



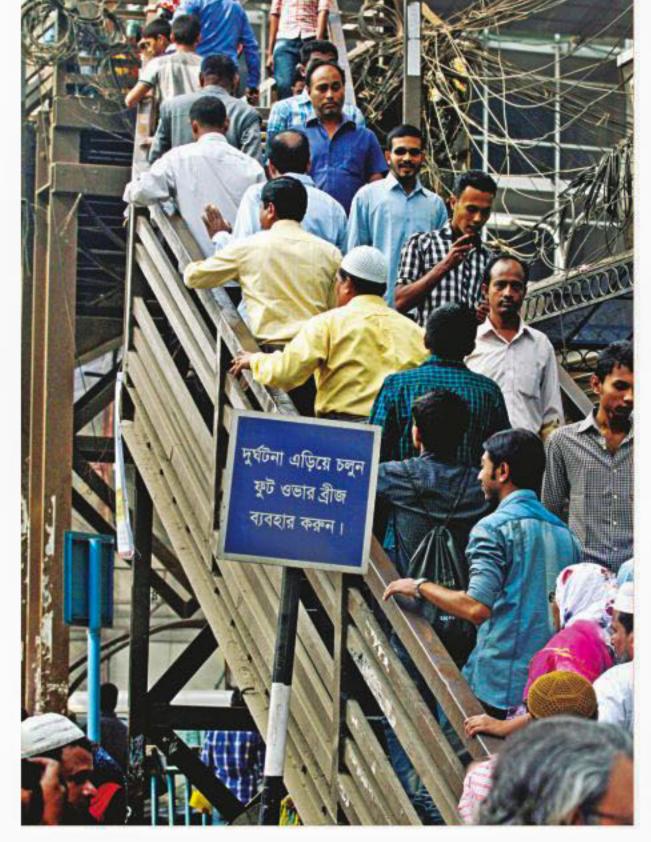


Cops grab jaywalkers by the hand and lead them to mobile courts set up nearby on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue yesterday. Some of the offenders were placed in a prison van to wait for their turn to pay the fine, which was between Tk 20 and Tk 200. Only 331 people were fined, while a few thousand others jaywalked and got away with it. Though the drive forced some pedestrians to follow the rules, things slipped back to square one after the mobile courts left around 4:30pm.











Jaywalkers get caught

accident and congestion."

The two mobile courts realised around Tk 24,000. None were sent to jail.

The situation turned messy again once the mobile courts left for the day in the afternoon.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police on Saturday announced that it would conduct a weeklong drive at the stretch of the

avenue between Hotel Ruposhi Bangla

and Farmgate Police Box. It conducted a three-day awareness campaign since Saturday as well.

Additional police were deployed to coax pedestrians into using footbridges and pavements and capture them when they did not listen.

Signs were also placed asking pedestrians not to break the law.

"I did not know about the drive as I was sick over the last couple of days," said

Bappi, who was caught by traffic police while trying to cross the road near ATN Bangla office.

Asked why he was crossing the road violating the traffic rule and risking his life, he said he saw many people doing so.

Private firm employee Sanaullah, who was fined at Bangla Motor for not using the footbridge just above the intersection, said he was in a rush and also did not have any idea about the drive.

Several penalised jaywalkers alleged that the campaign was inadequate. They blamed the sorry state of footbridges and

footpaths. There are six footbridges on the stretch of the avenue and an underpass at Karwan Bazar. The footbridge next to Ananda Cinema was blocked by Dhaka North City Corporation on July 18 after a physical inspection of the structure by Bangladesh University of Engineering

and Technology. No restoration work is going on.

Two other footbridges are in shabby condition. Restoration of the one in front of The Daily Star Centre was underway. Pavements under the footbridge are partly occupied by construction materials, forcing pedestrians to walk on the

The sidewalks near the footbridge at

ground. He left the place when two of

Dissuaded by her friends from

Instead of consoling his daughter,

"I was shocked when my mother

complaining to the university authori-

her father too told her not to disclose

blamed the way I dress for this inci-

dent. She rather suggested I always

wear veil on campus. A day later, she

came to Rajshahi and bought me a veil.

