

Over 200 killed in 409 road crashes in Dhaka last year

Says Road Safety Foundation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 219 people were killed, and 511 were injured in 409 road crashes in Dhaka last year, highlighting poor traffic safety amid mismanagement of urban transport, said Road Safety Foundation yesterday.

Men accounted for the vast majority of the fatalities, with 176 deaths (80.36 percent) followed by 25 women (11.41 percent) and 18 children (8.21 percent), the organisation said in a press statement.

The organisation compiled the data primarily from media reports.

It said pedestrians were the most vulnerable group, making up 47 percent of the deaths, while motorcycle riders and passengers accounted for 43 percent. The remaining 10 percent were drivers and passengers of buses, rickshaws, CNG-run auto rickshaws and other vehicles.

An analysis of the timing of crashes shows that 42 percent of the crashes occurred at night, the highest among all time periods. This was followed by 18 percent in the morning, 13 percent in the afternoon, 11 percent at dawn, 10 percent at noon, and six percent in the evening.

Heavy vehicles were involved in a significant number of crashes. Trucks, covered vans, pickups, tankers and garbage trucks were involved in 35 percent of the accidents, while buses were involved in 25 percent.

Motorcycles accounted for 22 percent followed by three-wheelers, including auto-rickshaws, CNGs and Lagunas (12 percent) while other vehicles were involved in the rest of the crashes.

The organisation blamed chronic traffic mismanagement for the rising number of road crashes and persistent congestion in the capital. The absence of a bypass road allows heavy goods vehicles to move inside the city at reckless speeds between 10:00pm and 6:00am, increasing risks for pedestrians, particularly while crossing roads, the press release said.

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4-yr-old killed over property dispute

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A four year old child was brutally killed during an attack over a property dispute in Zorarganj of Chattogram's Mirsarai upazila yesterday.

The deceased, Nurul Abdullah, 4, was son of Nurul Alam of South Sonapahar area, police said.

"Nurul Alam had a longstanding dispute over property with his neighbour Din Islam. Din Islam's men allegedly attacked Nurul Alam's house around 10:00am, leaving the child critically injured," said Nadim Haider Chowdhury, additional superintendent of police (Mirsarai Circle).

The child was initially taken to Mirsarai Upazila Health Complex, before being shifted to Chattogram Medical College Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries around 1:00pm, he also said.

"The killers allegedly had lifted the child and smashed his head against the ground. We could not independently verify this claim, but the child sustained serious head injuries," the police official said.

Police arrested three people in this connection and are interrogating them. The victim's family has been asked to file a case over the incident, he added.



Farmers soften the red earth with water and mud to sow seeds and transplant seedlings during the peak season for Boro rice, mustard, onions, and maize. The Barind region is currently lush with crops. The photo was taken in the Saramangala area of Godagari upazila, Rajshahi yesterday.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Justice Farah Mahbub BJSC chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice Farah Mahbub, a judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, has been appointed as the chairman of the Bangladesh Judicial Service Commission (BJSC).

The law ministry issued a gazette notification to this effect yesterday, saying President Mohammed Shahabuddin gave the appointment.

The BJSC is tasked with selecting candidates for the posts of lower court judges by holding necessary examinations.

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The witness will continue his testimony.

Exempted in one case

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Forensic examinations conducted by the CID confirmed that the signatures of Shahrez, Latifur, and Arshad were genuine. Based on this, the investigating officer submitted the final report, stating no evidence was found against the accused and recommending their exemption from the case.

Simeen's lawyer, Mohammad Siddique Ullah Miah, said the complainant had received all the properties under the deed of settlement and had declared them in her income tax returns. "Two years later, those who wanted to damage the business reputation of Simeen Rahman and destroy the institution conspired with the complainant to file false and harassing cases. With this one, three cases have now been proven false," he added.

According to lawyers, of the four cases filed against Simeen, final reports have now been submitted in three, and she and the others have been exempted in all three cases by court orders.

Barrister Arman recounts

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her former defence adviser Tarique Ahmed Siddique, frequently visited his cell.

During those visits, he was handcuffed, blindfolded, and ordered to remain silent. He said he could identify their seniority from mobile phone sounds, expensive perfumes, and even "conversations in Hindi". He told the tribunal he was abducted on the night of August 9, 2016, when seven to eight armed men in plainclothes entered his Pallabi residence, identified themselves as members of a "state force", and took him away without showing any others remain absconding.

Barrister Arman said he was taken blindfolded and handcuffed to a narrow, damp cell inside the Rab headquarters compound, where he was held in inhuman conditions amid rats and cockroaches.

He said items inside the cell bore markings such as "RAB 1", "RAB INT", and "TFI", which he cited as evidence of official involvement.

He testified that he frequently fell ill, once suffering heatstroke and later developing a severe abscess

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