



Law that cries out for change

Hindus have no right to divorce; men can remarry, but not the women

"The socio-political structure in Bangladesh puts us in a defensive position against any reform."
TAPASH KUMAR PAL, GENERAL SECRETARY, BANGLADESH PUJA UDJAPAN PARISHAD

"It's ridiculous that I cannot divorce my husband even after he got engaged in an extramarital affair and abused me mentally and physically."
MITA RANI

BISHAKHA DEVNATH

She has severed all ties with her husband and lived separately for more than four years now. But legally her marriage is not over yet. Aged 35, Mita Rani has been trying to come to terms with this reality since she discovered to her shock, at the end of a two-year legal battle, that the country's law does not recognise Hindu women's right to divorce. The court, where she appealed for dissolution of her marriage, in its judgment said it considered the complainant ineligible for divorce since both she and her defendant husband belonged to Hinduism. The Hindu

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A rickshaw van dangerously carries iron rods on a busy street in Agargaon in the capital yesterday. Accidents due to over sized and overloaded cargo on vehicles often cause fatalities but traffic police seem to be unable to stop the practice. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Bangladesh leads S Asia in gender equality

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has topped the South Asian countries in gender equality for the second consecutive year.

It ranked 72nd among 144 countries in the Global Gender Gap Report 2016 published by the World Economic Forum (WEF) on Tuesday.

Iceland topped the index for the eighth consecutive term, followed by Finland, Norway and Sweden.

In last year's index, Bangladesh was 64th among 145 countries, leaving behind all the other countries in the South Asian region. It was 68th among 142 nations in 2014.

The new report placed India at 87th position while Sri Lanka at 100th, Nepal at

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Police contradict Rab claim over 'Neo JMB' chief

Say Sarwar, killed in Oct 8 raid, was only a tier-three leader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday contradicted Rab's claim that Sarwar Jahan, who died during a Rab raid, was "Neo JMB" chief Shaykh Abu Ibrahim Al-Hanif, raising serious questions about intelligence gathering on militants and investigations into terror cases.

Monirul Islam, chief of DMP's Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime that conducted several anti-militancy drives after the July 1 Gulshan café attack, yesterday said Abdur Rahman alias Sarwar Jahan was a third-tier leader of the outfit.

His remarks came less than a week after Rab Director General Benazir Ahmed, citing documents they seized during a raid at Sarwar's Ashulia house, claimed that Sarwar is in fact Shaykh Abu Ibrahim Al-Hanif, the chief of "Neo JMB".

Law enforcers claim that "Neo JMB" is responsible for the



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