



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





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Child suicide on the rise

Experts believe lack of awareness about mental health is to blame

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The number of children dying by suicide has increased in recent years largely due to what experts believe a lack of awareness among family members and teachers about the stress in adolescence.

At least 293 children died by suicide and 22 others made attempts in the last 11 months, according to Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF).

The rise is significant from last year's 213 dead and 11 attempts. In 2016, the number of death was about half of this year's, according to BSAF, which came up with the figures based on newspaper reports.

The rights group, however, maintains that the actual number of children dying by suicide is much higher because many incidents remain unreported.

The issue of adolescent suicide, especially among school students, has come to the fore following Monday's death of Arity Adhikary, who was a ninth grader of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College.

Her body was found hanging from the ceiling at her home in the capital's Shantinagar hours after she and her parents were allegedly insulted by some teachers of the school.

BSAF Director Abdus Shahid Mahmood said children die by suicide following incidents that include getting poor grades, being rebuked by parents or being bullied or insulted by others.

"Many children die by suicide following such incidents. Not everyone has the same ability to absorb mental

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina holding the control yoke of the Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner that she inaugurated yesterday at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. This is the second Dreamliner in Biman's fleet.

PHOTO: PID

Biman gets another Dreamliner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the second Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner of Biman Bangladesh Airlines yesterday afternoon at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

She boarded and inspected the new generation aircraft on the airport's VIP tarmac.

After boarding, Hasina went to different sections inside the aircraft, including the cockpit, and spoke to the officials and staff members of the national airlines.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister AKM Shahjahan Kamal, Chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the ministry Muhammad Faruk Khan, and senior officials of the Prime Minister's Office and Bangladesh Biman were also present at the time.

The brand new aircraft was handed over to Biman's Director (Flight Operation) Captain Farhat Hasan Jamil

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Man held after mysterious death of son

Cops rescue another son

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man in the capital's Bangla Motor held one of his sons hostage for six hours while keeping the body of his other son -- who he was suspected of killing -- next to him.

With his two-year-old son's body wrapped in a shroud next to him and his other three-and-a-half year old son on his lap, Nuruzzaman Kajol had kept himself holed inside his Bangla Motor residence since yesterday morning

He held a machete in his hand, sometimes putting it against the throat of his son -- Surayet -- who was alive, in order to dissuade anyone from entering the premises.

Scared, family members, law enforcers and onlookers waited outside helplessly. They feared the fate that awaited Surayet as Kajol -- a known drug addict -- had been threatening to kill him if anyone tried to enter the house.

The tense situation continued for around six hours until Kajol finally gave in and came out of house, along with Surayet, at 1:50pm.

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GLOBAL CLIMATE RISK INDEX

Bangladesh 7th most vulnerable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a new global index, Bangladesh has been ranked seventh among the countries most affected by extreme weather events in 20 years since 1998.

The Long-Term Climate Risk Index listed Puerto Rico and Sri Lanka as the top two affected countries.

The index is part of a report, Global Climate Risk Index 2019, which was released at the annual climate summit in Poland's Katowice city yesterday. The report was prepared analysing damages caused by the extreme weather events that took place from 1998 to 2017.

According to the annual climate risk index for 2017, Bangladesh stood ninth among the countries most affected last year, up from 13th the previous year. Nepal was ranked fourth and India 14th in the list.

Last year, 407 people died in Bangladesh due to extreme weather related events -- floods, landslide, storms and cyclones. The country also suffered an economic loss of about \$2826.68 million, says the report prepared by Germanwatch, a Berlin-based environmental organisation.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has already predicted in its scientific report that risks associated with extreme events will continue to increase as the global mean temperature rises.

COUNTRIES MOST AFFECTED BY EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS (1998-2017)

- 1 Puerto Rico
- 2 Honduras
- 3 Myanmar
- 4 Haiti
- 5 Philippines
- 6 Nicaragua
- 7 Bangladesh
- 8 Pakistan
- 9 Vietnam
- 10 Dominica

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DEFAMING JOURNO Mainul gets bail in two more cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted bail to barrister Mainul Hosein for six months in two cases filed against him for making "defamatory" remarks about journalist Masuda Bhatti.

