

64% rural girls face menstrual disorders

Painful periods disrupt daily life, schooling, says icddr,b study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nearly two in three adolescent girls in rural Bangladesh suffer from menstrual disorders, with painful periods affecting their daily lives and education, according to a new study by the icddr,b.

The findings were presented yesterday at a dissemination event organised by the AdSEARCH project at the Canada Club in the capital.

The study tracked 2,713 adolescents over a 24-month period between 2023 and 2025 through the Baliakandi Health and Demographic Surveillance System (HDSS) in Rajbari district, collecting data every four months.

Among 1,255 girls aged 12 to 16 years, 64 percent reported experiencing at least one menstrual disorder.

Dysmenorrhoea, or painful menstruation, was the most common condition, affecting 56 percent.

One in three girls experienced painful periods during three or more menstrual cycles, while nine percent suffered persistent menstrual pain.

Researchers found that nearly 40 percent of girls said menstrual pain disrupted their daily activities, while around one in four missed school because of severe pain or heavy bleeding.

A separate survey involving 1,077 unmarried 16-year-olds in Baliakandi found that more than one-third of

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Rain, football, and friendship meet on a Dhaka street as a group of young men, wearing jerseys of their favourite teams, walk through a downpour in Farmgate around 1:00pm yesterday. With World Cup fever gripping fans, the brief spell of rain turned the busy road into a moment of celebration.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Don't isolate me from people in name of security

PM asks SSF

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman

yesterday urged the Special Security Force

to ensure that security

measures do not isolate him from people,

saying public trust and affection remain his greatest source of strength.

"As the head of government, my greatest reliance is on the trust and love of the people. Therefore, I urge you, as a sophisticated force, to ensure that the security cordon does not push the head of government away from the people," he said at a programme marking the 40th anniversary of the SSF at the Prime Minister's Office in Tejgaon.

He stressed the need for SSF personnel to remain prepared through modern and up-to-date training, saying there is no room for a specialised force to lag in courage, skills, strategy or technology.

He said the SSF must maintain a delicate balance between protecting the head of government and ensuring citizens' comfort and convenience,

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'Arrest them or lose your jobs'

Witness quotes former SP while recounting 2015 'crossfire killing'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A police officer yesterday told International Crimes Tribunal-2 that former Barishal superintendent of police AKM Eshanullah threatened officers that they would lose their jobs if they failed to arrest two BNP-linked leaders who were later killed in an alleged staged "crossfire" in 2015.

Inspector Nazrul Islam Mazumder, testifying in a crimes against humanity case, said the then SP also claimed there was pressure from former Awami League lawmaker Abul Hasanat Abdullah to arrest Agailjhara upazila Chhatra Dal



joint secretary Tipu Hawlader and upazila Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha organising secretary Kabir Mollah.

Quoting Eshanullah, Nazrul said, "You know the power of Abul Hasanat Abdullah. There is pressure and instruction from him to arrest the accused. If they are not arrested, nobody's job will be safe."

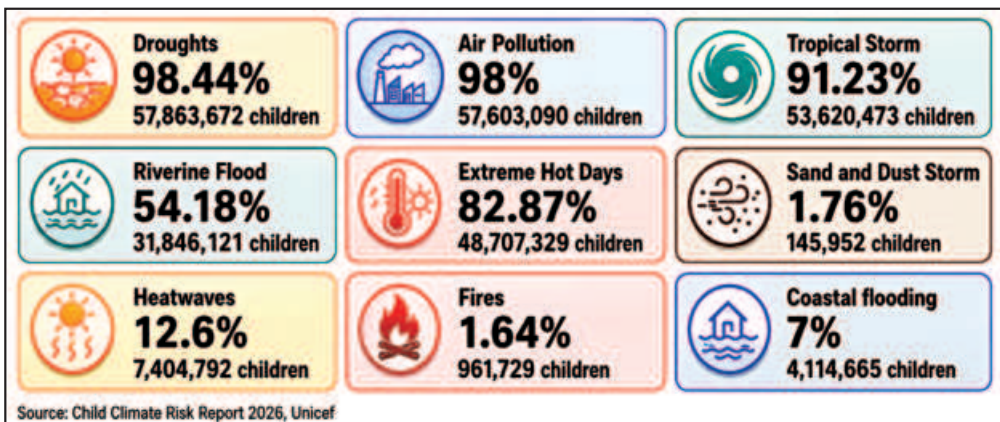
Nazrul said that while serving as a sub-inspector at Agailjhara Police Station, he and the then OC were summoned to the SP's office and verbally abused for failing to arrest the two men.

He said the SP later sent a team, including him and a DB sub-inspector,

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59m children exposed to climate hazards

Says Unicef report on Bangladesh; urges stronger climate resilience, emissions cuts



ABDULLAH HEL BUBUN

No child among Bangladesh's 59 million children is growing up safe from climate hazards, and nearly nine in ten face three or more such hazards at the same time, according to Unicef's Children's Climate Risk Report, published on June 16.

