

# 77pc women victims of online abuse

*Finds ActionAid Bangladesh, Prothom Alo survey*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seventy-seven percent of women faced sexist or misogynistic comments online, while 50.37 percent received explicit images in their inbox, revealed a recent survey.

It was also found that 30.37 percent of women were victims of identity theft and fake profiles, while 23.70 percent faced non-consensual dissemination of intimate photos; 19.26 percent faced cyberstalking and 14.07 percent received threats of sexual harassment for supporting the LGBTQ community.

During the Covid-19 lockdown, one in every two women faced more cyber-violence compared to pre-pandemic times, it revealed.

The findings of the survey were presented yesterday at a roundtable titled "Online Violence against Women:

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Sleeping on the dividers of a busy street is risky as it is, but when there's a toddler asleep right on its edge, the danger increases manifold. At any point, the child might move and fall onto the road, while vehicles of all kinds pass by at speed. This photo was taken recently from the capital's Dhanmondi Road-2 area.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

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## Hasina for strengthening connectivity with Maldives

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday stressed the need for strengthening the connectivity between the two countries will improve further," she said at a meeting with visiting Maldives Vice President Faisal Naseem at Gono Bhaban, according to her Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim, who briefed reporters after the meeting.

The prime minister said Bangladesh can extend technical support to the Maldives on human

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# Don't burden students with fees

*Suggests survey on reducing dropout*

STAR REPORT

To reduce the school dropout rate and ensure better education for students of urban-slum institutions, focus needs to be on proper need-based financial support, development work and alternative learning opportunities.

A recent survey report on reducing school dropout rate in urban slums of Bangladesh made the recommendation.

International development organisation Plan International Bangladesh, with support from Research and Development Collective,

### SURVEY AT A GLANCE

Study conducted in over 40 schools, 673 households in DSCC areas from Dec 2020 to Mar 2021

Dropout rate high in secondary schools, particularly for girls

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Focus on proper need-based financial support, development work, alternative learning opportunities

Remedial education, financial and other necessary support should be ensured in schools

Institutions should not burden students with fees, other charges

presented the report of the survey titled "Reducing School Dropout in Urban Slums of Bangladesh: Impact of Covid-19" yesterday at Brac Centre.

The study was conducted in over 40 schools and 673 households of students from different grades in areas under Dhaka South City Corporation from December 2020 to March 2021.

The report pointed out the high dropout rate in secondary schools, particularly for girls in urban slums.

It was found that the long school closure has had an

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# It's politically motivated

*Says info minister on BNP's demnd to send Khaleda abroad for treatment*

UNB, Dhaka

Information Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday said the demand to send BNP chief Khaleda Zia abroad was raised with a political reason, not simply because of her health problems.

"Who has said Khaleda Zia is in a critical condition? It was said by BNP central leaders, including Mirza Fakhrul Islam Almgir and Rizvi. No physician has said that Khaleda Zia is critically ill yet," the minister said while talking to reporters at the secretariat.

He added that neither physicians nor Evercare Hospital authorities [where Khaleda is admitted] said anything about the necessity to send her abroad for treatment and that it is only BNP's demand, he added.

"It's my question whether BNP leaders have become doctors! It's also a question whether the government will take any decision as per BNP leaders' prescription," he said.

"We saw in the past that when Khaleda Zia fell sick, they always demanded that the government send her abroad... whether it's knee pain or high body temperature, they

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## NINE YEARS OF TAZREEN TRAGEDY

# Survivors still cry for justice

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

On the ninth anniversary of the Tazreen Fashions fire in Savar's Ashulia, relatives, colleagues and leaders of various workers' organisations gathered at the factory gates to pay tributes to the fallen workers, saying that after all this time, none of their demands have been met.

Reba Khatun, a mother of two, had survived the fire by jumping from the second floor of the factory, sustaining serious injuries on her legs, waist, and head.

She told The Daily Star that she could not return to work even after receiving treatment for a long time. She also termed the fire a "pre-planned accident", which took away 112 lives and left many more injured on November 24 in 2012.

"None of our demands, for rehabilitation of family members of victims and survivors, for compensation, for better treatment, and for capital punishment of the accused have been met," she said.

