

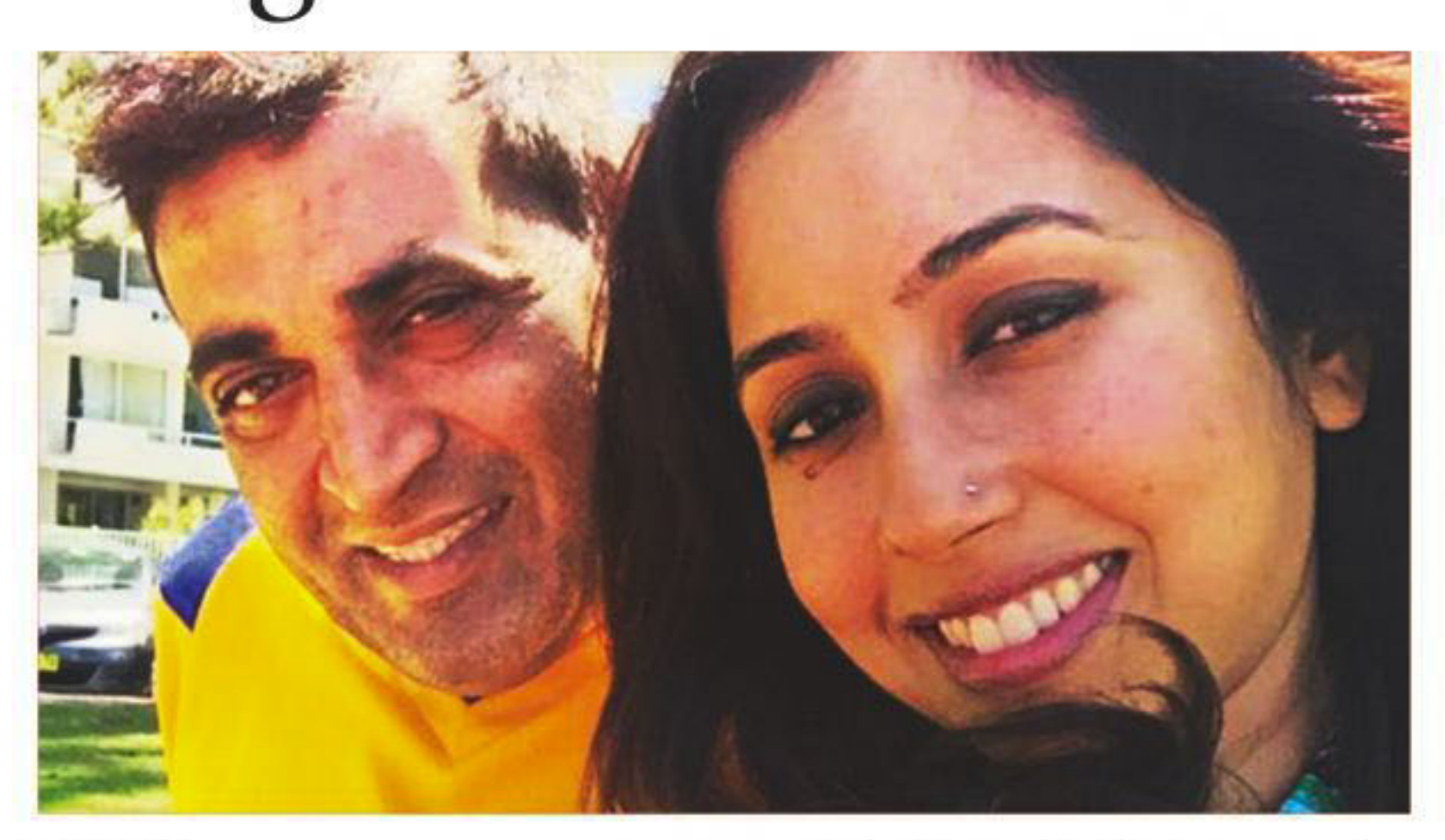
# Six-day

FROM PAGE 1  
 ministry.  
 During the last Eid-ul-Fitr, the government allowed the public servants to enjoy a nine-day vacation, declaring April 4 a holiday. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued the order with her executive power.  
 The premier this time approved one additional holiday, said sources in the cabinet.  
 Talking to The Daily Star, some government officials said they were happy with the decision, but they would have been happier had September 15 been declared a holiday as well.  
 "We would have a nine-day holiday this time as well, as September 15 is the only workday before the weekend," said an official of the labour ministry, wishing not to be named.  
 Another official of the education ministry said things would have been more pleasant and convenient for him had the government made the decision soon after the sighting of the moon.  
 "I have bought tickets for September 11 as my office was supposed to remain open that day. It is not possible to change tickets at this last stage. I will miss two days of vacation," he said, requesting for anonymity.