From then on I wear veil on campus,"

the Guidelines declared by the High

behaviour (whether directly or by

Sexual Harassment as defined in

a. Unwelcome sexually determined

b. Attempts or efforts to establish

d. Demand or request for sexual

f. Sexually coloured remark or ges-

g. Indecent gesture, teasing through

h. Insult through letters, telephone

abusive language, stalking, joking

calls, cell phone calls, SMS, pottering,

notice, cartoon, writing on bench,

chair, table, notice boards, walls of

office, factory, classroom, washroom

i. Taking still or video photographs

j. Preventing participation in sports,

k. Making love proposal and exert-

1. Attempt to establish sexual rela-

for the purpose of blackmailing and

cultural, organisational and academic

activities on the ground of sex and/or

for the purpose of sexual harassment;

authoritative or professional powers;

e. Showing pornography;

having sexual implication.

having sexual implication.

character assassination;

ties, she had called his parent.

matter.

the matter.

she said.

advances;

sentation;

hawkers. Many pedestrians are compelled to walk on the road because of

A total of 950 people died in 1,102 134 people died in 155 accidents this joint commissioner (traffic) of DMP.

traffic accidents.

Stop it now

FROM PAGE 1 afford the rest of the amount. A few days after the marriage took place, Saidul said he was not willing to continue living with Kalpona. But the village people intervened and arranged a mutual understanding, and so he took her back to his

Although they remained together, theirs was a relationship full of unrest. Saidul physically abused Kalpona, stating that he wanted more money. Saidul worked in a fabric making store in Pabna where acid is used in fabric colouring. One night, he brought acid to his house and poured some into sleeping Kalpona's mouth, with the intent to kill her. Her tongue melted into her lower jaw and she cannot speak properly

anymore. Kalpona's story might not be the same for other women, but the underlying facts are all shockingly similar. Perhaps all perpetrators of violence against women do not have such open access to acid. Perhaps they do not demand a huge dowry. But more often than not, women are subject to some form of abuse in their households, by their husbands or inlaws. The Bangladesh Demographic Health Survey 2007 revealed that more than one-third of both men and women believe that men are justified in beating their wives in specific circumstances, such as arguing. In Bangladesh, violence starts at home, and for the most part, it is completely ignored. The ugly truth is, we all know women who face violence but are helpless in the face of societal pres-

According to the nationwide survey titled "Violence Against Women Survey 2011" conducted by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund, 87 percent of married women are abused by their husbands, with most of them facing violence in the last twelve months, which implies they are abused on a regular basis. Fifty percent of women facing abuse had to seek medical help. A study conducted by the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b) called "Men's attitudes and practices regarding gender and violence against women 2011" found that a large majority of men in women, which is their basic human : sexual harassment prevention guide-Bangladesh rape because they per-right.

ceive sex as their entitlement.

people's awareness on violence against such as legal and medical help, but justice Foundation.

bail and was released.

Human Rights Day. tions in the country are working to raise; career. I was compelled to refrain from awareness on this important issue. : taking part in my second year final Manusher Jonno Foundation observed: examinations as a result of his frequent the day with 21 partner NGO's across : advances. At last I sent a written comdramas were held in Gopalgonj, security of my academic life," she said. Patuakhali, Kurigram, Borguna, among: other districts, keeping in mind the keep himself away from the class to Orange theme. Naripokkho, a leading: which she belonged and a couple of women's rights NGO, organised a: months later he himself left the univerplay on child marriage and its reper- is sity. cussions at Chhayanaut on: Several teachers, wishing not to be November 24. BRAC is organising in named, said the university authorities rallies and human chains in all 64 : should take effective steps to create

International Day for the Elimination of: female student, using sexually abusive Violence against Women, people around: language." the world are displaying the colour: orange to symbolise hope for a future free: committee on behalf of the girl," he from violence against women. The cam- : added paign is titled "Orange YOUR: Neighbourhood" and is part of the UN Secretary-General's campaign UNiTE to related events during the 16 Days of: instead of taking the matter to SHCC. Activism against Gender-based vio-: lence, which will run between to make advances to her for quite a November 25 and December 10, : long time.

Bangladesh. Rallies, workshops and : plaint to the department chair, seeking districts.