"We only got some financial support



and help with our medical bills, but this is nowhere near enough to run our families," she added.

Khairul Mamun Mintu, organising secretary of Bangladesh Trade Union Center, said, "No steps have been taken to rehabilitate the families of the slain and injured worker."

He also urged the government to meet all their demands soon, while also demanding that the burnt building be renovated and used to rehabilitate workers.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Riding on horse-carts is still popular in Old Dhaka. But plying the area's bumpy roads can take a toll not only on the animals, but also on the vehicles. This means they require regular repairs, and yesterday, some mechanics were busy fixing shock absorbers of carts at Kamrangirchar.

## SAGOR-RUNI MURDER

# Probe report delayed for 83rd time

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again asked Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) to submit by December 26 the probe report of a case filed over the murders of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi.

With yesterday's date, the investigation officer has so far taken 83 dates to complete the investigation.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Debdash Chandra Adhikary passed the order after Rab's Additional Superintendent Khondoker Shafiqul Alam, also the case's investigation officer, failed to submit the report.

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# Save Savar rivers

*Speakers urge govt*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government must fix the map of rivers and canals in Savar immediately and conduct a drive against illegal occupants, and housing projects, which are planned to be constructed in flood zones, said speakers at a public hearing yesterday.

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) and Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD) jointly organised the event titled "Savar Rivers in Existence Crisis: Protection and Conservation Actions" at Savar Golf Club auditorium.

ALRD Executive Director Shamsul Huda presided over the programme, and Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bela, conducted the event.

"These kinds of discussions were held several times, but the main problems are lack of monitoring and follow-ups," said Dr Md Enamur Rahman, state minister for disaster management and relief, who was the chief guest.

Deputy Director of National River Conservation Commission Aktaruzzaman Talukder said the government already took initiative to reclaim the rivers.

Department of Environment cancelled some licences of different industries in Savar, said assistant director of DoE Mosabber Hossain Mohammed Rajib. When the map is completed, it will be possible to control the pollution.

## JUTE-BASED SANITARY PAD

# Bangladeshi scientist wins global award for proposal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Farhana Sultana, assistant scientist at International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr), has won the grand prize at a global competition, for her proposed innovation -- developing a machine to produce jute cellulose-based sanitary pads.

The fourth Annual Innovations Pitch Competition on "A Healthier Global Community Addressing the Twin Challenges of Pandemic Preparedness and Impact of Climate



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# Daraz doppelganger!

## CTTC arrests man for replicating e-commerce sites to swindle people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

They first created a website that looks completely like daraz.com.bd.

They attracted customers into the site posting lucrative advertisements like 50-70 percent discount offers. For creating these advertisements, they used clone pictures collected from other e-commerce sites.

As a trick, they only kept the option to pay through mobile financing services (MFS) to place orders. However, as soon as they received payments, they'd switch off the number and disappear.

The Cyber Crime Investigation Division of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit has disclosed the findings after arresting a syndicate member, Al Imran Jewel (20), on Tuesday.

Based on a tip-off, a CTTC team conducted the drive in Noakhali and arrested him, Chatak Chakma, assistant commissioner of CTTC unit, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The CTTC team also recovered a cell phone, one desktop computer, electronic cards of different financial institutions, and over hundreds of pre-activated cell phones from his possession.

AC Chatak said Jewel bought the domain and hosting on September 18 from ofaex.com. It took around a week to prepare the website to make it look almost exactly like

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After almost two years, the stress, anxiety, as well as excitement centring final examinations have returned to schools. Yesterday morning, the capital's Willes Little Flower School was buzzing as guardians accompanied students for their tests.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## WAR CRIMES

# Former BNP MP Momin sentenced to death

STAR REPORT

Former BNP MP Abdul Momin Talukder Khoka has been sentenced to death by the International Crimes Tribunal for his crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

A three-member tribunal led by Justice Md Shahinur Islam delivered the verdict yesterday, Prosecutor Rezia Sultana Chaman told The Daily Star.

On November 1, the tribunal kept the verdict waiting after both the prosecution and defence counsels completed their closing arguments in the case.

Abdul Momin Talukder alias Khoka (69), who is absconding, is being tried

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