



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



COMMITTED TO People's Right to Know

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XVI NO. 45

DHAKA TUESDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2006

www.thedailystar.net

FALGUN 16, 1412 BS

MOHARRAM 28, 1427 HJRI

16 PAGES PLUS STAR LIFESTYLE PRICE: Tk 10.00

## Explosion at Ctg garment factory again

15 injured in stampede

UNB, Ctg

At least 15 workers were injured in a stampede amid scrambles for exit as an electric generator transformer exploded at a garment factory during power outage in the port city's Atur Depot area yesterday evening.

Their fears were fuelled by a hangover of shock following an apparel factory fire that killed at least 55 workers in the city four days ago.

Fire brigade sources said a generator transformer blasted "with a big bang" on the ground floor of Charulata Garments at

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

## Factory safety watch in complete disarray

Only 20 inspectors for 50,000 factories

PINAKI ROY

Recurring accidents causing loss of a large number of lives and huge property have failed to make the government take effective steps to ensure safe working condition in factories.

Three major factory accidents occurred recently -- two in Dhaka and one in Chittagong-- leaving 142 workers killed and more than 500 injured, many of them disabled for life. All these accidents took place due to lack of proper safety measures at the factories.

But the government's factory inspection office under the directorate of labour is still to wake up to improve the situation. Directorate sources however said the number of factory inspectors is too small for this job.

"Our manpower is too limited to cover all factories and take proper steps but we are doing our best," said Dr Md Serajuddin, chief inspector of factories.

According to official statistics, only three inspectors are engaged in inspecting safety measures at as many as 15,000 factories under

Dhaka divisional factory inspection office. And only 20 inspectors are now deployed to inspect around 50,000 registered factories in the country. Of them, four are working at the head office, six at Dhaka divisional office and three at Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi divisional offices.

Some other general inspectors look into violation of laws relating to factories, workers' wages and licences of factories.

Different kinds of registered factories, including garments

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## TEJGAON COLLAPSE No compensation from owners yet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Relatives of those killed in Saturday's building collapse at Tejgaon are yet to get any compensation from owners of the multi-storey building despite the latter's offer of it, they alleged yesterday.

The Phoenix building owners announced through advertisement that they would pay compensation to the families of the dead and bear all expenses for treatment of the injured and also pay compensation.

Ten of the injured under treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday said they received some money for treatment.

One of them said he received Tk 8,000 and the others received

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Outage leads to severe water crisis in capital

REAZ AHMAD

Unprecedented power outages have caused a severe water crisis in the capital making Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) fail to meet the rising demand for piped water in the city.

As residents in the city's old part, Mirpur, Dhanmondi, Jatrabari, Shahidnagar, Gabtoli, Azampur, and even of the diplomatic enclaves of Gulshan-Baridhara are reeling under an acute water crisis, officials concerned said with such an erratic power supply, things are not going to improve anytime soon.

Dhaka Wasa sources said due to

massive power cuts and low voltage of electricity in the pre-summer season, Wasa is unable to lift water by its 421 deep tube wells and is forced to use diesel-run generators as an alternative.

Amid the ongoing water supply shortage in the city, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan had a meeting with Wasa authorities yesterday but no assurance of uninterrupted power supply has come, meeting sources said.

An inter-ministerial meeting, however, is scheduled for later this week to resolve the problem of water supply due to power outage.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## Khaleda faces Hasina in JS today after 19 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina are facing each other in parliament today for the first time in last 19 months.

The two top leaders are expected to participate in the thanks giving motion on the president's speech and deliver their valedictory speeches of the current session which is scheduled to be prorogued tonight.

In her speech the leader of the House is likely to respond to the opposition's reform proposals for the caretaker government system and the Election Commission,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## More bodies, more cries

Death toll rises to 20, hopes for survivors nil

SHAMIM ASHRAF

Ambia's wait for her missing son came to an end at last, though not the way she was expecting.

All her hopes were dashed in a moment and the world appeared to her not worth living anymore as she heard that Humayun Kabir's body was dug out from the first floor 15 minutes ago.

"How will I survive now, how could the jewel of my life leave me this way!" the ill-fated woman screamed out at the top of her voice, as excavators were pulling

down the rubbles of the collapsed Tejgaon building at 8:45am yesterday.

With the recovery of Humayun's body, the number of deaths in the five-storey Phoenix building collapse now stands at 20. The other body recovered yesterday was of Syed Rustom Ali, 50, a sub-contractor who was supervising the grill works on the ground floor.

No one alive could be recovered yesterday. Forty of the earlier rescued wounded are now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

Army personnel take away another body found under the rubble of the doomed building in Tejgaon yesterday, three days into the disaster. With this recovery, death toll from the building collapse rose to 20.

## People's interests ignored in JS discussions

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Discussions on issues of public interest seem to have been put on the back burner in the current Jatiya Sangsad while both the ruling alliance and opposition lawmakers remain busy scathing about the opponents on trivial matters.

Unwillingness of the treasury bench to discuss the burning issues in parliament despite repeated calls from the opposition parties has forced the present parliament to witness only three general discussions in over four years.

In the past, the matters of public

importance have never been so neglected in proceedings of the House. The last three parliaments (elected in 1988, 1991, and 1996) held dozens of general discussions on issues concerning public welfare. Most of the previous parliaments had discussions on the country's foreign policy in accordance with the rules of procedure.

Term of the present parliament will expire on October 27 this year. But due to an extreme reluctance on the part of the government, the possibility of a general discussion being held is remote, if not zero.

In the past parliaments, the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## Sircar rejects 162 opposition notices

Says govt to act on those vital issues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The speaker in parliament yesterday rejected 162 notices submitted by opposition lawmakers demanding discussions on dozens of burning issues including outage, reforms in caretaker government system and Election Commission.

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar did not entertain the notices as the treasury bench has already refused to hold discussions on any of the issues adjourning other businesses of the House.

He however came up with a clarification about the opposition lawmakers' demands while disposing the notices. A minute

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## A Partnership of Success

We at Motorola are honoured to be a valued partner of Jubok Phone and extend our heartiest congratulations on the successful commercial launch of Jubok's Wireless Local Loop network.

Bringing seamless communication to the people of Bangladesh, Jubok Phone has introduced the latest state-of-the-art technology to ensure excellent voice quality and innovative data services at very affordable prices. Looking forward to new horizons together, we compliment your vision that has enabled our partnership of success.



TELE BARTA LTD.