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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE
Life
style



BEGUM ROKEYA DAY

God gives, man robs, writes Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain

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CASE DISMISSED

South African court relieves Shrien Dewani of murdering his wife Anni Dewani while on honeymoon

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Hike prices of garments

Manufacturers urge retailers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Garment makers and trade union leaders yesterday called upon international retailers to raise prices of the apparel items they buy from Bangladesh.

The apparel manufacturers also suggested the retailers follow ethical buying practices, which they said will ultimately benefit workers.

Amid rising pressure from global brands to reduce prices of their products, the suppliers are often forced to compromise safety issues and wages of their workers, they said.

Costs of production rise every year, but the prices of garment items do not, the

OVERALL RETAIL PRICE CUTS IN LAST 10 YEARS
In US **18%**
In EU **25%**

apparel makers said.

They spoke at a session -- reinventing the apparel model: the race to responsible buying and productivity enhancement -- at the Dhaka Apparel Summit being held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital.

"Ethical sourcing and ethical purchase should be in place," said Anwar-Ul-Alam Chowdhury Parvez, a former president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and

Exporters Association (BGMEA).

Buyers offer lower prices every time the sector faces an industrial disaster, he said.

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BISWAJIT KILLING CONVICTS

Some murderers enjoy free life

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Two years after the horrific killing of Biswajit Das, as many as 13 of the 21 convicted killers are still on the run, some even roaming freely in the capital.

Of the fugitives, two were sentenced to death and 11 given life term for hacking Biswajit to death in broad daylight and in the presence of newsmen.

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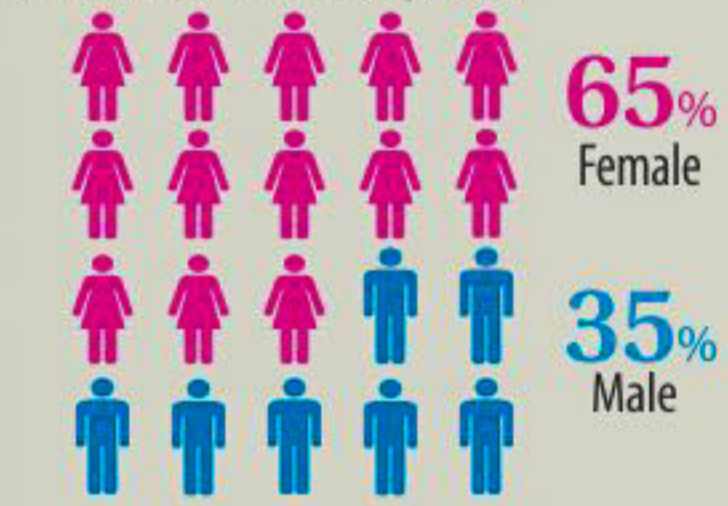


SUICIDE FACTFILE, BANGLADESH

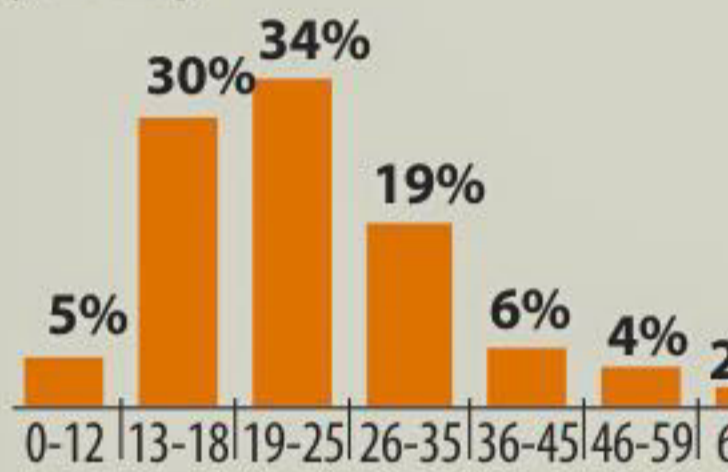
In Bangladesh, an estimated **10,000** people die from suicide a year (WHO)



Women commit suicide almost **TWICE** as much as men in Bangladesh



64% of suicide victims are between 13-25 years of age



MOST VULNERABLE to suicides are **STUDENTS & HOUSEWIVES**

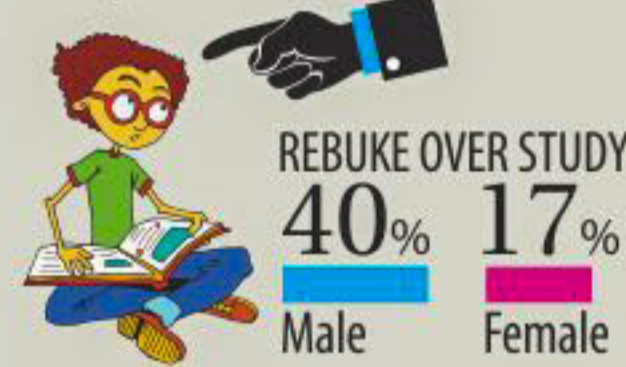
1 IN EVERY 2 suicides in **STUDENTS** occurs as a result of **FAMILY ROWS**



70% **HOUSEWIVES** who committed **SUICIDE**, did it after rows with their **HUSBANDS**

Common reasons for **FAMILY ROWS** leading to suicide in **STUDENTS** are

40% of male **STUDENTS** who have committed suicide have done so after being rebuked over study by their parents



