



Early marriage even earlier

BBS survey finds women's average marital age drops to 18.8yrs; experts say poverty, insecurity main reasons



Sylhet division records highest marriage age both for men and women

Women getting married earliest in Rangpur division and men in Rajshahi division



Experts attribute poverty, safety concerns for women's early marriages

REAZ AHMAD and MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Over the last five years, more women got married at a younger age while men's average age of marriage kept going up.

Last year, women's average age of marriage was 18.8 years, dropping from 19.3 in 2012. During the period, that for men rose to 26.3 from 24.7.

A recent Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) survey titled "Bangladesh Sample

Vital Statistics 2016* also found that rural women got married at an average age of 18.3 and urban women at 19.9.

Population experts, rights activists, and policy planners attribute women's early marriage to poverty and social security concerns.

The minimum age of marriage for men and women are 21 and 18 years in the country. But, a special provision in the child

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Ignoring potential landslides, people continue to live in shacks built cutting a hill in Jungle Salimpur of Sitakunda. On Friday, five of a family were killed when their house was destroyed in a landslide there.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

What can we do?

Ctg DC appears helpless in preventing illegal hill-dwelling

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong

The local administration has expressed helplessness as if it did not have the capacity to prevent the loss of lives in Friday's landslides at Jungle Salimpur in Sitakunda upazila of Chittagong.

That was its position even five weeks ago after the death of 170 people in the country's hill districts in rain-induced landslides. Environment experts at the time suggested that only permanent eviction of hill dwellers from risky areas would prevent such deaths.

Chittagong Deputy Commissioner Zillur Rahman Chowdhury said he had failed to evict vulnerable

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Stern city governance, lot more power for it

Renowned former Delhi CM offers two tips for city corporations to get messy Dhaka in order

TAWFIQUE ALI



"It was not my opinion only. Eight more senior lawyers had the same opinion. Seven judges were in agreement before delivering the verdict. Not all of us have gone crazy."

DR KAMAL HOSSAIN

AT A CITY PROGRAMME YESTERDAY

REGARDING HIS OPINION ON THE 16TH

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

of a tough administrator while ruling the Indian capital for 15 years at a stretch.

"Either you change the present state of city governance or you empower the two Dhaka municipalities [city corporations] with much more power; give them more power and funds to enable them to deliver the public services," she said in the interview on Wednesday in Dhaka.

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An accident shrouded in mystery

Trader dies; Tk 27 lakh goes missing from scene'

ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE AKAND, Gazipur

The death of a waste garment trader, Jakir Hossain, 42 in Gazipur, in an apparent road accident is shrouded in mystery. The Tk 27 lakh that he had been carrying with him disappeared.

Though police said Jakir died after an unknown

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On brink of losing lights

Chances of Siddiqur's full recovery dim after his eyes got hurt during Thursday's police action in Shahbagh; family appeals for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Siddiqur Rahman, who suffered serious eye injuries during a police action at Shahbagh on Thursday, stands little chance of full recovery, doctors say as efforts are on to have his eyesight back to normal.

"The chances of his full recovery are slim," Associate Professor Dr Iftekhar Md Munir of the National Institute of

Ophthalmology said following a surgery on the victim's right eye yesterday.

Siddiqur, a third-year political science student at Titumir College, suffered injuries in both eyes when police lobbed a teargas shell on the students of seven colleges, who were demonstrating for the announcement of their examination schedules.

Police claimed he was wounded when hit

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