



"MY HOME IS AS GREAT AS THE PADMA BRIDGE TO ME"

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT

BSRM
building a safer nation

Whether for your home or the Pillars of Padma Bridge
We forge steels with the same expertise



MATARBARI POWER PLANT
Cox's Bazar

PROUD CONSTRUCTION PARTNER

SHAH CEMENT

Nearly 7.5 lakh teenagers give birth every year

UNFPA report says adolescent birth rate in Bangladesh now as high as 31pc, almost unchanged for 25 yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The adolescent (15-19 years) birth rate in Bangladesh is still high as approximately 750,000 adolescent girls are giving birth annually, according to a new UN report.

"Adolescent fertility levels have remained relatively unchanged during the past 25 years with the adolescent fertility percentage being 33 percent in 1994 and it is 31 percent in 2018," said the United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) annual flagship report -- "State of World Population 2019".

The report was launched officially in Bangladesh yesterday at a programme in the capital.

Themed "Unfinished business: the pursuit of rights and choices for all", it portrays how the transformation of women's reproductive rights had taken shape over the past 50 years.

"Approximately 750,000 adolescents are giving birth annually, which means these girls will most likely not continue with their education or enter the work market," said Dr Asa Torkelsson, UNFPA representative in Bangladesh, while unveiling the report.

The report also said the use of modern contraceptives among married teenage girls was at 47 percent, with 42

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Two girls holding onto the door railings of a moving intercity train heading towards Kamalapur Railway Station. While the children may not comprehend the risks involved, the authorities should have been there to prevent such activities. The picture was taken near Tejgaon level crossing recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



PM goes to Brunei on Sunday

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will begin a three-day visit to Brunei Darussalam on Sunday to encourage the country to invest in Bangladesh and to hire more trained Bangladeshis.

She will be visiting the Southeast Asian country at the invitation of Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah.

The PM will discuss how the two countries can cooperate with each other to improve bilateral trade and commerce.

Brunei has one of the world's highest standards of living thanks to its bountiful oil and gas reserves.

Diplomatic sources said

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

INDONESIA PRESIDENTIAL POLLS

Widodo on track to be re-elected

REUTERS, Jakarta



Indonesian President Joko Widodo appeared set for a second term as "quick count" results from yesterday's election rolled in, but his challenger claimed that he had won the popular vote and urged supporters not to let his victory be snatched away.

Data from private pollsters based on counts of vote samples were in line with opinion polls that had predicted a win for Widodo, a former furniture businessman and low-key reformist.

They showed him winning the popular vote with about 54 percent, with a lead of between 7.1 and 11.6 percentage points over former general Prabowo Subianto, who was narrowly defeated when he took Widodo on in the last election five years ago.

Prabowo, a former son-in-law of military strongman Suharto who was overthrown in 1998, told a news conference

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

'47 children raped, abused in 15 days'

Girl child, housewife raped in Jashore, Feni

STAR REPORT

A six-year-old girl was allegedly violated and a mother of two was allegedly gang-raped in Jashore and Feni on Tuesday night.

In Jhenidah, a government primary school headmaster was arrested yesterday on charges of sexually harassing three girl students.

In another incident, a woman in Manikganj filed a case on Tuesday night against a local businessman for allegedly raping her repeatedly for four years by threatening and intimidating her in different ways.

Meanwhile, Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) yesterday expressed grave concern over the increasing number of child rape incidents across the country.

At least 47 children were either raped or subjected to attempted rape and sexual harassment in the last 15 days since April 2. Of them, 39 were raped during this period, the rights body said in a statement.

Besides, five children, including a girl, were killed during the same period for different reasons, it added.

MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam urged the government to take effective measures to ensure safety of women and children.

The organisation also demanded exemplary punishments for those involved in the killing of Feni madrasa student Nusrat Jahan Rafi.

According to statistics of Ain o Salish Kendra, at least 123 children were raped across the country in the first three months of this year.

In Jashore, a priest allegedly raped a girl inside a Hindu temple at Birampur village on Tuesday evening when worship services were underway.

The accused is Prokash Banerjee, priest of Sree Sree Anukul Thakur Mandir, said police.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Man strangles wife, sets her body afire

Police say; husband detained

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman was strangled and then her body set on fire by her husband in the capital's South Mugda yesterday, police said.

The victim, Hashi Begum, 27, was a housewife and the mother of a seven-year-old boy. She had her son from her first marriage with one Sujon.

Police detained her husband Komol Hossain, 30, a motor parts shop owner, from near his rented flat in South Mugda in the morning.

In the evening, Hashi's father Sheikh Altaf, from Dinajpur, filed a murder case with Mugda Police Station, accusing Komol as the lone suspect.

Proloy Kumar Saha, officer-in-charge of the police station, said

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

Valley of the dolls

Scarecrows outnumber people in Japan village



AFP, Nagoro

In the tiny village of Nagoro, deep in the mountains of western Japan, the wind howls down a deserted street with not a living soul to be seen.

But yet the street appears busy, dotted with life-sized dolls that outnumber humans 10 to one, the product of a one-woman bid to counter the emptiness and loneliness felt in Nagoro, like many Japanese villages decimated by depopulation.

Nagoro, around 550 kilometres (400 miles) southwest of Tokyo, has become known as the valley of dolls after local resident Tsukimi Ayano began placing scarecrows on the street to inject some life into her depopulated village.

"Only 27 people live in this village but the number

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

BGMEA BUILDING It'll be torn down in 3 months

Says housing minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BGMEA building will be knocked down within the next three months as it has already been sealed-off since Tuesday, Housing and Public Works Minister SM Rezaul Karim said yesterday.

The Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (RAJUK) sealed-off the 16-storey establishment of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association in

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



PRAYER TIMING APRIL 18

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-35 12-45 4-45 6-24 7-45
JAMAAT 5-10 1-15 5-00 6-28 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



হাল না ছাড়া প্রত্যয়ে স্বপ্ন পূরণের পথে

যারা হাল ছাড়ে না, তাদের হাতেই শুরু হয় স্বপ্ন পূরণের জার্নিটা।
এমনই হাল না ছাড়া প্রত্যয়ে প্রতিদিন জিপিএইচ ইস্পাতও এগিয়ে চলেছে আগামীর সম্ভাবনায়।
চট্টগ্রামের আখতারুজ্জামান চৌধুরী ফ্লাইওভারের মতো এবারও বাংলাদেশের
এয়াবৎকালের সবচেয়ে বড় ফ্লাইওভার চট্টগ্রামের লালখান বাজার থেকে এয়ারপোর্ট এক্সপ্রেস হাইওয়ে
নির্মাণে সবচেয়ে বড় অংশীদার হতে পেরে আমরা গর্বিত।

GPH ispat

www.gphispat.com.bd