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55pc girls harassed by peers: report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Adolescent girls are most often assaulted by their friends and classmates, says a report from Educo Bangladesh, which was shared yesterday.

The findings of the report titled, "Prevalence of gender-based violence (GBV) on adolescent girls and its consequences in Bangladesh" were revealed at an event, "Silent suffering: GBV's impact on adolescent girls in Bangladesh".

Around 881 adolescent girls from Dhaka, Mymensingh, and Thakurgaon participated in this study, commissioned by Educo International Bangladesh and conducted by H&H Research and Consultancy.

As per the report, over 55 percent of respondents said their peers and classmates were primary offenders when it comes to gender-based violence, while 41 percent blamed their neighbours and 29 percent accused their family members.

Around 54 percent of respondents considered early marriage as the worst type of gender-based abuse. Besides, 39 percent of respondents said they have experienced emotional or psychological abuse, while 32 percent said they were subjected to physical abuse.

Additionally, over 38 percent of respondents revealed their reluctance to share incidents of gender-based violence

with anyone, underscoring the need for a safe environment for disclosure.

Overall, 71.4 percent of the adolescent girls said their liberty and mobility were hampered due to family and religious restrictions, and social barriers.

More alarmingly, half of the respondents were not aware of GBV-related laws.

Dr Kamal Uddin Ahmed, chairman of National Human Rights Commission, said, "Apart from physical and mental abuse of children, online abuse is also on the rise due to excessive use of devices..."

Gender-based violence has a serious physical and mental impact on girls and such trauma can lead to an uncertain future for them.

ABDUL HAMID

Country director of Educo Bangladesh

Stressing the fact that gender equality is in the constitution, he said it is important to train people who are responsible for implementing the laws. Additionally, awareness raising and community involvement are key to ending early marriages.

GBV has a serious physical and mental impact on girls. Such trauma can lead to an uncertain future for them, said

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina being greeted by Bangladesh Ambassador to the US Muhammad Imran and Permanent Representative to the UN Muhammad Abdul Muhith at JFK International Airport, New York on Sunday night. The premier is in the US to attend the 78th session of the UN General Assembly.

PHOTO: PID

DU SPORTS QUOTA

49 athletes selected for admission

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University has selected 49 sportspersons for admission to the 2022-23 undergraduate academic session under the reintroduced sports quota.

The athletes include national men's team cricketer Towhid Hridoy, women's team cricketer Nahida Akhter, national team footballer Sheikh Morsalin, women's footballer Ritu Porna Chakma, and many others.

The DU authorities issued a notice in this regard yesterday, signed by Prof Abdul Bashir, chief coordinator of the Arts, Law and Social Sciences Unit.

Under the sports quota, the sportspersons get the opportunity to be admitted to Dhaka University without taking part in the admission test.

The notice also asked the individuals to collect subject choice form from the dean's office of the Faculty of Arts and submit

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MOHAKHALI DENGUE HOSPITAL

A ray of hope for critical patients

DIPAN NANDY

Dhaka North City Corporation on July 12 transformed the Covid-19 dedicated 500-bed Mohakhali Hospital into a specialised facility exclusively for treating dengue cases, as the country has been grappling with the most severe outbreak of the mosquito-borne disease in its history.

This move aimed to provide the care that critical dengue patients urgently need in a city overwhelmed by the rising number of cases and deaths.

Since its rebranding as a "Dengue Dedicated Hospital", the facility has witnessed an influx of patients arriving not only from within Dhaka but also from neighbouring districts.

As many as 7,186 patients sought treatment at the hospital's outdoor facilities in the first 18 days of September alone, with 1,603 requiring admission. Seven patients have succumbed to the disease within the hospital's walls during this time frame.

If one takes the numbers from



PHOTO: STAR

July 12 into account, the hospital has attended to 24,441 patients in its outdoor facilities, admitting 5,090 of them. However, 35 have lost their lives in their battle against dengue here. This number could have been much higher if not for the 45 ICU beds of the hospital, according to patients and authorities.

As of yesterday, 312 patients are currently admitted in this facility, with 18 of them requiring ICU support. The healthcare

professionals, including dedicated doctors, nurses, and support staff, are working tirelessly round the clock to manage the influx of patients. There are 87 medical officers for the facility and a good number of specialised doctors and nurses, said the hospital authorities.

While visiting the hospital yesterday, this correspondent too didn't receive any allegations regarding doctor shortage from

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Dengue claims 17 more lives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 17 more people died from dengue in 24 hours preceding 8:00am yesterday as the country grapples with a record outbreak of the mosquito-borne disease.

Of the 17 deaths, 10 were reported in the capital.

At least 3,084 dengue patients were hospitalised in the 24-hour period, according to data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Dengue has so far claimed at least 839 lives this year, and nearly 170,768 were infected, making this the deadliest year since the first recorded epidemic in 2000.

According to DGHS data, 10,032 dengue patients were undergoing treatment at different hospitals across the country.

A total of 159,897 patients have so far been released from hospitals across the country this year.

Hospitals, especially in Dhaka, are struggling to accommodate the

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MJF condemns rape, murder of girl in Chattogram

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation has strongly condemned the murder of a seven-year-old girl in Chattogram.

The victim was killed, reportedly after being raped, allegedly by a 21-year-old man on Sunday.

Police have already arrested the man following the incident.

In a press release issued yesterday, Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, expressed her deep concern regarding the murder and rape.

She said this tragic incident underscores the urgent need for enhanced protection of children, both within their homes and in the wider community.

This also reflects the absence of justice for the rape victims.

In many cases, even when perpetrators are identified, there is often no guarantee that they will face the appropriate punishment, reads the press release.

It is frequently observed that these offenders manage to secure bail, exploiting legal loopholes or using their financial influence.

According to Ain o Salish Kendra, a total of 292 children were murdered during January-July this year.

The victims were aged between 5 and 12, and of them, 68 were below 6 years.

But only 103 cases were filed.

MJF strongly urged authorities to establish child protection measures in high-risk areas, particularly among low-income families, where parents are often forced to leave their children

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ATTACK ON COPS

13 pro-BNP lawyers get anticipatory bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail to 13 pro-BNP lawyers, including two party leaders, for a period of eight weeks in a case filed for attacking police during an agitation programme in Old Dhaka on September 12.

However, the HC directed


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PRAYER TIMING

SEPTEMBER 19

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:35	12:45	4:30	6:09	7:45
JAMAAT 5:10	1:15	4:45	6:12	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION





Pedestrians struggle to find a way ahead as vendors occupy a significant portion of the footbridge at the capital's Farmgate. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

27 organisations demand release of Adilur, Elan

Their detention will further damage country's 'reputation', they say

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-seven organisations, including the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA), yesterday demanded the release of rights defenders Adilur Rahman Khan and ASM Nasiruddin Elan, urging the withdrawal of charges against them.

In a joint statement, they expressed concern over their convictions, adding that detaining them will further damage Bangladesh's "already compromised international reputation".

On September 14, a Dhaka court sentenced Adilur, secretary of Odhikar, and Elan, director of the organisation, to two years in prison.

This was in relation to a case filed against them for disseminating "a distorted report and doctored images" regarding the police action during the Hefajat-e-Islam rally in Motijheel on

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