HEN Sukran* sat on a

fishing trawler to cross the

Bay of Bengal and change

her life for the better, she thought for

a split second that, had she gotten a marriage proposal from a "decent" family, from a man with a job, she

would not have started this deadly

we first met in 2020, after she was rescued from a fishing trawler with

396 other survivors around mid-

February, after spending 55 days

adrift in the Bay of Bengal. Cut to

man with five children. Sukran is

his second wife and is now pregnant with her second child in the Rohingya

refugees camp. This is not how

Sukran wanted her life to be, as I

recall. "Anyway... I have a secure life

now. His first wife lives in another

camp. My marriage gave me security. You know how men behave with an

unmarried girl. It's better for a girl to

get married when she is still entering

puberty. Unmarried girls are not safe around men," Sukran tells me.

Over the last four years, polygamy

has increased in Rohingya refugee

camps due to the social, cultural, and

religious dynamics of the community.

in Myanmar. A special order was

issued only for Muslims of Rakhine

state in the 1990s. It stated that,

without an identity check and official

permission from Burma's border

security force NaSaKa and Burma's

marriages could not take place in

Myanmar. The whole process was

also rigorous and expensive. Also, in

2015, Myanmar passed a monogamy

was made illegal for men.

authorities, Rohingya

This was not the case when they were

Her husband is a middle-aged

Those were Sukran's words when

journey to Malaysia.

2022: Sukran is married.

The Paily Star

Rising polygamy in Rohingya camps

The cost of being a woman

Nazmun Naher Shishir

NAZMUN NAHER SHISHIR

under the Mobile Courts Act, with Myanmar crackdown, while some religious conservativeness in society, from their respective camps. I do the power to resolve disputes and implement punishments. But CiCled documentation started only in mid-2020. After the 2017 influx of Rohingya refugees, most marriages were unregistered and became only a religious ritual. Thus, polygamy has

"Powerful and wealthy men can

illegally migrated to Saudi Arabia and Malaysia abandoning their wives in the camps. Due to there being fewer men than unmarried women in camps, the men feel obligated to marry more than once and indulge in polygamy. Sometimes, husbands are reported to have "disappeared," but aid workers track them down to other

many Rohingya men being in prison for being involved in illegal activities in camps, unemployment, etc.

Aid agencies are becoming aware of this fact and are becoming strict at the distribution spot. But it is difficult due to the unregistered marriages. One of the distribution centre operators from an international

not like being one of my husband's three wives, but I do not have another

Gender norms have been changing in Rohingya society after the displacement. While they were in Myanmar, women were involved in household chores only. Now, they have different roles to play. At aid distribution centres, they are prioritised. Working as volunteers and being community leaders, they are working to develop the capacity of other women in camps, and are learning to make their own

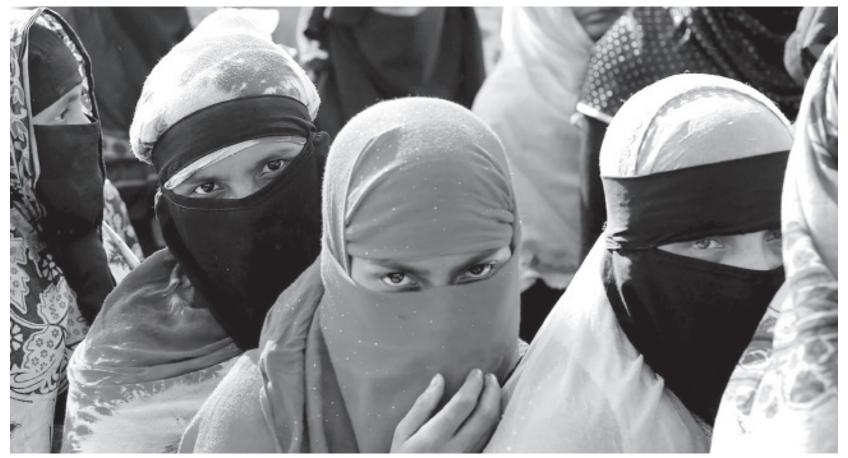
> Halima*, a 19-yearold girl (married to a 38-year-old man) says, "It is better to marry an already married man than to wait around to get married. Men can get married four times in our religion. My husband has two more wives in two other camps. Each of his families receives livelihood products from their respective camps. I do not like being one of my husband's three wives, but I do not have another choice."

decisions. Empowered women who are in polygamous marriages often raise their voices but get beaten by their husbands. Men are threatened by empowered women in camps and thus, gender-based violence is increasing too.

In May 2022, an ACAPS report mentioned, "Data on the number of polygamous families in the camps is not publicly available, given the sensitivity of the topic." It also mentioned that marriages between Rohingya women and Bangladeshi men are increasing, even though it is illegal. But the rate of polygamy is definitely increasing, indicating a need for immediate action.

*Names of all interviewees have been changed to protect them from being victims of misconduct.

मञ्जू



Over the last four years, polygamy has increased in Rohingya refugee camps due to the social, cultural, and religious dynamics of the community. This was not the case when they were in Myanmar.

from getting harassed and raped?

"Marriage is the only solution of the community to 'save' a girl from being abused in camps. Our women are precious to us. If she is married, other men will not look at her. They should also stay at home to be safe. Or else accidents can happen," says a Female Religious Teacher (FRT).

law where having more than one wife In the camps, marriage registration is directly under the camp in-charge's As per the dominant belief of the Rohingya community, a woman (CiC) supervision, in coordination under the supervision of a man can with the security forces. The CiC

afford more than one wife. So, why not!," asserted a Rohingya male volunteer. By saying "powerful men," he meant majhis, members of political groups, leaders, and imams who are comparatively rich and powerful in camps. Having more than one wife is a symbol of wealth and power for them.

