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MOGHBAZAR-MOUCHAK FLYOVER



23,000 infants can be saved each year

If early marriage is stopped, say experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 23,000 children might be saved a year in Bangladesh if women do not give birth before the age of 20, said a Unicef official, expressing concern over a high level of child marriage in the country.

More than half of the girls here get married before they reach 18, according to government data.

"Early pregnancy causes higher incidence of complications and higher child deaths," said Lianne Kuppens, chief of Unicef's health section in Bangladesh, at the inaugural of a three-day national conference yesterday on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

The conference features discussions on ways to eliminate maternal and child deaths and diseases, improve sexual and reproductive health services and to address sexually transmitted infections, cervical cancer and gender-based violence.

Kuppens said under-five mortality is 66 per thousand children born to women below 20 years whereas the number is reduced to 43 when women give birth between 20 and 29 years. Neonatal and infant mortality rates are also higher in the cases of women giving births before 20 years.

"Preventing child marriages can also significantly reduce maternal mortality," said Wahid Hossain, director general of the Directorate General of Family Planning.

Maternal mortality in Bangladesh now stands at 170 per

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina welcomes her Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: PMO

Shab-e-Meraj tonight

BSS, Dhaka

The holy Shab-e-Meraj will be observed tonight across the country with due respect and religious fervour.

The Muslims every year on the 27th night of the Arabic month of Rajab observe the Shab-e-Meraj. On this night, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) had embarked on a special journey to meet Allah.

In the journey, the Prophet (PBUH) travelled on the "Buraq" to Heaven where Allah gave him instructions to take back to the faithful regarding the details of prayers.

Different Islamic organisations will arrange special prayers and milad mahfils in mosques and other places to seek blessings of the Almighty Allah.

Devotees offer special prayers all the night in mosques and homes to seek blessings of Allah for the welfare of the entire nation and the Muslim Ummah.

Long-haul bus fare reduced by 3 paise

PANKAG KARMAKAR

The government yesterday slashed the fare for long-haul buses by 3 paise per kilometre, drawing criticism from different quarters for it not being enough.

Buses from May 15 will charge Tk 1.42 instead of Tk 1.45 per kilometre.

A passenger will have to pay around Tk 352 instead of around Tk 359 for travelling to Chittagong from Dhaka; around Tk 368 instead of around Tk 375 to Rajshahi; around Tk 415 instead of around Tk 423 to Khulna and around Tk 357 instead of around Tk 364 to Sylhet from Dhaka.

Almost all the long-route buses run on diesel.

The Road Transport and Bridges Ministry yesterday issued a circular in this regard.

However, passengers alleged that the revised fare would have no impact as the reduced amount is nominal.

"My bus fare will be reduced by around Tk 7 or Tk 8. Such a small cut in fare will not benefit the passengers," said Azaduzzaman,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Nizami's review verdict tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court is set to pass an order tomorrow on a petition filed by war criminal Motiur Rahman Nizami seeking review of its verdict that upheld his death penalty for his wartime crimes.



A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha fixed the date yesterday after concluding hearing on the petition.

The other judges of the bench are Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana, Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Hasan Foz Siddique.

Attorney General Mahubey Alam expressed the hope that the apex court would uphold the death penalty of Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Nizami.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Gallows for 4 Razakars for 1971 war crimes

Another sentenced to jail until death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special tribunal in Dhaka yesterday found five Kishoreganj Razakars guilty of abduction, torture and killings during the Liberation War in 1971 and handed down death sentences to four of them and jail until death to another.

"All the five convicted accused persons by virtue of their membership in local Razakar Bahini were knowingly and culpably engaged in committing the horrendous activities constituting the offences of killing, abduction and other crimes against humanity," the International Crimes Tribunal-1 said in its judgment.

