

# Weight manipulation rampant

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Weight manipulation has become rampant in the city.

Mobile courts that swung into action in Ramadan have detected that most scales and weights used by traders in the markets do not adhere to the standards of the Bangladesh Standard Testing Institute (BSTI).

It has been found that weights are manipulated for almost all consumer items including meat, groceries, vegetables, fruits and daily household requirements.

"Let it be cement or cloth or vegetables, weight manipulation is going on in almost every sector of trade," said Habibur Rab Majumder, deputy director of BSTI.

Weight manipulation is nothing new but it increases in Ramadan ahead of Eid, he said.

"Shopkeepers use 'fake' weights in place of the standard ones. In some cases the stones lacked almost 200 grams per kilogram," said a magistrate of a mobile court.

Some shopkeepers admitted that a good number of traders manipulate weights and scales. "They have BSTI approved scales and stones, but they do not use them," said Anwar, a grocer at Kawran Bazar.

"They make holes under the stones and fill them with flour paste. Whenever officials raid the shops, they hide these weights and replace them with the genuine ones," he disclosed.

Another magistrate said, "we

seized scales during raids for they are not balanced. Many small traders do not use the BSTI stamped scales and a lot of others manipulate the weighing machine after it has been issued by the institute."

Cloth merchants cheat customers using fake wooden scales or measuring tapes, he said.

"Some make the wooden scales on their own. These are a few centimetres shorter than the standard ones. There is also a group who use manipulated tapes," he added.

"Five to 10 per cent of the businessmen are regular defaulters as we have found in our yearly surveys and raids," Majumder said. "Generally we find five to 20 grams less in a kilogram; cheating a consumer of 200 grams per kilogram is quite rare."

Mobile courts are taking instant action against these defaulters by seizing the faulty scales and weights, filing cases and fining them. Courts have so far seized 146 scales and 87 weights in the city in first two weeks of November.

BSTI cannot raid the markets regularly because of lack of manpower and magistrates, said the deputy director.

"It has become very difficult to control weight manipulation," said Majumder.

"If we could continue the raids in markets round the year, the practice of manipulation would decrease," he lamented.



How balanced are the sets of weight balances used by the shopkeepers?

# Looking for mediums to look after medians

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) is planning to hand over maintenance of many of the

newly constructed medians to various government departments and private organisations. The Dhaka City Beautification

Cell, which was formed on October 28, is responsible for allocating the medians for its better maintenance and management. The chief

executive officer of the DCC is heading the cell.

"We have already sent letters to different government and private organisations inquiring whether they are interested in looking after the medians. A number of departments haven't come up with their proposals. So we are waiting a bit before finalising the allocations," member secretary of the cell Sohail Faruqi said. "The medians are being handed over because the DCC alone cannot maintain it properly. In the past the DCC had to endure a lot of criticism for its handling of the medians," Faruqi added. "Those in charge of maintaining the medians, will not do anything which may go against the traffic system or hamper movement of vehicles. We will prefer small bushes, flower plants and pots as decoration on the medians," said Faruqi. Some government departments have already expressed their desire to look after the

medians.

The Army is interested in managing the medians from Staff Road to Banani, the Navy from Banani to Mohakhali, the Air Force from Hotel Sonargaon crossing to the Prime Minister's Secretariat, the Bangladesh Riles the Bijoy Sarani and the Dhaka Metropolitan Police from Fokirerpool to Kakrail. No advertisement boards will be allowed on the medians. The DCC decided to remove advertisement hoarding from the medians and streets on July 15. Following the decision, 19 advertising firms challenged the DCC's action in the High Court (HC). The HC stayed the dismantling operation until the matter is settled in court. The advertising agencies lost a case and appealed to the Appellate Division of the HC. The next date of hearing on January 5. "If the verdict comes in our favour we will dismantle them at the earliest," Faruqi said.



Maintenance indeed... A policeman kicks a basket of vegetables on the street to clear the road divider.

DU revives mandatory physical education

# Cry for sports gear, more instructors

SYED TASHFIN CHOWDHURY

The Dhaka University has revived its mandatory physical education curriculum.

Physical education for students was made mandatory through a DU ordinance in 1973. But activities fizzled out in the beginning of nineties for 'lack of enthusiasm from students, inadequate sports gear and lack of instructors etc'.

