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**The bridge not taken**

Even footbridge with escalators can't stop jaywalking in Banani

TAWFIQUE ALI

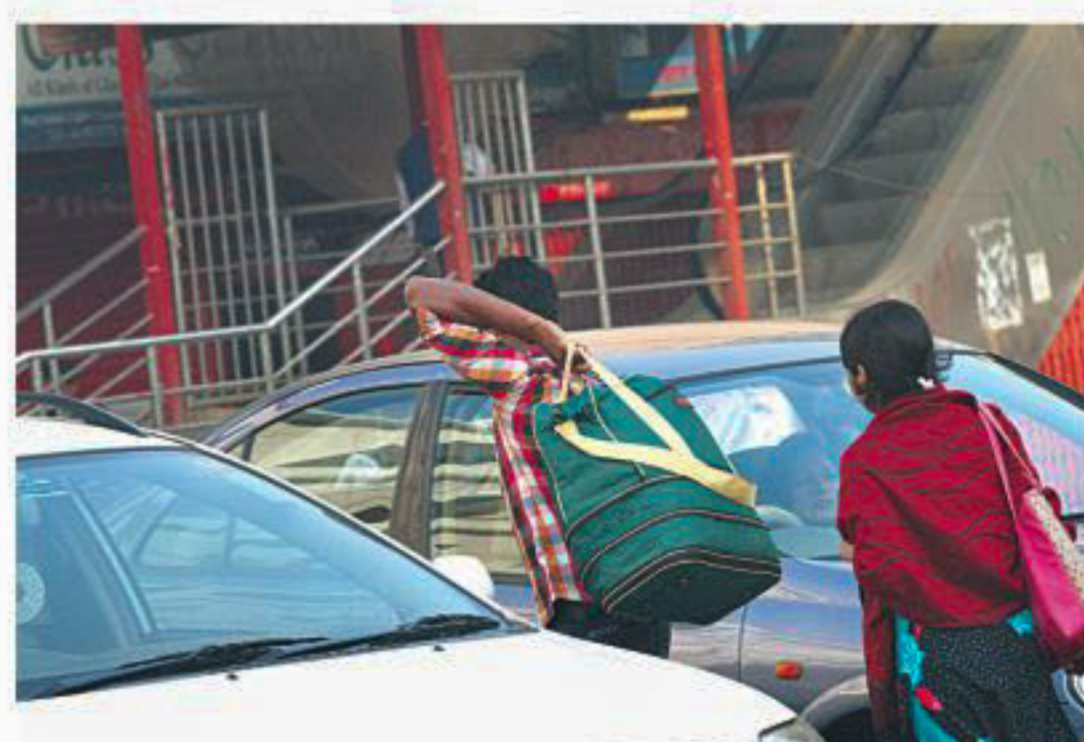
It was around 7:30am on a Wednesday.

The street towards the Banani intersection from Mohakhali near the capital's Sainik Club was bustling with speedy vehicles. Pedestrians, including office-goers, schoolkids and garment workers, were hurrying along the pavement.

However, many were crossing the street on foot, risking their lives. A footbridge with escalators was just yards away.

"We are in hurry. We have to join our work on time," Fatima Khanom,

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Pedestrians opt to dodge vehicles at speed and cross the Airport Road near Sainik Club in the capital yesterday. A footbridge with escalators is just yards away. It is the same situation at Kakoli intersection where there is another bridge. People even take children with them as they jaywalk.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

**'I demand quick justice for all killings'**

Says father of slain blogger Avijit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The killing of bloggers because of their views clearly shows how hostile the environment is for free thinking, Prof Ajoy Roy said yesterday.

"Some writers express their opinions and thoughts on the internet. If you don't like them, create another blog and write another piece. But the bloggers were murdered, rather than countered with logic," said the father of writer-blogger Avijit Roy who was murdered on February 26, 2015.

Addressing an event held on the occasion of the second death anniversary of Avijit, he said, "I demand quick justice for



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**TRAGIC DEATH OF JIHAD**  
**3 railway engineers among 4 jailed**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Four people, including three engineers of Bangladesh Railway, were sentenced to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment yesterday in a case filed over the 2014 death of a child after he fell into a deep abandoned shaft in the capital's Shahjahanpur.

The convicts are Abdus Salam alias Shafiqul Islam, proprietor of SR House, a contractor firm that was implementing a railway project in the area, and Jahangir Alam, senior sub-assistant engineer; and Zafar Ahmed and Nasir Uddin, assistant engineers of Bangladesh Railway.

The Special Court of Judge Md Akhtaruzzaman in Dhaka found them guilty of "gross-negligence and reluctance in discharging their duties" that had led to the pre-mature death of three-year-old Jihad.

"If the convicts were more conscious about their duties, they could have saved the life of the victim," said the judge as he pronounced the verdict in a packed courtroom.

Hearing the judgment, all the four broke down in tears in the dock.

The court also fined them Tk 2 lakh each, in default of which they will



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**PM opens first solar-powered silo in Santahar**

BSS, Unb

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday inaugurated a state-of-the-art multi-storey food warehouse with a capacity to store 25,000 tonnes of food grains in Santahar of Bogra's Adamdighi.

The Department of Food has constructed the air-conditioned warehouse at a cost of over Tk 232 crore with financial and technical support from Japan. It will preserve food grains with the use of solar power throughout the year.

Officials familiar with construction of the silo said the warehouse would keep food grains intact in

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**Hitler's phone is 'fake'**

MAIL ONLINE

A telephone which allegedly was used by Adolf Hitler - sold at auction last week for £195,000 (£243,000) - has been declared a 'definite fake' by an expert.

The bright-red swastika-engraved telephone, upon which the Fuehrer allegedly issued some of his most terrible orders sealing the fate of millions, is bogus, according to Frank Gnegel, head of collections at the Frankfurt Museum of Communications.

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**Boy killed in violence over UP election**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A 17-year old boy was shot dead and at least fifty others injured during a clash between two factions of Awami League centering the upcoming upazila election on March 6 at Osmaninagar upazila in Sylhet yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Saiful Islam, son of Saraf Uddin in North Kalinagar at Jagannathpur Upazila in Sunamganj.

According to police and witnesses, the incident occurred over the election campaign activities of Awami League's rebel candidate Jaglul Chowdhury.

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Students of Dhaka National Medical College block the Raishaheb Bazar intersection in the capital yesterday over the death of a fellow, Sadia Hasan, on the road on Saturday. She died when a bus rammed a CNG-run auto-rickshaw she and her mother were in on North-South Road in Bangshal. Story on page 4.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

**Trump to skip White House press dinner**

AFP, Washington

Donald Trump has ratcheted up his feud with the US media by announcing he will skip the annual White House correspondents' dinner, the first US president to do so in 36 years.

By boycotting the event Trump breaks a tradition that began in 1921 in which journalists invite the US president for a light-hearted roast.

"I will not be attending the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner this year. Please wish everyone well and have a great

evening!" Trump wrote Saturday on Twitter.

The last time a president missed the event was in 1981, when Ronald Reagan was recovering after being shot in an assassination attempt. Reagan however phoned in with friendly remarks.

Richard Nixon, who despised the media, skipped the event in 1972.

Trump frequently blasted the mainstream US press during the election campaign, and as president has intensified his media-bashing.

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