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## Development challenges even stiffer now

Experts say child marriage, early pregnancy, family planning, unemployment big obstacles

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

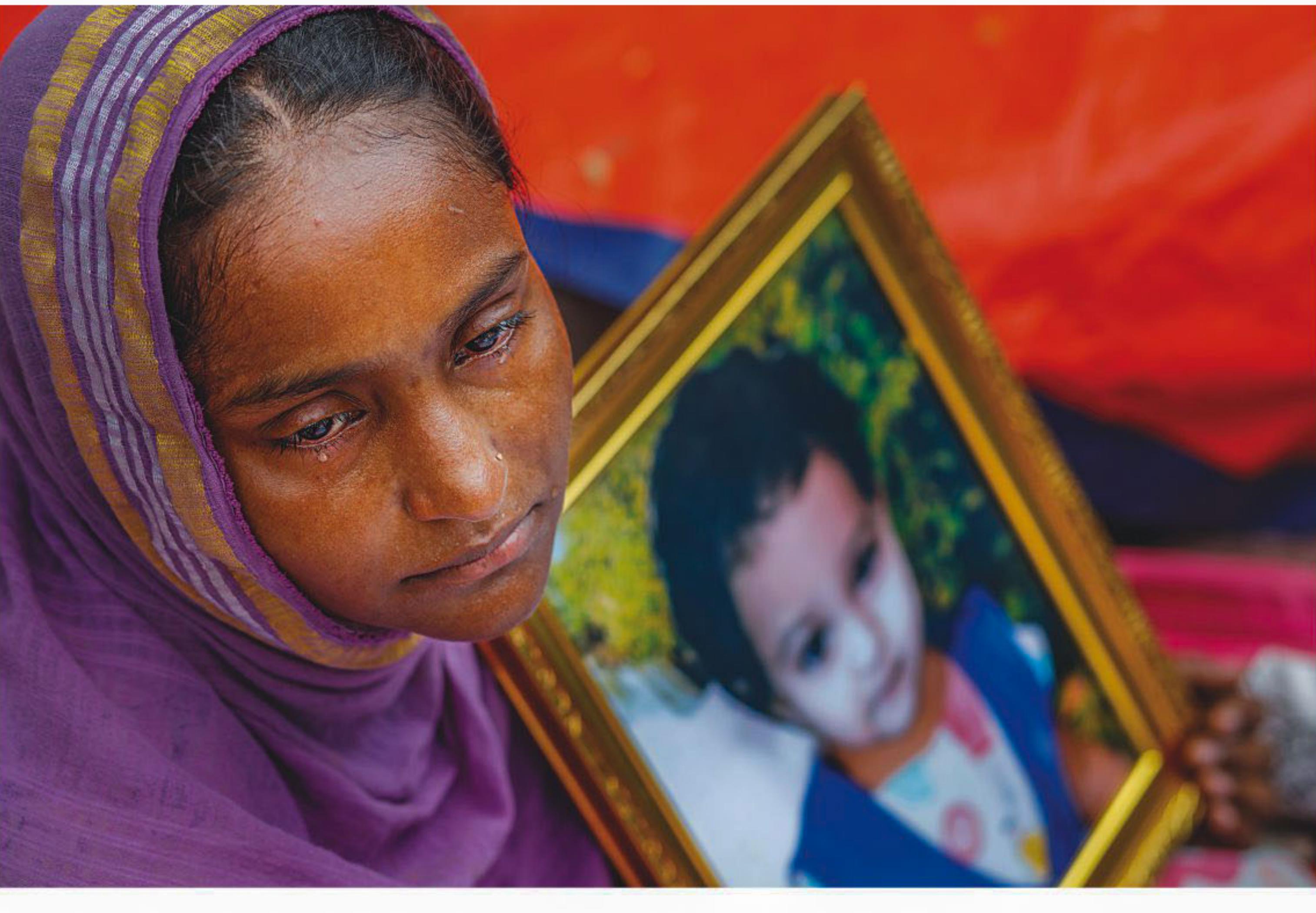
Bangladesh is facing huge population and development related challenges owing to high prevalence of child marriage, early pregnancy, and sluggish progress in family planning and poor youth unemployment, said experts yesterday.

The challenges have become daunting thanks to the rising violence against women and children, lack of good governance, high rate of maternal death and inadequate access of poor people to healthcare facilities in the urban areas, they told a roundtable yesterday. The event titled "Realising the unfinished agenda of ICPD in Bangladesh: Key recommendations for accelerating change and achieving SDGs" was organised by The Daily Star and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Bangladesh at The Daily Star Centre.

Economists, representative from the government and the private sectors, population experts, and rights campaigners took part in the discussion. The discussion was focused on the Programme of Action (PoA) taken at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994 to improve the quality of life of all people across the globe.

Bangladesh also took part in the conference and committed to implement the PoA. Implementation of the

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Tears roll down the cheeks of Ayesha Moni's mother, as she holds a photograph of her daughter. Silenced by grief, she sits alone in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday, protesting her two-year-old daughter's rape and murder. In January, Ayesha was "raped and then thrown off a balcony by Nahid, 45," owner of the building Ayesha and her family lived in. A case was filed by the victim's father, but police are yet to act.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## CMP STATIONS Police services taken to the citizens' doors

FM MIZANUR RAHMAN

Chattogram Metropolitan Police has undertaken a unique initiative to deliver services to peoples' neighbourhoods.

