



People still jaywalk on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue yesterday but only a few got caught by police, inset and top right, and taken before the mobile court set up to penalise the rules violators. The mobile courts yesterday fined 255 people for jaywalking and realised over Tk 13,000 from them.



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

People forced to use shabby pavements, footbridges

FROM PAGE 16
The pavements near the footbridge at Farmgate have been occupied by hawkers for years. Due to this occupation, many have to cross the road on foot, said locals.
Thomas Babul Mondal, a driver who uses the footbridges at Farmgate regularly, said police and the authorities concerned should first ensure facilities for pedestrians before going for such drives.
"When I cross a footbridge of Farmgate, I find most of the places

occupied by hawkers," he said, adding, "Police claim of conducting drives against hawkers but the fact is hawkers run their business bribing police."
Deputy Commissioner Imtiaz Ahmed of Traffic (West) said it was not true that police take bribes from hawkers to let them sit on pavements and footbridges. He, however, admitted that such allegations have been circulating for a while.
Shorafat Ahmed, who works at an office in Farmgate, said cars often park on the footpaths blocking pedestrians.

Aminul Islam, a trader of Karwan Bazar, was crossing the dusty underpass at Karwan Bazar holding a handkerchief over his mouth. "It is really a good initiative but the authorities should take proper step to repair the footbridges and conduct regular cleaning drives."
An official of Dhaka North City Corporation said they had already started restoration work on the footbridge near The Daily Star office and it would be done in a week and the footbridge near Ananda Cinema would be



Child killed in city fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-year-old girl lost her life in a fire that broke out at Balurghat slum in the capital's Hazaribagh area yesterday afternoon.

The dead, Maria, was the daughter of rickshaw-puller Omar Faruk. Three people, including the deceased's five-year-old brother Solaiman, suffered burns.

The fire might have originated from a kitchen stove around 3:00pm, said fire fighters.

Maria with her brother was sleeping in their shanty. Her father Faruk and mother Sharmin, who is a domestic help, were outside when the incident happened. Maria died on the spot. Hazaribagh police said.

After an hour of hectic effort, four fire fighting units doused the blaze in which 26 shanties got gutted, said fire service officials.

With 15 percent burns, Solaiman has been undergoing treatment at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Illegal structures on Buriganga knocked down

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka district administration and Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) yesterday carried out a joint drive to remove illegal structures along the bank of Buriganga river at Shashanghat area in Shyambazar.

The drive led by an executive magistrate was launched after the High Court on November 23 directed the government to remove all the illegal structures near the river at Shyambazar, Badamtali and Wiseghat areas within the next 72 hours.

The court order came in response to a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh.

"During the drive, we have removed

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Timely treatment can save lives

FROM PAGE 1
25 public health facilities treat patients who attempt suicide. The hospitals are Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital and Mitford Hospital.

The chances of getting these patients treated at any of the 747 private hospitals in the city are slim.
Swapan Kumar Tapadar, deputy director (hospital) of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), said hospitals are legally bound to treat every patient.

Director General of the DGHS Prof Deen Mohammad Noorul Huq said the apathy in treating the patients, who attempt suicide, results from the tendency to stay out of legal complexities. Police often handle the cases of suicide.

Huq was enraged by the news that the 500-bed Mugda General Hospital refused to treat Umme Kulsum Ritu who had been rushed there 15 minutes after she took pesticides on September 6.

It took over one and a half hours more to rush Ritu to the DMCH from Mugda hospital, said Jahirul Islam, the headmaster of the school where Ritu studied. She died at the DMCH the same day.

"Depending on the quantity swallowed, treatment in an hour of taking poison is likely to save the victim's life," said Dr Ahmed Faruque Ripon of Care Hospital.

A little over 2 percent of 8,00,000 to a million suicides committed globally a year happens in Bangladesh.

About 89 percent of the persons attempting suicides in 2010 were women,

according to a study of Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital.

Between 2001 and 2010, physical and sexual violence provoked almost 5,000 women to commit suicide, reveals a Jatiya Mahila Ainjibi Samity study.

"All it needs is only a tube and water with which poison is washed from stomach," said assistant Prof Kamrul Hasan, a forensic expert.

Jahirul said he saw Ritu turning blue on his lap by the time she was being taken from Mugda to the DMCH. "When we finally reached, it was too late."