The court also stayed the trial proceedings of the cases, filed in Rangpur and Jamalpur, for six months and issued two rules upon the government to explain why the proceedings should not be scrapped.

The HC bench of Justice Md Rezaul Haque and Justice Zafar Ahmed passed the orders after hearing two petitions filed by Mainul challenging the case proceedings and seeking bail.

Mainul, however, cannot walk out of jail following the HC orders as he was arrested in other cases, his

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Medical milestone

First baby born via uterus from dead donor



AFP, Paris

In a medical first, a mother who received a uterus transplant from a dead donor gave birth to a healthy baby, researchers reported yesterday.

The breakthrough operation, performed in September 2016 in Sao Paulo, Brazil, shows that such transplants are feasible and could help thousands of women unable to have children due to uterine problems, according to a study published in The Lancet.

The baby girl was born in December 2017, the medical journal added.

Until recently, the only options available to women with so-called uterine infertility were adoption or the services of a surrogate mother.

The first successful childbirth following uterine transplant from a living donor took place in 2014 in Sweden, and there have been 10 others since then.

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KL financier faces new charges in 1MDB scandal

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Fugitive Malaysian financier Low Taek Jho is facing new charges of laundering more than \$1.0 billion, in a massive corruption scandal surrounding state fund 1MDB, police said yesterday.

The extraordinary 1MDB controversy allegedly saw billions looted from a Malaysian government investment fund, fuelling a worldwide spending spree including on super yachts

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PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 6

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-15 12-45 3-45 5-19 7-00
JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

\$101M BB HEIST Dhaka to claim damages from Fed by Jan 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will sue the Federal Reserve Bank of New York over the money stolen during the 2016 cyber heist -- one of the biggest cyber crimes in the world -- Finance Minister AMA Muhith said yesterday.

"A case will also be lodged against the Fed, because it is the originator of the problem," Muhith told reporters after a meeting of the cabinet committee on purchase in the cabinet division.

Afterwards, when journalists contacted him in this regard, Muhith said that a case would be filed where Manila-based Rizal Commercial Bank Corporation (RCBC) would be the main accused and the US Federal Reserve would be included as the other accused.

"I think the Fed will cooperate, because they are the custodian of the money of the [whole] world, not

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Roads and Highways Department paint the central reservation on Dhaka-Aricha highway ahead of the Victory Day when many people, including ministers and political leaders, would use the highway to go to the National Mausoleum in Savar.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

With just \$85m, India launches its heaviest satellite

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

In another milestone for India's space history, the country's heaviest satellite was successfully launched from the French Guiana early yesterday, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said.

Blasting off from the launch complex at Kourou, a French island along the north eastern coast of South America at 02:07 am Indian time, the Ariane-5 rocket put the about 5,854kg satellite GSAT-11 in the orbit in a flawless flight lasting about 33 minutes.

The GSAT-11, which will play a vital role in providing broadband services across the country, has only cost about Rs 600 crore (around \$85 million). The ariane-5 heavy-weight rocket was hired from Arianespace by ISRO. The satellite is expected to have a life span of 15 years.

".....the heaviest, largest and most powerful satellite ever built by India is successfully launched by Ariane-5 today," ISRO Chairman K Sivan said soon after the launch, describing the GSAT-11 as the "richest space asset" for India.

The satellite is initially placed in the Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit and will be raised to the Geostationary Orbit (36,000 km above the equator) through phase-wise orbit-raising manoeuvres in the days ahead, using its on-board propulsion systems. ISRO said.

According to ISRO, GSAT-11 will provide high data rate connectivity to users of Indian mainland and islands through 32 user beams in Ku-band and 8 hub beams in Ka-band.

Along with its three siblings, GSAT-19, GSAT-29 and GSAT-20, the satellite will be a "game changer for providing internet access and data communications for India and will

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