



Double trouble for parents

Screen addiction, vanishing playground make parenting difficult in Dhaka

PORIMOL PALMA

Namira's parents couldn't be happier when she started to go to bed early.

It used to be difficult to put the 13-year-old to bed as she would spend hours on the internet and play video games.

But the parents' relief was replaced with worries in less than a week. The eighth grader, pretending to be asleep under her blanket, was found playing on a tablet.

Like Namira, thousands of teenagers in Dhaka city who spend more time on screens but less on physical activities are on higher risks of depression and other health problems, a new research suggests.

Nearly 80 percent teenagers of Dhaka have more than two hours of screen time a day, while one-third of them spend less than

an hour on physical activities, found the study titled "Is physical inactivity associated with depressive symptoms among adolescents with high screen time? Evidence from a developing country".

Screen time includes watching TV and videos, playing video games, using computers and smart phones.

"My daughter used to be an outgoing kid. But in the last few years she apparently lost her interpersonal skills and became grumpy. Doctors say it's because she doesn't interact with other children much. She wouldn't let go of the computer and other smart devices and go out to play in the yard," the teenager's mother Shaila complained.

The kid was taken to an eye specialist and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Univ girls 'raped after birthday party at hotel'

Police delay recording case, says one victim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A private university student yesterday filed a case alleging that she and one of her friends were raped by two youths in a posh hotel in the capital's Banani area over a month ago.

Talking to The Daily Star, the girl said all this time they had kept mum because the accused were repeatedly threatening them and tracking their movements. However, they

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Asia's new growth-engines

ADB sees Bangladesh among 6 emerging economies

REAZ AHMAD from Yokohama, Japan

Bangladesh has been named one of the six emerging Asian economies where growth gathered momentum, with the other five being India, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Vietnam.

"The People's Republic of China is transitioning to more moderate and balanced growth. But growth is gathering momentum in countries such as Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Vietnam," Asian Development Bank President Takehiko Nakao said yesterday.

He was speaking at the formal launch of the ADB Board of Governors annual meeting at Pacifico Yokohama, one of Japan's biggest conference facilities, under the theme "Building Together the

Prosperity of Asia".

Some 6,000 government officials, academics, business officers, civil society representatives and members of the media were present.

The annual meeting is also a celebration of the ADB's 50 years of development work in Asia and the Pacific.

Japan's Crown Prince Kotaishi Naruhito Shinno and Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Taro Aso graced the opening session of the four-day event that began on Thursday.

The meeting will end today with hundreds of delegates from the 67 ADB member countries finalising strategies for a more prosperous Asia by 2030.

ADB President Nakao stressed the need for more

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Hackers cast pall as France votes

Frontrunner Macron blasts huge hacking attack on his campaign

AFP, Paris

France took a hard line yesterday over a huge trove of documents hacked from presidential frontrunner Emmanuel Macron's campaign, warning on the eve of the election that anyone spreading them could face criminal charges.

The warning came after the pro-European centrist's team lambasted a "massive and coordinated" hack that resulted in thousands of emails, accounting details and internal documents being posted late Friday.

The leak was an 11th-hour twist ahead of today's decisive run-off after a

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



PHOTO: PID/PMO

A barefooted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina taking a walk on the Inani Beach in Cox's Bazar yesterday. *Bottom*, the PM enjoys a dance performance at Inani point during the inauguration of the 80km scenic marine driveway between Cox's Bazar and Teknaf.



DAY OUT to Cox's Bazar

PM opens marine drive, warns Yaba traders

UNB, Cox's Bazar

Inaugurating the 80 km Cox's Bazar-Teknaf marine drive, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said it would unlock the potentials of the region enabling people to improve their socio-economic condition and enjoy the natural beauty.

She was speaking at a programme after formally inaugurating the road. The PM inaugurated the drive by unveiling the plaque at Inani.

Bangladesh Army constructed the marine drive under the supervision of the Roads and Highways Department to protect the Cox's Bazar seashore from erosion and facilitate an easy sighting of the beauty of the Bay of Bengal.

Hasina said new potentials of tourism opened up in the district with the inauguration of the driveway which would attract a huge number of local and foreign tourists to the region and help accelerate the district's socioeconomic development.

"The government has taken up a number of

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2
MORE ON PAGE 5



TOP QUOTE

"Yaba supply must be stopped and those who are engaged in it must be punished."

PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA AT A PUBLIC RALLY IN COX'S BAZAR YESTERDAY

ADITYA BIRLA GROUP

ULTRATECH WISHES YOU A VERY HAPPY ENGINEER'S DAY!

UltraTech
CEMENT
The Engineer's Choice

Factory Address : East Mukterpur, Munshigonj, Bangladesh. Tel: +88-02-9870098, 9870069 ; Help line: 09666786786

promoting Knowledge
An initiative of MTB | The Daily Star
SEASON 6

CONGRATULATIONS!

The results to win complimentary copies of The Daily Star for a year have been published. Visit promotingknowledge.com now to see if your name is among the one thousand winners.

For any query, please contact
The Daily Star Circulation Dept: Cell 01711623906