

Deaths on roads on the rise for lack of effective steps

Says GM Quader

UNB, Dhaka

Voicing deep concerns over the loss of lives in road accidents during the Eid-ul-Fitr holidays, Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader yesterday said no effective steps have been taken to reduce road crashes.

In a statement, he said though 50 years have elapsed since the independence of Bangladesh, roads are still not safe for people.

“Countless people are dying on the roads every day. There is almost no effective measure to prevent accidents. Deaths on roads every day seem to be a normal affair now,” the Jatiya Party chief observed.

Referring to the statistics of the Road Safety Foundation, he said 139 people died in 112 road accidents in five days from May 1 to 5.

Of them, GM Quader said 56 were motorcyclists. He also said 249 people, including 97 motorcyclists, died in 178 road accidents from April 25 to May 5.

Besides, the Jatiya Party chief said many people were injured in these accidents.

He said people lost their lives in road accidents on their way to homes to share the joy of Eid with their loved ones.

“Eid-ul-Fitr has become mournful for the families of the victims due to unsafe roads. The people of the country do not want to hear the news of such tragic accidents every day,” GM Quader said.

Stating that the authorities concerned need to be more proactive in ensuring road safety, he demanded legal action against those responsible for the accidents.

One of the most

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without an ounce of greed in him. He will reside in the people's heart for a long time.

Muhith's younger brother, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen, said, “I lost my brother, but the country lost a genius and visionary leader.”

“When I was young, my brother wrote me letters, and we talked for hours. In his life, he did what he planned and wanted to do,” he said.

Planning Minister MA Mannan said, “Muhith belonged to politics. He left many good examples for politicians, examples that will guide the successors.”

“He [Muhith] loved Sylhet and was dedicated to the people of Sylhet,” he said. But at the same time, he did not practise regionalism.

Enam Ahmed Choudhury, politician and former chairperson of Privatisation Commission, said, “I found Muhith in

1946, when he was only a teenager committed to fighting imperialism.”

Law Minister Anisul Huq said if ministers and lawmakers show even a fraction of commitments as Muhith did, Bangladesh could really become a developed country by 2041.

Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh said Muhith was a person who always wanted to know the youth's thoughts.

Advisor to the prime minister Salman F Rahman, cabinet secretary Mohammad Shafiu Alam, journalist Shykh Seraj, and Dhaka University Alumni Association president AK Azad also spoke at the event.

Prime minister's advisor Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury and former state minister of cultural affairs Asaduzzaman Noor were present among others. Muhit's son Shahed Muhith thanked those who joined the programme.

Tagore’s 161st birthday today

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of Bangladesh and India.

Tagore wrote novels, short stories, songs, dance-dramas, and essays on political and personal topics. Gitanjali, Gora, Ghare-Baire, and Chokher Bali are among his best-known works.

Meanwhile, President Abdul Hamid and Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina have issued separate messages on the occasion.

The president wished overall success of all the ceremonies planned to observe the birth anniversary.

The premier in her message said, “I believe the philosophy of the Biswa Kabi's life and his creations

QULKHWANI

Azizur Rahman (Afzal), Chairman of Hotel Purbani International, a prominent Businessman passed away at Bamrungrad Hospital, Bangkok on Wednesday 04-05-2022 at 07:00pm. Today Sunday after Asar Prayers Milad Mahfil and Dua will be held at his residence Dhanmondi House No. 275, Road No. 27 (Old). All family members, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the program for seeking peace for his departed soul.

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Request for Expression of Interest

A leading private commercial bank of the country is procuring 5,000 Point of Sale (PoS) terminals for the year 2022. Competent vendors are invited to submit their proposals with product features.

Interested companies who supply Point of Sale (PoS) terminals in Bangladesh are requested to mail their Expression of Interest with product information to eoibanks@gmail.com by May 12, 2022.

Participating companies will be e-mailed Point of Sale (PoS) specifications for the submission of price quotations. Bank reserves all the rights not to accept any proposal.



Even as Eid vacation nears its end, Kuakata is still busy with tourists. Hundreds were seen thronging the destination, enjoying its beautiful sights and purchasing different products from the market. This has been an optimistic turn of events for small businesspersons and vendors, since they have gotten a chance to bounce back from the losses they suffered during the pandemic. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Ashraful the eagle!

