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In this handout picture taken and released by the State Emergency Service of Ukraine yesterday, firemen work to extinguish a fire at an educational institution hit by shelling in the town of Merefa in the Kharkiv region.

PHOTO: AFP

BNP to wrap up councils by year-end

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

With the national election in mind, BNP has intensified its efforts to complete the district councils as soon as possible and beef up the party's organisational strength.

It has so far completed councils in three districts – Nilphamari, Manikganj and Rangamati. Four more districts are queued up for this month, party leaders said.

The party is looking to complete councils in all the 81 organisational districts by the end of this year so that it can hold the national council early next year.

"Now we are trying to wrap up the district councils in the shortest possible time ...," Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, senior joint secretary general of the party, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Party leaders said holding district councils is complex and time-consuming as there is a lot of going back and forth in forming complete committees.

Explaining the process, they said that first a Thana convener committee is formed, which then forms a union convening committee. The union convening committee then forms a complete ward committee.

After the ward committee, a union committee is formed and then a Thana committee.

The district committees formed after Thana, municipality, union and ward councils.

"It is a complex and democratic process. So, it

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Star HEALTHLINE

How to prevent OSTEOPOROSIS?

STAR HEALTH DESK

Osteoporosis is a disease of the bones. The word means "porous bone". It weakens your bones and makes them more prone to fractures.

Bone is a kind of living tissue which gets broken down and replaced, and osteoporosis usually happens when formation of new bones happens slower than the loss of old bones.

Elderly people, especially women who are past menopause, are more prone to the disease.

If not managed, it can hamper the daily lives of patients. In the early stages, it is hard to detect. But once it advances, symptoms like back pain, loss of height, bones breaking easily are noticed.

Prevention of osteoporosis should be given more importance as its treatment can be tricky.

In order to prevent this disease, we need to be mindful of our bone health.

Good nutrition and exercise are necessary to keep bones healthy and strong.

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Hyginex spray

Instant hand sanitizer with alcohol

BEACON Pharmaceuticals Limited

'The mother, not Napa syrup, killed the boys'

Says SP of Brahmanbaria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

It wasn't the Napa syrup that killed the two children at Durgapur village, after all. It was their mother who had poisoned them so that she could marry her boyfriend.

"After a thorough investigation, we have found evidence that the mother in association with her boyfriend committed the killings," said Mohammad Anisur Rahman, superintendent of police (SP) of Brahmanbaria, at a press conference yesterday.

Their mother, Rima Begum, was having an extramarital affair with one Shafiullah, who she met while working at a rice mill in Bagoir area in Ashuganj upazila.

Shafiullah agreed to marry her on the condition that she leaves behind her children Yasin Khan, 7, and Morsalin Khan, 5.

They hatched the plan to kill the two boys. On the evening of March 10, Rima fed her two sons poisoned sweets provided by Shafiullah.

The boys fell sick and were initially taken to Ashuganj Upazila Health Complex. They were sent to the Brahmanbaria General Hospital. Curiously, the boys were not admitted to the hospital.

Yasin died on the way home from the hospital, while Mursalin breathed his last upon reaching home, Rahman said at the press conference.

Rima claimed to local journalists that her sons fell ill after consuming Napa syrup bought from a local pharmacy and started to vomit. Later, they died.

The children's death drew the attention of all concerned across the country.

The Directorate General of Health Services, the Directorate General of Drug Administration and Brahmanbaria General Hospital authorities formed three investigation committees to probe the deaths.

The drug administration authorities collected samples of Napa syrup of particular batches, including the one in question, and tested them in labs. But the authorities found no harmful ingredients.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, the children's father Ismail Hossain Khan, who is visually impaired, filed a case against Rima and her 'boyfriend' Shafiullah.

The police investigated the thread further and found that Rima had called Shafiullah 15 times on the day the children died.

During the investigation, police found that the family took the boys to the Brahmanbaria General Hospital and bought a ticket for taking treatment in the emergency department. But they fled from the hospital without receiving treatment.

In the early hours of yesterday, police arrested Rima, who admitted to her crime in primary interrogation, Rahman said.

Yesterday, Rima was produced before the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court of Brahmanbaria, where she also gave a confessional statement, said Kazi Dider Ul Alam, inspector of Brahmanbaria Court Police. Later, the court sent her to jail, he said.

Holy Shab-e-Barat tonight

BSS, Dhaka

The holy Shab-e-Barat, the night of fortune, will be observed tonight across the country with due religious fervour and devotion.

Muslims consider Shab-e-Barat as one of the three most sacred nights and believe that on this night Almighty Allah decides the fate of all human beings fixing their "rizq" (livelihood) for the next year.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday greeted all Muslims of the country and elsewhere in the world on the occasion of the holy Shab-e-Barat.

In separate messages, they urged Muslim devotees to observe the holy Shab-e-Barat maintaining health guidelines and social distancing amid the pandemic.

Devotees would spend the night at mosques and homes offering prayers, reciting from the holy Quran and seeking blessings of Allah for long life, peace, progress and

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Howler monkeys play to reduce group tension

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Adult howler monkeys play to avoid conflict and reduce tension among group members, according to a new study which finds that the levels of play among the primates increase when they are faced with scarce resources.

The study, published on Wednesday in the journal Animal Behaviour, examined the activity of two

howler monkey subspecies – the Mexican howler (*Alouatta palliata*

and the golden-mantled howler (*Alouatta palliata palliata*).

Researchers, including those from Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) in the UK, assessed how play activities among monkeys vary with age.

They also measured the amount of time adults play with other adults as well as with juvenile monkeys within their groups.

Play activities involve individuals hanging from their tails and making facial expressions and

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THE KING RESTS ... A grey-headed fish eagle, perched on a tree branch, taking a break from hunting. These majestic birds of prey make use of tall trees to either rest or spot prey. Even though they are found in almost every district in Bangladesh, the birds are listed as 'near-threatened' by the IUCN, due to degradation of water bodies and human disturbance, among other issues. The photo was taken in Chapainawabganj's Kallyanpur area recently.

PHOTO: RABIUL HASAN



It's not a Berlin Wall – it is a Wall in central Europe between freedom and bondage and this Wall is growing bigger with every bomb. ... Dear Mr Scholz, tear down this Wall. Give Germany the leadership role that you in Germany deserve.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky tells German parliament

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC)
Ministry of Textiles and Jute

Time Extension of Expression of Interest (Eoi)

The submission date and time of "2nd Invitation for Expression of Interest (Eoi)" Ref. No. 24.04.0000.204.99.007.22-21, Date: 07.02.2022 for the award of lease of 13 state-owned Jute Mills of BJMC has been extended to 06 April, 2022; Time: 3.00pm (BST).

Opening date and time of Eoi has been fixed on 07 April, 2022; Time: 11.00am (BST).

Date: 16.03.2022

Muhammad Salehuddin
Chairman
Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation

GD-525