On July 10, Mohammed Mohsin, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, solely set up several "Hello OC Booths" at different places in areas under his police station and started visiting the booths at least once a week.

The intention behind setting up the booths is to provide support to citizens instantly.

According to the OC, general people are usually afraid of police and avoid visiting police stations.

"I decided to appear before public to eliminate the gap. I listen to their problems and direct my officers to take actions considering the gravity of the complaints," Mohsin said.

The initiative quickly became the talk of the town and went viral on social media.

Getting positive feedback from the citizens, CMP Commissioner Mahbubor Rahman ordered all the OCs in the metropolitan area to open up "Hello OC Booths" in their respective police stations.

The direction came on Wednesday during the monthly crime conference of CMP.

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## UK must rein in 'political forces'

Warns Tehran amid tensions over seized tanker as Britain mulls sanctions in response

REUTERS, Dubai

Iran's ambassador to Britain yesterday warned against escalating tensions as a UK official declined to rule out sanctions in response to Tehran's seizure of a British-flagged oil tanker.

Britain has called Iran's capture of the Stena Impero in the Strait of Hormuz on Friday a "hostile act".

Britain needs to contain "those domestic political forces who want to escalate existing tension between Iran and the UK well beyond the issue of ships," Iran's envoy to Britain Hamid Baeidinejad said on Twitter.

"This is quite dangerous and unwise at a sensitive time in the region," he said, adding that Iran "is firm and ready for different scenarios."

Britain's junior defence minister Tobias Ellwood did not rule out the possibility of targeting Tehran with sanctions in response.

"Our first and most important responsibility is to make sure that we get a solution to the issue to do with the current ship, make sure other British-flagged ships are safe to operate in these waters and then look at the wider picture," Ellwood told Sky News.

Asked about the possibility of sanctions, he said: "We are going to be looking at a series of options ... We will be speaking with our colleagues, our international allies, to see what can actually be done."

Tehran's seizure of the Stena Impero followed the July 4 capture by Royal Marines of the Grace 1 tanker carrying Iranian oil near Gibraltar.

British foreign minister Jeremy Hunt on Saturday said Tehran's actions showed "worrying signs Iran may be choosing a dangerous path of illegal and destabilising behaviour after Gibraltar's legal detention of oil bound for Syria."

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SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Shahjalal int'l airport hit by power cut, water outage

People suffer for 7hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Travellers suffered for around seven hours at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) in Dhaka yesterday due to a power outage and the resulting water crisis.

People at the domestic terminal were the worst-sufferers as there was no backup power system, said sources at the airport.

A top airport official said it was the first time in 25-30 years power and water supply disruptions caused sufferings on such a scale.

"There was a total power blackout for 20-25 minutes disrupting normal activities at the airport," said Tanvir Hossain, assistant director of Probasi Kalyan Desk, HSIA.

Talking to The Daily Star, HSIA Director Group Captain Abu Sayeed

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## WIND ENERGY

Scotland makes enough to power two Scotlands



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Wind turbines in Scotland generated almost twice the entire country's domestic power requirements in the first six months of the year.

Enough energy was created by the country's renewables to power homes from all the way up in Harris in the Outer Hebrides down to Harrogate in Yorkshire, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Scotland said.

The figures, from Weather Energy, show between January and June wind turbines provided enough electricity to power the equivalent of 4.47million homes for those six months.

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Suspected kidnapper actually the father

Another mob beating victim dies

STAR REPORT

The man who was killed by a mob in Narayanganj on Saturday on suspicion of being a child kidnapper was actually the speech-impaired father of the child, said his brother.

Meanwhile, an unidentified youth was beaten by a mob yesterday morning in Tangail, while

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PRAYER TIMING JULY 22

Fazr Zohre Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-15 12-45 5-00 6-54 8-15

JAMAAT 4-50 1-15 5-15 6-58 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Prices of vegetables have soared in the capital's kitchen markets since the flood began and destroyed around 15,000 hectares of crops across the country. The photo was taken yesterday at Karwan Bazar kitchen market.

Vegetables becoming dearer

Prices soar within a week; sellers largely blame floods

ABDULLAH AL NAYEEM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Spices and vegetables have become significantly pricier over the last one week largely due to inundated farmlands.

Green chili prices have more than doubled with each kg being sold for between Tk 180 and Tk 200, up from Tk 70 to 90 at different kitchen markets in the capital.

Prices of onion and garlic have also increased by Tk 10 to Tk 30 per kg.

Retailers and wholesalers say the floods were pushing the prices upwards.

"We know the floods have damaged crops. The vegetables prices could rise as a result, but not to this extent," said Sayem Rahman, who was shopping at Hatirpool kitchen market yesterday.

"Look at the price of green chili. How is it

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Masterplans for Dhaka, Ctg rivers unveiled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday unveiled two decade-long masterplans to protect five rivers in Dhaka and two in Chattogram against grabbing and pollution, and enhance their navigability.

The masterplan on the Dhaka rivers -- Buriganga, Turag, Balu, Dhaleswari and Pungli -- proposes 24 primary and 180 supplementary measures, and includes 39 canals connected with these rivers. The one on Chattogram's Karnaphuli and Halda suggests 45 primary and 167 supplementary measures.

Minister for Local Government Division Md Tajul Islam revealed the masterplans through a press conference at Bangladesh Secretariat. He said nine causes of pollution

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