Classes have already begun after Vice-chancellor Prof S M A Fayed inaugurated under the curriculum on November 9.

Last August the DU syndicate at a meeting took the decision and the Physical Education Centre authorities started distribution of forms. There are options for the students to choose two favourite items from a list of 10 games. The games include football, cricket, volleyball,

badminton, and table tennis besides athletics and exercises.

The curriculum contains 40 classes, each having 40 minutes of duration.

Any first year student without completion of 40 hours of mandatory physical education classes would not be promoted.

"We want to draw attention towards sports and physical education which these students have been avoiding for the last few years," said A.S. M. Mofazzel Hossain, the Director of the Physical Education Department.

The 4000 freshman of the university are usually too engrossed in studies or in other activities and are therefore, more or less, confined within the boundaries of their respective departments and institutes, he observed.

"We also plan to hold tournaments by

which we believe we can pick out gifted athletes and sportsmen," he said.

The Physical Education Department has already been allocated an amount for scholarship for gifted athletes.

"We would have been a lot more efficient if our sport gear supplies would have been extensive, along with ample instructors, more space and so on," said Hossain.

With the physical education now mandatory, the Physical Education Department would be suffering from space allocation and sport gear problems for the 4000 students.

The university currently operates with one gymnasium and the 'new' gymnasium is still 'being built' since 1984.

"If the under-construction gymnasium near the swimming pool could be completed and be given to us for use, our job would be a lot more easier," said the Director.

# Footpath shopping still on with Eid at the doorstep

SABRINA KARIM MURSHED

Make-shift markets on the pavements always add extra colour to pre-Eid shopping in Dhaka. More significantly, they send the true message of the occasion; Eid is a celebration for everybody, not just for the wealthy and fortunate few.

These footpath markets are crammed with people from largely the low-income group and the best thing about them is that there is something for everybody.

With the Eid less than a week away, hawkers have taken over the walkways and portions of the road at Gulistan, Bangabandhu Avenue, Baitul Mokarram, GPO, Motijheel, New Market, Gausia Market and even some over-head foot bridges.

Although Eid shoppers have thronged

the markets from the beginning of the month of Ramadan, business has reached fever pitch on the footpaths recently as homebound Dhakaites are doing frantic last moment shopping.

The selling style is almost same at every footpath market. The hawkers keep their commodities inside hard paper boxes or spread them on pieces of clothes. Some use hangers to display shirts, salwar kameez etc. and the whole stop-gap arrangement is very nicely done.

Starting from shirts, trousers, shoes, kids' wear to sari, lungi, punjabi, pajama, salwar kameez, sweater you get anything you can think of at footpath stalls.

"The reputed markets and shopping malls are off limits for us as we can never afford to buy our desired stuff there. But I don't mind because I get whatever I am seeking right here," said Idris Ali, a

rickshaw-puller who was buying a frock for his daughter at Gulistan.

Other buyers echoed his views saying that the quality of footpath stuff naturally are not as good as the ones at the reputed stores, but it nevertheless enables them to share some joyous moments during Eid. And when you can get a cotton sari between Tk 100 to Tk 150, Georgette sari from Tk 120 to Tk 200 and a printed lungi for Tk 70 to Tk 100, should you complain?

Moneyed people also visit the footpath markets, they have to. "I have a number of house maids and guards at my house and I come here to buy nice clothes for them and their family," said Nurun Nahar, a housewife living in Gulshan. Some of the rich buyers are found at the footpaths buying clothes for distribution as zakaat.



Eid shoppers have a last look at children's clothes displayed in a footpath stall.

