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SHAH CEMENT

Maternal causes behind 13pc deaths

Says govt survey on females aged 15-49



MOUDDUD AHMED SUJAN

Thirteen percent of the deaths of females aged between 15 and 49 occur due to maternal causes, including haemorrhage and abortion-related complications, says a government survey released recently.

Besides, the estimated maternal mortality rate was 196 per 100,000 live births in 2016, which remained unchanged since 2010, it said.

The study also said the proportion of deliveries through Caesarean section has increased drastically in the country, from 12 percent in 2001 to 31 percent in 2016. When it comes to private clinics, the rate jumps to a staggering 83 percent.

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The BIWTA had knocked down illegal parts of these buildings on the Buriganga in the city's Islambagh area over three months ago, but they are still occupied by people and that too without any repair. Such use of the buildings might put the occupants in harm's way. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Police launch probe into DIG Mizan's 'misdeeds'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday reiterated that the process of taking action against Deputy Inspector General of Police Mizanur Rahman was underway.

"No one is above the law..." the minister said while talking to reporters after an event organised by the home ministry.

His remark came couple of hours after the Police Headquarters formed a three-member committee to investigate Mizan's claim that he bribed Tk 40 lakh to Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Director Khandaker Enamul Basir to get himself off the hook in a corruption case.

The committee will be headed by Additional Inspector General of Police Mainur Rahman Chowdhury. Two other members of the committee are Additional IGP Shahabuddin Koraishi and Superintendent of Police at Police Bureau of

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Some shady traders holding people hostage

HC observes regarding contaminated fruits



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday observed that the country's people had no health security as dishonest businessmen mix harmful chemicals in fruits and vegetables.

Such traders know very well that the practice is harmful, but they are continuing it, the court said, adding that the situation had reached such a level that people had no way to maintain good health.

The HC bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice KM Kamrul Kader came up with the observation while hearing a

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ROHINGYA CRISIS

UN finds 'systemic failures' in response

AFP, United Nations

The United Nations experienced "systemic failures" in its handling of the situation in Myanmar leading up to the 2017 mass exodus of Rohingya, a UN report said on Monday.

The finding came after UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in February ordered the internal review of the world body's operations in Myanmar after its officials in the country were accused of ignoring warning signs of the attacks against the Rohingya, a Muslim minority.

Today some 740,000 Rohingya are living in camps in Bangladesh after fleeing Myanmar's northern Rakhine state during a 2017 military campaign the UN has described as ethnic cleansing.

The report says that while "it is difficult to assign responsibility for systemic failures," there is a shared responsibility "on the part of all parties involved" in not "conveying more forcefully the United Nations' principled concerns regarding grave human rights violations."

Some of the criticism of the UN has focused on allegations that the world body's then-resident coordinator, Renata Lok-Dessallien, downplayed concerns about worsening abuses against the Rohingya in favour of prioritising economic cooperation with Myanmar's government. The UN has denied those claims.

But the 36-page report authored by veteran Guatemalan diplomat Gert Rosenthal and shared with UN member states denounces a "dynamic of divisions rather than cohesion within the UN system", "the absence of a clear and unified strategy" and shortcomings of "systematic and unified analysis from the field."

'UNEASE' OVER RIGHTS

Rosenthal wrote that the UN "needs to improve, systematise and share the gathering of data, information and analysis of events on the ground in real time," and if there are "diverse interpretations coming from different

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UPAZILA POLLS

5th phase sees poor turnout, irregularities

STAR REPORT

Some stray incidents of violence, irregularities and a low turnout marked the fifth and final phase of the upazila polls across the country yesterday.

At least 23 people were injured in clashes in two out of the 20 upazilas that went to polls.

Election Commission Secretary Md Alamgir in a post-polls briefing at his office said elections were held in a free, fair and peaceful manner, except for some stray incidents.

Of the total 492 upazilas, polls have been held in around 480 in five phases. Earlier, upazilas went to polls on March 10, 18, 24 and 31, according to EC sources.

At least seven people were killed and around 100 others injured in violence on the polling days, according to media reports.

Meanwhile, yesterday's

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Family branches out with novel tree house



AFP, Jabalpur

When the Kesharwanis decided to branch out and expand their family home, they came up with a novel way of dealing with an ancient giant fig tree in their garden -- they built the house around it.

Now the thick trunk of the 150-year-old tree is the central feature of their residence, growing through the middle of the building in the city of Jabalpur.

"We are nature lovers and my father insisted that we keep the tree," said Yogesh Kesharwani, whose parent built the house in 1994 with the help of an engineer friend.

"The tree is some 150 years old. We knew it was easy to cut the tree but difficult to grow one like it," he told AFP.

The fig tree, known as peepal in Hindi, is considered sacred by many in India and cutting

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Manpower frauds won't be spared

Minister warns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expatriates Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad has warned manpower frauds of tough action, while calling for a transparency and accountability in the overseas employment sector.

"Anyone found involved in harassing, cheating and corruption in the overseas employment sector will not be spared," he said at a meeting with leaders of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 19

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-50 8-15
JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

3 policemen closed for trespassing into India

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Three constables of Benapole immigration police were withdrawn yesterday for illegally entering India.

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) caught them at the no-man's-land between Benapole and Petrapole, Benapole immigration police OC Abul Bashar said.

The constables -- SK Azam, Ruma Bepary, and Trisha Biswas -- had entered India without passports to purchase fruits, he said.

"While returning, Ruhul Amin, a broker, met them at the no-man's land. The BSF men from Petrapole camp searched them and found Tk 1.2 million hundi money inside Amin's bag."

The BSF handed over the constables to Bangladesh but kept Ruhul Amin in their custody, he added.

The constables were closed to Jashore Police Lines by the order of Salahuddin Shikder, additional superintendent of police in Jashore, he added.



Charcoal is being produced in kilns in Asgana area of Tangail's Mirzapur upazila yesterday. Later in the day, a mobile court demolished 35 kilns in the area. Locals say black smoke from the kilns pollute the air, causing health hazards for them.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Earth population to be 9.7b in 2050

Says UN report

AFP, United Nations

The world population is expected to climb to 9.7 billion in 2050 from 7.7 billion today, with the population of sub-Saharan Africa doubling, a United Nations report released Monday said.

The population could then grow to 11 billion by 2100, according to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs's "World Population Prospects" report.

The study paints a picture of a future in which a handful of countries see their populations surge as life expectancy lengthens while the global growth rate slows amid declining fertility rates.

By 2050, more than half of the world's population growth will be concentrated in just nine countries: India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Indonesia, Egypt and the United States.

Meanwhile the world's most-populous country China will see its population drop by 2.2 percent, or around 31.4 million, between 2019 and 2050.

All told, 27 countries or territories have experienced a reduction of at least one percent in the size of their populations since 2010 due to low levels of fertility.

The report also says deaths are outpacing new births in Belarus, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Russia, Serbia and Ukraine, but that population loss will be offset by an inflow of migrants.

The overall global fertility rate, which declined from 3.2 births per-woman in 1990 to 2.5 in 2019, is expected to fall further to 2.2 in 2050.

That's close to the minimum of 2.1 births needed to ensure the replacement of generations and avoid long-term population decline in the absence of migration, according to the United Nations.

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