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van driver for a textile mill, while Zillur and Shaon worked as ambulance drivers of a private hospital, said detectives.

With the mugged valuables, Ashraful started a real-estate business in the capital's Mohammadpur area and Barishal, they said.

Mashiur Rahman, deputy commissioner (Gulshan division) of DB, said the gang used to mug between 11:00am and sunset every day, except Friday and Saturday.

In two muggings in the capital's Pallabi and Mirpur areas, the gang snatched Tk 11 and Tk 4 lakh separately, he told The Daily Star.

“While investigating the incidents, we tracked the gang down by analysing CCTV footage. Ashraful was in charge of being an ‘eagle’ while snatching Tk 11 lakh,” said the officer.

Detectives said the arrestees have admitted to doing over 100 muggings in the capital's Mirpur, Pallabi, Banani, Gulshan, Agargaon and Tejgaon areas.

Investigators said after completing his textile engineering degree from a private university, Ashraful took a job at a company, with a salary of Tk 35,000.

But he lost his job after Covid-19 hit the country, they said.

During primary interrogation, Ashraful told detectives that he got involved in crime after being influenced by Lelin, the van driver at Ashraful's workplace.

The gang used to keep an eye on people who would withdraw money from banks.

DC Mashiur said that the gang initially targeted people coming out of banks, but later on, started snatching valuables from random people.

Investigators said Lelin and Shaon were wanted in at least a dozen cases filed with Shahbagh, Mirpur, Tejgaon Industrial, Mohammadpur and Pallabi police stations.

“We are conducting drives to arrest other members of the gang,” added DC Mashiur.

Motorbike crashes

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produce skilled drivers, fixing working hours for drivers, increasing the capability of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), enforcing traffic

laws, separate lanes for slow-moving vehicles on highways, stopping extortion on highways and full implementation of Road Transport Act-2018.

will inspire the Bangalees forever in building a non-communal Bangladesh free from exploitation and deprivation.”

Bangladesh Television, Bangladesh Betar and different private television channels will air special programmes highlighting the life and works of the poet.

Different cultural organisations have drawn up programmes to pay rich tributes to Tagore through performances and lectures on his life and works.

Slip of tongue?

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Contacted, Ibrahim told The Daily Star yesterday, “I had made the statement to encourage locals to stand up against drug peddlers and miscreants. Later, I realised that I had overdone it. It was a ‘slip of tongue.’”

Elocutionist Partha

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Saturday morning. He was shifted to ICU immediately after which he suffered a massive heart attack and passed away around 7:40am, said his family members.

Partha Ghosh and his wife Gouri Ghosh were

renowned for their famous renditions of “Karna Kunti Sangbad”. He also worked as an announcer in “All India Radio, Kolkata” for a long period.

West Bengal bestowed him with the “Banga Bhushan” award in 2018.

Govt rewarded oil

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in a statement alleged that the price was hiked deliberately by taking oil away from the market before Eid.

People were already suffering a lot due to the increasing prices of essentials, and the recent oil price hike has just rubbed salt into their wounds, it said.

The politburo's statement said it is unfortunate that the ministers referred to the Russia-Ukraine war for increasing oil price. “This is nothing but cheating the

people. It is clear that the government has no control over market syndicates.”

The government on Monday increased edible oil price by a record amount; it was the biggest increase in Bangladesh's history. It has fixed the price of a litre of bottled soybean oil at Tk 198, a 23.75 percent hike from Tk 160 per litre.

“The price of soybean oil has never been increased by Tk 38 per litre at one go,” said Md Shafiu Ather Taslim, director for finance and operations of TK Group, one of the largest cooking oil processors.

33 rare Batagur

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researchers began searching for the species in nature and found eight of them in different water bodies of Noakhali and Barishal.

Of them, four were male and four female. The turtles were taken to Gazipur for breeding. In 2014, they

were taken to Karamjal.

So far, two turtles of the species were released in 2017, five in 2018 and five in 2019 in different rivers of the Sundarbans. On the occasion of Bangabandhu's birth centenary, 10 more were released in the Sundarbans.

immense pressure the forest is under.”

Experts warn Brazil may have its fourth straight year of decade-high deforestation this year, after also setting monthly records in January and February.

Since Bolsonaro took office in 2019, average annual deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon has

risen more than 75 percent from the previous decade, to an area roughly the size of Qatar.