**APP FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS**  
 At the outset of the cabinet meeting, PM Hasina formally inaugurated an "instant messaging app" named "Alapon" for communication between government officials.  
 The app is like Viber and no fee would be charged for using it, Cabinet Secretary Shaful Alam said while briefing reporters after the meeting. It is reliable and secure, he said.  
 "The initiative [to build the app] was taken as part of the aim to develop Bangladesh as a technology-based modern digital country," Alam said.  
 The new app is already available in the iOS and Google Play Store. All government officials can download it using their national ID number and the mobile number they provided to the government, he said, adding that government officials can talk, hold group discussions and conferences, both audio and video, send messages and exchange files using the app.

**Special security**  
 FROM PAGE 16  
 After a meeting with a number of ministers yesterday, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said the home ministry told the meeting that it was mulling special security for all donor-supported projects following requests from development and bilateral partners, particularly Japan.  
 "We don't want them [projects] to be destroyed. It will be a huge loss for the country [if they are destroyed]," he told reporters at the secretariat.  
 After the Holey Artisan Bakery attack in the capital's diplomatic zone on July 1, a number of embassies, including that of Japan, India, Denmark, South Korea, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Austria, Thailand and the Netherlands sought additional security for diplomats, UN organisations and their nationals living in Bangladesh.  
 Many foreign organisations and individuals also wrote letters to the home ministry, requesting additional security measures.  
 Muhith said security at project sites was never a concern for the government, but security has become a matter of concern now.  
 The minister said the government was hiring an international consultant in an effort to improve security at all key point installations (KPIs) following the recent rise in militant attacks.  
 "The consultant will work on how to organise security of all the KPIs."  
 He said the road, transport and bridges ministry had either hired an international consultant or was in the process of hiring to take precautionary measures.  
 Home, planning and railways ministers and state ministers for foreign affairs and energy were present in the meeting.  
 Late last month, Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Masato Watanabe met Muhith and sought special security arrangements at all of its project areas for ensuring security for its nationals working in the projects.  
 "We have discussed the issue today [yesterday]. Sufficient security measures have been taken for the projects," said Muhith.  
 The Japanese government has sought special security measures for its nationals working in Bangladesh as seven Japanese were among 20 foreign nationals killed in the Gulshan cafe attack.  
 The finance minister praised Japan for being Bangladesh's biggest bilateral donor for a long time and standing firmly with Bangladesh after the recent terrorist attacks.

# Bangladeshi



FROM PAGE 1  
 the home they shared in Smithfield with their young daughter.  
 But it was Father's Day on Sunday and, despite the relationship troubles they had recently endured, Bahar agreed that their three-year-old daughter should share part of the special day with her dad, her family says.  
 Bahar drove her daughter to the weatherboard home they had previously shared on The Horsley Drive for the meeting on Sunday.  
 Just after 12:30pm that day, the bodies of Bahar and Pillay were discovered inside the bathroom of the house, in what Homicide Squad detectives are treating as a possible murder-suicide.  
 The girl was found sleeping in the house and was not physically injured.  
 Bahar's sister, Sharagin Bahar, said from New York that she was in utter shock at the sudden death of her sister, and was flying to their home country of Bangladesh and then on to Sydney, hoping to take custody of her niece, who had now lost both of her parents.  
 "[Tasmin] was perfectly fine when I talked to her two days before," Sharagin said.  
 "I am so lost. I just want to take my niece into my custody, I want her with me. I'll take care of her. I'll do whatever is best for her."  
 Police said no other people were wanted over the deaths and the investigation was ongoing. They have not detailed what is believed to have happened inside the house, before a male relative arrived and discovered the bodies of Bahar and Pillay.  
 Sharagin said her sister had been in a relationship with Pillay for about six years and her sister had told her that Pillay had physically threatened her and her daughter in the past. Bahar also told her that she had filed a report with police about the threats, Sharagin said.  
 Several weeks ago Bahar moved out of the house with their daughter and rented her own apartment, Sharagin said.  
 "We told her not to go [to the Smithfield house] ... but she went for Father's Day," Sharagin said. "She wanted Dave to see her daughter."  
 Bahar's cousin, Sifat Sharmin Ruponty, said that Bahar had also told her that she had been physically threatened, including with a knife, during her relationship with Pillay.  
 "Dave wanted to meet her with his daughter, so she [Bahar] took her to his place, just for a Father's Day celebration," she said.  
 "We can't take it. We can't believe this has happened."  
 Ruponty said her cousin moved to Australia in 2009 and was highly edu-

