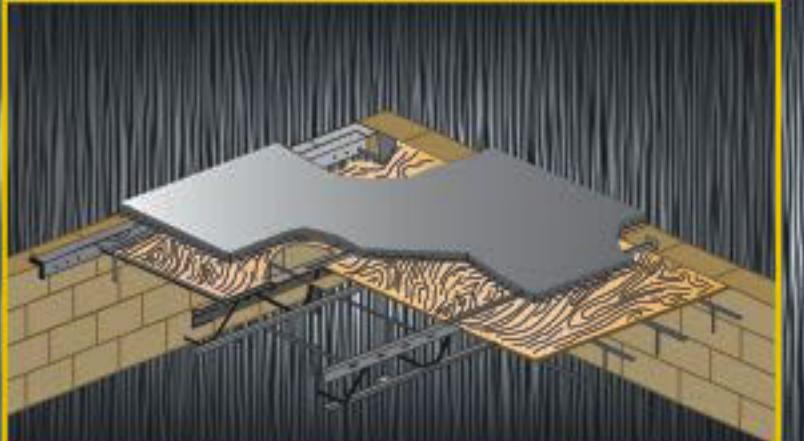


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Runa's only offence was failing to meet her husband's dowry demands. Her right eye was badly damaged on Sunday when her husband tried to gouge it out with a spoon. She is now in danger of losing the sight in the eye. The photo was taken at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital on Monday.

PHOTO: STAR

Bring dowry or lose an eye

Furious husband tries to gouge out wife's eye

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Parents of Jinnat Fatema Runa met her husband's demand for dowry time and again over the last four years but the man became more brutal in the pursuit of more money.

On Sunday night, Runa wanted to put an end to the persisting physical and mental pressure of her husband Bulbul.

Ahmed, of Gadumia village in Bhaluka upazila, Mymensingh, and so she refused to ask her father, who is a retired schoolteacher, further for money.

Overtaken by fury, Bulbul, 35, attacked Runa and tried to gouge out her right eye.

The eye suffered vitreous hemorrhage and serious damage to its retina, said Mohammad Habibullah, assistant professor of the eye department of Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

After the incident, her neighbours first took her to Bhaluka Upazila Health

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Boost for burn treatment

Tk 522cr project okayed to set up Nat'l Institute of Burn, Plastic Surgery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ecneb yesterday approved a Tk 522 crore project for the establishment of the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery at Chankharpool in the capital.

A planning ministry official said the project would be implemented completely with public money.

Dr Samanta Lal Sen, chief coordinator of the burn units across the country, told The Daily Star that the construction work of the project is likely to begin by next month.

Once set up, the institute would be the largest of its kind not only in South Asia but also in the world, he claimed, adding that one of its main aims would be to produce burn specialists and plastic surgeons of international standards.

He said currently there are just 52 plastic surgeons for around 6 lakh burn victims across the country.

Initially every year, the institute would be able to produce 10 to 12 doctors who would attain the Master of Science in Plastic Surgery to be posted to different burn units, expected to be set up at every district under the institute.

At present, Bangladesh gets just two expert plastic surgeons a year,

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MUNICIPAL POLLS
Khaleda to meet leaders, take decision today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khaleda Zia will sit with her senior party colleagues today to decide whether the BNP will participate in the upcoming municipality elections.

The BNP chairperson told this to some party leaders who went to meet at her Gulshan office last night, one of the leaders told The Daily Star.

While talking to them, she showed "positive attitude" about contesting the polls, said the leader, on condition of anonymity.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Mutant mosquitoes 'resist malaria'

BBC ONLINE

US scientists say they have bred a genetically modified (GM) mosquito that can resist malaria infection.

If the lab technique works in the field, it could offer a new way of stopping the biting insects from spreading malaria to humans, they say.

The scientists put a new "resistance" gene into the mosquito's own DNA, using a gene editing method called Crispr.

And when the GM mosquitoes mated - their

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

EXPATS WITHOUT MRP

They won't face problem: Kamal

BELAH HOSSAIN BIPLAB

Despite the expiry of the International Civil Aviation Organisation's deadline for terminating the use of handwritten passports, expatriate Bangladeshis who have yet to get machine readable passports will not face any problem, the home boss said.

"People need not worry as they can obtain the MRPs in five to seven days after their applications," Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We thought that the ICAO deadline might be extended. Although it has not been extended yet, our people [expatriate Bangladeshis] will not face any problem," he said.

The government has started issuing the MRPs since 2010. However, over 11 lakh expatriates are yet to get them even

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Oikya Parishad leader hacked in Faridpur

A CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Two masked youths hacked a local leader of Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad with sharp weapons in front of his house in the town's Ramkrishna Palli yesterday afternoon.

The victim is Alok Sen, 58, general secretary of the parishad's Faridpur unit.

He was initially treated at Faridpur Medical College Hospital (FMCH) for injuries to his arms before being sent to Dhaka.

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