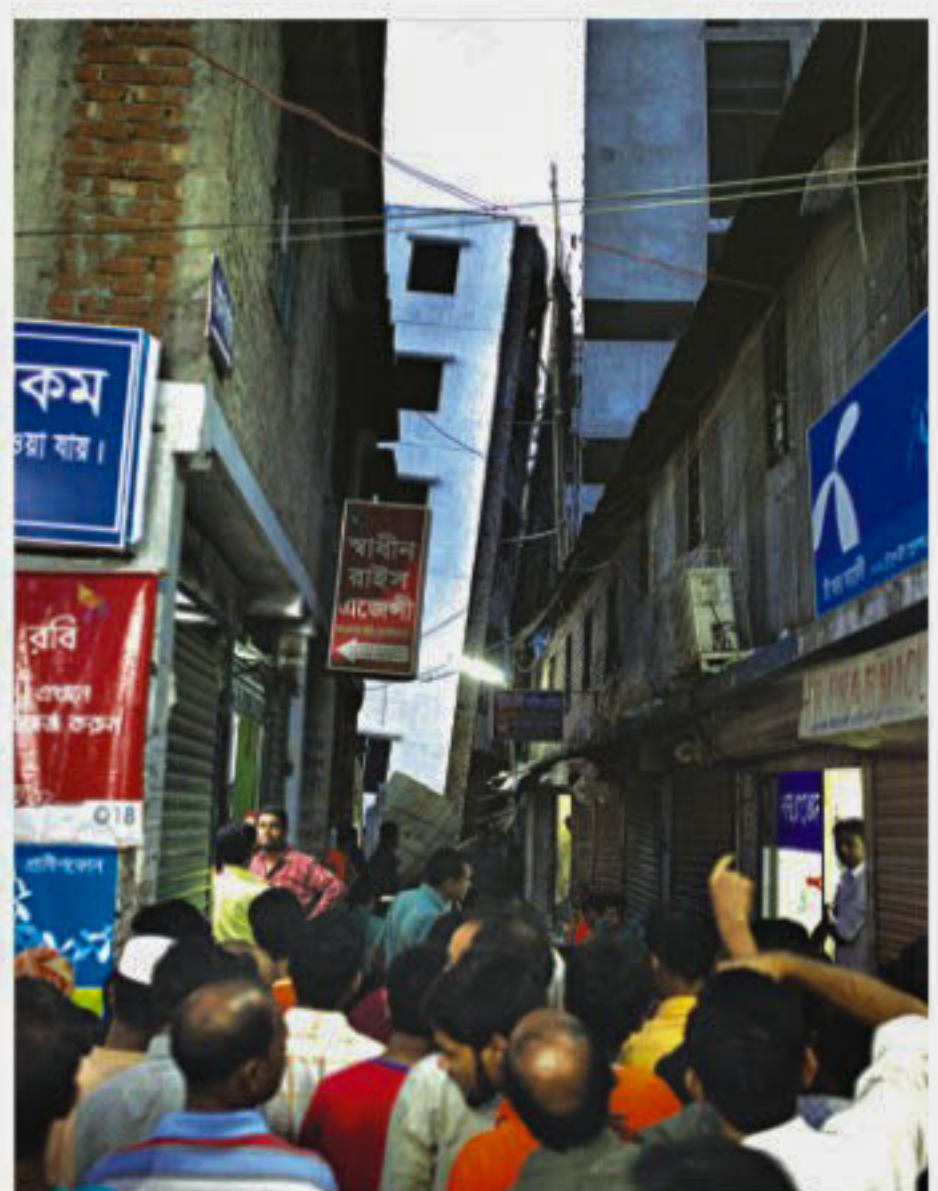




Views from different angles around the seven-storey building at Kathalbagan in the city that tilted and sank by about 10 feet into the ground on Sunday night. Hundreds of people thronged the area all day to get a glimpse of the building while nearby residents were seen leaving for safe places.

Photo: RASHED SHUMON



Four 'commit suicide' in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four persons, including two women, reportedly committed suicide in different parts of the city Sunday night and early yesterday.

The dead were Sarjina Sattar Rinti, 30, a homemaker; garment worker Sukla Baroi alias Ripa, 18, Morsalin Sheikh, 18, a day labourer, and medical technician Sajedur Rahman Khokan, 47.

Housewife Rinti hanged from the ceiling at her father's Phulbaria residence under Turag Police Station around 1:30am yesterday.

Police said a feud with her parents might have triggered the suicide.

Ripa Baroi hanged herself at her South Madartek house at about 10:00pm on Sunday. She used to work at a factory in Malibagh area.

Morsalin committed suicide by hanging himself at his rented house on road No 4 of Dhaka Udyan under Mohammadpur Police Station.

Police quoted his family members saying he had been sick for long and committed suicide out of frustration over his illness. Police said a quarrel with wife Ferdousi Yasmin Shoma yesterday might have led Khokan, resident of Kaola Paschimpara, to hang himself at his residence.

Sheikh Helal acquitted of graft case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday acquitted former Awami League lawmaker Sheikh Helaluddin of a corruption case, in which he was convicted and sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment during the regime of military backed caretaker government.

A special judge's court on February 24 of 2008 sentenced Helal in the case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on charges of amassing wealth illegally.

Govt working for strong democracy

PM tells outgoing EU envoy

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the opposition parties including the BNP to come to parliament to say anything for the people.

"Roads are not the place for talking. Parliament is the best place for talking in a democratic system. So, be in the parliament, and you have to come to parliament to say anything for the people," she made the call during the farewell meeting with European Union (EU) Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the European Commission in Dhaka Stefan Frowein at her official residence Gono Bhaban.

The government has taken various steps to make the parliament a vibrant forum and her government is working hard to strengthen democracy in the country, Hasina informed the outgoing EU ambassador.

Sheikh Hasina and Stefan Frowein discussed democracy, good governance and

terrorism during the meeting. Press Secretary to the PM Abul Kalam Azad informed reporters after the meeting.

The government is very much open to decentralising the administration and empowering the people, Hasina informed the ambassador.

She thanked the EU and the International Community for their all-out cooperation in holding a free and fair election in the country.

Hasina expressed her gratitude to the EU for their assistance in reviving democracy in the country. In this connection she mentioned that the development of Bangladesh had been checked due to the lack of democracy.

Stefan Frowein praised the leadership of Hasina for establishing Bangladesh as a country with bright prospects.

Ambassador at large M Ziauddin and PMO Secretary Molla Waheeduzzaman were, among others, present during the meeting.

Buet student drowns, 2 others rescued

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A student of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) drowned while two others were rescued in critical condition from the beach at the west end of Saint Martin's Island under Teknaf upazila of the district yesterday evening.

The deceased was identified as Shafiqur Rahman Shaon, 25, son of Mizanur Rahman of Upashahar area in Bogra and also a final year student of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering.

Police said 67 students from the department came on a visit to Saint Martin's Island yesterday.

Shafiqur along with two other students -- Sheikh Shaon, 24, and Subrata Sarker, 25, went for a bath in the sea around 3:00pm. Within a short time strong currents pulled them out to sea, police added.

Locals rescued Shaon and Subrata in critical condition but failed to locate Shafiqur. At around 5:30pm, Shafiqur's body washed up on the beach with the incoming tide.

Sub-Inspector Kalam Hossain of Saint Martin's Island Police Camp said the body was sent to Teknaf by evening.

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AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY-BANGLADESH (AIUB)
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OPEN POSITION AT UK-ORIGIN LIASON OFFICE

A British company, one of the top global retailers, seeks to immediately engage a General Manager to head up their Liaison Office in Dhaka. Only high-profile candidates, having an extensive proven track record and necessary skills to lead a large multi-national organization should apply. Your experience must demonstrate that you have managed similar foreign organizations. You must be results oriented, able to deal with international buyers and suppliers in order to "fast-track" the growth of business development. You are requested to send your CV by 15th November 2010, to the Box NO A-78, C/O-The Daily Star. 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215

RMG workers go berserk, 10 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 people were injured after police charged batons on agitating workers who vandalised a sweater factory at Kalma in Savar yesterday morning.

Around 2,400 disgruntled employees of Hot Dress Sweaters Limited went on work abstention and started demonstrating inside the factory premises at about 9:30am demanding an increase in pay per unit produced.

At one stage, angry workers entered the factory and broke furniture and windowpanes prompting the authorities to shut down production immediately.

On information, police rushed to the spot at about 10:30am and resorted to truncheon charging to disperse the unruly workers, leaving at least 10 of them injured.

Mizanur Rahman, manager of the factory, said the company has already paid all the dues of the workers on Sunday.

Following the clash with the law enforcers, the workers did not return to work for the rest of the day.

BERC chairman blasts Petrobangla

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) Chairman Syed Yusuf Hossain yesterday blasted Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla) for not sending a responsible official at a technical meeting on finalising gas development fund policy and thereby hindering its finalisation.

While speaking at the conference, the BERC chairman said, "Petrobangla is not cooperating with us as it should be doing. They are not paying due respect to the commission.

It seems it has a strong base somewhere which is not a sign of good governance."

The government in November 2008 decided to raise a fund for the development of gas sector. A Tk 800 crore fund was raised from the additional revenue generated from 10 to 15 percent increase in the price of gas at consumer level.

BERC, which has the mandate to regulate gas, electricity and petroleum products for the whole of Bangladesh, held a meeting on this issue on October 31, seeking opinions of the stakeholders in gas sector. At the meeting, it instructed Petrobangla to finalise a policy on the utilisation of the fund.

Yesterday's meeting was scheduled to finalise the policy.

Yusuf was angered yesterday when the lone Petrobangla representative at the meeting Deputy General Manager (Accounts) Tofael Ahmed said this was his first meeting and he did not know anything about the past meetings on the policy.

Yusuf was asking for Petrobangla's opinion on the policy and said, "We sent letter to the higher authorities of Petrobangla, asking if they could attend the meeting.

"If they could not, then they could have sent a letter, send a fax or even contact me over the phone."

BERC decided to give two days time to Petrobangla to give their opinions in finalising the policy.

"You are giving a wrong signal. If you say that Petrobangla was not consulted before finalising of the policy then it would be unfair," said Yusuf, pointing to the Petrobangla official.

He said, "Anyone can attend the meeting no matter how junior he is but he or she should also be authorised to offer opinions."

রাজধানীতে ৭তলা ভবন হেলে পড়া প্রসঙ্গে রিহাবের বক্তব্য

রাজধানীর কাঁঠালবাগান ঢাল এলাকায় গতকাল রোববার রাতে হেলে পড়া এশিয়ান হায়দার টাওয়ার নামের ভবনটি রিহাব সদস্য ভুক্ত কোন প্রতিষ্ঠান কর্তৃক নির্মিত নয়। ভবনটির নির্মাণ ক্রটি বা হেলে পড়া সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে, রিয়েল এস্টেট এন্ড হাউজিং এসোসিয়েশন অব বাংলাদেশ (রিহাব) এর কোন সম্পৃক্ততা নাই। উক্ত বিষয়ে জনমনে বিভ্রান্তির ও কোন অবকাশ নাই।

জন সচেতনতায় ৪



রিয়েল এস্টেট এন্ড হাউজিং এসোসিয়েশন অব বাংলাদেশ (রিহাব)