

# SAVAR TRAGEDY Dr Kamal calls for national unity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday called for national unity to deal with the Rana Plaza tragedy in Savar, which killed hundreds and left thousands wounded.

The country's people, particularly the youth, have exhibited the spirit of liberation through their tireless and selfless efforts in rescuing trapped victims, he said.

Instead of being discouraged by the tragedy, the country will work unitedly to rebuild the garments industry so that it becomes more accountable and safer for workers, he said.

The eminent jurist made the remarks at a discussion on his book titled "Bangladesh: Quest for Freedom and Justice" at the RC Majumder Auditorium of Dhaka University, organised by the social organisation Banglar Pathshala.

The speakers said the book successfully portrayed how formation of a new state took place in the country's early years after liberation.

The book will give readers the views of an insider as Dr Kamal was actively involved in the political struggles in the initial years of the country, said Vice Chancellor of National University Prof Dr Harunur Rashid.

Professor Emeritus of Dhaka University Dr Anisuzzaman chaired the programme, where Associate Editor of Prothom Alo Mizanur Rahman Khan also spoke.

"Bangladesh: Quest for Freedom and Justice" is published by the University Press Ltd (UPL) and is available in stores for Tk 700.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Three women completely drenched on a rickshaw on Dhaka University campus are enjoying a sudden rain in the scorching heat of yesterday.

## Organisations extend help to Savar victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations have extended their supportive hand to the families of the garment workers killed and injured in Rana Plaza collapse at Savar on the outskirts of the capital.

The authority of Dutch-Bangla Bank has decided to donate Tk 1 lakh each to every family to overcome the disaster.

Recently Social Islami Bank Ltd donated essential medicines and other medical equipment for the people wounded in the building collapse.

Bangladesh Workers' Party has taken an initiative to raise a special fund to help the victims. So far Tk 1.6 lakh has been collected from various sources and by the party members.

## Countrywide strike called at edn instts for April 30

DU CORRESPONDENT

Outraged by the continued neglect to garment workers even after a series of accidents in the garment factories, progressive student bodies yesterday announced to enforce a strike at all educational institutions across the country on April 30 to demand arrest and punishment of the owners of Rana Plaza and the garment factories housed in it.

They said Rana Plaza's owner Sohel Rana not only defied the laws but used his political muscle to grab most of the area on which the building was built. The student bodies demanded that the government publish a report on whether all garment factory facilities were safe for work.

Progressive Student Alliance, a platform of seven student bodies, also urged the government to publish a complete list of victims of the collapse and compensate and rehabilitate their families. They said the amount of money given in the name of compensation to the deceased or the injured was too inadequate.

The student leaders from Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Bangladesh Chhatra Federation President and Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree, among others, were speaking at a press conference at Madhur canteen of Dhaka University.

Terming the Savar incident that cost over 300 lives a "killing", they said it is a consequence of lack of proper government response to the past incidents which let owners go free. Meanwhile, four student organisations will demonstrate in front of the BGMEA building at 12:00pm today with the same demands.

## LAND BOUNDARY DEAL

# Uncertainty looms over India's constitutional amendment

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Fresh question marks have been raised if the constitution amendment bill to implement the Bangladesh-India land boundary agreement could be placed during the current budget session of India's parliament.

The bill was listed in the agenda of the Rajya Sabha, the upper House of Indian Parliament, but could not be placed due to disruption by opposition on various issues and subsequent adjournment of the House for that day.

After a holiday on Wednesday, the Rajya Sabha was again marred by disruption on Thursday and could not do any legislative business. Indian External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid, who was to have the bill tabled, left on Thursday for an official visit to Kazakhstan. He is now there.

What has added to fresh uncertainty over the bill is that main opposition BJP on Thursday put a spoke in Indian government's plan to have

the land boundary agreement with Bangladesh on the exchange of land enclaves by questioning the legality of the constitutional amendment bill planned for the purpose.

According to sources, BJP leader Arun Jaitley submitted a notice to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat arguing that the bill drafted to allow India to transfer land enclaves to Bangladesh would be violative of the "basic features" doctrine that the Supreme Court had laid down 40 years ago in the Keshavanand Bharti case.

In a landmark verdict in that case, the apex court had held that parliament's power to amend the constitution did not equip to change its "basic features".

Jaitley, a noted lawyer and the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, contended that the country's borders as mentioned in Schedule 1 of the Constitution were qualified to be among its "basic features" and were, therefore, outside the purview of parliament's amending powers.

According to sources, Jaitley stuck to his guns in the discussion with

Salman Khurshid.

It remains to be seen if the Congress-led UPA government can push through some key bills in the remainder of the second half of the budget session of parliament, which is scheduled to end on May 10.

Although BJP is unlikely to hinder the passage of the Finance Bill on May 7, the stand-off between the government and the main opposition in parliament on various issues may come in the way of the passage of important legislations on food security and land acquisition that the government is keen on in order to have a few trophies ahead of Lok Sabha polls.

The bill will facilitate the exchange of 111 Indian enclaves in Bangladesh and 51 Bangladeshi enclaves in India and help settle the long-pending boundary issues between the two countries. This will also bring to an end to the pitiable living conditions of about 50,000 people, who live in these enclaves without access to basic rights and amenities available to the citizens of the two countries.

## BARISAL SCHOOLBOY KILLING

# Arrest of suspects demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Locals formed a human chain in Barisal city yesterday demanding immediate arrest of the suspects in the murder of Samir Rafi Inan, a schoolboy.

Inan, 16, a class X student of Barisal Government Zilla School, was beaten dead by some boys following a quarrel during a cricket match on April 7.

The victim's father, Zahangir Hossain Tanu, a contractor in the city's Bangla Bazar area, lodged a murder case the next day accusing seven boys.

The protesters said onlookers caught one of the suspects and handed him over to police but no other suspect was arrested to date and the investigation did advance a little.

The absconding accused and their family members are giving threats to Inan's family to "compromise", taking the chance of inactiveness of police, they said.

The protesters, including locals, students and guardians, warned that they would stage tougher protests if the accused were not arrested immediately.

The human chain was jointly organised by Barisal units of Rotaract Club Midtown and Youth Ending Hunger in front of Ashwini Kumar Hall.

## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tazul Islam Proddhan, chief revenue officer of Dhaka South

City Corporation (DSCC), died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital yesterday. He was 52.

He had been suffering from heart diseases.

He was buried at his family graveyard in his village following his namaz-e-janaza after Zohr prayers.

All DSCC officials and staff have prayed for the salvation of the departed soul, said a press release.



BNP South Keraniganj unit on a token hunger strike in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday, demanding withdrawal of cases against BNP Standing Committee Member Goyeshwar Chandra Roy.

PHOTO: STAR

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