According to 2022 figures from the UNHCR, there are around 10 percent more adult women than men in the Rohingya refugee live a safe life. But does that save them acts as an executive magistrate camps. Many men were killed in the

camps, where they are found to be married to another woman. In other situations, men keep several wives in different camps to receive aid and humanitarian assistance as women in the camps are prioritised by humanitarian organisations, unlike in Myanmar. After receiving aid for different wives from the different camps, men trade the aid for cash.

Other factors which propagate polygamy are dowry (polygamous men do not ask for dowry from the bride's family), patriarchy and

যানবাহনের ধরণ

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humanitarian agency mentioned, "Receiving extra aid by getting married twice or thrice is a common issue here. Women come to receive aid in the distribution centre and men trade aid products through women."

Halima*, a 19-year-old girl (married to a 38-year-old man) says, "It is better to marry an already married man than to wait around to get married. Men can get married four times in our religion. My husband has two more wives in two other camps. Each of his families receives livelihood products

সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা এমপ্রয়ীজ ওয়েলফেয়ার এড ট্রান্সপোর্ট ডিভিশন

(ট্রান্সপোর্ট ডিপার্টমেন্ট)

পুরাতন যানবাহন বিক্রয়ের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তিঃ সোনালী বাহক লিমিটেড-এর নিচুবর্ণিক পুরাক্তন ২৭ টি যানবাহন যেখালে যে অবস্থার আছে সে অবস্থায় বিক্রয়ের লক্ষ্যে আর্থি

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दाकिएसँगम समय

जना साधा-च-५३-०**१**८४

णका (मधी-४-३३-०७१३

णका त्यक्ति-च-५५-५¢१०

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টাঙ্গবিগ-খ-১১-০০০১

Send us your letters to letters@thedailystar.net

Let gamers be

The gaming industry is already a multibillion dollar industry worldwide. In Bangladesh, the gaming scenario has seen a sharp progress in the last five years, with smartphones and fast internet spreading mobile gaming throughout the country. Everywhere we travel, we see people of all ages playing games on their phones, either alone or in a group.

The recent arrest of 108 youth gamers from a community centre in Chuadanga is quite bizarre. It should be understood that video gaming is an industry and an e-sport. In some developed countries, even e-sports visas are being provided. Some people are even earning their livelihoods through gaming.



As such, it is truly disheartening thriving form of sport. to discourage young gamers by arresting those only attempting to uphold the spirit of a new and

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 1 Outpourings 7 Son of Zeus 11 Con quest 12 Infamous emperor 13 Relaxed 14 Delighted 15 Alaskan peak 20 Title

17 Crib occupant documents 23 Saloon supply 24 Seasoning herb 26 Rap's – Nas X 27 Workout unit 28 Sense of self 29 Plain to see 31 Stroke

32 Plow pioneer

33 Nile reptiles

34 Russian drinks 37 Sign 39 Gazelle's cousin 43 Course cry 44 Did garden work 45 Fling 46 Wanting **DOWN**

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WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO

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স্টান্ধ কোন্নটার,মতিবিল,চাকা 2030

১। আপ্রহী দরদাতাগণতে পত্রিকায় বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের পরবর্তী দিন থেকে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে এমপ্রয়ীজ ওয়োগছেয়ার এড ট্রালপোর্ট ভিভিন্ন (ট্রান্সপোর্ট ভিপার্টমেন্ট), সোনালী ব্যাংক লিফিটেভ, প্রধান কার্যালয়(৬৯)তলা, ঢাকা হতে নিয়মাবালী সম্বলিত দরপত্র সিভিউল নগদ ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকার ক্রন করতে হবে।

২। আগামী ২৪-০৮-২০২২ তারিখ বুধবার বেলা ২,৩০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে দরপত্র সিভিউলের মূল কপিতে (ফট্টোকপি প্রহণযোগ্য নয়) যানাবাহনের রেজিফ্টেশন নামার উল্লেখপূর্বক দর (জাউ ও উয়ান্ধ ব্যতীত)অথকে ও কথার। উদ্ধৃত করে উহা মুখবছ/গীলকৃত খামে এমপ্রবীজ ওলোকেয়ার এক ট্রান্সপোর্ট ডিভিশন, সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, প্রধান কার্যালয়(৬ট তলা), ঢাকায় ডেপুটি জেনারেল ম্যানেজারের ক্রেমরে এবং ঢাকা ক্যাউন্মেট কর্পোরেট শাখা, ঢাকায় রঞ্চিত টেভার বাজে দাখিল করতে হবে। প্রান্ত দরপক্রসমূহ ঐদিনই অৰ্থাৎ ২৪-০৮-২০২২ তারিখ বুধবার বেলা ৩,৩০ ঘটিকার খোলা হবে। দরপত্র খোলার সময় সংশ্লিষ্ট দরদাতা বা তার প্রতিদিধি উপস্থিত

ত। ব্যাংকের কোন কর্মচারী কোনভাবেই সংশ্লিষ্ট নিলামে সংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন না।



তেপুটি জেলারেল ম্যাদেজার

বেশার +৮৮০২২২৩১৮৫৯৫৩, +৮৮০২২২৩৩৫০০৪৮