



Motorcycles on footpaths is nothing new; a pick-up truck, however, is a whole new level of disregard for traffic rules and pedestrians. The driver of this vehicle did not only steer it over the footpath, but also thought it was completely okay to park it there. This photo was taken yesterday from Tongi Diversion Road at the capital's Moghbazar.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Dengue claims 2 more lives

UNB, Dhaka

Two more dengue patients died and 232 new patients were hospitalised in the country in 24 hours till yesterday morning, said the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). With the latest figure, the number of deaths from the mosquito-borne disease rose to 59 this year. Among the new patients, 187 were undergoing hospital treatment in Dhaka while the remaining 45 cases were reported from outside the division. Some 1,197 patients diagnosed with dengue fever are receiving treatment in the country as of yesterday morning. Of them, 990 patients are receiving treatment at different hospitals in the capital. Among the deceased, 54 died in Dhaka alone, two each in Chattogram and Khulna divisions and one in Rajshahi. Some 15,460 patients have been admitted to different hospitals with dengue since January. So far, 14,204 dengue patients have left hospitals after recovery, said the DGHS.

LESS TALK, MORE ACTION

Speakers on tackling dengue menace

RECOMMENDATIONS



- Strengthen local government
- Plan, coordinate properly
- Keep climate change in mind
- Create mass awareness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The local government infrastructure must be strengthened to effectively fight against dengue, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

They said instead of just focusing on chalking out projects, city corporations and other local government entities should make dengue prevention activities an integral part of their operations.

Presided over by Advocate Sultana Kamal, president of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa), experts as well as environmental and health rights activists participated in the virtual discussion titled "Environment and Dengue: Health Perspective".

Dr Abu Muhammad Zakir Hussain, convener of Bapa's Environment and Health Technical Committee, gave the keynote presentation, describing the relation between climate change and dengue.

He said climate change is related directly or indirectly with disabilities; drowning; air, water, food-borne and vector-borne diseases; and psychological stress. The dengue outbreak is just one of these problems.

He said dengue prevention activities have been failing due to the weak capacity of city corporations, which needs to be addressed with priority.

Sultana Kamal said amid the climate crisis, if the people

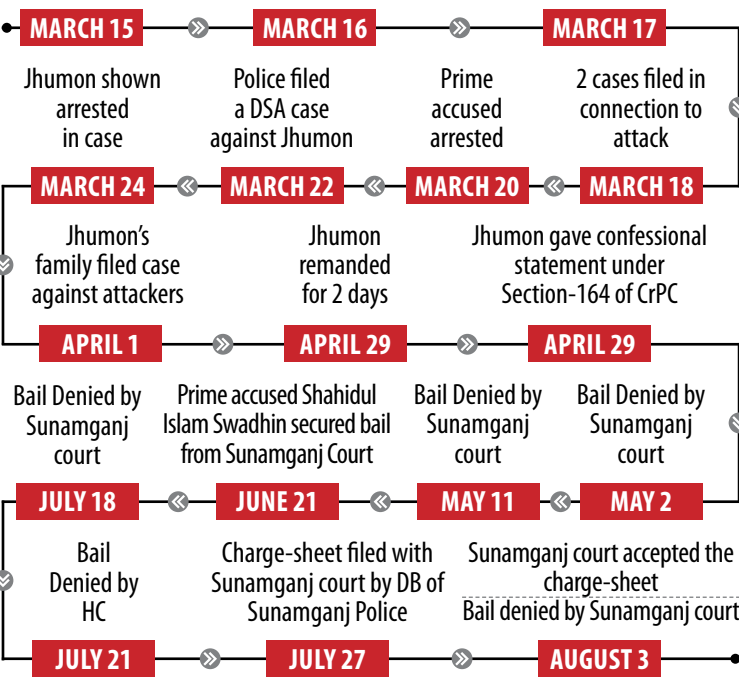
SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

'Is expressing opinion a worse crime than destroying homes?'

JHUMON IN JAIL



Mamunul Haque spoke at a Hefajat rally in Derai upazila in Sunamganj. Jhumon posted on Facebook criticising Mamunul's speech. Detained by locals, handed over to police to pacify Hefajat supporters. Sent to Sunamganj jail under CrPC section-54. Hefajat supporters attacked Jhumon's village.



DWOHA CHOWDHURY, back from Noogaon, Shalla

One-year-old Ishan Das Shoumya was all smiles as he played on the bed, but his mother Sweetie Rani Das could not fight back the tears as she spoke about the nightmare that was the last six months.

