

Bailey Bridges

# Waiting to come apart



Truckers overloading their vehicles and getting on Bailey bridges is causing frequent collapse of the temporary structures, some of which are decades old.

Signs near Bailey bridges are there to warn of the dangers of passing with heavy loads. But drivers, especially of trucks, pay little heed to the warnings and often cause the collapse of the bridges, resulting in fatalities and communication disruptions, experts said.

Even though the bridges are temporary, there are Bailey bridges that have been constructed right after the Liberation War but are still being used, sources said.

The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) has no recent data on the number of Bailey bridges in the country or how many of them are vulnerable. SEE PAGE 5 COL 2



A crowded Kamalapur Railway Station platform as people return to the capital yesterday after Eid. Most offices will open today after the holidays.

PHOTO: **PALASH KHAN** 

PILOT WITHOUT PASSPORT

## Immigration SI suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An immigration official has been suspended for negligence in duty as a Biman Bangladesh pilot crossed the immigration of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport without his passport on June 5.

The official is Sub-inspector Kamruzzaman, Additional Superintendent of Police (immigration) Mohammed Ismail Hossain told The Daily Star yesterday. "He [the SI] should have checked

the passport of Biman pilot Capt Fazal Mahmud before giving him immigration clearance," Ismail said. Fazal was the lead pilot of Doha-bound

Dreamliner 787-8 (Flight number BG-125) that took off from the airport around 4:30pm that day. He was supposed to fly an aircraft that would carry Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina back to the country. However, Fazal was detained at Hamad

International Airport in Doha by the immigration authorities for not carrying his passport, according to the cabinet division.

Hasina returned home yesterday following her tri-nation visit, including to SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

# 23m boys got married before they were 15

Unveils Unicef's global study

UNB, Dhaka

An estimated 115 million boys and men around the world were married when they were still children, according to the first-ever analysis on child grooms, launched on Friday by the Unicef.

Twenty-three million among them were married before the age of 15. Using data from 82 countries, the study brings the overall number of estimated child marriages to 765 million, Unicef revealed.

"Marriage steals childhood," said Henrietta Fore, executive director of Unicef. "Child grooms are forced to take on adult responsibilities for

which they may not be ready." The study discovered that child marriage among boys spans sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, South Asia, East Asia

and the Pacific. According to the data, 28 percent of the males in the Central African Republic were married as children, ranking the region first in male child marriages.

At 19 percent, Nicaragua was the second and Madagascar the third, at 13 percent.

"Early marriage brings early fatherhood, and with it added pressure to provide for a family - cutting short education and job opportunities," Fore elaborated.

Notwithstanding the new information, girls remain disproportionately affected, with 1-in-5 young women between the age of 20 and 24, married SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

### AL leader's wife dies of burn injuries

Police suspect foul play; woman tortured in Pabna for dowry dies

STAR REPORT

The wife of an Awami League leader in Natore's Baraigram upazila died on Friday from burn injuries she sustained at her inlaws' on Monday.

Kamrun Nahar Shelly, 45, the third wife of Abdur Razzak, general secretary of Joyari Union AL, died at a local clinic on Friday morning, four days after she sustained burn injuries. She was taken to

Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) after the incident on June 3, and was later shifted to a local clinic after her condition deteriorated, police said.

They also alleged that Razzak did not inform them about the arson and tried to secretly bury the body of Shelly, also a member of the Baraigram

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### Nasa to open ISS to tourists from 2020



AFP, New York

Nasa on Friday said it will open up the International Space Station to business ventures including space tourism as it seeks to financially disengage from the orbiting research lab.

Price tag? Tens of millions of dollars for a round trip ticket and \$35,000 a night.

"Nasa is opening the International Space Station to commercial opportunities and marketing these opportunities as we've never done before," Nasa chief financial officer Jeff DeWit said in an announcement made at the Nasdaq stock exchange in New York.

There will be up to two short private astronaut missions per year, said Robyn Gatens, deputy director of the ISS.