The report places Bangladesh among the four worst countries in the world for children's exposure to climate hazards, with only Myanmar, Pakistan and Vietnam facing a worse combined exposure profile.

Unicef's report, its most detailed assessment to date, examined children's exposure across 186 countries to eight climate hazards – riverine flooding, coastal flooding, droughts, extreme heat, heatwaves, tropical storms, fires, sand and dust storms.

It also measured exposure to air pollution and vector-borne diseases, both of which are intensifying due to climate change.

Bangladesh ranked among the worst countries for children's exposure to riverine flooding and droughts. It was also the third worst-ranked country for coastal flooding, air

pollution and tropical storms.

Droughts, both agricultural and meteorological, are estimated to affect about 98 percent of children in Bangladesh, or roughly 57.8 million.

Exposure to air pollution is nearly as widespread. More than 91 percent of children are at risk from tropical storms, while over 82 percent are affected by extreme hot days, defined as days with a "feels-like" temperature above 35 degrees Celsius.

Riverine flooding affects about 54 percent of all children in Bangladesh.

What makes Bangladesh's situation particularly acute is not any single hazard, but the convergence of several climate hazards.

According to the report, 53 million children – almost 89.5 percent of the country's under-18 population – are simultaneously exposed to at least three hazards.

This convergence has disproportionate consequences for children, whose developing bodies are less equipped to cope with heat stress, polluted air and waterborne diseases.

Displacement caused by floods or storms

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Murder case filed over death of teen in school dorm

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Noakhali

A murder case has been filed with the police station in connection with the death of an eighth-grader at a school dormitory in Ramganj upazila of Lakshmipur.

Mehedi Hasan was a student at Farid Ahmed Bhuiyan Academy and a resident of the school's Abdur Rahman dormitory.

His father Zia Uddin filed the case at Ramganj Police Station yesterday, accusing eight named and eight to 10 unnamed individuals.

According to the case statement, Mehedi was falsely accused of phone theft, a charge the suspects used to subject him to physical and mental torture that ultimately led to his death.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Zia Uddin said, "My son was completely innocent. They falsely accused him and beat him to death like an animal. I demand the maximum punishment for those responsible."

Ramganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge Firoz Uddin Chowdhury said, "The victim's father had submitted a written complaint over the death of his son. Given the severity of the allegation, it was later recorded as a murder

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FROM THE JS GALLERY

8 districts under review for new domestic airports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Afroza Khanam yesterday said the government has started feasibility studies to convert existing Short Take-Off and Landing (STOL) ports into domestic airports in eight districts.

The initiative is part of the government's broader plan to build an air connectivity grid. Under the plan, small airports and airstrips will first be built to connect divisional cities, followed by district-level links, she said in response to a query from MP Abu Taleb Mandol during a Jatiya Sangsad session.

Feasibility studies are being carried out on a priority basis for STOL ports in Bogura, Lalmonirhat, Thakurgaon, Ishwardi in Pabna, Shamshearnagar in Moulvibazar, Khanjahan Ali in Bagerhat, Cumilla and Patuakhali.

Should we say 'Bogura first' now?

NCP lawmaker questions allocation of funds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Citizen Party MP Atiqur Rahman Mujahid has accused the government of discrimination in allocating public funds across districts.

"There was a time when critics used to say 'Gopalganj first'. Should we say 'Bogura first' now? This is not the Bangladesh we want. If it is truly 'Bangladesh first', then every corner of the country must receive equal budgetary treatment," he said during the discussion on the proposed 2026-27 budget.

"Bangladesh first" is also a BNP slogan.

Mujahid alleged that Shibganj upazila in Bogura had been dubbed a "nobabi upazila" because of extraordinary allocations.

"While other areas receive nothing, one upazila alone gets Tk 76 crore – what kind of miraculous charisma is this?" he said.

On the current budget, Mujahid also said of the Tk 42,000 crore proposed for defence, Tk 35,000 crore was earmarked for operating expenses, leaving only Tk 7,000 crore for actual defence capability.

"How can our defence be ensured with that?" he asked.

2.81 lakh land cases pending in courts

Says land minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Land Minister Mizanur Rahman Minu yesterday said a total of 2,81,659 land-related cases remained pending in courts across the country as of fiscal year 2024-25.

Responding to a question from MP Shahjahan Chowdhury, he said the rate of dispute resolution through land arbitration and alternative mechanisms stood at 39.43 percent.

Replying to a question from ruling party MP Shirin Sultana, Minu said the entry of brokers into land offices was being strictly controlled through CCTV monitoring.

In response to a query from MP Khairul Kabir Khokon, Agriculture Minister Mohammad Aminur Rashid said Bangladesh has 88.29 lakh hectares, or 2.18 crore acres, of cultivable farmland, accounting for about 59.7 percent of the country's total area.



PHOTO: ANIKA TAHSEN HAFSA

Ferdousi Mazumder reads a Greek folktale to children at the publication ceremony of "Bhindeshi Chhoy Golpo", a collection of six translated stories. The event brought 20 children, aged 4-15, at the cultural space Ichchhetola in Uttara yesterday.