

# Right to 'foot traffic' gone

*Pedestrians constitute 51pc of the victims of road fatalities, says study*

UNB, Dhaka

City dwellers have lost their right to "foot traffic" as going out for a walk in Dhaka City has become riskier than in the past with the elderly people, women and children being the worst victims, according to senior citizens.

Foot traffic means, "The presence and movement of people walking around in a particular space."

M Fazlur Rahman, a former secretary, attributes the growing risk of foot traffic in this sprawling city to a good number of reasons like road crash, brick fall, billboard crash, mugging, plying motorbikes on walkways, lack of streetlight, open man-holes and rundown walkways.

Some other problems he has identified are occupying foot-paths by vendors, shop owners, illegal parking, piling of construction materials and making footpaths sloppy by shop owners to facilitate the movement of private cars for inside parking.

The city areas known as the worst for foot traffic include Sayedabad, Jatrabari, Motijheel, Gulistan, Kakrail, Malibagh, Mouchak, Moghbazar, Rampura, Badda and the old parts of Dhaka.

Pedestrians are the most vulnerable group in Dhaka City when it comes to road accident and other hazards, as they constitute 51 percent of the victims of road fatalities, says a study suggesting immediate steps to improve foot traffic.

Mohd S Kiwan, a teacher of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology and Asif-uz-Zaman Khan, a teacher of Buet, conducted the study.

The incident of brick fall from under-construction buildings in the city has also become a big concern. On July 16 this year, Munna, an HSC examinee of Tejgaon College, died on the spot after he was hit by a brick fall from an under-construction building at Panthapath.

"This is completely a nightmare to go out for a walk in this notorious city. Things are so bad that coming back home safe is not sure," says Engineer Mujibul Haque, another retired government official in his mid-60s.

"In Dhaka, car traffic has replaced foot traffic. The car-dependent infrastructure we are building today is the result of an intentional choice to push everyone into a singular mode of transportation," he said.

Engineer Ali Ashraf, a city planner, said foot traffic is an important consideration in today's urban planning.

Ashraf, also the President of Bangladesh Institute of Planners, Chittagong chapter, swiped at the city authorities for being reluctant to ensure the safety of pedestrians.

When contacted, Sadek Hossain Khoka, the mayor of Dhaka City Corporation, said, "We're trying to improve the situation, but there are some responsibilities on the part of the police to keep the footpaths free from illegal occupations."

He also blamed the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) for being reluctant about encroachment of walkways by various markets, shopping complexes and apartment buildings.



The footpath alongside the stretch of road between Malibagh and Khilgaon in the city lies littered with garbage, forcing pedestrians onto the traffic lanes. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Dhaka urges Berlin for more investment

UNB, Dhaka

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan has requested the German businesspeople to import more from and invest in Bangladesh.

He made the request at a meeting on Thursday with representatives of AVE, the Foreign Trade Association on German Retail Trade in Germany, according to a message received here yesterday.

Khan pointed out that even though the garment sector in Bangladesh is very successful there are also plenty of opportunities in other sectors such as pharmaceutical and shipbuilding.

In 2010, Bangladesh advanced to the third largest supplier of garments in Europe.

Germany is the second largest export market for products from Bangladesh worldwide.

With a trade volume of US\$4 billion Bangladesh has developed as an important partner to the German economy. "This trade is going to continue as business strategists expect an increased relocation of production volume from China to Bangladesh," Khan said.

Apart from the textile industry, which has been the driving force for the economic development, the country produces high quality leather goods and jute products, he said.

"An emerging industry sector is shipbuilding. In the year 2011, ten ships will be delivered to Germany alone and the current order volume continues to increase."

# 13 fake marriage media persons held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested 13 members of a fraud marriage media gang, who ran the marriage media for cheating youths especially who wanted to go abroad, at Al Mansur Bhaban of Naya Paltan in the city yesterday.

DB sources said they arrested the frauds including fake brides Shammi Akhter, 28, and Salma Begum, 28, and the owner of the marriage media Ruhul Amin Mridha after conducting a raid at the Marriage Media Centre on the 5th floor of the building around 12:00am.

Other arrestees are Shaheen Alam, Rahat Mia, Suman Mridha, Tarek Mollah, Sajeb Mollah, Nazmul Alam, Shafiqur Rahman, Yusuf Ali, Nasim Mia and Arif Sarif. They are employee of the marriage media.

The sources said DB conducted the raid after one victim Liakat Ali lodged a complaint against them.

# Two die in electrocution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A construction worker was electrocuted at an under-construction three-storey building at Dania of Rasulpur under Kadamtali Police Station in the city yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Rony, 26, of Bazitpur of Kishoreganj.