cated, having studied science at university.  
 Neighbours saw girl screaming 'mummy'  
 John Araco's Smithfield home backs on to Pillay's tidy backyard, where a pink play set sits neatly in the corner.  
 On Sunday, Araco's wife saw the girl run out into her back yard screaming "mummy, mummy".  
 "My wife raced downstairs and said 'John, the little girl has come out screaming, yelling mummy'," Araco said.  
 When he looked over the back fence, he could see the back door open and TV on but no one around.  
 "It seemed very quiet so I didn't think anything of it until the police came," the 65-year-old said.  
 Araco said he saw a man, believed to be Pillay's relative, walking out of The Horsley Drive home with the little girl about 20-30 minutes after his wife heard the screaming.  
 The grandfather-of-eight said he couldn't fault the couple, but admitted something had changed between the two recently.  
 "The last six weeks you could tell something was wrong because they must have left each other," he said.  
 "She used to come by every night at 5pm. He must have been picking the girl up from kindergarten or something."  
 "(Bahar) was coming over every afternoon, putting stuff in the car. But gee, you never thought this would happen."  
 Another neighbour said the couple moved into the house about three years ago.  
 "They were a very nice couple, we went to (the daughter's) first birthday and they had moved in just before that," the woman said.  
 "We didn't hear a thing, that is why it's so unbelievable."  
 After hearing the ambulances turn up on Sunday, the woman looked outside and saw the little girl clinging to someone as she was taken from the house.  
 Neighbour Alfred Xuereb said he had heard Pillay yelling in the past.  
 "When she [Bahar] came to pick her daughter up, he had yelled at her," Xuereb said.  
 On one occasion, Xuereb looked outside his bathroom window and said he saw Pillay, with his arms stretched out, lunge at Bahar before he yelled at Pillay to stop it.  
 Police are preparing a report for the coroner and have urged anyone with information about the deaths to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

**Good job done**  
 FROM PAGE 1  
 ensure the journey of the pilgrims to Jeddah on the last day of its hajj flights, said sources in the national flag carrier.  
 Talking to The Daily Star, several passengers said Biman didn't inform them in advance about the flight cancellations.  
 Passengers reaching the airport burst with anger. Initially, no Biman official was available to inform them about the flight cancellation, many of them alleged.  
 According to the standard practice in civil aviation, the airline concerned, except for in emergency cases, has to inform its passengers if it plans to cancel any flight.  
 The airline will also arrange accommodation and food for passengers who can't go back home, according to an aviation expert.  
 "We will not deny that we couldn't inform our honourable Biman passengers well ahead of the flight cancellations. We should have definitely done that. But we were very worried and busy sending all the hajj passengers to Saudi Arabia by the deadline that ended tonight [yesterday]," Biman Managing Director and CEO AM Mosaddique Ahmed told this correspondent.  
 Yesterday, Biman sent around 2,900 pilgrims to Jeddah by nine flights. Of the nine, six were dedicated hajj flights and the rest were managed by cancelling the three international flights, sources said.  
 The Biman boss said they have ensured accommodation and food for all the passengers who opted to wait for the rescheduled flights.  
 The Kathmandu-bound plane was scheduled to fly at 11:35am and the two others around 8:00pm. As per the changed schedule, the three flights will take off 24 hours after the scheduled time, sources said.  
 There were 46 passengers for the Kathmandu flight while around 120

passengers each for the flights to Kuala Lumpur and Muscat, Biman sources said.  
 Biman officials said they wouldn't have cancelled the three regular flights yesterday if they didn't have to cancel at least 15 hajj flights due to shortage of passengers. The flights could carry over 6,000 people.  
 Besides, over 2,000 seats remained unoccupied since the hajj flights started on August 4.  
 A total of 1.1 lakh pilgrims from Bangladesh are scheduled to perform hajj this year. Of them, Biman carried 49,595 to Jeddah and Saudia Airlines the rest.  
 "I had to wait 24 hours to start a one-hour journey," said Mukul Anwar, a passenger of the Nepal-bound flight.  
 Another passenger, Shahidul Alam, told this correspondent that he reached Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 9:00am.  
 "After reaching there, I heard no announcement on the cancellation of the flight. Even there was no mention of it on the electronic board," Shahidul, who was due to attend a programme in Kathmandu.  
 "No official was available till 10:00am. Then we went to the Biman sales counter. A Biman employee there said he knew nothing about the cancellation of the flight."  
 He added, "The Biman employee told us to talk to the station manager."  
 "After we waited long, the station manager informed us about the flight cancellation and in the process several hours went by."  
 Finally, Shahidul and another passenger, who too had an emergency to get to Kathmandu, managed tickets of Air India flight that will make an overnight stopover in Kolkata en route to Kathmandu.  
 Shukur Ahmed, a migrant worker, said he will have to reach Muscat by yesterday. Otherwise, he might lose his job.

# 15% income tax

FROM PAGE 16  
 of the country mandated in article-27 read with article-31 of the constitution.  
 "Right to life implicit in Article 32 of the constitution includes right to education and the young citizens have a fundamental right to education as life without education in this modern world is a nullity," it said.  
 The owners of the private universities hailed the decision.  
 "It's a huge step for the expansion of higher education in the country," Sheikh Kabir Hossain, president of Private University Association of Bangladesh, told The Daily Star.  
 "There shouldn't be any tax on education as it prevents expansion of education," he added.  
 Deputy Attorney General Rashed S Jahangir yesterday told The Daily Star that the government would move an appeal before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court seeking stay on the HC verdict.  
 Citing from the HC observations, Barrister Sakhawat said, "Bangladesh being republic state having failed to provide and accommodate sufficient educational institutions for their young citizens allowed the venture of private universities under the Private University Act, 1992, when the private universities were fully exempt from giving any tax."  
 "If now the government imposes tax to the private universities, then it would definitely enhance the tuition fees of the students of private universities. This situation has utterly discriminated the students of the republic vis-à-vis between public universities and private universities and the young citizens of private universities will be the ultimate sufferer for the discriminatory action of the state. This is unconstitutional and illegal," the lawyer said, citing from the HC observations.  
 "The government having failed to discharge the constitutional responsibilities in term of Articles 15, 17 and 19 of the constitution i.e. the provision of the basic necessities of life including food, clothing, shelter, education and medical care cannot impose irrational, arbitrary and unreasonable tax on the private institutions to the detriment of young citizens of the country," he said, quoting the HC observations.

**MP's reception**  
 FROM PAGE 2  
 Banners of different educational institutions were hung all over the college.  
 Contacted, Moksed said his superiors told him to communicate with the headmasters.  
 While visiting different schools, this correspondent found many of them closed.  
 "It's a kind of harassment. Think about the students who came from distant areas," said a student of Biral Pilot Girl's High School, seeking anonymity.  
 The Daily Star tried to contact Julfiqar Ali Shah, Biral upazila secondary education officer, for his comments, but he did not receive the phone call.  
 Arif Iqbal, assistant secondary education officer, denied the allegation of inviting any educational institutions to the programme.  
 Asked, Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, an organising secretary of AL, told The Daily Star that students, teachers and people from different professions joined the programme spontaneously as they wanted to thank Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for nationalising the college.  
 "There was no public college in Biral. That's why people attended the programme willingly to celebrate the achievement. There was no order from me on any educational institution in this regard," he added.

**Giant pandas**  
 FROM PAGE 16  
 government that focused on restoring its habitat of forests with an ample supply of bamboo.  
 For, contrary to a "myth" based on early problems in zoos, giant pandas have no problems reproducing.  
 Conservation group WWF, which uses the panda as its symbol, described the reclassification as "hugely encouraging news", but added that it should be seen in the context of a 52 percent average decline in the populations of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish between 1970 and 2010.  
 In a statement, the IUCN warned climate change was predicted to eliminate more than 35 percent of the panda's bamboo habitat in the next 80 years.  
 This means that the population gains made over the last 20 years will be reversed unless more is done to protect the forests.  
 According to Chinese officials, a survey carried out between 1998 and 2002 found there were 1,596 giant pandas living in the wild. The latest survey, conducted between 2011 to 2014 found evidence of 1,864.  
 Dr Ronald Swaisgood, chair of the IUCN's Giant Panda expert team, told The Independent in an email: "The current situation is that all the trends are positive. Panda numbers are increasing, occupied range is expanding, and available habitat is recovering.

# Drugged, about to die

FROM PAGE 1  
 major cattle producing districts of the country, growth hormones and steroids used for cattle fattening include Dexamethasone, Metaphetrol with vitamin AD3, Carositol and Cataphos, Testosterone, Estradiol and Progesterone, which is illegal if not prescribed.  
 A large number of cattle can also be found in Kushtia, Chuadanga, Jessore, Jhenidah, Mymensingh, Nilphamari, Barisal, Faridpur, Manikganj and some other districts.  
 Steroids and hormones cause accumulation of fluid in cattle body, making them look fatter, veterinarians said. Consumption of meat of these animals poses serious health risks, according to experts.  
 The Animal Feed Act 2010 prohibits use of antibiotics, growth hormones, steroids or other harmful chemicals in animal feed. A person might face up to one year's imprisonment or up to Tk 50,000 in fine or both for violating this law.  
 The High Court on September 29, 2014, directed the government to stop excessive use of steroids and hormones for making sacrificial animals fatter.  
 Abdul Gafur, district livestock officer (DLO) in Pabna, said the government has taken strict measures to stop illegal use of steroids, hormones and antibiotics for cow fattening since the High Court gave the directive.  
 Mobile courts conduct frequent raids and punish hormone and steroid sellers if they sold the drugs without veterinarians' prescriptions. These drugs can be used for treating certain critical diseases of human or animals with authorised doctors' prescriptions, not for fattening cattle, he told The Daily Star.  
 Safe cattle fattening, which has become a good business in recent years, requires proper diet of mixture of straw, molasses, urea fertiliser and lentils. Besides, necessary vitamins and anti-worm tablets can help.  
 In some areas, cattle farmers improvise the diet.  
 "As prices of cattle feed have gone up, I buy maize powder, potato and leftover vegetables and then boil them to feed my bulls," said Anjali Pal, a small cattle farmer of Kaliganj in Gazipur.  
 She said a village veterinarian advised her to give hormonal injection to her cattle, but she refused.  
 "If I use hormone, cattle have to be sold in three months. Otherwise, they may suffer stroke and die," Anjali said, adding that she knows some farmers in her locality who use hormones.  
 A study by Bangladesh Agriculture University in 2012 found 70.6 percent cattle farmers in Pabna, Mymensingh

and Comilla used anabolic steroid as a growth hormone.  
 Livestock officials said extensive media coverage and the 2014 High Court order had prompted the livestock department to implement strict monitoring and conduct more awareness programmes among cattle farmers.  
 Sirajganj Livestock Officer Akhtaruzzaman Bhuiyan said they monitor the registers of the drug stores regularly, observe market and take punitive actions if steroids or hormones are sold illegally.  
 Although there has been no assessment by any authorities on whether the use of anabolic steroid in cattle fattening has reduced in the last two years, The Daily Star found evidence of farmers using secretly hormones for cattle fattening.  
 Abdul Hossain, a cattle trader of Sirajganj's Shahzadpur, bought 20 bulls from Pabna and Sirajganj in the last two weeks, aiming for good business in Dhaka's market.  
 He administered injections to the bulls in late August so that they can withstand the hassles of journey from Sirajganj to Dhaka.  
 "These cattle often can't endure the pain of long journey and hot weather. I used medicine so that they remain fit even after the journey," Hossain said.  
 He could not say the name of the medicine, but livestock officials said it could be an antibiotic or a steroid.  
 Gulzar Hossain, head of Regional Disease Control and Research (animal disease) Centre in Sirajganj, said any drug, even if it is necessary, should not be used before three weeks of slaughtering.  
 "Residue of the drug may affect the human body," he said.  
 Sirajganj DLO Akhtaruzzaman said it is difficult for livestock officials to monitor every household due to a shortage of staff, and unscrupulous farmers and traders take the opportunity to use drugs without prescriptions. They mostly use male hormones for the bulls.  
 Pabna DLO Abdul Gafur said that previously, a number of cattle, fattened up by steroids or hormonal medicines, died of strokes or renal failure due to the continuous use of such drugs.  
 The use of such drugs has declined as farmers have become more aware now. However, some unauthorised companies in connivance with quack veterinarians market these drugs under various names, dodging the eyes of livestock men, he said.  
 Some people with poor training introduce themselves as veterinarians and prescribe hormonal medicines, Gafur said.