Love-affair disapproved by family

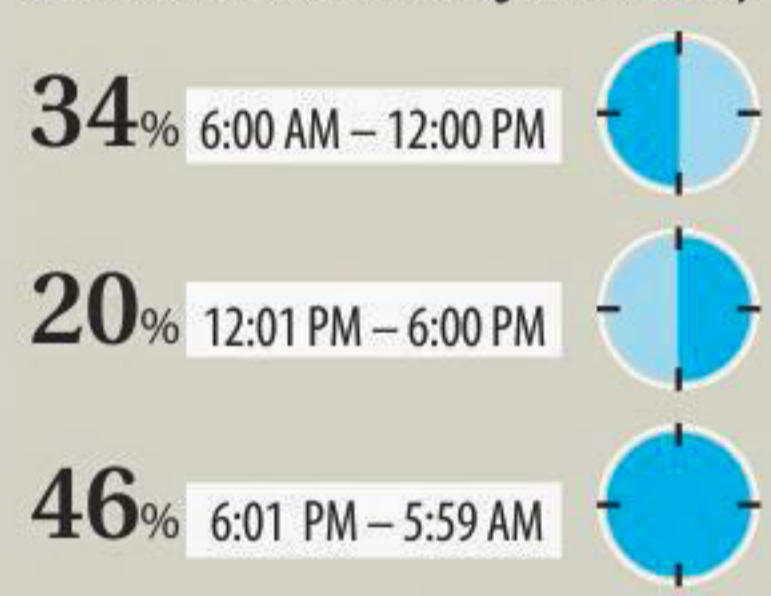
Male **35%**
Female **25%**



How housewives have committed suicide



Suicide occurrence according to time of day



SOURCE: ANALYSES BASED ON THE DAILY STAR REPORTS, 2010-2014. RESEARCH BY FAARIA TASIN

HELPLINE

they need to fight stress, depression

TAMANNA KHAN and FAARIA TASIN

When Arif Hossain was in university, one of his roommates, Hasan Mahamud, had once asked if he knew about any poison that would ensure a quick death. Arif jokingly named one knowing nothing about the prolonged spell of depression that Hasan was in.

However, observing Hasan's lifestyle and conduct closely, Arif noticed quite a few changes that made him shudder and realise the gravity of his friend's situation. Despite Hasan's resistance to open up,

Arif got him to share his suicidal thoughts.

As those talking sessions went on for a while, Hasan seemed to have got over his suicidal obsessions. Three years on, Hasan is now a promising young banker.

"I believe those talks helped him a lot to change his decision," said Arif.

Not every young man, however, is as lucky to have an empathetic listener like Arif. In fact, the lack of timely help, professional or other wise, is what accounts for the burgeoning rate of suicide among the country's youths.

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DCC polls early next year

PM rejects proposal to prolong adhocism

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The long overdue elections to the bifurcated Dhaka city corporations (DCC) would take place early next year, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said yesterday.

She made the announcement at the weekly cabinet meeting at Bangladesh Secretariat after sending back a proposal that sought extension of the tenure of the DCC administrators to one year from six months.

The premier however did not spec-

ify exactly when the elections would take place.

According to Election Commission officials, the EC needs around 35 to 45 days to announce election schedule after completing necessary preparations for holding the DCC polls.

Cabinet sources say when the local government and rural development (LGRD) ministry tabled the proposal to extend the DCC administrators' tenure, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader opposed to

it saying the move would send a negative message to people about the party and the government.

The minister recommended that the government hold the elections as early as possible since the DCC polls were long due and it would not be right to run the city corporations by administrators.

A number of cabinet colleagues also supported Quader, the sources add.

However, a few ministers expressed

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Chaos ploy working

Pro-BNP lawyers force court to adjourn hearing of graft cases against Khaleda

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday was once again forced to adjourn the hearing in two graft cases against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and eight others due to chaos caused by defence lawyers.

The trial of Zia orphanage and Zia charitable trusts corruption cases is underway at the Special Judge Court-3. The same court was forced to adjourn on December 1 amid pandemonium.

Judge Basudev Roy yesterday recorded the statement of the complainant for half an hour and adjourned till December 17 the hearing on the two cases. It asked the former premier and four

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Watch what you say

PM advises Ashraf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraf Islam should have been more cautious while making comments on US Assistant Secretary of State Nisha Desai Biswal.

"It was not right to speak about a sensitive matter in that manner. More restraint and caution should have been shown while making statements about a female diplomat [Biswal]," a minister told The Daily Star, quoting the PM as saying.

Hasina made the remarks at a weekly cabinet meeting where a couple of ministers drew her attention, saying Ashraf's comments might have a negative impact on

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Winter sets in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

City dwellers have begun feeling the sweet chill in the air often seen shrouded with fog in early mornings and late at nights ahead of the beginning of the winter season.

According to the Bangla calendar, two-month-long winter begins with the arrival of Paush and continues until the end of Magh, and so it is likely to bring in a mild weather in mid-December, which would become coldest in January.

However, a significant drop in temperature has already been noticed across the country. People in the northern districts have experienced as low as 10 degree Celsius.

In the capital, the average temperature is still above 20 degree Celsius. The met office recorded 23.9 degree Celsius in Dhaka yesterday. The lowest temperature was recorded in Rajshahi

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COLD BITES

Curled inside his basket he covered himself with his flimsy lungi to sleep on the median of Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue near Karwan Bazar in the wee hours of yesterday as vehicles roll by on the street. The sudden drop in the mercury have put many in trouble, like this labourer in the photo.



Dream still unfulfilled

Say top women personalities ahead of Begum Rokeya day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the status and condition of women has improved from the times Begum Rokeya Sakhawat lived in, most of the perturbing issues then still remain in place in the country.

The Women's movement leaders and academicians in

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN