



THE KANCHPUR-MEGHNA-GUMTI BRIDGES ARE BEING BUILT WITH HIGHLY DUCTILE GRADE 420 BSRM ULTIMA BARS



PROUD CONSTRUCTION PARTNER OF PADMA BRIDGE



Onslaught on Karatoa on

Wanton grabbing leaves the river on its death throes

MOSTAFA SABUI, Bogura

The Karatoa is facing a fatal threat. The famous river is shrinking, at some points by a fifth of its total width, due to widespread grabbing along its banks in Bogura's Sadar upazila, according to a government survey and locals.

Over the last 10 to 15 years, at least 38 structures of different sizes have been erected along the 24km stretch of the upazila. They include NGO and government establishments, shops, two mosques and a temple, according to a survey by the upazila land office.

About two dozen politicians, businessmen and local influential people are among the grabbers. Some people are also lifting sand from the river at various points, including Rajapur Nagar, Dakurchak and Phulbari, contributing to river bank erosion.

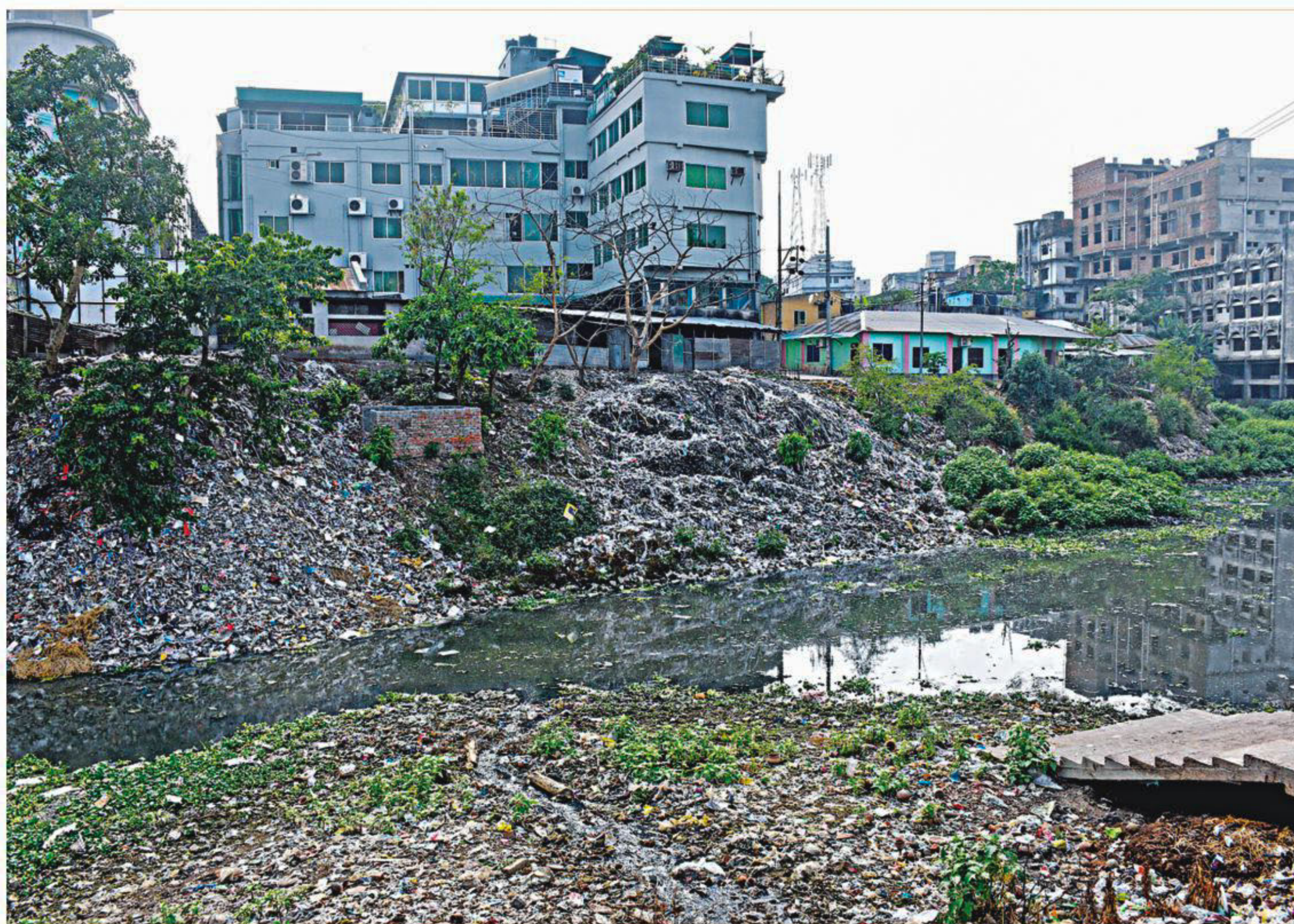
"The Karatoa is dying because of relentless land grabbing. It comes to life only during monsoon. For the rest of the year, it remains dry," said Ziaur Rahman, general secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolan, Bogura.