The missions will be for stays of up to 30 days. As many as a dozen private astronauts could visit SEE PAGE 5 COL 2 TIMES SQUARE PLOT

CONSTRUCTION

PARTNER OF

PROUD

#### Bangladeshi man arrested in sting op

STAR REPORT

Ashiqul Alam, the green-card holder from Bangladesh who planned to



expressed admiration for Osama Bin Laden and said he wanted to "carry on Bin Laden's legacy of violent extremism", The New York Times reported citing court documents. According to the report, expressed the

sentiment to an undercover law enforcement agent and it was the start of a series of conversations regarding a potential attack on New York City that eventually led to his arrest on Thursday. Alam was arrested after receiving two Glock 19 nine

millimetre semi-automatic pistols with their serial numbers stripped off from undercover law enforcement officers, according to a complaint unsealed on Friday in Brooklyn federal court, the report said. Officials, however, maintained that the 22-year

old posed no immediate threat as he was being "monitored" by law enforcement agencies. formally charged Friday in Federal District Court in Brooklyn

with purchasing firearms obliterated serial numbers. He was not charged with terrorismrelated crimes. The report added that he

was quiet during his court hearing, where his lawyer, James Darrow, sought bail for his client.

"He has two jobs and is a student," Mr. Darrow said. "He'd like to continue to do that."

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Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-45 8-15 JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-50 8-45 SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

#### 2 held over 'gang-rape' of woman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Police yesterday arrested

two youths over the alleged gang-rape of a woman in Hijla upazila of Barishal. The arrestees are Zakir

Hossain, 25, an autorickshaw driver from Barguna, and Saiful, 22, a local resident of Hijla, said Officer-in-Charge (OC)

of Hijla Police Station SM Maksudur Rahman said the 30-year-old victim works in Dhaka and came to her village home in Mehendiganj upazila to celebrate Eid.

On Friday, she was going to Hijla by trawler. On the way, she got introduced to auto-rickshaw driver Zakir, said police.

After the two got off the boat at Ekota Kheyaghat in Hijla, 4-5 youths showed up there, OC Maksudur said, quoting the woman. They beat up Zakir and forced the woman to a nearby fish farm and raped her, he added.

On information from locals, police rescued her SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



A fishmonger holds a carp to show shoppers that the fish is alive. Some retailers in the capital's Karwan Bazar use aquarium air compressors to aerate the water in fish containers. The photo was taken yesterday.

ANISUR RAHMAN

## Moon is part of Mars: Trump

REUTERS

US President Donald Trump on Friday declared that the moon is part of Mars and criticised NASA for aiming to put astronauts back on it by 2024.

He also urged the space agency to focus instead on "much bigger" initiatives like going to Mars, undercutting his previous support for the lunar initiative. "For all of the money we are spending, NASA should

NOT be talking about going to the Moon - We did that 50 years ago," the president wrote on Twitter. "They should be focused on the much bigger things we are doing, including Mars (of which the Moon is a part), Defense and Science!"

Trump's statement, tweeted from Air Force One as he returned from Europe, appeared at odds with his administration's recent push to return humans to the lunar surface by 2024 "by any means necessary," five years sooner than the previous goal of 2028. NASA plans to build a space outpost in lunar orbit that

can relay astronauts to the lunar surface by 2024, part of a broader initiative to use the moon as a staging ground for eventual missions to Mars.

NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine said Trump was only reaffirming Nasa's space plan. "As @POTUS said, @NASA is using the Moon to send

humans to Mars!," he said on Friday in a tweet referring to the President of the United States. The accelerated timetable to land humans on the

moon by 2024 ran into early trouble when the Trump administration asked a skeptical Congress in May to increase NASA's 2020 budget proposal by \$1.6 billion as a "down payment" to accommodate the accelerated goal.

The accelerated timetable for going to the moon was a key recommendation in March of the new National Space Council led by Vice President Mike Pence.

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