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# SPECTRUM TO RANA PLAZA

## Govt caught napping

ASHUTOSH SARKAR and CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

The High Court is yet to settle the questions over the legality of construction of a garment factory building, though it issued a rule in this regard about eight years ago following a writ petition.

The HC could have issued some directives on the authorities had the case been disposed of earlier, some legal experts said, adding that the Savar tragedy might have been avoided in that case.

The Spectrum Sweater Industries Ltd at Savar, on the outskirts of Dhaka, was set for three storeys but three more had been added to it, resulting in the collapse of the building on April 11, 2005.

More than 60 people were killed and many others injured in the collapse.

Four injured workers along with nine rights organisations filed the writ petition after the collapse.

Following the petition, the HC on May 24, 2005 issued the rule asking the government why it should not be directed to form a commission headed by a sitting or a retired Supreme Court judge to inquire into the factory collapse, find the culprits and suggest measures to prevent such disasters in future.

The authorities had been asked why they should not be directed to pay adequate compensation to the victims of the incident.

The court had also asked them why they would not be directed to inform whether the garment factories in Dhaka,



An aircraft is tethered to the ground at Cox's Bazar airport yesterday as cyclone Mahasen approaches Bangladesh yesterday.

# WAR CRIMES CHARGE

## Ex-minister Qaisar faces arrest order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday issued arrest warrant against Syed Mohammad Qaisar, a leader of the local Peace Committee in Habiganj, in connection with crimes against humanity and genocide during the Liberation War.

The court passed the order following a prosecution petition seeking his arrest for a "fair and effective investigation" into his alleged crimes against humanity.

The three-member tribunal, led by

# Rapp has 4 'concerns'

US criminal justice envoy happy with war trial progress but stays worried too

DIPLomatic CORRESPONDENT

Stephen Rapp, US Ambassador-at-large for War Crimes Issues, has expressed satisfaction over the war crimes trials in Bangladesh but at the same time has said the process has not fully maintained international standards.

"Though there have been improvements and progress, I still have concerns about the process and further improvement could help ensure that international standards are met," he said at a press conference at the American Centre yesterday.

Wrapping up his two-day visit to Bangladesh, Rapp identified four concerns and placed emphasis



on upholding those properly so that people could say those who are on trial had got justice.

The four concerns are international standards, change of law during trial, burden of proof, and ensuring equal rights for producing witnesses before the court by both prosecution and defence.

He strongly recommended that international laws be followed during the trials. "It needs a fair process so that it will stand the test of time," he observed.

In response to a question, the US official said the

# GOODS HILL, CTG

## Witness testifies on killing, torture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A witness yesterday said Pakistani occupational army with the help of local razakars took three brothers of his neighbourhood to 'Goods Hill' residence of Salauddin Quader Chowdhury's father on July 27, 1971.

One of the brothers was killed there while two others were released after torture, he said.

The 35th prosecution witness told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 that he had heard the matter on July 28, 1971 from the brothers who were released on that day.

The witness -- Kamal Uddin alias Kalam Uddin, 59, of Purba Shikarpur Rashidbari under Hathazari Police Station in Chittagong -- gave his deposition in the war crimes case against Salauddin Quader Chowdhury.

# BNP lawmaker Bulu arrested

## Shown held for 'attacking cops'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives arrested BNP lawmaker Barkatullah Bulu yesterday immediately after he came out of the party headquarters in the capital's Nayapaltan.

A team of Detective Branch (DB) of police caught Bulu, also a joint secretary general of BNP, and left the area in a white microbus around 11:30am.

The lawmaker has been shown arrested in a case filed by police with Paltan Police Station on March 12 in connection with attacking law enforcers and obstructing them from their duties, said Jahangir Alam, deputy commissioner (South) of the DB.

Hours after the arrest, BNP Parliamentary Party said Bulu's arrest and government's denial of permission to the 18-party



Traders at Dholai Khal in Old Dhaka yesterday hand this boy named Sakib over to police in connection with extortion. Extortionists seal off shops pushing glue and sand in locks, left, if the owners fail to pay. The criminals often use children to serve their purpose.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

# Hartal called, withdrawn after 8 hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People heaved a sigh of relief as the BNP-led 18-party opposition alliance last evening withdrew its hartal for Sunday in view of the possible strike of cyclone Mahasen to the country's coastal areas.

The alliance made the announcement eight hours after it called the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

# NAOGAON 6-MURDER CASE

## Life term for 46 outlaws

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A Speedy Trial Tribunal of Rajshahi yesterday sentenced life term imprisonment to 46 operatives of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party for killing six people at Atrai upazila in Naogaon in 2003.

Judge Ekramul Haque Chowdhury fined the convicts Tk 30,000 each, in default, they would have to suffer one year of imprisonment more, said public prosecutor Entajul Haque.

Of the convicts, 28 were present on the dock during the verdict whereas 18

remained absconding.

The court, however, acquitted 16 accused in the case.

A band of operatives of the PBCP (Red Flag) took part in a killing mission at two houses at Naidighi village in the upazila on April 24, 2003 and killed Jahangir Hossain, Sukbor Hossain, Abdul Jabbar, Shahjahan, Mojammel Haque and Biddiut.

Jahangir's father filed a murder case with Atrai Police Station on the following day accusing 150 unnamed PBCP members.

Police submitted a charge sheet in the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

PRAYER TIMING			May 16
Fajr	Azan	Jamaat	4-10 4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15	
Asr	5-00	5-15	
Maghrib	6-36	6-40	
Esha	8-00	8-30	

Source: Islamic Foundation


আসসালামু আলাইকুম,

দুর্যোগ প্রবন আবহাওয়ার পূর্বাভাস/সম্ভাবনার কারণে (উন্মুক্ত স্থানে মিলাদ ও দোয়া মাহফিলের স্থান থাকায়) **রূপায়ন সিটি উত্তরা (গেটেট কমিউনিটি)** (প্রস্তাবিত) প্রকল্পের ১৭ই মে, রোজ শুক্রবার ২০১৩ ইং তারিখের মিলাদ মাহফিল স্থগিত করা হয়েছে। আমাদের অনিচ্ছাকৃত ত্রুটির জন্য আমরা আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখিত।

RUPAYAN

GROUP

The Daily Star



Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Foreign Minister that this EC will be able to hold a credible election with support from an interim government comprising elected representatives?

Yes

25%

No

75%

TOTAL VOTES: 257

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government should send a formal invitation letter to the main opposition for a dialogue on polls-time government?

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