"In the six months that my husband was imprisoned, we were able to meet him only once. What was his crime that he has been in jail for so long without a trial and without being granted bail?" she asked.

Her husband, 25-year-old Jhumon Das of Noogaon village in Sunamganj's Shalla upazila, has been in jail since March 17 after he was arrested on March 16 and later indicted in a police case filed on March 22 under the Digital Security Act (DSA) over criticising Hefajat leader Mamunul Haque.

Since his arrest, Sunamganj Court denied his bail plea for four times while the High Court denied his bail once.

"He was the only earning member of the family and now we are living off of people's loans and donations. We are broke and not sure we can ever repay the debt," said Sweetie. "Even if he gets bail, we have no resource to continue legal proceedings in the court for long," she added.

On March 15, Hefajat-e-Islam organised a public rally at Shalla's adjacent Derai Upazila where its then joint-secretary Mamunul Haque spoke.

On March 16, Jhumon posted a status in his Facebook wall criticising Mamunul, which agitated locals of Derai and Shalla upazilas.

In the evening, several hundred Hefajat supporters gathered in Noogaon's nearby Dharain bazar, demanded Jhumon's arrest and threatened to attack the village, whose residents belong to the Hindu community.

Recalling the event of that fateful evening, Sweetie said, "My husband was not at home when we heard that several hundred people had gathered near the village and were demanding my husband's arrest. They threatened to attack the village too."

"Hearing their demand, the upazila chairman, union chairman and others decided to detain my husband and hand him over to police. At midnight, I came to know that my husband had been detained," she added.

The police showed Jhumon arrested under section 54 of Criminal Procedure Code and produced him before a

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Authorities are planning on declaring the hill -- which houses several courts and buildings for lawyers, among other offices -- as a heritage site. Chattogram District Bar Association, however, wants to build two 12-storey buildings at the area.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Ctg admin, lawyers face off over 'Parir Pahar'

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

There is a face-off between the Chattogram district administration and lawyers of Chattogram court building over the constructions of two establishments at Parir Pahar (Fairy Hills), popularly known as Court building hill, in the port city.

It all began when the Chattogram District Bar Association (CDBA) issued a tender to construct two 12-storied buildings named "Bangabandhu Aijnibi Bhaban" and "Ekushey Aijnibi Bhaban" on the hill.

The district administration declared that the two new buildings are "Illegal and risky", while the leaders of CDBA claimed that they are constructing the buildings

following "proper rules".

Parir Pahar is known as the court building or DC office to city dwellers, housing the district administration office, divisional commissioner office, 71 metro and district courts, and several buildings for lawyers.

The district administration published a notice in local newspapers in the first week of September stating that the risky structures would be unwanted additions to the historical area.

"From the British period, Parir Pahar has been the heart of Chattogram's administration and judicial activities, and also a historical and archaeologically valuable area," read the notice.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

'They used to swindle Tk 10-15 lakh every day'

DB arrests 3 members of fraud gang in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives claimed to have arrested three members of a fraud gang that swindled crores by running an overseas job scam and other methods.

"This gang used to swindle around Tk 10-15 lakh every day by duping people," said AKM Hafiz Akhter, additional commissioner (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

They have been active for the past six months and cheated crores of money, he told a press briefing at DMP media centre in Dhaka yesterday.

A team of detectives of Lalbagh Division arrested the three during a raid in Dhaka's Kalyanpur area on Friday following a complaint from one Hossain Ali Tonmoy.

Tonmoy reportedly was duped for a job in Canada and lost Tk 8 lakh to the gang. The arrestees are Kabir Hossain, Shamsul Kabir, and Yeasin Ali.

Detectives claimed to have recovered 257 cheque books of different banks and 234 debit cards during the drive. The arrestees told the detectives that they are paid employees of the gang run by a "boss" who is still out.

The DB official said the gang used to look for clients laying "honey traps" on social media. They contacted their targets and befriended them on social networking sites first, gaining trust gradually.

They used various tactics from time to time, including lottery wins, gifts from abroad, overseas jobs, etc. They established trust by chatting with their targets over a few months.

After convincing their target, they collect the money

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Dhaka 54th in EIU Safe Cities Index

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka has ranked 54th, out of 60, with 48.9 points in the "Safe Cities Index 2021", conducted by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

About the capital city, the EIU index observed: "The city has a smart city plan or plans to invest in the next five years."

The index ranks 60 cities across 76 indicators covering digital, health, infrastructure, personal and environmental security.

