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Do not lower marriageable age of girls

Committee on the Rights of the Child urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) has recommended that the women and children affairs ministry refrain from taking any legislative measures to lower the girls' minimum marriageable age below 18.

The recommendation came at a discussion yesterday on the 5th Periodic Report on the Rights of the Child in Bangladesh.

The ministry and Unicef jointly organised the programme at the city's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

The CRC, composed of 18 independent child rights experts nominated and selected by state parties of the UN General Assembly, monitors implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, an international treaty to protect and promote child rights.

Unicef Country Representative Edouard Beigbender said instead of putting an exception clause in the proposed Child Marriage Restraint Act to allow marriage of girls aged under 18, the questions of pregnant teenagers and eloping adolescents should be treated by other relevant legislations.

The issues of adolescent pregnancy and elopement should be viewed as protection issues, he told The Daily Star. The Child Act, 2013 includes measures to deal with

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An officer of Bangladesh Army consoles the mother of Maj Mizanur Rahman, who was killed in the BDR carnage in 2009. Mizanur's son Sami, 12, is next to them at the capital's Banani graveyard for the armed forces officials yesterday. Inset, niece of Lt Col Lutfur Rahman, also slain in the carnage, cries while placing wreaths at his grave.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

HUMAN TRAFFICKING 35 victims return from Malaysia

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPOLO

They left their homes early last year in search of better employment opportunities and livelihoods in Malaysia.

But they ended up falling into the hands of human traffickers and endured inhuman physical and mental torture in boats for one to two months in the Andaman Sea before being rescued from Langkawi island by the Malaysian authorities on May 11 last year.

Then they had to spend nine more months in a detention centre there.

Finally, all 35 Bangladeshi trafficking victims returned home from Malaysia last night.

A flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines carrying them landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka around 6:10 pm, Mustafizur Rahman, assistant director of Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET), told The Daily Star.

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COMMENT ON JUDICIARY SC refuses to take Fakhru's explanation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday again refused to accept BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir's explanation of his reported comment on the judiciary.

The court ordered Fakhru to submit a fresh explanation specifying the reasons for making the comment to it by February

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CONFINED TO PRISONS, SHELTER HOMES Govt to bring back 20 from India

TAMANNA KHAN

The Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi has recently taken steps to bring back 20 Bangladeshis, who have been languishing in different prisons and shelter homes of Indian southern state of Kerala.

"We have sent letters to the Indian Ministry of External Affairs issuing travel permits for 20 out of 21 men, women and children, whom we have found, after visiting six different institutions in Kozhikode, Thrissur and Ernakulam districts of Kerala," said Mosharaf Hossain Minister (Consular) of the Bangladeshi mission.

Some of the women and children found in three shelter homes in Kozhikode have been there for more than five years, according to Mosharaf who along with another official visited the institutions for five days.

The officials undertook the trip on January 15 after receiving a letter sent to the mission by Gowher Rizvi, international affairs adviser to the prime minister, with a report published in The Daily Star on November 18 last year.

The news was on a Bangladeshi sex racket survivor passing her days at a shelter home in Kozhikode. Her poetry collection about her pains and longing to return home was translated and published in Malayalam language. An exhibition of the woman's drawings and paintings was also held there.

A week ago, in protest against social exclusion, she revealed her identity as Ayesha Siddika.

"By the time we reached Kozhikode, she had already returned home, but we found three other Bangladeshi women at Mahila Mandiram [where Ayesha lived], a girl at After Care Home and a boy at another government shelter home," Mosharaf said.

Both Mahila Mandiram and After Care Home are state-run shelters for destitute women.

Mosharaf added he had also found six Bangladeshi men in the district

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Plenty to gain Wounded Tigers take on UAE today

BISHWAJIT ROY

When Bangladesh takes on UAE in their second Asia Cup T20 match this evening at Mirpur, nothing but a comprehensive win would be expected from the Tigers. The question is whether Bangladesh are clear favourites against the ICC Associate Member country in the T20 format. The defeat against India in the opener is not the reason behind that question; it is not as if all is lost following the 45-run loss.

Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza expressed his optimism yesterday about his team's turnaround, and Bangladesh may well thrash their opponents today to stay alive in the tournament. But the opposite can also happen because the Tigers are yet to find their feet in the shortest version of the game, while UAE showed in the qualifiers that they are not here just to make up the numbers. Bangladesh experimented in their last T20 series against Zimbabwe, which was the reason they said that the series was shared with the struggling African side. That was followed by lengthy T20 preparation camps. But the first match against India once again demonstrated that a lot more

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BLOCKED ACCOUNTS IS threatens Twitter, Facebook CEOs

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A group of pro-IS hackers has reportedly released a video threatening the founders of Facebook and Twitter - because their social media accounts keep getting shut down.

In a 25-minute video which began circulating on social media on Tuesday afternoon, pictures of Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg and Twitter's Jack Dorsey were shown superimposed with bullet holes.

Described by terror analyst Rita Katz as "looking like something an elementary

student threw together one night before the project was due", it claims to show hackers taking over social media accounts, changing profile pictures and using them to disseminate jihadist propaganda.

Twitter has dismissed the personal threat to Dorsey as part of "everyday life" at the global network, while Facebook is yet to respond to the video.

It was uploaded and shared by a group calling itself "Sons Caliphate Army" - which the Site Intel Group has described as the

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Afghan boy bags real Messi shirt - finally

BBC ONLINE

The Afghan boy who became an online hit after wearing a homemade shirt bearing Lionel Messi's famous number 10 has finally received the real thing - from the Argentine footballer himself.

BBC Trending helped to locate the child known as "Messi's biggest fan", five-year-old Murtaza Ahmadi,

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Govt cannot withdraw cases filed by individuals

Rights boss on cases against Star editor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairman Mizanur Rahman yesterday expressed surprise that many foreign organisations were asking the government to withdraw the cases against an editor.

"Today the series of cases that we are seeing against an editor is not filed by the state. What has happened so far is because of the

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Tale of two stranded dolphins

ABIDA RAHMAN CHOWDHURY

"A dolphin's smile is the greatest deception. It creates the illusion that they are always happy." Originally stated by dolphin activist Richard O'Barry, these famous lines manage to throw some light on these majestic creatures of the aquatic ecosystem that have enthralled us for long, captivated the human mind and soul,

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Two Irrawaddy dolphins stranded on a shore in Sandwip on February 5. The dolphins were caught in the long shore nets of local fishermen. The fishermen along with a team of surveyors made frantic efforts to save the pair by digging a puddle around the dolphins and splashing water on them.

PHOTO: STAR

MCCI

Lecture on The Business of The Family Business

Venue : MCCI's Conference Hall, Chamber Building (5th Floor), 122-124, Motijheel C.A., Dhaka.

Date & Time : Saturday, 27 February, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Speaker
Mirza Yawar Baig (MYB)
Globally Renowned Family Business Advisor

Organised by
Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI)

Invited Guests only

Interested participants, may contact 01819258476 for invitation