Salauddin, a co-worker, said Rony was electrocuted as he came in contact with a roadside electricity line through a steel pipe which he was receiving standing on second floor of the building.

Later, other workers rescued him and rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead around 12:30pm.

Our Correspondent from Natore adds: A man died on the spot after being electrocuted near his house at Soyain village in Singra upazila Thursday evening.

The deceased is Ashradul Islam, 32, son of Hukum Ali. Locals said the victim came into contact with a live electric.

# Feb 7 as sign language day demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People with hearing and speech impairment yesterday called upon the government to declare February 7 as the "National Bengali Sign Language Day".

They also demanded education facilities, employment opportunities, and vocational training so that they can be self-dependent.

The call came from a human chain and rally organised jointly by the Society of the Deaf and Sign Language Users (SDSL) and ActionAid Bangladesh in front of the city's Jatiya Press Club. Parents of the special needs people, officials of the NGOs, and others attended the programme.

Iffat Ara Parvin, programme officer of ActionAid Bangladesh, said if the day is declared and observed, people will know about the existence of sign language and its users. "People will also become aware of the rights of the hearing impaired people", she added.

A movement to press the government for declaring "National Bengali Sign Language Day" was launched in the country in 2008.

# Schoolboy missing as boat sinks

UNB, Madaripur

A schoolboy went missing as a boat capsized in Beel Padma river in Shibchar upazila here yesterday morning.

The missing boy was identified as Jakir, 10.

Police said the boat carrying five passengers sank in the river after being hit by a trawler, leaving the boy missing.

All the passengers, except Jakir, managed to swim ashore.

# 14,000 FP staff to be recruited soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A total of 14,000 field workers would be appointed very soon under Directorate General of Family Planning to work all over the country said State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Captain (retd) Dr Mozibur Rahman Fakir yesterday.

Appointment of 7,000 field workers is under process while the remaining would be appointed next month. Another 500 doctors will also be appointed within a few months, he added.

Dr Mozibur was speaking as the chief guest at a divisional rally organised by Coordination Council for Family Planning Professionals, Chittagong at a community centre in the port city of Chittagong.



Bangladesh Film Institute Alumni Association forms a human chain at Russel Square in the city's Dhanmondi yesterday in memory of filmmaker Tareque Masud and chief executive officer of ATN News Ashfaque Munier.

PHOTO: STAR

# PHOTO ALBUM ON PM UNVEILED Khaleda's threat a 'fantasy'

Says Obaidul Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League Presidium Member Obaidul Quader yesterday termed BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's threat to oust the government within September next year a "fantasy" and "daydream".

"We do not know of any example in world history, not even in the recent mass upsurge in the Middle East, where a government was ousted within a specific timeline," he said.

