

World's longest

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the world's two longest rivers -- the Ganges and Brahmaputra -- in India and Bangladesh during which tourists will get a chance to visit over 50 key architectural sites including world heritage sites.

The Bangladesh part of the cruise will provide the tourists an opportunity to see Sonargaon and the ornate 1400s-era 60-dome mosque.

As per the official website, Ganga Vilas, having a capacity of 80 passengers, will be equipped with 18 suites with facilities like music, cultural programmes, gym, spa, open-air observation deck and customised butler service.

It will pass through Kolkata and Dhaka before reaching Bogibeel in Dibrugarh district of Assam. After sailing off from Varanasi, the cruise-liner will reach Patna (India) on the eighth day and from there, it will reach Kolkata on the 20th day.

After a day's halt, it will again set sail for Bangladesh where it will

spend 15 days before entering India again and reaching Bogibeel (Assam).

The prices of the cruise start at 12,800 USD per person depending on the duration for which a tourist wants to avail the journey, according to Antara, one of the private operators of the journey.

The Inland Water Authority of India officials said the India-Bangladesh Protocol route has played an important role in planning the cruise.

Highlighting the waterways in the country, Modi last week recalled the time when waterways were used on a large scale for work, business and tourism in India but were later destroyed during the years of colonial rule.

He urged the government to establish a dedicated department for the children, so that their issues can be addressed properly.

Kamrun Nahar, assistant director of Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, also joined the event and focused on mitigating the challenges that girls of remote areas -- especially those from char, haor and coastal areas -- frequently face.

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The Indian prime minister rounded off his remarks by reciting a few lines by Rabindranath Tagore's poem "O amar desher maati, tomor podey thekai maatha" (The soil of my country, I bow my head to you).

Ordinance to adjust

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aiming at improving power and energy infrastructure in Bangladesh. The law was amended thrice in the past.

The cabinet on November 28 approved an amendment to the BERC Ordinance 2022 to empower the government to set fuel tariff on its own under special circumstances without waiting for the commission's public hearing and decision.

High Court stays

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a Bangkok-bound Thai Airways flight at Dhaka airport on September 30, 2019. Later that night, Rab raided his office and residence in Gulshan and arrested three of his associates -- Akhtaruzzaman, Roman, and Masum.

Three more cases were also reportedly filed against him and those are now pending with different courts in Dhaka.

Details of the HC verdict could not be known as its full text was not released

Ensure enabling environment

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addressed, he added.

Reefat Sattar, director of programme development and quality at Save The Children Bangladesh, emphasised on ensuring political and social empowerment of girls.

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Nadeea Khandaker, focal person, media and communication and sustainability at Robi Axia, emphasised on how to encourage girls to dream big, especially when they

are in secondary school.

She suggested including inspirational aspects in the curriculum to motivate them.

Md Shawkat Hossain, member secretary of NEARS and consultant of Marie Stopes Bangladesh, said consent should be a must during marriage. This can decrease the amount of child marriages, which rose during the pandemic.

At the same time, he said service providers at government healthcare facilities should not ask about marital status. If this is done, adolescent girls will be able to conveniently avail reproductive healthcare and avoid any stigma.

Shawkat mentioned that men should be more involved in taking family-planning methods.

"To help girls realise their potential, it is crucial to build self-confidence among them. And for this, there must be a dedicated

period for playing, along with playgrounds," said Fatema Begum, senior advocate at Mahila Parishad.

She urged district-level committees to be proactive in stopping child marriages.

Sakina Sultana, team leader at Care Bangladesh; Ram Chandra Das, former director general of Department of Women Affairs; Dr Muhammad Munir Hussain, programme analyst of UNFPA Bangladesh; Natasha Kader, acting head of women banking, Eastern Bank Ltd; Shafiqur Rahman, project manager, VSO Bangladesh; Tunazina Hoque, national coordinator, World Vision Bangladesh; Sadia Karim, adolescents youth and gender specialist at Educo ONG; and MA Akher, director of Department of Youth Development, spoke among others.

Five women honoured

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and employment, Lutfan Nesa of Sharaiptur for success as a mother, Razia Sultan of Madaripur for prevention of repression on women, and Sanu Rani Das of Narayanganj for social development.

State Minister for the Women and Children Affairs Fazilatun Nessa Indira handed over crests to the Joyeetas at a programme at Bangladesh Shishu Academy auditorium in the capital.

The programme was

organised in association with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and the Directorate of Women Affairs.

Women and Children Affairs Ministry Secretary Md Hasanuzzaman Kallol and Women Affairs Department Director General Farida Pervin also spoke at the event with Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Md Khalilur Rahman in the chair.

Momtaj Begum, who is working as an additional district magistrate in

Dhaka, said, "Women have to move forward overcoming various adversities in the society. The society where the women lag behind can never move forward."

"This Joyeeta award will inspire me to contribute more to the society," she added.

The programme is conducted under an initiative of the government, Joyeeta Onneshone Bangladesh, which was introduced in 2011.

It cannot exclude

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Council's decision that in April, 2016 excluded their names from the gazette.

Details of the HC verdict could not be known as its full text was not released

yet.

Earlier in 2016, the HC had stayed the Jatiya Muktijoddha Council's decision to cancel the names of 22 freedom fighters from the gazette.

Lawyer Toufique Inam Tipu appeared for the petitioners, while Deputy Attorney General Sk Saifuzzaman represented the state during hearing of the petition.

Three more cases were also reportedly filed against him and those are now pending with different courts in Dhaka.

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Char farmers have

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