killed in a "gunfight" with police

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মহান আবুল কালাম আজাদ
(১৯৬০-২০২০)
প্রতিষ্ঠাতা, সিনিয়ল গ্রুপ

আজ ৩ ডিসেম্বর, ২০২১, সিনিয়ল গ্রুপের প্রতিষ্ঠাতা ও সাবেক ম্যানেজিং ডাইরেক্টর মহান আবুল কালাম আজাদ এর প্রথম স্মৃতিবার্ষিকী। গত বছর এই দিনে সবাইকে কাঁদিয়ে তিনি পরলোক গমন করেন।
যুব শিল্পে তাঁর অসামান্য অবদান ছাড়াও তিনি ছিলেন বিশিষ্ট রাজনীতিবিদ ও সমাজসেবক, জামালপুরের কৃতি সন্তান, জামালপুর জেলা আওয়ামী লীগের শিল্প ও বাণিজ্য বিষয়ক সম্পাদক, বকশীল উপজেলা আওয়ামী লীগের সহ-সভাপতি, জামালপুর জেলা পরিষদে সভাপতি ও বকশীল উপজেলা পরিষদে সভাপতি ও উপসভাপতি, ঢাকা চেম্বার অফ কমার্স এর সদস্য, এ্যানিসেল ফেলস ফোন্ডেশন এডালিসিয়েশন এর বাংলাদেশের এর প্রতিষ্ঠাতা সদস্য এবং বাংলাদেশের উন্নয়নে নিবেদিত জীবন।
তাঁর বিদেহী আত্মার মার্গক্ষেত্রে কামনায় সবাইকে সবিধায় অনুরোধ জানাচ্ছি।

পরিবারবর্গ, ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিষদ, সকল কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারীবৃন্দ

SHINIL group
[SHINIL Pharma Ltd., PHARMA & FIRM, Medpower Technology]