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DEVELOPING NATIONS

# Child marriage hurting efforts to cut poverty

**STAR REPORT**  
Almost 60 percent of the country's women aged between 18 and 22 got married before they were 18, according to a World Bank report based on Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS) 2014.

The report, published by the WB on Tuesday, added that 82.3 percent of Bangladeshi women aged 41-49 were married before reaching their 18th birthday.

Child marriage is more likely among poor people, it concluded, citing BDHS findings.

Child marriage will cost developing countries trillions of dollars in the next decade, seriously hampering global efforts to eradicate poverty, reports Reuters on the World Bank report.

An estimated one in three girls in the developing world is married before the age of 18, with one girl married off every two seconds, according to experts.

The World Bank said ending child marriage would reduce population growth, boost girls' educational achievements and increase their earnings.

It would also lead to women having healthier and better educated children, further boosting prosperity.

"Child marriage not only puts a stop to girls' hopes and dreams, it also hampers efforts to end poverty and achieve economic growth and equity," World Bank economist Quentin Wodon said in a statement.

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Even though the Eid holidays ended, a large number of people are seen at Patenga Beach in Chittagong spending time with their loved ones yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Sudhin Das  
no more

STAR CORRESPONDENT

Preeminent singer, researcher and music teacher Sudhin Das, who made monumental contributions to ensure the practice of Kazi Nazrul Islam's songs in their original melody, passed away in the early hours of June 27, at the age of 87. He was suffering from various old age complications and was admitted to the capital's Apollo hospital the same morning.

Born on April 30, 1930 in Comilla's Bagchigaon, Sudhin Das got his first music lessons from his elder brother Surend Das. His first performance on Pakistan Radio came in 1948. When

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# Major cyber attack hits businesses

Thousands of computers affected across the globe

REUTERS, Frankfurt/Moscow/Beir

A cyber attack wrecked havoc around the globe yesterday, crippling thousands of computers, disrupting operations at ports from Mumbai to Los Angeles and halting production at a chocolate factory in Australia.

The virus is believed to have first taken hold on Tuesday in Ukraine where it silently infected computers after users downloaded a popular tax accounting package or visited a local news site, national police and international cyber experts said.

The malicious code locked machines and demanded victims post a ransom worth \$300 in bitcoins or lose their data entirely.

More than 30 companies paid but security experts are questioning whether extortion was the goal, given the relatively small sum demanded, or whether the hackers were driven by destructive motives rather than financial gain.

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# Road crashes claim 41 lives in 4 days

STAR REPORT

At least 41 people were killed and dozens injured in road accidents in different districts in last four days, including Eid holidays from Sunday to Tuesday.

Of them, six were killed in Chittagong, four in Bandarban, three in Khagrachari, three in Sirajganj, two each in Mymensingh and Gaibandha and 16 were killed while taking treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, according to The Daily Star reports.

However, the number may be higher as many accidents, especially in regional highways and district roads, remained unreported with the authorities concerned. The number of casualties, as reported by The Daily Star, was 52 in five days during Eid festival last year.

Cricketer Abdur Razzak and his family members have meanwhile suffered preliminary treatment for the injuries he suffered on Tuesday, family sources said.

With vehicular movement gaining momentum during the Eid rush, road crashes have become a common phenomenon. Reckless driving, unfit vehicles, unskilled drivers and lack of enforcement of laws are the main reasons for road accidents during Eid vacation, experts say.

In Chittagong, six people were killed in separate road accidents and related incidents.

Of them, three persons, including two siblings, were electrocuted in Patiya while pulling a CNG-run auto rickshaw from a canal.

## ROAD ACCIDENTS DEATHS DURING EID HOLIDAYS

YEAR	DEATH	DAYS
2017	41	4
2016	52	5
2015	40	4
2014	67	4
2013	52	4
2012	42	5

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# Eid joy turns into tragedy

STAR REPORT

For five friends, a trip promising joy turned into a tragedy on Tuesday.

