



## Deaths rising on roads

Three-wheelers, bikes contributing to increasing crashes

TUHIN SHUBHIRA ADHIKARY

As the authorities have failed to solve the ages-old perennial problems in the road transport sector, relatively new elements such as uncontrolled three-wheelers and motorcycles worsened the situation further, leading to a rise in crashes and fatalities.

A huge number of unfit vehicles, drivers without a licence, roadside marketplaces and accident-prone road designs have long been in discussion as the major reasons for road accidents, which leave thousands dead every year.

Now the unchecked and unregulated three-wheelers, including locally made nosimons and korimons and battery-run easy bikes, in the past decade and ever increasing motorbikes in the last six-seven years are linked to a majority of deaths.

They were involved with around 60 percent of the road deaths this year, according to the Road Safety Foundation, which says the number of crashes and deaths also saw rise this year compared to last year.

There have been certain risk factors working behind road crashes over the years, said Prof Hadiuzzaman, director of Accident Research Institute (ARI) of Buet.

"Now relatively new elements including a sharp rise in the number of three-wheelers and motorcycles further complicated the situation," he told The Daily Star yesterday, two days before the National Road Safety Day.

The day will be observed today under the theme "Let's abide by traffic rule, return home safe and sound" when promises made by governments to curb road crashes and restore order remain mostly unfulfilled.

### NATIONAL ROAD SAFETY DAY

JAN-SEPT 2022	ENTIRE 2021
Killings 5,043	6,284
Crashes 4,225	5,371

**ROAD DEATHS**  
Bikes 37.78%  
Three-wheelers 21.71%

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BNP leaders and activists from nearby districts arrive at Khulna Railway Station yesterday evening to join today's public rally in the city. A large number of opposition men had to take trains from their home districts as bus and launch services remained suspended since yesterday morning due to strike enforced by owners' and workers' unions.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## Khulna tense as BNP holds rally today

Many supporters make it to the city defying transport strike; AL stages rally to show strength

STAR REPORT

Despite transport strike, BNP supporters arrived in Khulna city in their droves yesterday to attend the party's rally today.

The tension was palpable as ruling Awami League men stood at different places of the city, saying that they would take steps in case the BNP activists tried to create chaos. They also marched through different streets and held a rally at Shibbari intersection in the afternoon.

Meanwhile, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said the government would be solely responsible in case an untoward incident took place at the rally at Dak Bungalow intersection.

Until late last night, hundreds of BNP supporters kept arriving in Khulna by trains, motorcycles and any vehicles they could find. They were mostly from Jhenaidah, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Magura and Kushtia districts, reports our correspondents.

Hundreds of BNP supporters were seen in front of the BNP office on KD Ghosh Road in Khulna last night.

"Had the government not put the obstructions, at least 10,000 people from Jhenaidah would have joined the Khulna rally. Many of our supporters are travelling on Nasimon, Karimons and minibuses," said Abdul Majid, president of Jhenaidah District BNP.

Saiful Islam Firoz, senior joint general secretary of Swachhchhabek Dal, said, "Our leaders and activists are on their way to Khulna. They are being blocked. The bus services have been stopped... We condemn this act by the government."

Meanwhile, large groups of AL men, many holding sticks and riding motorcycles, were seen across the city throughout yesterday.

Contacted, Babul Rana, general secretary of Khulna city AL, said, "We are not trying to prevent BNP men from joining their rally. We are simply organising our programmes."

"We are on high alert. We don't want violence. But we will take steps if BNP men demean our prime minister or create chaos in the name of the rally."

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## Cooling devices making city hotter

Says study by Institute of Planning and Development

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reliance on air conditioners for relief from the heat is creating a "vicious cycle" as the machines contribute to rising temperatures in the capital while also consuming a substantial amount of electricity, says a recent study.

There are air conditioner (AC) units with a total capacity of 18.2 lakh tonnes in the capital alone, compared to a total of 28 lakh tonnes countrywide, the study by Institute of Planning and Development (IPD) found.

The capital has seen a three-degree Celsius increase in temperature over the last two decades.

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- 28 lakh air conditioners in operation across the country, 65% of them in Dhaka
- If all ACs run at 22 degrees Celsius 8 hours a day they can consume 19,783 MW of electricity
- AC operation at 26 degrees Celsius can save 6,523 MW of electricity a day
- Demand for cooling devices increased by 20 percent in the last six years



West Indies pacer Obed McCoy looks helpless as Ireland send the two-time World Champions packing with a nine-wicket victory in their first round Group B fixture of the T20 World Cup at the Bellerive Oval in Hobart on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

**Daraz** যা চাই দারাজে পাই

## Windies crash out of T20 WC Super 12s start today

AFP, Hobart

Ireland stunned West Indies to power into the Twenty20 World Cup Super 12 on Friday and send the two-time champions crashing out, with Zimbabwe joining them in the next round after edging past Scotland.

Sri Lanka and the Netherlands had already progressed from the other preliminary group to join the big guns including defending champions Australia, who open their tournament against New Zealand today as the Super 12 stage of the mega event begins.

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## Johnson or Sunak touted as UK's next PM

Penny Mordaunt first to announce candidacy

REUTERS, London

Boris Johnson and his former finance minister Rishi Sunak were leading potential contenders to replace British Prime Minister Liz Truss yesterday, with candidates canvassing support to become Conservative Party leader in a fast-tracked contest.

Truss, chosen by party members to succeed Johnson after he was ousted by his lawmakers in July, quit herself on Thursday after six turbulent weeks in power. Those who want to replace her must secure 100 nominations from Conservative lawmakers by Monday to run in a contest which the party hopes will reset its ailing fortunes.

With opinion polls suggesting the Conservatives would be all but wiped



out if a national election were held now, the race is on to become the fifth British premier in six years. An election is not due to be held for two years.

The winner will be announced on Monday or next Friday.

In what would be an extraordinary comeback, Johnson, who remains popular with party members was being touted alongside Sunak as a likely candidate.

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বছর জুড়ে আম! হুমম...

**সেভয় একদম আম! সবেহ**

পুরোটাই আম

কোলেস্টেরল ফ্রি ল্যাকটোজ ফ্রি ফ্যাট ফ্রি

• প্রতিদিনের ভিটামিন সি এর চাহিদা মেটায়  
• ভিটামিন এ ও ডায়েটারি ফাইবারের অন্যতম উৎস

নাচারনানি গুড

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