The survey, done in February-March, found that local NGO Thengamara Mohila Sabuj Sangha (TMSS), has occupied some 4.9 acres of the river land at Mohishbathan mouza alone.

It has allegedly grabbed river banks in other mouzas of the upazila as well.

The NGO, which has offices across the country, has built two structures at Sutrapur and Mohishbathan. The one in Mohishbathan houses a canteen and a hostel of TMSS Medical College, the survey report said.

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It's hard to believe that what seems like a dying canal is actually part of the famous Karatoa in Bogura town's Chalopara Bridge area. The river has shrunk alarmingly in many places due to mindless grabbing and dumping of waste. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

N'GANJ MILL BLAST Two workers die of molten metal burns

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Two of the 12 labourers who had suffered burns in an explosion at a steel mill in Narayanganj on Friday died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

They are Masud Bepari, 30, from Bogura, and Nayan Hossain, 28, from

Munshiganj. Both of them had suffered 90 per cent burns on their bodies as they came in contact with molten metal during the explosion.

They breathed their last around 9:00am, said Md Abdul Khan, assistant sub-inspector of the DMCH police camp.

The others injured, who also had come in contact with molten metal, were being treated at the hospital. Of them, Rupak and Shakil were in critical condition.

The explosion took place inside Muntaha Steel Mills in Nanakhi area of Sonargaon upazila around 12:30pm on Friday following a short

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3 bodies found in B'baria, Jamalpur

STAR REPORT

Three unidentified bodies were found at different places of Brahmanbaria and Jamalpur yesterday.

The body of a woman, aged around 25, was recovered from Chhotohoron village of Brahmanbaria around 11:45am.

Sub-Inspector Sanaul Islam, in-charge of Brahmanbaria Railway Police camp, told The Daily Star that locals found the body under a rail bridge in the area. On information, police rushed to the spot and recovered the body.

According to the police official, the body was cut under the wheels of Dhaka-bound Upakul Express.

Brahmanbaria police recovered another body of an adolescent from the paddy field of district's Nandanpur BSCIC

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Partisan officials out to ensure AL win: BNP

UNB, Dhaka

The BNP yesterday alleged that "partisan" and "controversial" officials of the police and civil administrations are regularly holding 'clandestine' meetings to ensure Awami League candidates' win in the upcoming general election.

"The officials of the police and civil administrations are conspiring to put unpopular Awami League in power again," said BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi.

He came up with the allegation at a press conference at BNP's Nayapaltan central office.

The BNP leader said they came to know that police and admin officials held a secret meeting on Tuesday at the Officer's Club conference room for two and a half hours and reviewed the election engineering plan of the ruling party.

Rizvi claimed that Prime Minister's Office Secretary Sazzadul Hasan, Public Administration Secretary Faiz Ahmed, EC Secretary Helaluddin Ahmed, Water Resources Secretary Kabir Bin Anwar, Civil Aviation Secretary Mohibul Haque, Dhaka Divisional Commissioner and Dhaka city returning officer Ali Azam, PM's APS-1 Kazi Nishat Rasul and officials of police, Rab, DMP and counterterrorism unit were present at the meeting.

