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Malnutrition easing up

Study reveals decline in number of women suffering from severe malnutrition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Only two in every hundred women in Bangladesh suffered from severe malnutrition in 2013, down from four a year ago, reveals a survey.

The improvement in nutrition situation is largely due to a change in women's dietary habits, says the study titled "State of Food Security and Nutrition in Bangladesh: 2013" released by Food Security Nutritional Surveillance Project (FSNSP). "The situation improved as they ate more protein foods," said Zeba Mahmud, director of James P Grant School of Public Health at Brac University which jointly conducted the European Union-funded project with Helen Keller International (HKI) and Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

The food habit of women has been changing over the years, Zeba said. "I hope the growth trend will remain stable in future."

The number of stunting cases among children below five years of age also came down to 35 percent from 45 percent

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SURVEY FINDINGS

Cases of severe malnutrition among women halved

24pc women earn

96pc households with sanitation facilities

Stunting among children down to 35pc



Couples sit by a lake in Suhrawardy Udyan. Just a day after the first day of spring, a large number of couples went out to celebrate Valentine's Day yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

'Bomber' killed in 'encounter' with police

6 vehicles torched in country

STAR REPORT

A man was killed and four others received bullet wounds in a police "encounter" with alleged blockaders in Sitakunda of Chittagong last night.

The deceased was identified as Arif, 22, while the injured were Rubel, Sohel, Nurul Huda and Parvez, said Nayek Mohammad Hamid of Chittagong Medical College Hospital police outpost.

He said Arif was declared dead on arrival at CMCH around 11:30pm.

Saiful Islam, assistant superintendent of police of Chittagong, claimed that a group of criminals hurled a crude bomb at a police petrol team in Nonachhara area around 9:30pm.

The group then opened fire on the team, forcing the police to retaliate, the ASP claimed. The team later found five people with bullet wounds, two petrol, 10 crude bombs and three bullets at the spot, he said.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2

facebook.

FB account even after death

Facebook to let users choose 'digital heirs'

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Facebook will let its users decide what to do with its account when they die.

The new feature — a marked break in how the site deals with the accounts of those who have passed away — will allow users to appoint a "Facebook heir" who will look

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Tragedy for a bus helper

Lone breadwinner of family burnt in arson attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bappi, a victim of Thursday's bus arson in the capital, was groaning in severe pain. He suffered 70 percent burns with serious injuries to the respiratory tract. He nonetheless sounded more worried about the future of his family.

"My family will be in deep trouble if anything bad happens to me. Why did they do this to me?" he said, lying on a bed at the ICU (intensive care unit) of Dhaka Medical College Hospital's burn unit yesterday.

The 25-year-old bus helper is the breadwinner in his five-member family. Coming from Netrakona,



he now lives in Mirpur.

Bappi was injured when pro-blockade pickets hurled a firebomb at a bus in Banasree area.

"I was standing at the bus door. The firebomb came through the door and burnt me alone," he said.

His mother Halima Khatun was crying. She was sick with worry about her son's health. But the thought of the family's dependency on his income kept gnawing at her too.

"My son is my only hope. We will have to starve if his income stops," said the mother, with tear trickling down her cheeks.

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NEWS ANALYSIS

QUICK POWER DEALS

Questionable indemnity

SHAKHAWAT LITON and SHARIER KHAN

Parliament has crossed the limits of its legislative power by extending the duration of an act which prevents the courts from looking into power generation deals awarded without bidding.

The "Power and Energy Fast Supply Enhancement (Special Provision) Act also undermines several Supreme Court verdicts that upheld anyone's constitutional right to question the fairness of any government deal.

The act, which was extended by four years, indemnifies the government for its actions in the energy sector from judicial proceedings.

Enacted in 2010, the original law gave the government sweeping authority for two years to take up any project for quick electricity and gas generation, distribution and marketing.

The goal was to implement rental power projects as a short-term solution to the country's massive power crisis while the long-term large power projects were being implemented.

Rental projects are quick to implement while conventional projects take nearly three years to become operational.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2



People catch two boys for hurling homemade bombs at Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital yesterday as a large number of people gathered there to celebrate Valentine's Day. Inset, smoke from the blast rising next to a ride at the park.

PHOTO: STAR

ARSON CASE IN KHULNA

Khaleda accused as mastermind

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has been accused as the mastermind in yet another arson case.

Phultala police of Khulna yesterday filed the case against Khaleda and 58 other BNP-Jamaat leaders and activists for torching a bus in Damodor, said Elias Fakir, officer-in-charge of Phultala Police Station.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Shooting at Denmark free speech meet kills 1

AFP, Copenhagen

Unidentified gunmen killed at least one person and wounded three police officers yesterday after opening fire on a cultural centre in Copenhagen hosting a debate on Islam and free speech.

Swedish artist Lars Vilks -- the author of controversial Prophet Mohammed cartoons that sparked worldwide protests in 2007 -- was among those at the debate targeted by two gunmen who then fled the scene.

Danish Prime Minister Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt described the assault as "a terrorist attack" as Danish television showed the windows of the Krudttonden cultural centre pock marked by multiple bullet holes.

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Today's SSC exams now on Friday

STAR REPORT

Today's SSC and its equivalent exams were deferred to Friday after the BNP-led 20-party alliance yesterday called a fresh spell of 72-hour countrywide hartal from this morning.

While briefing reporters at his residence in the capital, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said the decision to defer the exams was taken considering safety of the examinees.

The exams will now be held from 9:00am to 12:00 noon on Friday.

"Lives of our examinees are more important to us

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BNP CHIEF'S OFFICE

No food for staff in 4 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the fourth consecutive day, police did not allow food meant for the staff of BNP chief's Gulshan office to be sent in.

Law enforcers intercepted a CNG-run auto-rickshaw carrying lunch when it reached the office at 12:20pm, said Syrul Kabir Khan, a member of the BNP chief's media wing.

"They did not allow the supplies to enter," he told The Daily Star. However, food supply for the BNP chief remains uninterrupted, office insiders said.

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সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
উদ্ভাবনী ব্যাংকিং এ আপনার বিশ্বস্ত সঙ্গী

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