



Little success in nutrition

WFP report sees early marriage reason behind cycle of undernutrition

REAZ AHMAD

Girls being married off before reaching adulthood, too many teenage pregnancies and subsequent births of babies with low birthweight have put Bangladesh in a 'cycle of undernutrition'.

Statistics and studies show the country has gained fairly good economic growth and succeeded in halving incidents of poverty in last two decades.

But Bangladesh's nutrition challenges remain far to be over largely because of this 'cycle of undernutrition' stemmed from high rate of teenage pregnancy.

Over 20 years ago a third of 15-19-year-old young Bangladeshi women used to bear children and the rate today still hovers around 30 percent.

"It is alarming to note that the proportion of 15-19-year-old young women already bearing children has fallen only marginally in the past two decades -- from 33 percent in 1993-94 to 30.8 percent in 2014," states the Strategic Review of Food Security and Nutrition in Bangladesh.

This Strategic Review is a United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) commissioned report launched in Dhaka at the end of last October.

"A matter of particular concern is the persistently high rate of teenage pregnancy. When the body of the mother is still growing, pregnancy leads to competition between the mother and the fetus for access to nutrients, a battle which the fetus invariably loses," the Strategic Review observes.

Though legal age of marriage is 18 for women in Bangladesh, with 30 percent girls being married at 15 or below, the country has the highest rate of child marriages outside sub-Saharan African nations.

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With swollen eyes and stitches all over her shaven head, Fatema Akter Liya sits on her Tangail Medical College Hospital bed yesterday. Her husband beat her up for dowry on Tuesday night, a day after she went home from hospital giving birth to her second son, in her lap. The Daily Star does not publish such disturbing images, but it is running this only to show the severity of the torture on the woman. PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

Brutality unbound

Man tortures wife for dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Five days into her delivery of the second child, she went back to hospital with swollen eyes and severe injuries inflicted on her by her husband for dowry.

The victim, Fatema Akter Liya whose head had to be shaven to stitch cuts could hardly talk when this correspondent met her at Tangail Medical College Hospital yesterday. Her two sons, including the newborn baby, were with her at the time.

Liya's father Tofazzal Hossain, of Matikata village in Nikrail union, married her off to Hafez Mohammad Shofiqul Islam, imam of Niklapara mosque and a shopkeeper at a nearby market, in 2010.

At the time of marriage, her father gave three tolas of gold ornaments and sometime later Tk 10,000 amid much pressure from the husband for money.

From the beginning, Liya, now 25, saw suspicious

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Russia helped in Trump win

Says CIA secret report after Obama orders 'full review' of election cyberattacks

AFP, Washington

A secret CIA assessment has found that Russia sought to tip last month's US presidential election in Donald Trump's favor. The Washington Post reported Friday, a conclusion that drew an extraordinary rebuke from the president-elect's camp.

"These are the same people that said Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction," Trump's transition team said, launching a broadside against the spy agency. "The election ended a long time ago in one of the biggest Electoral College victories in history. It's now time to move on



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Mount pressure on Myanmar

70 British MPs write to UK govt over Rohingya issue; Dhaka seminar says opening border no solution

STAR REPORT

A cross-party group of 70 British parliamentarians have urged the UK government to "intensify pressure" on the Myanmar government to allow full humanitarian access to Rohingya Muslims in the North Rakhine State of Myanmar.

"Together with the international community, the UK government must intensify its pressure on the Myanmar government to allow full humanitarian access to the Rohingya," the British parliamentarians, including co-chair of the all-party parliamentary group for Burma Rushanara Ali MP, said in a letter to British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson.

They called on the British government to do all in its power to help those fleeing the violence to find a safe passage home.

The letter, dated December 7, said there currently exists an urgent need to prevent further violations of the Rohingya's human rights, UNB reported yesterday.

"We condemn any reprisal attacks that have

followed the recent incidents of violence on the Myanmar border and call for an immediate end to the targeted use of violence of an already persecuted religious minority," the parliamentarians wrote.

Nearly 22,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled to Bangladesh since November 1, the United Nations said in its latest update on the situation, adding that about 30,000 people are estimated to have been displaced and thousands more affected by the violence.

Several Western countries urged Myanmar on Friday to expand humanitarian aid access to its troubled Rakhine State, reports Reuters.

Soldiers have poured into the area along Myanmar's border with Bangladesh and sealed it off in response to attacks by what the government has described as Muslim militants on border posts on October 9 that killed nine police officers.

In Dhaka, speakers at a seminar yesterday said reporting the Rohingya crisis in different international platforms is more important than opening

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Driverless 'Roborace' car makes debut

CNN ONLINE

It is a car kitted out with technology its developers boldly predict will transform our cities and change the way we live.

The autonomous "DevBot #1" took a giant leap forward in Morocco recently, making its debut on a street track at the Formula E Marrakech ePrix.

The battery-powered prototype is being tested

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EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLING Stern action if allegations brought to govt notice

Warns law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government would take stern action against those involved in extrajudicial killings if such incidents were "brought to its notice", Law Minister Anisul Huq said yesterday.

"We believe extrajudicial killing is a great hindrance to establishing the rule of law," he told a seminar marking International Human Rights Day at the Cirdap Auditorium in the capital.

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BEES BRING BUCKS

Aktar Ali holds a beehive frame at Burumdi in Narayanganj's Sonargaon upazila. He and his friends have been farming bees and selling them to honey traders for the last 10 years. Each frame of bees is sold between Tk 600 and Tk 800. Their business peaks in winter when a lot of farmers cultivate mustard and produce honey from the same land. Bottom, the bee farm. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Questions not ready, so exam postponed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Forty thousand students of 199 government primary schools in Sadar upazila were unable to take their mathematics final examination yesterday as the upazila primary education officer failed to deliver the question papers on time.

However, the final exams from first to fourth grades commenced yesterday at all government primary schools in rest of the five upazilas in the district, said district primary education office sources.

The young students and their guardians in the Sadar upazila expressed

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PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 11
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
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