**Education must**  
 FROM PAGE 16  
 how they are making sure young people have the skills and knowledge to make the move to greener industries and greener ways of living," Aaron Benavot, director of the GEM Report, told the UNB.  
 He said floods and cyclones in Bangladesh have destroyed thousands of schools in the past decade, as other climate-related disasters have devastated school systems in many other parts of the world.  
 "If we want to address our pressing environmental and societal problems, we need to take a long hard look at what and how we are learning," said Benavot, who has decades of experience in global education policy analysis and comparative research.  
 Responding to a question, he said Bangladesh, like many other countries in the world, are going to be decades late in achieving its global education commitments.  
 "New policies and innovative approaches must be taken to change this course. But the change in mindset needed to combat the most challenging environmental issues isn't going to happen on its own, and certainly not by hanging all our hopes on today's students," Benavot explained.  
 Bangladesh is one of the world's most populous and most flood-prone countries. Climate experts project that by 2050, 27 million people will be at risk from sea-level rise.  
 "With increasing frequency of floods, many environmental migrants from rural areas become slum dwellers in Dhaka, the densely populated capital. Unsurprisingly, the school system is routinely affected by climate-related challenges," Kate Redman, communications and advocacy specialist of GEM Report, told UNB.  
 "A fundamental change is needed in the way we think about education's role in global development, because it has a catalytic impact on the well-being of individuals and the future of our planet," said Unesco Director-General Irina Bokova.  
 "Now, more than ever, education has a responsibility to be in gear with 21st century challenges and aspirations, and foster the right types of values and skills that will lead to sustainable and inclusive growth, and peaceful living together."  
 Yet only six percent of adults in the poorest countries, and less than one percent in Bangladesh have ever attended literacy programmes.  
 In Bangladesh, the National

Curriculum and Textbook Board prepared and endorsed a school manual on climate change and health protection. After that, 1,515 students in 30 schools received classroom training based on the manual while 1,778 students in 30 schools received a leaflet on climate change and health issues.  
 Six months later, results of a post intervention test performed at both schools showed that the training led to dramatic increases in children's knowledge of the topic.  
 In Bangladesh, the rise in female educational attainment may have accelerated the country's remarkable fertility decline and contributed to lengthening the interval between births.  
 The median interval increased by 26 percent between 1991 and 2007, to 44 months. By 2007, birth intervals were about 40 percent longer among women with secondary or higher education than among illiterate women.  
 Access to electricity has been shown to have a positive impact on education outcomes in many countries, including Bangladesh.  
 Inequality in education, interacting with wider disparities, heightens the risk of violence and conflict.  
 A recent study drawing on data from 100 countries over 50 years found that countries with higher levels of inequality in schooling were much more likely to experience conflict.  
 The report called on governments to start taking inequalities in education seriously, tracking them by collecting information directly from families.  
 The new global development agenda called for education ministers and other education actors to work in collaboration with other sectors.

**Obaidul**  
 FROM PAGE 16  
 Nilphamari.  
 Assistant Commissioner (Ramna zone) Shiblee Noman of Dhaka Metropolitan Police said based on information gleaned from Obaidul, they seized a knife, suspected to have been used in the killing, from a dustbin in the city's Segunbagicha on Friday.  
 Risha, an eighth grader, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on August 29, four days after she was stabbed in front of her school at Kakrail.  
 The schoolgirl had secured GPA-5 in her primary terminal exams and was hopeful of doing equally well in Junior School Certificate exams this year.