



# The Daily Star

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Jimmy Carter says America doesn't have a functioning democracy  
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## Fresh move for building safety

Govt to strengthen monitoring of building construction by Rajuk, other authorities outside Dhaka

TAWFIQUE ALI  
Hot on the heels of the Rana Plaza disaster in Savar, the government has made a move to enforce building safety standards across the country. As part of the move, the Rajuk is going to triple the number of its building construction (BC) committees, from eight to 24, to oversee approval and construction of buildings in its 1,528-square km master plan area. Of the committees, eight will work on the outskirts of the master plan area. The government has recently approved a new organogram for the  
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**STEPS ON CARDS**

**16**  
more construction committees, 4 zonal offices of Rajuk

Rise in Rajuk manpower from **1,087** to **2,000**

DC-led committees in districts



After four days of hartal, people went out on Eid shopping in the weekend yesterday, clogging streets in front of major shopping malls in Dhaka. The photo was taken from Mirpur Road near Gausia Market and New Market.

PHOTO STAR

## Deadly bacteria in Gazipur soil

First time found in Bangladesh, the germ can cause tuberculosis-like disease

AKRAM HOSEN  
Scientists have recently found a fatal infectious bacterium in the soil of Kapasia in Gazipur, for the first time in Bangladesh. Known as *Burkholderia pseudomallei*, these bacteria can cause melioidosis, a rare disease that leads to serious infections of lung, blood and other organs, doctors and scientists say. Since 2001, doctors of Ibrahim Medical College have detected five such patients, who are also diabetic. All these patients come from Mymensingh-Gazipur region, which led scientists to look for the bacteria in the area. If melioidosis remains undiagnosed and untreated for long, chances of death are 80 percent, doctors say. Similar to tuberculosis in many ways, the disease usually requires four to six months of antibiotic treatment  
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PHOTO: MICROBIOLOGY LAB, IBRAHIM MEDICAL COLLEGE

**HIGHLIGHTS**

This germ may silently live in human bodies for decades

It invades human bodies through skin, inhalation and contaminated food

If undiagnosed for long, chances of death are 80 percent

### YUNUS CENTRE PM's press secy protests statement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Prime minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad has protested the statement of Yunus Centre about the PM's reported comments on Prof Yunus at a meeting at the Gono Bhaban on July 11. In a rejoinder on Thursday, he said the Yunus Centre's statement was based on newspaper reports that did not mention any source and were based on inadequate information.  
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### FUGITIVE KILLERS OF BANGABANDHU New Delhi pledges to step up hunt

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi  
Bangladesh yesterday shared with India more information about the whereabouts of some killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, while New Delhi conveyed that it would intensify the hunt for the fugitives. The issue of search for the killers of Bangabandhu was raised by the Bangladesh side at the home secretary-level talks held at Taj Man Singh Hotel, New Delhi. Dhaka shared information about risaldar Moslehuddin, who had fired at Bangabandhu on the night of August 15, 1975, and some others in addition to information already given to India, said a senior Bangladesh official, who attended the meeting. He said the Indian side told the visiting team that it would step up hunt for the fugitives. The issue of Indira-Mujib land boundary  
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### Huge rush for shopping after hartal

WASIM BIN HABIB  
After four straight dawn-to-dusk hartals, city dwellers seemed to have come out of their houses on a shopping spree -- leading to huge tailbacks in many important parts of the capital yesterday. Most roads that lead to the major shopping hubs in the city were clogged with hundreds of vehicles, mostly private cars and rickshaws, as Eid shoppers poured in their hundreds on the weekend. The tailbacks had  
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## Housemaids in Saudi Arabia get weekly day-off

New law passed to protect their rights

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
The council of ministers in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday passed a new law to protect the rights of domestic workers as well as their employers. The law allows the housemaids to enjoy nine-hour free time daily, a weekly day-off, one month's paid vacation after every two years, and medical leave. Saudi Labour Minister Adel Fakeih told Arab News that the law would normalise relationship between domestic helps and their employers. Emdadul Haque, Bangladesh embassy labour counsellor in Riyadh, said they had not yet received any official letter from the Saudi government in this regard. He, however, said the decision would obviously encourage the housemaids to work here. Asked about the number of Bangladeshi housemaids in Saudi Arabia, Emdadul said there are around 2,000-3,000 domestic helps now working here. Sumaiya Islam, director of Bangladesh Ovivashi Mahila Samik Association, welcomed the Saudi government's  
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### People fed up with errant politicians

Says Quader  
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur  
People are annoyed at politicians as they think the politicians are playing a cruel game with their fate, said Communications Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday. Criticising his own kind, the Awami League leader said, "Who will run the country if people lose faith in politicians? How can the country be run if we [politicians] become reckless like reckless drivers?" He was talking to journalists in Gazipur yesterday during his first visit there since his party-backed mayoral candidate Ajmat Ullah Khan lost in the Gazipur City Corporation polls. "We politicians think more of our own interest  
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