Gazi Abdul Mannan, 88, commander of a local Razakar camp, Nasiruddin Ahmed, 62, an army captain who was sent to forced retirement, his brother Shamsuddin Ahmed, 60, and Hafiz Uddin, 66, of Karimganj upazila in the district were given death penalty. Azharul Islam, 60, of the same upazila, was sentenced to jail until death.

Only Shamsuddin, a lawyer of a Kishoreganj court, is now in jail while the rest are on the run. The tribunal directed the home secretary and the inspector general of police to take steps to arrest the fugitives with the help of the Interpol, if necessary.

About the execution, the tribunal said the sentences of the fugitives shall be executed after their arrest or when they surrender before the tribunal. The convicted criminals can be executed either "by hanging or shooting" as decided by the government, it added.

About their atrocities, the tribunal said: "Their deliberate and barbaric acts and conduct in respect of the events narrated in all the charges framed rather force us to conclude that they, the potential members of Razakar Bahini, which was truly a locally formed 'bunch of hooligans' had carried out deliberate criminal acts..."



Shamsuddin

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

J&J loses another talc powder trial

Court orders \$55m payment to cancer victim

REUTERS, New York

Johnson & Johnson was ordered by a US jury on Monday to pay \$55 million to a woman who said that using the company's talc-powder products for feminine hygiene caused her to develop ovarian cancer.

The verdict that J&J plans to appeal against was the second straight trial loss for the company facing about 1,200 lawsuits with accusations of not adequately warning consumers about its talc-based products' cancer risks.

Following a three-week trial in Missouri state court, jurors deliberated for about a day before returning a verdict for Gloria Ristesund. She was awarded \$5 million in compensatory damages and \$50 million in punitive damages.

J&J spokeswoman Carol Goodrich said the verdict contradicted 30 years of research supporting the safety of cosmetic talc. The company intends to appeal against the verdict and will keep defending the safety of its products, she added.

Ristesund said she used J&J's talc-based powder products including the well-known Baby Powder and Shower to

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Italian food theft 'not a crime'

Stealing small amounts of food to stave off hunger is not a crime, Italy's highest court of appeal has ruled.



BBC ONLINE

Judges overturned a theft conviction against Roman Ostriakov after he stole cheese and sausages worth €4.07 (£3; \$4.50) from a supermarket.

Ostriakov, a homeless man of Ukrainian background, had taken the food "in the face of the immediate and essential need for nourishment", the court of cassation decided.

Therefore it was not a crime, it said.

A fellow customer informed the store's security in 2011, when Ostriakov attempted to leave a Genoa supermarket with two pieces of cheese and a packet of sausages in his pocket but paid only for breadsticks.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



A bus traveling on the wrong side of the street crushed a pedestrian to death and smashed two cars in front of the Gabtoli Bus Terminal yesterday morning. Seven more were injured in the incident.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Foxes fairytale make headlines worldwide

REUTERS, London

Leicester City's remarkable Premier League triumph after starting the season as 5,000-1 outsiders to win the title made the pages of the press around the world yesterday.

Leicester clinched the English league title for the first time in their 132-year history on Monday night when second-placed Tottenham Hotspur drew with Chelsea, leaving them too far behind the leaders with only two games left to play.

Praise poured in from around the world for Leicester, who were on the brink of relegation last season.

France Football led with the news that "Leicester has achieved the impossible," while



Germany's Bild said: "Europe's biggest football sensation - Leicester's title miracle is real."

Major US newspaper the New York Times' article, "Leicester City Completes Rise by Clinching Premier League Title," drew attention to their meteoric rise after flirting with a drop to the Championship last year.

Norway paper VG answered the question of "What Does the Fox Say?", a Norwegian number one single by Ylvis, by saying "Cha-Cha-Cha Champions".

The British press reports were no less glowing. From Metro's "Zeroes into heroes" to "history makers", Claudio Ranieri's men were lauded all round.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4



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PRAYER TIMING MAY 4

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-20	12-45	4-45	6-29	8-00
JAMAAT 4-55	1-15	5-00	6-34	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



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