The far-right president, an ally of the powerful agribusiness industry blamed for driving the destruction, has faced international condemnation over the damage to the Amazon.

Train ticket checker suspended

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Suspended Md Shafiqul Islam did not report to work on May 6.

Transparency International Bangladesh called upon Nurul Islam Sujana to step down from his post temporarily for the sake of a free, fair and impartial investigation into the suspension.

The railways minister said yesterday, “I have no information about who they [the passengers] are. As a result, I do not know if anyone [falsely] claimed to be my relative. And everyone from my constituency [Panchagarh-2] can say they are my relatives because they voted for me, but that does not mean they can ride the train without a ticket.”

The minister said he learnt that action against the dismissed TTE was taken in light of a written complaint.

He said the TTE might be trying to hide his offence and save himself by making up such a story.

Officials are reviewing the matter and also

checking whether there was any negligence on the part of the TTE, he added.

Nurul Islam said the TTE will be rewarded if the allegations against him were proved wrong.

“If the TTE had fined even my wife and children for not buying tickets while travelling by train, I would support him,” Nurul told reporters yesterday.

A three-member committee was formed to investigate the incident. The assistant transportation officer of railway, Pakshey Division will lead the committee, said Nasir Uddin, Pakshey divisional commercial officer (DCO) of BR.

It is very rare for a government employee to be punished so soon after receiving a complaint from an ordinary citizen.

Different media outlets reported that the three persons, who were travelling without tickets, identified themselves as relatives of the railways minister.

“Three passengers entered the AC cabin

of the Sundarbans Express without tickets, introducing themselves as relatives of the railways minister,” Shafiqul Islam told The Daily Star. “After contacting senior officials, I gave them three non-AC tickets worth Tk 1,050 [Tk 350 each] and gave them receipts. I didn't misbehave with them at the time, and they didn't say anything. There is no question of misbehaving with them. I heard that the passengers had complained against me to the high-ups and then I was suspended.”

Md Nasir Uddin, said, “Imrul Kayes Pranto, a train passenger, filed a complaint with the railway's high officials accusing the TTE of misbehaving with them.”

The complainant claimed the three of them were unable to obtain a ticket at the counter, but they boarded the train anyway due to their urgency. The TTE approached them and demanded Tk 500 from each of them, and when they refused to pay, he

Once a dumping

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has been completed at a cost of Tk 4.82 crore and the project will be completed by June.

He said various projects are underway to make the city liveable by increasing civic amenities.

Visiting the site recently, this correspondent saw a good number of visitors around the lake during Eid holidays.

Afroza Runa, a college

student from Natun Bazaar, said there was no place for entertainment in Patuakhali before. Recently the district council has set up a children's park. However, this lake has a special attraction. Once it's filled with water, its beauty will multiply.

Nazma Begum from Kalikapur area, who came to visit the lake with her husband and two children, echoed her.

Rejection not

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Act (DSA) as well as the government's new plan on forming new regulations to control social media and internet just prior to the upcoming national election. It seems like the government is trying to follow the same path when DSA 2018 was imposed just before the 2018 national election,” he said.

Article 19 added that

Bangladesh's demotion is embarrassing for the country.

“We call for attention of the government, policymakers and the executive bodies to work on this alarming decline with high priority, and also we do remind the governments of the need to respect their commitment to press freedom,” said Faisal.

Seven die as buses

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“The bus of National Paribahan was at high speed. There is a turn on that spot where some trucks were kept standing. That is why the driver could not properly see the vehicle coming from the opposite side. As a result, the head-on collision took place.”

The police official Liton Saha said the trucks, which were kept standing on the road, are owned by a local rice mill. Legal actions would be taken against the mill owner.

The bus of National Travels also hit a truck that flipped on its side.

Talking to The Daily Star, Shajahan, father of deceased siblings, said, “My children along with their mother were travelling to visit their maternal uncle's residence at Tangail. But

the accident has ruined everything.”

However, the siblings' mother Helena Begum survived. They were passengers of Siam Paribahan.

Israel destroys Palestinian home

AFP, Silat al Harithiyah

Israeli forces yesterday destroyed the home of a Palestinian accused of killing an Israeli settler.

Explosives destroyed the apartment of Omar Jaradat in Silat al Harithiya village, near the flashpoint town of Jenin in the northern occupied West Bank, according to a statement by the Israeli army.