Eminent psychiatrist Dr Mohit Kamal said the sudden shift in culture that turned ever competitive with technological advancements and rapid urbanisation has set people's life on the struggling course to keep up with time.

taken down.
On the second day of the drive, more people were using the footbridges and the underpass and the number of violators reduced.
Sarwoer Alam, executive magistrate of the DMP, said they sentenced Tania, 22, to one month imprisonment for biting a female police constable while the officer was bringing her to the mobile court for not using footbridges.
The two courts fined the jaywalkers between Tk 20 and Tk 200.
Md Abdul Kuddus, who leads the

other mobile court, said the trend of violating the rules was changing gradually.
He said they would conduct an extensive drive in the city later on.
Abu Naser Khan, chairman of Save the Environment Movement, said they appreciate the drive but the authorities concerned should first ensure all facilities for the pedestrians.
Without keeping footpaths free from illegal occupations, the drive against jaywalkers is not acceptable, he said.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Pakistan premier Nawaz Sharif talk during the 18th Saarc Summit at the Nepalese capital Kathmandu yesterday. PHOTO: PID

Protest spreads across US

FROM PAGE 16
"I think generally it was a much better night," Belmar told reporters.
Missouri Governor Jay Nixon said the National Guard force in the Ferguson area had been tripled to more than 2,000 troops to back up the beleaguered local police force.

Early in the night at the Ferguson police station riot police dispersed around 100 protesters chanting and waving placards, including one that read: "We will not be silenced."

Crowds were smaller than they had been on Monday. But masked agitators on the fringes of the demonstration clashed with police. Later, the violence worsened.

Meanwhile, thousands of marchers snaked along streets and freeways, disrupting traffic on bridges and in tunnels in New York City -- leading to a number of arrests.

A peaceful crowd took to the streets in Washington outside the White House.

Similar angry but largely peaceful

protests took place across the country, from Oakland and Seattle on the west coast to Atlanta, Philadelphia and Baltimore in the east.

In sprawling Los Angeles, dozens of protesters were arrested by riot police, the Los Angeles Times reported. In Portland and Denver police reportedly resorted to pepper spray.

CNN reported that gatherings large and small had been reported in 170 communities nationwide.

US President Barack Obama called for rioters to be prosecuted, but acknowledged the deep-rooted frustrations of minorities who feel they are unfairly treated by police.

"There are productive ways of responding and expressing those frustrations and there are destructive ways of responding," he said.

"Burning buildings, torching cars, destroying property, putting people at risk. That's destructive and there's no excuse for it. Those are criminal acts."

Lawyers for the family of slain

youth Michael Brown denounced the prosecutor whose grand jury hearing found that police officer Darren Wilson had killed the 18-year-old in self-defense.

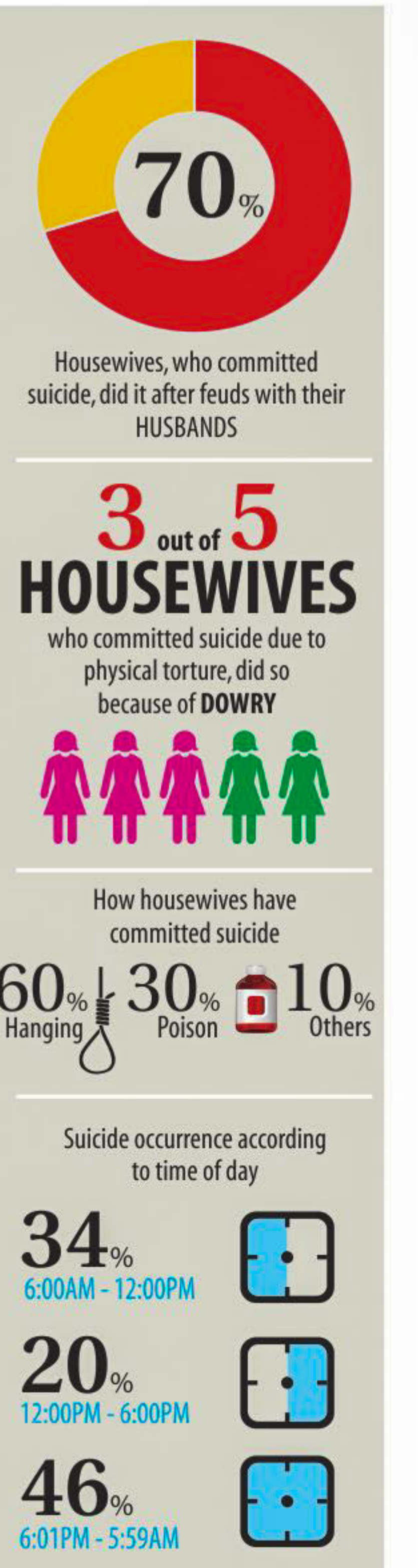
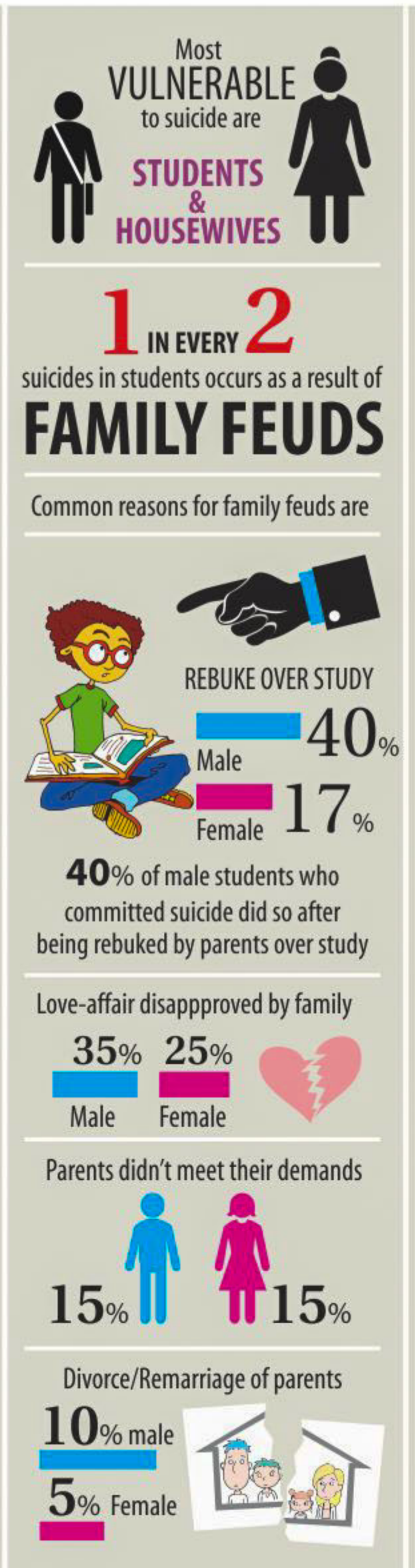
"This process is broken. This process should be indicted," Brown family lawyer Benjamin Crump told a news conference.

Crump criticized the way Wilson had not been cross-examined when he appeared before the grand jury, which decided not to indict him over the August 9 shooting.

But in his first televised comments since the incident, Wilson told ABC News he had feared for his life during the confrontation, believing Brown was attempting to wrestle his gun away from him.

"I can feel his hand trying to come over my hand and get inside the trigger guard and try to shoot me with my own gun," Wilson said.

Asked if he believed he would have acted the same way if Brown was white, Wilson responded: "No question."



Shakespeare's rare First Folio

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"The work has several pages missing, including the title page," librarian Remy Cordonnier told the press.

The loss of the first page and introductory material may have led to the book being catalogued as an unexceptional old edition, he added.

The Folio collects 36 of Shakespeare's 38 known plays for the first time, and was originally printed in 1623, seven years after the playwright's death.

Edited by his friends and fellow actors John Heminges and Henry Condell, it is credited with being the reason his literary legacy survived. It is the only source for 18 of his plays, including Macbeth.

It is thought that 800 copies were produced, of which 233 are believed to still exist.

New discoveries are made roughly once a decade, and they are scrutinised by scholars for minor variations (each copy is different) and what they might reveal about Shakespeare's intentions.

They rarely change hands but one of the last Folios to be sold at auction, in 2006, fetched £2.8m (£3.6m in 2014).

The copy discovered in Saint-Omer is one of two known to reside in France.

Cordonnier, who runs the library's rare books collection, said he had not initially realised the significance of his find.

The librarian contacted one of the

world's foremost authorities on Shakespeare, Professor Eric Rasmussen of the University of Nevada, who happened to be in London working at the British Library.

"He was very interested by the elements I had sent him by mail and said he would come over and take a look," said Cordonnier.

Prof Rasmussen took the Eurostar to France last Saturday and authenticated the Folio within five minutes.

"This is huge," he told the New York Times. "First folios don't turn up very often, and when they do, it's usually a really chewed up, uninteresting copy. But this one is magnificent."