

AMAR EKUSHEY BOI MELA

Something for everyone

DIPAN NANDY

The fourth day of the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela was infused with great smell and music. Added on top of that was the sound of flipping the pages of the new books that came to the fair, bringing their own music.

The Suhrawardy Udyan venue of the book fair saw the gathering of creative publishers, who decorated their stalls and pavilions according to their ideas and tastes. Readers came from all over the country, not just the capital.

Munsi Rouf Miah came to the fair with his children from Tangail. "I came to visit my aunt who is ill. We are supposed to leave Dhaka on Sunday. Before that, I brought the children to the book fair to get them books of their preferences."

Banker Sushmita Raihan, on the other hand, went solo to yesterday's fair. "Books are my best friends, so I thought to pay them a visit," she said with a smile.

Although the sales are yet to take off, the fourth day of the fair showed some promise with the arrival of readers. Amjad Hossain Kajal, manager of Oitihya Prakashan, said the number of visitors is gradually increasing. "The sales are not great yet, but they are not bad either," he said.

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Laughter of children greeted the premises of Suhrawardy Udyan on the fourth day of Ekushey Boi Mela yesterday. In the company of their favourite characters -- Tuktuki, Halum, Ikri and Shiku from Sisimpur -- they explored multiple educational topics and had a jolly time making new friends.

PHOTO: STAR

More minority representation needed in JS

Says Hindu Mohajote

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Since there is no significant representation in the parliament, the true picture of persecution of the Hindu community is never shown. Often, the cases of assaults on the community are forgotten without any trial.

Speakers said this during the National Hindu Conference organised by Bangladesh Jatiya Hindu Mohajote at Mahanagar Natya Mancha auditorium in the capital's Gulistan yesterday.

They also demanded reserved seats for the Hindu community and separate elections be arranged for that in Jatiya Sangsad.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haq Inu demanded that all cases related to the recent attacks on the Hindu community be settled.

Dilip Ghosh, lawmaker and national vice-president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in India, said, "Although

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585 killed in 593 road crashes in January

Says Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 585 people were killed and 899 injured in 593 road accidents across the country last month, according to Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity.

During this time, 214 road crashes involving motorcycles (36.09 percent of total crashes) claimed 205 lives (35.04 percent of the total death toll) last month.

The Samity, which compiled the data following media reports, revealed it through a press release yesterday.

The development came within a month after the transport authorities and leaders came down heavily on relevant organisations, including the Samity, for publishing "fabricated" reports on road crashes.

Speaking at a workshop

**The road crashes and injuries have increased in January this year by 5.3 percent and 10.04 percent respectively, compared to January last year.**

previous years, taking the number of vehicles into account.

They also said organisations are publishing "fabricated" reports on road crashes, creating confusion among the people and tarnishing the country's image abroad.

However, representatives of two road safety organisations, who were present at the workshop, said the numbers were based on media reports and prepared with due diligence.

The Samity said the road crashes and injuries have increased in January this year by 5.3 percent and 10.04 percent respectively, compared to January last year.

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They snatch 300 phones a day

Says DB after arresting 16 of a theft gang in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around a hundred roam the city streets in search of their target -- mobile phones. On average, they mug unsuspecting people and steal around 300 phones in Dhaka and adjoining areas every day.

The "mohajans (gang leaders)" set a target for each of their members to snatch at least three phones per day.

Mohammad Harun Or Rashid, chief of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Detective Branch, disclosed this yesterday after law enforcers arrested 16 muggers including two gang leaders from different areas.

"So every day, 300 mobile phones, on average, are being mugged in the city," he said.

The muggers snatch the phones whenever anyone talks or browses the internet while sitting on the window seat of a bus or car.

The gang leaders then buy the phones from them at a low price.

The inexpensive phones are sold directly, while the expensive ones are dismantled and sold as parts. In some cases, the gang leaders change the International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) numbers of the phones and sell them, he said.

The DB officials requested the city dwellers to

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Man dies in bike accident on Hanif flyover

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man died after a vehicle hit his motorcycle and ran him over on the Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover in Dhaka's Jatrabari area yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Rakib Hasan, 31.

"Rakib died on the spot after an unknown vehicle ran him over around 2:00pm. We are trying to locate the vehicle," said Nur Mohammad, sub-inspector of Jatrabari Police Station.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy, he added.

The deceased's uncle Nur Uddin said Rakib lived with his mother in Dhalpur area and offered rideshare services on his motorcycle.

"We came to know that he died in an accident on the flyover," he said.



In an apparent bid to counter the BNP rallies at the divisional headquarters across the country, Jubo League, the youth front of the ruling Awami League, held a rally at Farmgate in Dhaka yesterday. Meanwhile, the AL also held rallies in Dhaka, Mymensingh, Chattogram, Sylhet, Khulna, and Rangpur.

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