(rights division) of Manusher Jonno : ment

women will only decline when cases are handled in a transparent manner, with : the university said they did not know effective punishment sentenced to the how SHCC functioned to prevent perpetrators," Roy added. The case of : sexual harassment on campus. Kalpona is evidence of this appalling flaw: in the system: Saidul Islam was in jail for two and a half years, but he recently got : Tanmoy said: "I witnessed an incident

among all women killed in 2012 : SHCC.

 FROM PAGE 1 "As a civil society, we can increase: Following the High Court ruling in 2009, the University Grants women and facilitate the support services: Commission directed all universities to form independent sexual harassis in the hands of the policymakers and : ment complaint committees (SHCC) law enforcers," said Rina Roy, director: to protect students from sexual harass-

However, talking to our Rajshahi "The prevalence of violence against : University correspondent, a number of : students from different disciplines of

Learning about the committee from the correspondent, a student named of sexual harassment just a week ago Starting on November 25, the where a male student was teasing a

"I will report the incident to the

Having been sexually harassed by a teacher about two years ago, a student of sociology department, who would End Violence against Women. The : not disclose her identity, had comtheme will be active throughout plained to her department chair,

She said her teacher had been trying

"When I refused his proposal, he Women's rights groups and organisa-: threatened to hamper my academic

The department asked the teacher to

awareness among teachers, officials

the hands of a partner or family mem- : SHCC at RU, said: "We have requested ber. Unfortunately, most crimes go the university syndicate to spread unpunished and perpetrators walk: words about the committee's activities free. The challenge is to break down: but we have not seen any progress yet."

A UN Women report found that : and students about the activities of around the world, nearly half died at : Mahbuba Kaniz Keya, president of

those walls and ensure a safe space for: The committee has provided a line to all the departments to make the several times. At one point I fell to the false assurance.

Ignorance too costly

teachers and students aware, she

added. Keya opined that though many incidents occurred only a few reached the committee because female students shied away from reporting these in a male dominated social context, fearing further harassment.

The RU authorities sacked three teachers and an instructor following an investigative report submitted by the committee after it was formed in June 2011.

However, Prof Rasheda Akhter, convener of Jahangir University's SHCC, said many complaints reached the university proctor who in turn referred them to the committee.

In the last four years, the committee received nine complaints four of which took place this year: three against students and one against a teacher, she said.

"Except for one of the cases which remained pending because the complainant went abroad, we have completed investigation into the rest and actions were taken accordingly," she said.

Akhter however differed with committee members of other universities on the issue of lack of awareness.

"At JU, students are given a booklet at the orientation which details the HC rule regarding sexually inappropriate behaviour and what they should do in the event of any harassment," she said.

Nowshin Nahar, psycho-social counsellor of Eastern University, said they had not yet provided students with booklets on sexual harassment though a number of workshops and posters are put up on the campus to create awareness among students.

"In most cases, female students are afraid to take their complaint to the committee fearing social rejection and rebukes from their own family," Nahar said.

A fourth-year political science student of RU, who too wished to remain unnamed, said the tendency to shun away from complaining was caused by family pressure.

She said she was approached by an ing pressure or posing threats in case of influential student leader about a refusal to love proposal;

month ago. 'When I refused, he slapped me tion by intimidation, deception or

Farmgate intersection are occupied by

accidents in the city since 2009. Of them, year alone, said Mosleh Uddin Ahmed,

He said many more had to embrace lifelong physical disability due to

my female friends rushed to the spot," she said, adding that he later threat-At least 500 women faced ened her over the phone with dire consequences if she disclosed the

ACID ATTACKS OF THEM

Udue to family disputes

due to enmity

O due to land disputes due to dowry-related

reasons

At least 🚄 🤍 women faced violence due to

implication) as physical contact and SALISH and FATWA physical relation having sexual implication by abuse of administrative,

c. Sexually coloured verbal repre-

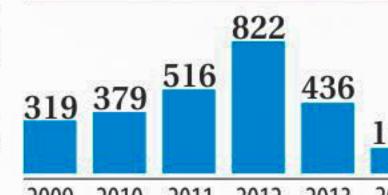
women were raped

women faced rape attempts At least

☐ √ % rape victims were under 13 years old

girls were victimised by their stalkers since 2010

VICTIMS OF DOWRY



2012 2013 2014

(till Aug

SOURCE: AIN O SALISH KENDRA; ODHIKAR

147 2009 2010 2011