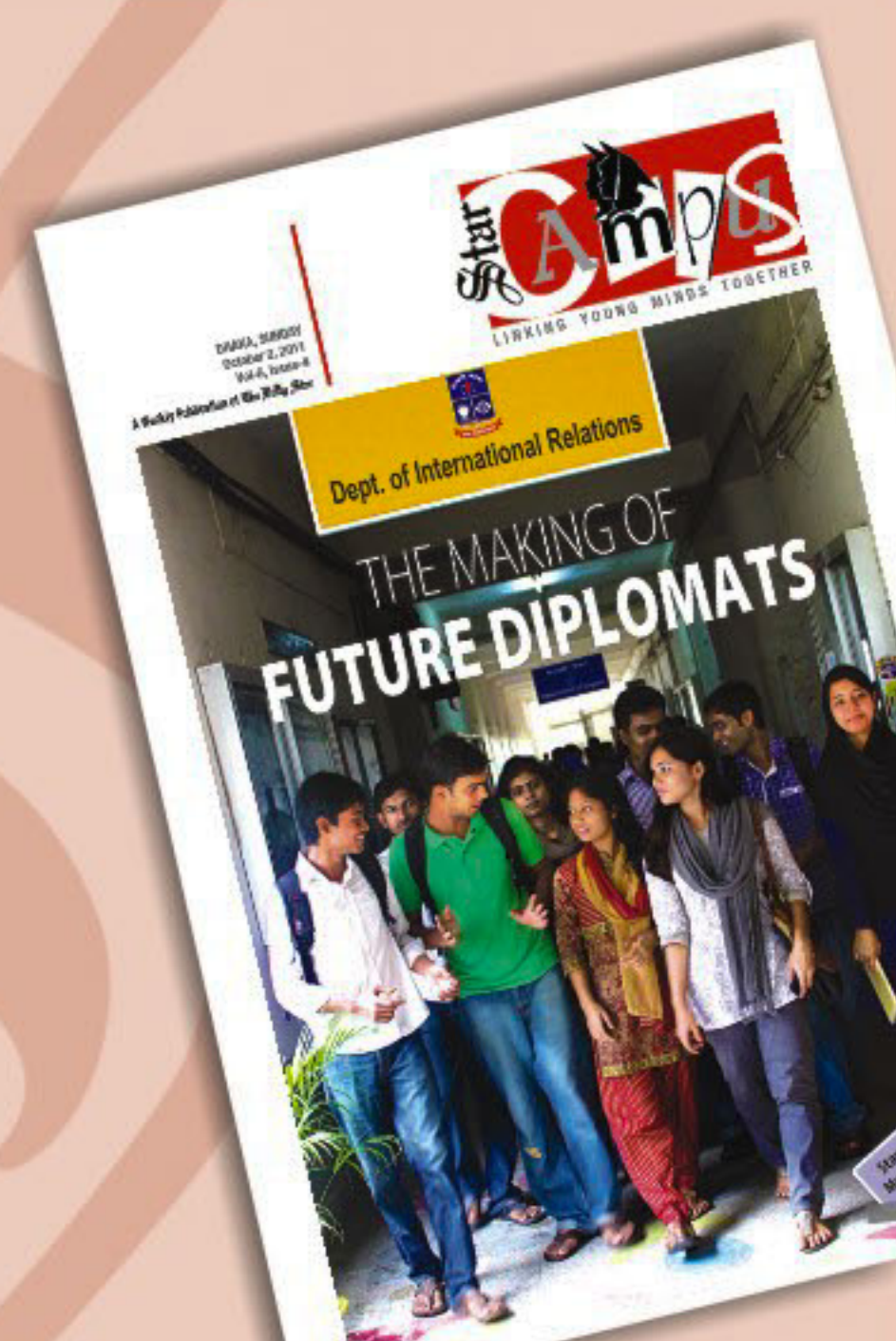
He was addressing a discussion organised by Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at Dhaka University (DU).

A photo album on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina titled "Jananetri theke prothanmantri" (from leader of the masses to prime minister), marking her 65th birthday, was unveiled at the programme.

DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, Provice-chancellor Prof Dr Harun-or-Rashid and State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak also addressed the programme. BCL General Secretary Siddique Nazmul Alam moderated the programme with BCL President HM Badiuzzaman Sohag in the chair.

The Daily Star Coming out tomorrow - Star Campus  
**Linking Young Minds Together**

The Daily Star offers campus based weekly magazine 'Star Campus' - the ultimate magazine for the young generation - a common platform for the college and university students and academicians - to share their ideas, thoughts, dreams, opinions and views. Star Campus is an endeavour to bring into the center stage the visionary aspects of our college and university students, alongside their lifestyle, cultural trends and their multidimensional talents. Star Campus is a magazine broadly based on campus life! It contains articles, academic news, achievements, travelogues, interviews, book reviews, quiz, milestones, academic tips, profiles of educational institutes, cultural and extra-curricular activities in campus, jokes, cartoons, photographs and much more. This is a magazine Of the Students, By the Students and For the Students. Star Campus helps link young minds together.



# ERD, WB stress timely approval of projects

UNB, Dhaka

A joint technical portfolio review between the Economic Relations Division (ERD) and the World Bank (WB) emphasised timely approval of projects by Ecneec to avoid their implementation delays.

The joint review meeting was held on July 27 and 28 on 30 WB-assisted projects, including one Trust Fund as well as FY-12 pipeline projects.

Currently, 11 on going projects are facing DPP (Development Project Proposal) and TPP (Technical Project Proposal) issues, and several of them even after their start-up.

The review meeting, while discussing project specific issues, particularly focused on problem projects, slow-moving operations and operations closing in the next 12 months, said an official at the ERD.



**Luxury Villa FOR SALE**  
@ SECTOR 4, UTTARA

- Foyer
- Living Room
- 2 Family Spaces (Bose Entertainment System)
- 2 Game Areas (Pool Table)
- 6 Bedrooms (Furnished)
- 9 Bathrooms
- Gym
- Laundry room (Washer & Dryer)
- Indoor Swimming Pool
- Kitchen (German Cabinet with built-in appliances)
- Huge Servant Bedroom with Toilet & Bathroom
- Fully Airconditioned (39 Tons)
- Full Backup GenSet
- Guard Room with Kitchen & Bath
- Garden

**Genuine Buyers please Contact:**  
01819 217353, 01715 668135, 01819 217037

Further Details Please visit  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Simrins/253940887983846>