



TIGERS SEEK SERIES

Bangladesh take on Zimbabwe in the 2nd ODI today

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CHILD PARTICIPATION

Use of children in political violence ruins their future

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AFGHAN-PAK ROW

Hamid Karzai wants the Taliban to fight Afghan "enemies"

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Act within 48 hours

Khaleda issues ultimatum to Hasina over caretaker govt, backs Hefajat's blockade today; PM says BNP chief chooses path of confrontation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday gave a 48-hour ultimatum to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to make an announcement accepting the opposition demand for restoring the caretaker government system.

"Otherwise, we will declare such programmes that you [PM] will have to flee away or quit power," Khaleda warned while addressing a rally at the capital's Shapla Chattar.

The BNP-led 18-party alliance held the rally to protest government "failure" to properly rescue garment workers at the collapsed Rana Plaza and to demand release of detained opposition leaders and restoration of



caretaker government system.

At the rally attended by thousands of opposition leaders and workers, many from Jamaat-Shibir, Khaleda termed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's invitation to the opposition to sit for a dialogue as a "new drama".

"The government lowers its voice whenever it falls in danger. You [PM] have again started play-

ing a new drama to divert public attention when the people are angry over the killing of garment workers at Rana Plaza and the ulema [Islamic scholars] are waging a movement."

Khaleda mentioned several times the Hefajat-e Islam's Dhaka blockade programme. "Tomorrow's [today] programme of the ulema will be peaceful and they have every right to demonstrate against those who are speaking ill against our beloved Prophet (pbuh)."

Criticising the Gonojagoron activists, she said if the government did not move them from Shahbagh

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HEFAJAT STORY ON PAGE 20

TRAGEDY-HIT GARMENT

ILO rolls out roadmap

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government, employers and workers' rights bodies yesterday rolled out a time-bound roadmap backed by the International Labour Organisation to improve labour standards to avoid further tragedies in garment factories.

"The tripartite partners stand united in their resolve to do everything possible to

prevent further tragedy," the tripartite partners said in a joint statement at the foreign ministry in Dhaka.

The move, which is expected to appease global buyers under pressure to boycott Bangladesh following the death of at least 551 workers in Rana Plaza collapse, came on the last day of a four-day

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Robbery after tragedy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Robbers early yesterday looted the burial money for a Savar tragedy victim when the deceased's family was bringing the body home in Parbatipur upazila of Dinajpur district.

The body of Khadiza Begum, 30, wife of Yunus Ali of

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Anjana cries with the photo of her missing mother Nasima, a Rana Plaza victim. She has been waiting at Adhar Chandra High School playground in Savar since April 24 when the building collapsed. She has searched for her mother in all the hospitals and morgues in vain.

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 12

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

DEATH TOLL 558

With agony, they wait for bodies

MORSHED ALI KHAN

The agonising wait at Adhar Chandra High School in Savar seems endless to Anwar Zahid. He knows his wife is dead by now but he can at least have the body to bury by himself.

"No matter how decomposed her body is, I shall recognise Nasrin," said Zahid, a diploma engineer and an operator of an effluent treatment plant at a nearby industry.

Every time a body was recovered from the mangled wreckage of nine-storey Rana Plaza a kilometer away and brought there yesterday, Zahid rushed to check if it was of Nasrin Anwar, 22, mother of his child.

For the last 12 days since the deadliest industrial disaster in the country, hundreds of men, women and children have been waiting at the school ground to see their loved ones dead or alive.

At night, some of them sleep in the open, some in small tents while some others take shelter at the residences of their relatives who fell victim to the building collapse. Local volunteers are providing them with three meals and potable water every day.

"I am looking for the body of my daughter," someone would say carrying a picture of a young woman. "I am looking for my son's," someone else would rush in to add.

At times, someone in the crowd would begin wailing, "Oh Allah where

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Rescue goes at slow pace

TAWFIQUE ALI and M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Eleven days into the country's deadliest building collapse in Savar, the official rescuers are clueless about how many bodies are still locked in the mammoth concrete wreckage and how long it may take to remove the piles.

Just one-fifth of the rubble has been removed over the past one week, officials say. Some ground workers estimate it would take at least two more weeks to clear the debris of nine-storey Rana Plaza.

There is an estimated 9,000 tonnes of wreckage, including machines, 2,000 tonnes of which have so far been removed, said Major Moazzem of army engineers' corps.

Bodies are still found in the building's rear staircase, he said. It seems there are still quite a number of bodies in the rubble.

It is difficult to say how long it may take to complete the task, as no reliable information on the number of bodies is available, said Moazzem.

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Oghy & Maber