## useful telephone numbers

### COURIER SERVICES

**International**  
Air Borne Express- 9561371, 9561372, 9550724  
Air Couriers Int'l (BD) Ltd.- 8815970  
Aramex International Courier- 9558003, 9559582, 9565075  
Airspeed Express- 9563494  
Asian Courier Services Ltd.- 8313543  
Baishakhi Courier Service- 9558606  
Banladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114  
Bangladesh Courier Service- 9563989  
Bengal Express- 9560642, 9552666  
Bangladesh Int'l Courier- 953636  
Continental Service Ltd.- 9552948, 9558425  
DHL Worldwide Express- 9881703-7, 9886305-9, 9882057  
Enem Express- 9330699  
Fedex Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114  
Modhuban Courier Service-

9550884  
Overseas Courier Service- 9352431, 8321169  
Pacific Courier- 9568446  
Reliance Express Service- 9558515, 7110249  
Sky International service- 9660442  
Skynet world Wide Express- 9558062, 9560258, 7114787, 7113184  
TNT Express- 9566662, 9558239, 8618155  
Union Courier Service- 9341722  
United Parcel Service Air alliance Ltd.- 8826429, 8810223  
**National**  
Asian Courier Service Ltd.- 8313543  
BAE- 9884851  
Central Courier Service- 9881118  
Confidence Courier Service Ltd.- 9567036  
Chisty Courier- 7110177-9, 7100842-4  
Cosmopol Services- 9552793, 9557975

**TIPS**  
Do you know according to Dhaka City Corporation, you must deposit your waste at the collection site between 4pm and 10pm

Dhaka Courier Services- 7236222  
Dolphin Courier- 9558802  
Dreamland Courier Service- 9550326, 9566975  
Pioneer Courier Services- 9561727, 9569759  
Probashi Courier Services- 9346359  
Rainbow Express Parcel Services Ltd.- 8322773, 8315703  
Reliance Express Services- 9558515, 7110249  
Sundarban Courier Services- 9551984, 9556189, 9551656  
Sunrise Courier Services- 9568751

### LIBRARY & INFO-

**Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers**  
**Central Public Library-** 8626001-4,  
**Shishu Academy-** 9564128  
**Shilpakala Academy-** 8614673  
**Bangla Academy-** 8619550  
**Islamic Foundation-** 9550280, 9556407  
**Nazrul Institute-** 9114602  
**Alliance Francaise-** 8611557  
**British Council-** 8618867-8, 8618905-7  
**Community Development Library-** 8113769, 8113604  
**Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka-** 9126525-6  
**Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library-** 8615096  
**The Russian Cultural Centre-** 9116314, 9118531, 9118314  
**Drik Photo Gallery-** 9120125, 8112954, 8123412

### OUTING

**Museum and Zoo**  
**National Museum-** 8619396-9  
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Friday 3 pm - 8 pm, Thursday closed  
**Muktijuddha Jadughar-** 9559091  
Open: 10:30 am 6:30 pm, Sunday Closed  
**Bangabandhu Smiti Jadughar-** 8110046  
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Wednesday closed  
**Ahsan Manzil**  
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Friday: 3 pm - 7 pm, Thursday Closed  
**Shishu Jadughar-** 9666466  
Open: 10 am- 6 pm, Sunday Closed  
**Sonargoan Jadugha**

### CITY BUS ROUTE

Bus No.	Route	Starts from
1	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 10, 11, 12	Golap Shah Mazar
2	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 1, 2	Phoolbaria bus station
3	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mahakhali-Airport-Azampur	Phoolbaria bus station
4	Shyampur-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Airport-Tongi	Shyampur
5	Sayedabad-Kamalapur-Motijheel-Airport-Joydebpur-Gazipur	Sayedabad
6A	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Gulistan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6B	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6C	Motijheel Shapla chattr- Malibagh- Farmgate- Gulshan 2	Motijheel Shaplachattr
7	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 2	Sadarghat
8	Chittagong-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asad Gate-Kalyanpur-Gabtolli	Chittagong Road
9	Demra Rani mahal-Motijheel-Kalbagan-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 10, 11, 12	Demra Ranimahall
10	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Kakrail-Malibagh-Rampura-Biwa Road-Tongi Bridge	Sadarghat
11	Sayedabad-Motijheel-Fakirapool-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Tongi Bridge	Sayedabad
11/A	Sayedabad-Khilgoan-Malibagh-Rampura-Airport-Tongi Bridge	Syedabad
12	Shanir Akhra-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asadgate-Mohammadpur	Shanir Akhra
13	Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Jhigatola-Shangkar-Mohammedpur	Motijheel
14	Signboard -Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 12	Signboard (Chittagong Road)
15	Chittagong Road-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mirpur 12	Chittagong Road
24	Gulistan-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Airport-Uttara-Bipile	Gulistan