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Road deaths just wouldn't stop

5 more die; at least 413 including 54 students killed last month; protests on; Quader smells instigation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 54 students were killed in crashes on roads across the country last month, according to a road safety campaign.

They are among the 413 people killed in 379 crashes that left 532 others injured last month. Among the dead, were 58 children not counted as students, said the Road Safety Foundation in a report yesterday.

The information was released amid continued student demonstrations for road safety.

Asked about the authority's failure to ensure road safety, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday seemed to underplay the crisis, saying 17 people get killed in crashes every hour in India. He also said a political party was behind the demonstrations.

Meanwhile, at least five people, including a private university student and an HSC examinee, were killed yesterday in crashes in Dhaka, Chattogram, and Tangail. No arrest was reported in connection with the incidents.

However, police in Rampura arrested a man named Swapan Reza, 25, around 5:00pm yesterday on charges of vandalising buses in Rampura on September 29 after a school student was crushed to death by a bus of Anabil Paribahan. The bus had neither a route permit nor an updated tax token.

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VALIANT TILL THE END: PAGE 3



Students demonstrating at the capital's Rampura Bridge for safe roads show the red card to chaos and corruption in transport sector yesterday. There were already widespread demonstrations for road safety before a school boy was crushed to death by a bus at Rampura on November 29.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Student on way to see ailing mother dies on road

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MUNTAKIM SAAD

He was supposed to take his ailing mother, who was on her way to



Lemon

Dhaka from their village, to a hospital for treatment. Now, he is going back to their village from Dhaka but as a corpse.

Mahdi Hasan Lemon, 21, a fourth-year student of Green University's Textile Engineering department, has become another victim of a road crash.

He was killed after a lorry hit his motorcycle from behind on the Airport Road in Kawla area around 12:30 am and ran him over as he fell to the ground.

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WORLD PEACE CONFERENCE-2021

Ensure equal opportunities

Says President Hamid

UNB, Dhaka

President Abdul Hamid yesterday urged the world leaders to work for ending discriminations based on race, faith, colour, religion and ethnicity and ensuring equal opportunities for all.

He made the call while inaugurating the "World Peace Conference-2021" that has brought together global thinkers, writers, poets, singers and political personalities.



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ICDDR,B: 61 YRS OF GLORIOUS SERVICE

From cholera to Covid

ZYMA ISLAM

The birth of icddr,b almost coincided with the seventh cholera pandemic that according to the World Health Organisation began in South Asia in 1961.

Sixty-one years later, after successfully yanking off the cholera mortality rate from 50 percent to less than three, the health research institute in Bangladesh is faced with another pandemic: the Covid-19.

Back then, in 1960, Dhaka was Dacca and icddr,b was called Pakistan-SEATO Cholera Research Laboratory.

SEATO or Southeast Asia Treaty Organisation was a multilateral organisation which included Australia, France, New Zealand, Pakistan (including then East Pakistan, now Bangladesh), the Philippines, Thailand, the United Kingdom (including Hong Kong, North Borneo and Sarawak) and the United States. It was dissolved in 1977.

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STOPPING OMICRON VARIANT

Govt still sitting on experts' advice

MOUDDUD AHMED SUJAN

The government is yet to take any effective measures to prevent a possible surge in Covid-19 cases as per recommendations made by the National Technical Advisory Committee.

The recommendations came following the detection of the fast-spreading Omicron variant in South Africa last month.

The NTAC on November 28 recommended limiting mass gatherings and issuing travel bans on countries where the variant has spread, ensuring the use

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HSIA RUNWAY CLOSURE

Carriers worry over service disruption

RASHIDUL HASAN

The runway of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport will remain closed from 12:00am to 8:00am every day from December 10 for six months and some carriers fear there could be service disruption at the airport.

The authorities are constructing and expanding taxiways for the third terminal for which the runway need to remain closed.

The eight-hour shutdown means 12 international flights, operated by Qatar Airways, Singapore Airlines, Emirates, Saudia Airlines, Turkish Airlines and Malaysian Airlines, will have to be rescheduled.

Some 85-90 flights will have to depart and land within the 16-hour window, meaning the ground handling and other ancillary services provided by the airport authority will be severely strained, said different airline operators.

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