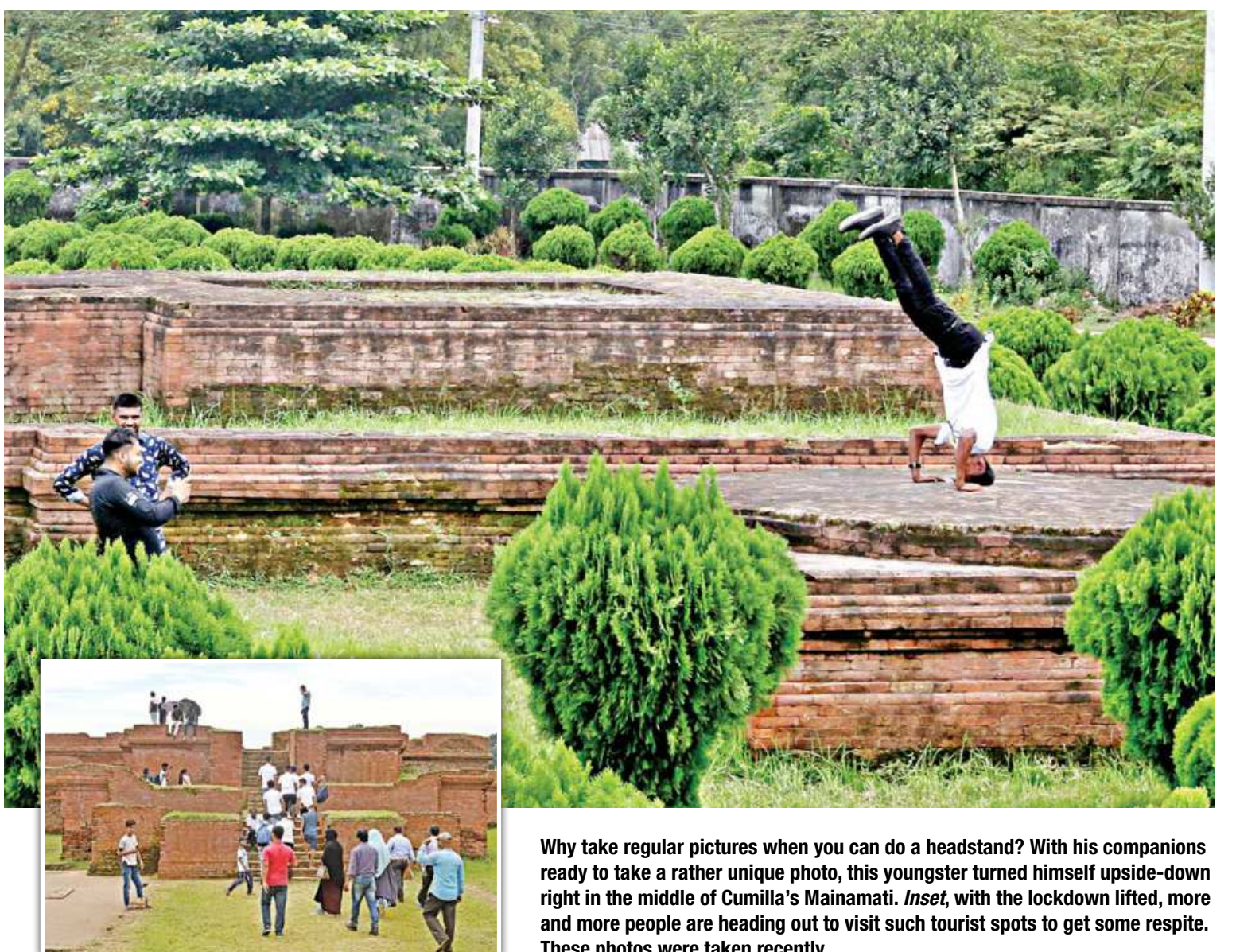
Denmark's capital Copenhagen was named the world's safest city for the first time with 82.4 points out of 100 and Canada's Toronto followed close behind with 82.2 points in the second place.

Singapore, Sydney (Australia) and Tokyo (Japan) ranked third, fourth and fifth in the EIU index.

Indian capital, New Delhi, placed 48th with 56.1 points while Mumbai in 50th with 54.4 points.

Lowest ranking cities are: Lagos, Nigeria in 56th place; Cairo, Egypt in 57th;

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Why take regular pictures when you can do a handstand? With his companions ready to take a rather unique photo, this youngster turned himself upside-down right in the middle of Cumilla's Mainamati. Inset, with the lockdown lifted, more and more people are heading out to visit such tourist spots to get some respite. These photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN