

# POLICE CRACKDOWN ON JAYWALKERS



Left, Encouraged by Dhaka Metropolitan Police, pedestrians use a foot over-bridge instead of jaywalking on the street near the capital's Kakoli intersection yesterday. Top right, After violating traffic rules, many had to stand in queues and pay fines to a mobile court set up there. A member of police directs pedestrians towards the footbridge. Around 86 pedestrians were fined Tk 4,230 for jaywalking.



PHOTOS:  
FIROZ AHMED

## ACC arrests pro-AL leader, wife, suspended bank official in forgery case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), Barisal, arrested a Jubo League city unit leader, his wife and a suspended bank official yesterday in a forgery case.

Joint convener of the unit Sahin Shikder and his wife Naima Rahaman and Zakir Hossain Rari, suspended UCBL bank official, were arrested on Nabagram Road in Barisal city.

As per the case statement filed by Assistant Vice President Mizanur Rahaman of United Commercial Bank Ltd (UCBL), Barisal branch, on Dec 19, 2016, Shahin took a loan of around Tk 31.65 lakh using documents of fixed documents receipt (FDR), which belonged to someone else who was completely unaware of the incident.

The UCBL authorities formed a probe committee and suspended Zakir in December.

A Barisal court sent them to jail.

## Anti-militancy 'quick response team' formed in districts

Home boss tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday told the parliament that the government has constituted a "quick response team" in every district comprising members of all law enforcement agencies for combating militancy and terrorism swiftly.

"Raids are ongoing to arrest militants by forming a special task group in districts," he said while replying to lawmakers' queries.

Meanwhile, Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal said the country's poverty rate is declining at about 1.74 percent every year, thanks to the government's various "poor-friendly programmes".

In a scripted answer, he told the House that according to the government's seventh five-year plan (2015-16 to 2019-20), the poverty and extreme poverty rates will be 18.6 percent and 8.9 percent by 2020.

The minister said the country's extreme poverty rate will come down to three percent by 2030. He said the government has a plan to conduct the next census in 2021.

He admitted that addressing the urban poverty now poses a substantial challenge as urban slum dwellers are yet to be brought under the social safety net.

## Festivity amid security

MAHDI AL MUHTASIM

Shurovi and Sonia, master's students of economics at Eden College, were going through an archway to enter the book fair premises yesterday.

They were waiting in a long queue while police personnel checked their bags.

All the visitors had to go through tight security measures to enter the fair premises on the Bangla Academy grounds and a part of Suhrawardy Udyan.

"It's time consuming, but it's for our safety," said Shurovi.

As yesterday was Valentine's Day, the fair premises were swarmed by couples, holding bagful of books in one hand and each others' with the other.

They also expressed satisfaction over the security measures taken at the fair. As vehicles are not allowed to ply the road from TSC to Doyel Chattar, visitors, including children, were able to move freely.



"I had to wait for long but I understand the necessity of it," Sadat Bin Kashem, a private job holder, told this correspondent after being searched by police. Sadat was waiting for his wife, who was awaiting her turn at a queue for female visitors.

"Visitors are cooperating with us," said Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia. "No untoward incident has occurred yet."

Along with uniformed police personnel, plainclothes policemen are also monitoring the premises, he said.

Meanwhile, the DMP commissioner at a press briefing at the Suhrawardy Udyan also reinstated that actions will be taken against authors and publishers if found they are selling books that hurt religious sentiment.

"The overall security measures are satisfactory. But it's not the responsibility of police to monitor arts and literature," said Dipak Roy, chief executive of Samhati Prokashani.

On the 14th day, 146 new books arrived and 23 were unveiled. As new books are arriving daily and booklovers buying, publishers are happy with the profit they have made so far.

According to a Bangla Academy press release, it has sold books worth over Tk 50 lakh in the last 13 days.

## Comprehensive, sustainable flood warning system urgent

Experts tell roundtable about reduction of damage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A comprehensive and sustainable early warning system needs to be developed to reduce flood damage in the country, a roundtable told yesterday.

The rural population, who are the most affected in flood in the country, could keep their damage to a minimum with the help of modern technologies including telecommunications tools and community radio services, they said.

The Daily Star and Practical Action Bangladesh (PAB), a development organisation, jointly organised the roundtable titled "Flood Early Warning System: Challenges and Prospects" at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Government and non-government stakeholders need to work together

and encourage youths and schoolchildren to join voluntary programmes as well as the Scouts movement for delivering flood warnings in their neighbourhoods, speakers also said.

They urged the government to build more flood shelters across the country.

Referring to a survey report, PAB Project Manager Kazi Mizanur Rahman said between 2009 and 2014, in comparison with damages caused by any other form of natural disaster, the extent of flood damage was the highest in the country.

Hasin Jahan, country director of PAB, said, "To tackle disaster, we need to take the technology to people's doorstep."

Asinur Khatun, a flood victim from Sirajganj, explained how a flood warning text message she had received helped her minimise damage.

"The warning via short messages ahead of the flood last year helped my family take preparation and save crops," she said.

Moderating the roundtable, Saleemul Huq, director of International Centre for Climate Change and Development, said, "Farmers and women are the worst victims of flood. We need to find ways to reach out to them."

G Nayeem Wahra, director of Brac Disaster Management and Climate Change Programme, said a large quantity of relief materials could be saved if right information is provided at the right time.

Superintendent Engineer Saiful Hossain of Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre and Palash Mondal of Care Bangladesh, among others, spoke at the roundtable.



Participants at a roundtable on "Flood early warning system" at The Daily Star Centre.

PHOTO: STAR

## Man gets life term for killing stepson

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday sentenced a man to life-term imprisonment for killing his two-and-a-half-year-old stepson 25 years ago.

Chittagong Divisional Special Judge Mir Ruhul Amin gave the order.

The convict Nur Alam of Mognama in Chakaria of Cox's Bazar is still on the loose.

According to the prosecution, Alam married Nur Begum who had a son from her former marriage with one Siddique Ahmed.

On March 19 in 1992, following a family feud, Alam took his stepson Momin Uddin to a pond and killed him by throwing him in it.

## Ctg bar assoc gets executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pro-Awami League lawyers' panel Sammilito Ainjibi Samannay Parishad's candidates Ratan Kumar Roy and Md Abu Hanif were elected as president and general secretary respectively of Chittagong District Bar Association.

The pro-AL Parishad secured nine posts while pro-BNP-Jamaat panel, Ainjibi Oikya Parishad, bagged the rest nine.



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