

জনসংস্কৃতিতে রেমিট্যান্স পাঠান
প্রিয়জনদের প্রয়োজনে...
 যেকোনো শাখা থেকে রেমিট্যান্স গ্রহণ করলেই
 পাবেন সরকার নির্ধারিত ২.৫% প্রমোদনা
সাপ্তে আটও আশ্তে নিশ্চিত আকর্ষণীয় পুরস্কার
 * শর্ত প্রযোজ্য

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ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ণার' পূবালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়



Women activists marched in a procession on the Dhaka University campus yesterday, protesting against the recent surge of violence against women, including rape, across the country. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Citizens condemn surge in violence against women

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Various rights, political, and academic organisations, including the Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), Save the Children, and Hefazat-e-Islam, have strongly condemned the recent rise in rape and violence against women and children across Bangladesh.

In separate statements issued yesterday, they expressed alarm at the increasing number of such crimes and the apparent lack of accountability, which they say is worsening the situation. They called for urgent government action to ensure justice and protection for victims.

Save the Children urged authorities to expedite the trial of those responsible for the recent child rape case in Magura. The organisation highlighted that many such crimes occur within families and communities and called for a comprehensive child protection system at the grassroots level.

We demand justice for the child victim of this horrific crime. The government must act swiftly to ensure the perpetrators are brought to justice.

Shuman Sengupta
Country director of Save the Children

Shuman Sengupta, country director of Save the Children, said, "We demand justice for the child victim of this horrific crime. The government must act swiftly to ensure the perpetrators are brought to justice." He also stressed the need for a shift in societal attitudes, particularly towards protecting children, especially girls.

The Manusher Jonno Foundation echoed these concerns, criticising the government's failure to protect women and children.

MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam said, "Our justice system and protective measures have failed. This is utterly unacceptable."

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NEW PARTY REGISTRATION EC issues circular tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) will issue a public notice tomorrow, inviting applications for registration from new political parties ahead of the 13th National Parliamentary Election.

EC Additional Secretary KM Ali Nawaz confirmed the matter to journalists yesterday, adding that applications can be submitted until April 20.

Election Commissioner Anwarul Islam Sarkar said applications would be accepted under the existing law. However, if the Reform Commission's recommendations are implemented in the meantime, necessary measures will be taken accordingly.

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Jamuna Rail Bridge to cost passengers extra

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

With Bangladesh Railway (BR) set to fully open the newly constructed Jamuna Railway Bridge on March 18, train fares for routes using the bridge will increase from the following day.

The fare hike is due to a rise in the pontage charge, a toll levied for the construction and maintenance of a bridge.

As a result, fares will increase for over 30 trains operating between Dhaka and the western region via the 4.8km bridge.

For instance, the fare on the Dhaka-Rajshahi route will rise for a non-AC chair seat by Tk 45, an AC chair by Tk 80, an AC seat by Tk 95, and an AC

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CHILD MARRIAGE RATE

Bangladesh ranks top in Asia, 8th globally

Says Unicef report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has the highest child marriage rate in Asia and ranks 8th globally, with 51.4 percent of women aged 20-24 married before they turned 18, according to a Unicef report released on International Women's Day.

The report, titled "Girl Goals: What Has Changed for Girls? Adolescent Girls' Rights Over 30 Years," was jointly published by Unicef, UN Women, and Plan International. It highlights the challenges faced by adolescent girls in Bangladesh, including child marriage, early childbirth, and gender-based violence.

The findings show a strong link between early marriage and early childbirth, with 24 percent of young women giving birth before 18, putting their health and lives at risk.

Additionally, 28 percent of adolescent girls aged 15-19 have suffered physical or sexual violence from partners in the past year.

Moreover, only 47 percent of married teenage girls have autonomy over reproductive health decisions, while Bangladesh is among seven countries with less than 2 percent of adolescent girls having digital literacy, limiting their education and job prospects.

Despite progress in healthcare, life expectancy, and education, gender inequalities continue to restrict opportunities for adolescent girls.

Girls aged 15-24 are twice as likely as boys to be out of education, employment, or training, making them more vulnerable to poverty and

exploitation, the report further said. "Adolescent girls in Bangladesh want to contribute to a thriving nation, but barriers and discrimination continue to hold them and the country back. Access to life skills and digital literacy is crucial, but so is addressing the extremely high



AT A GLANCE

- 51.4pc of women aged 20-24 married off before 18
- 24pc give birth before 18
- 28pc adolescent girls face partner violence
- 47pc married teen girls control their reproductive health
- Less than 2pc adolescent girls have digital literacy
- Girls (15-24) twice as likely as boys to be out of education

rates of child marriage and violence, which in turn leads to early and unsafe childbearing – often leading to the loss of both the young mother and her baby," said Rana Flowers, Unicef representative in Bangladesh.

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WATER PLANT CA dissatisfied over delay in implementing project

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has expressed dissatisfaction over the prolonged delay in implementing the Sayedabad Water Treatment Plant (Phase 3) and the Meghna River Protection Master Plan.

At a meeting held yesterday at the state guesthouse Jamuna, he said, "It is alarming that such a crucial project has been stuck for almost 10 years. Excessive extraction of groundwater is endangering the environment, yet work on an available solution has not commenced," he said.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from the Local Government Division, Dhaka WASA, the Planning Commission's Physical Infrastructure Division, the Economic Relations Division (ERD), the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and the Department of Environment. SDG Chief Coordinator Lamia Morshed and Chief Secretary Siraj Uddin Mia were also present.

Yunus instructed

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A makeshift clothing market, which shifts locations daily across Mohammadpur in the capital, was set up at Safimullah Ground near Town Hall yesterday. Operating throughout Ramadan ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr, the market offers a variety of garments to shoppers preparing for the festivities. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

The Daily Star
STELLAR WOMEN SEASON 2

CALL FOR REGISTRATIONS / NOMINATIONS

The Stellar Women initiative aims to recognise twelve (12) extraordinary women throughout the year (From September '24 to August '25) for playing a remarkable role in their distinguished fields. Their work must have made positive contributions towards the development of society & the nation.

Inviting nominations/ registrations in the following categories:

Art & Culture	Engineering (Construction, Structure, Water Resource & MEP)	Bank & Financial Institute
(31 st March '25)	30 th April '25	(31 st May '25)

SCAN HERE TO VISIT For Queries
 01322890097
 Register/ Nominate via:
www.btistellarwomen.thedailystar.net

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