At the meeting, Rizvi alleged that the officials discussed that Awami League candidates' victory is certain in 33 seats while there will be strong fights in 60-65 seats. "But it won't be possible to ensure their victory in the rest of the seats without election engineering."

Under the circumstances, he said, they decided that the Election

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PhD student held in city

Rab claims he runs 22 fake news sites; family denies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rab yesterday said they had the Bangladeshi PhD student at a South Korean University -- who had gone missing from the airport area before his flight on Wednesday -- in their custody.

The law enforcement agency said they arrested Enamul Haque Mony, 31, in Airport Railway Station area on charges of creating fake websites identical to those of different local media outlets and circulating false and "anti-government" news through them.

However, Mony's wife Nipa said her husband did not know how to create such fake sites. He had been in South Korea since 2012, she added.

Nipa on Friday claimed Mony returned to their home in Pabna on October 23 and went missing on Wednesday night while on his way to Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to catch a flight to South Korea.

She also claimed to have been called by an unknown person who demanded a

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Dimming the sun!

Scientists put forth ingenious idea to fight climate change



CNN ONLINE

Scientists are proposing an ingenious but as-yet-unproven way to tackle climate change: spraying sun-dimming chemicals into the Earth's atmosphere.

The research by scientists at Harvard and Yale universities, published in the journal Environmental Research Letters, proposes using a technique known as stratospheric aerosol injection, which they say could cut the rate of global warming in half.

The technique would involve spraying large amounts of sulfate particles into the Earth's lower stratosphere at altitudes as high as 12 miles. The scientists propose delivering the sulfates with

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EC to discuss monitoring by foreign observers

UNB, Dhaka

The Election Commission (EC) hoped that observers from different countries would arrive to oversee polls despite the European Union refraining from sending its observers to monitor the upcoming 11th parliamentary elections for what it says is a lengthy process.

The EC is scheduled to sit in a high-level meeting today to discuss security, visa processing and accommodation of foreign observers and

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 25
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-10 12-45 3-45 5-19 7-00
JAMAAT 5-45 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEXUAL HEALTH Discuss with adolescent children

