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Three cheers for women

Their role in economy doubles in 7 years, reveals BBS census; other social indicators show mixed trend

GAZI TOWHID AHMED

Women's participation in the economic activities nearly doubled to 9.8 percent of the female population over the last seven years, according to 5th Population and Housing Census 2011.

However, the overall economic activities declined 0.7 percentage point to 37.8 percent of the population, compared to the 2004 census.

Bangladesh's other socio and demographic indicators showed a mixed trend, according to the latest census report released yesterday in Dhaka.

The government is working to empower women and their literacy rate rose to 44.7 percent from 32.98 percent in the previous census, said Ashim Kumar Dey, project director of the census scheme.

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People from all walks of life join this candle light vigil organised in front of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday to protest gender discrimination and assaults on women.

PHOTO: STAR

Stop women repression

Protesters join human chain in Dhaka over Delhi gang rape

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of women and men held a human chain and candle light vigil yesterday in front of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban in the capital to protest violence against women in South Asia.

They demonstrated in the wake of the gangrape of a 23-year-old medical student in Delhi. She died of her injuries on Saturday.

The protesters expressed solidarity with survivors of violence against women in Bangladesh and demanded exemplary

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

Oil spill in Karnaphuli

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least 500 litres of oil spilled into Karnaphuli river after an oil tanker collided with a jetty near the estuary yesterday.

Due to thick fog in the morning, the master of the tanker MT Nasihat took the wrong way when sailing up the river, according to Chittagong port's radio control room.

The tanker hit the jetty of Chittagong Boat Club

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4

Skype hacking designed to foil war trial

Attorney gen tells tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam yesterday said the Skype conversation between former chairman of the International Crimes Tribunal-1 and an expatriate legal expert was recorded with a malicious intention to delay and foil trial of the war crimes accused.

In his argument against a retrial petition, the attorney general also rebutted the defence claim that the ex-chairman of tribunal-1, Justice Md Nizamul Huq, had copied formal charges against war crimes accused Ghulam Azam from legal expert Ahmed Ziauddin.

Tribunal Chairman ATM Fazle Kabir also refuted a similar claim in the case against Delwar Hossain Sayedee, saying the formal charge was prepared by him and another former member of the tribunal-1.

After the hacked Skype conversation between Justice

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

Bishwajit Killing Emdadul admits his role

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Yet another accused in the sensational Bishwajit murder case has admitted to directly taking part in the killing of the innocent tailor and being involved in Chhatra League politics. Accused Emdadul

Haque, a master's final-year student at Jagannath University (JnU), made the admission before a Dhaka court yesterday.

Earlier on December

23, three other accused --

Rafiqul Islam Shakil,

Mahfuzur Rahman Nahid

and Rasheduzzaman

Shaon -- confessed to

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

Indian gang-rape victim cremated

Sonia, Manmohan attend ritual; UN chief condoles death

AFP, New Delhi

The victim of a gang-rape and murder which triggered an outpouring of grief and revulsion across India was cremated at a private ceremony yesterday.

The 23-year-old, the focus of nationwide protests since she was attacked on a bus in New Delhi two weeks ago, was cremated at a ceremony kept secret by

authorities only hours after her body was repatriated from Singapore.

The funeral pyre was lit after traumatised relatives and friends said their final prayers at a ceremony in southwestern Delhi, according to mourners.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Sonia Gandhi, the leader of the main ruling Congress party, were at Delhi airport

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PRAYER TIMING December 31		
Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-27	5-30
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



Police prevent activists of the Left from laying siege to the energy ministry yesterday. The programme was called to protest government move to hike power price. Story on page 2.

PHOTO: STAR



62nd Branch Opening at Keraniganj, Dhaka

Grand Opening

বুড়িগঙ্গার তীরে শিল্প ও বাণিজ্যে সমৃদ্ধ **কেরানীগঞ্জের আগানগর**-এ বেসিক ব্যাংক-এর **৬২**তম শাখার **শুরু** উদ্বোধন করা হয়েছে।

বেসিক ব্যাংকের কেরানীগঞ্জ শাখার **শুভ উদ্বোধন করেন** ব্যাংকের পরিচালনা পর্ষদের চেয়ারম্যান জনাব **শেখ আব্দুল হাই বাচ্চু**।

ব্যাংকের ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক জনাব **কাজী ফখরুল ইসলামের** সভাপতিত্বে ও মহাব্যবস্থাপক জনাব মোঃ রুহুল আলমের পরিচালনায় অনুষ্ঠিত এই উদ্বোধনী অনুষ্ঠানে উপস্থিত ছিলেন ব্যাংকের উপ-ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক জনাব ফজলুস সোবহান, জনাব এ কিউ এম কিবরিয়া ও জনাব এ মোনায়েম খান। এছাড়া অনুষ্ঠানে উপস্থিত থেকে বক্তব্য রাখেন ফাইজ টার ওয়াশিং ডায়িং-এর চেয়ারম্যান জনাব মোঃ খলিলুর রহমান, কেরানীগঞ্জ গার্মেন্টস সমিতির সাধারণ সম্পাদক জনাব মিলন হোসেন। আরও উপস্থিত ছিলেন ব্যাংকের মহাব্যবস্থাপকবৃন্দ, গণ্যমান্য ব্যক্তিবর্গ, স্থানীয় উদ্যোক্তা এবং ব্যবসায়ী ও শুভাভিলাষীগণ।



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