The friends had gone to Moimoi Ghat of Padma River in Dhaka's Dohar upazila to enjoy their Eid holidays on that morning. Till the afternoon, it was all fun and games for them.

But moments after three of them got into the river, a sudden strong current dragged them out into deep water.

One of the bodies was recovered yesterday while the two others remained missing. A fire service official said the victims were taking selfies at the time of the incident.

The deceased was identified as Ishtiak Ahmed Mohsin, 21, a first-year student of BRA department at Dhaka's United International University.

The two other youths - Supriyo Dhalui, a 23-year-old student of Dhaka

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# Crow attacks stall postal service



APP, Ottawa

Canada's postal service confirmed Tuesday that it has suspended mail delivery to a Vancouver neighborhood after repeated attacks on its carriers by a crow.

Canuck the crow would often swoop in and peck at carriers delivering to three homes on the city's east side.

On one occasion, according to media reports, a carrier was left bleeding.

Canada Post spokesman Phil Legault said in a statement to AFP that the safety of its employees is "of most importance."

He cited several incidents "in this neighborhood where our letter carriers were attacked by a crow."

Residents, he said, have been advised where to go to pick up their mail, adding that postal service would resume "as soon as possible when it's safe."

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# BNP says 'no' to Hasina-led polls-time govt

UNB, Dhaka

The BNP yesterday said the Awami League general secretary's latest comment on the polls-time supportive government was an indication of "pushing the country towards a grave danger".

"The election will be conducive to the candidates having the electoral symbol 'boat' if the supportive government is formed under Sheikh Hasina. It won't be

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SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# July 1 attack charge sheet to be flawless

UNB, Dhaka

Home Minister

Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday said investigators were taking time to submit the charge sheet in the Holey Artisan attack case as they want it to be flawless.

"A flawless charge sheet will be submitted soon," he told reporters at his secretariat office on the first working day after the Eid vacation.

The minister said Eid holidaymakers this year enjoyed traffic jam-free journeys on highways across the country.

Law enforcers took adequate measures to ensure trouble-free journeys of holidaymakers, Asaduzzaman added.

"This has been possible due to continuous monitoring by Road, Transport and Bridges Minister, Obaidul Quader with assistance from law enforcers."

Twenty hostages, including 17 foreign nationals,

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PHOTO: TWITTER/@RYNALDOR297 INSTAGRAM/@OSCARPEREZ67

A helicopter with the initials of the investigative police unit on its side flying above the Venezuelan capital Caracas. Inset, investigative police unit Oscar Perez reads a statement from an undisclosed location on Tuesday in this still image taken from a



# VENEZUELA CRISIS

## Top court hit by grenades

Maduro warns US over intervention

APP, Caracas

Venezuela's army has been put on alert after four grenades were hurled at the Supreme Court from a helicopter, President Nicolas Maduro said Tuesday, in a potentially dramatic escalation of the violence gripping the oil-rich South American country.

The helicopter assault comes a day after Maduro announced the arrests of five opponents he accused of plotting against him to clear the way for a US invasion.

The beleaguered president, who for weeks has been thundering about alleged coup attempts against him, said the helicopter was flown by a pilot who worked for a former minister.

Around 15 shots were fired at the Interior Ministry, Maduro added.

"I have activated the entire armed forces to defend the palace," he said in remarks from the Miraflores presidential palace.

"Sooner or later, we are going to capture that helicopter and those that carried out this terror attack."

No one was hurt in the incident, he said.

The government identified the helicopter pilot as a former member of Venezuela's main police force, known as the CICPC.

Maduro called on the opposition MUD alliance to denounce the attack but one of its leaders, Freddy Guerau, tweeted there was not yet enough information to comment.

Guerau urged people to take part in anti-government rallies Wednesday - the latest in nearly three months of daily street protests that have left 76 people dead.

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