Experts advise parents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

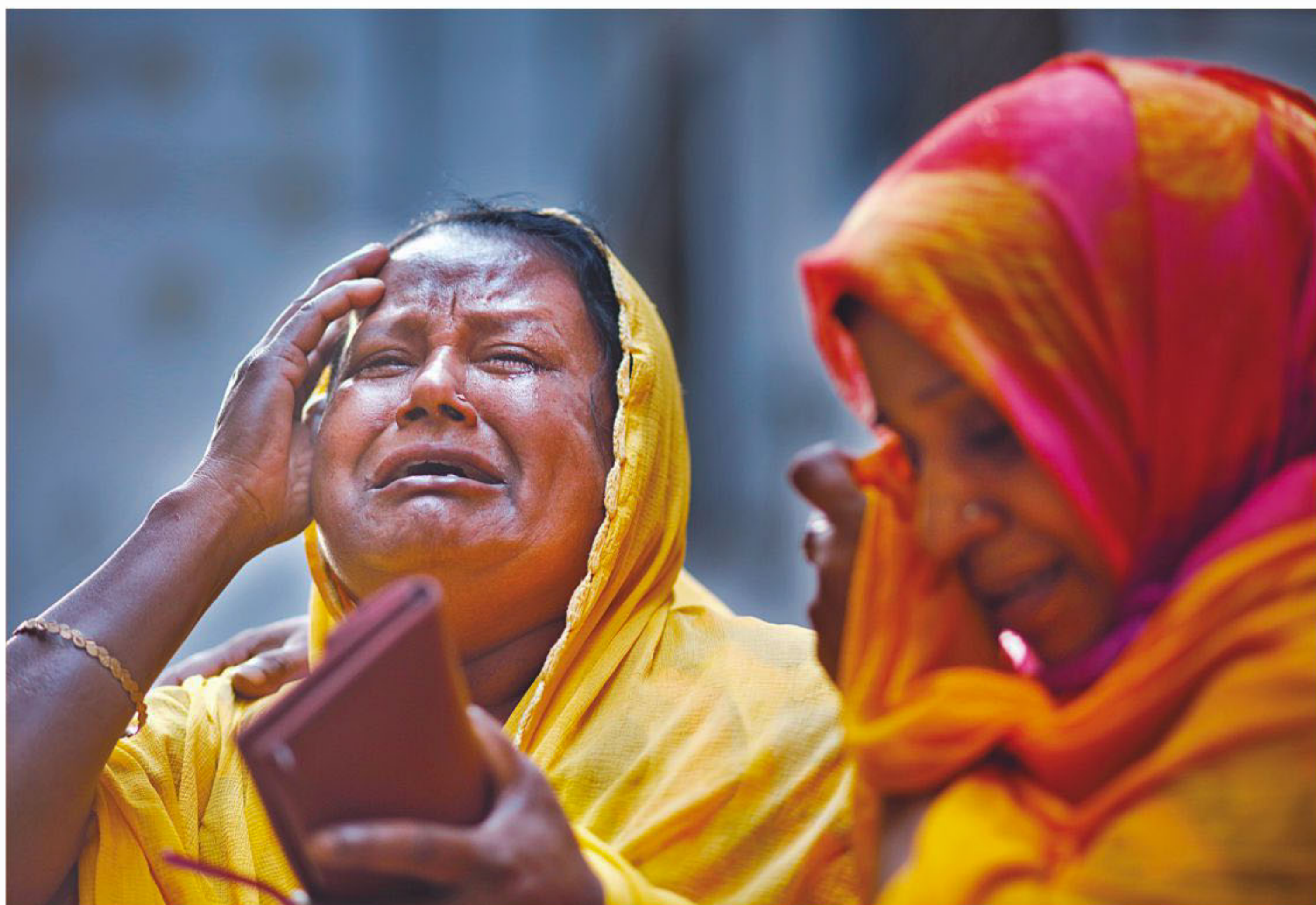
Parents should openly discuss sexual and reproductive health with their adolescent children breaking the taboo and social stigma, speakers said at a roundtable yesterday.

Sexual and reproductive health is so important that future health of all individual depends on how they practise it during adolescence, they said, urging the teachers to provide adequate lessons on the topic at classrooms.

Bangla daily Prothom Alo in association with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) organised the roundtable titled "Reproductive health of urban adolescents" at the newspaper's office in the capital.

The speakers suggested that the government and non-government organisations should put emphasis on those adolescents living in slum areas, dropped out

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The mother and aunt, right, of Juba Dal leader Kazi Sohail Rana break down in tears on the premises of Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court yesterday after the court sent him to jail. Rana was arrested at Malibagh on Friday. Like the two women, hundreds of relatives of other opposition men, held in different areas of the city recently, through the court premises every day for hearings.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

MID-TERM POLLS IN TAIWAN

President quits party leadership

Pro-China party makes ground

AFP, Taipei

Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen resigned as leader of the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) yesterday after it suffered major defeats in key mid-term polls, a significant blow to her prospects for re-election in 2020.

The Beijing-friendly main opposition Kuomintang (KMT) made gains in the face of China's increasing pressure on the island.

Taiwan is still awaiting the result of a closely watched referendum on gay marriage, with activists fearing a win for conservative "pro-family" campaigners would turn back the clock on the island's reputation as a trailblazer for marriage equality.

Tsai and her Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) have faced a mounting backlash over domestic reforms including pension cuts, as well as concerns about deteriorating ties with China, which still sees self-ruling Taiwan as part of its territory to be reunified.

Tsai told reporters that she would take "complete responsibility" for the defeat as chair of the party.

"I resign as DPP chairperson. Our efforts weren't enough and we let down all our supporters who fought with us. I want to express our most sincere apologies."

The KMT, which oversaw an unprecedented thaw with Beijing before Tsai took office in 2016, declared victory in 15 of 22 city and county seats, up from just six going into the election.

The DPP, which went into the election with 13 seats,

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