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# SLUM AT FOOTHILLS

## Two killed in landslide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cig

They defied repeated warnings by the authorities and ended up being buried alive even as they slept, when a downpour triggered a landslide in Chittagong city early yesterday.

Some 30 to 35 families seem unperturbed by the tragic deaths of Fatema Begum, 38, and her daughter Kusum Akhter, 15, of Comilla, in the landslide as they are still living at a slum in Tankir Pahar.

The mother and daughter had been working at a garment factory and living in a rented shanty at the slum in one of the foothills in Tankir Pahar.

Yesterday, they slept off after taking sehri, said Shahanaj, one of their neighbours.

"Around 5:00am, I heard a noise and asked them to move out of their room as a heavy downpour was continuing since midnight. Right then a chunk of earth fell on the room."

Amir Hossain, son of Md Akbar, had built the slum by cutting a hill at an angle of 90 degrees, local people said. The correspondent there found some 30 to 35 tin-roofed houses rented out to people from the low income group, like rickshaw-pullers, domestic workers, garment workers and day labourers.

Fatima was one of Amir's tenants.

The hill on the top has some 20 tin-roofed houses built by Md Belayet, a traffic policeman, the residents said.

The deaths took place amid a campaign by the district administration asking people to move to safety from the foothills.

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Life became harder for some people in Old Dhaka as an overnight downpour left many streets inundated yesterday. The photo of the physically challenged man wading through water was taken at Nazimuddin Road.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Country rain-struck

STAR REPORT

Torrential rain caused immense sufferings to people yesterday, covering many areas in the capital in ankle- to knee-deep water and flooding the low-lying parts in some other districts.

The downpour that began at midnight on Saturday in the capital and adjoining areas stopped around midday yesterday. In other districts, it would continue to rain for two more days due to a low over Gangetic West Bengal, said a Met official.

A total of 122 millimetres of rainfall was recorded in the 24 hours till 6:00am Sunday, while 32 millimetres of rainfall were recorded from 6:00am to 12:00pm yesterday in Dhaka, said a senior observer of the Bangladesh Meteorological Department.

Commuters from low-lying areas in the capital have been greatly inconvenienced by water logging as many streets and alleys

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## Adulterated iftar on sale

### Finds green group

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Even in the month of Ramadan, the use of formalin and other harmful chemicals in fruits, vegetables and other food items continues unabated.

An environmental group has recently tested 254 samples collected from over a hundred shops in the capital, and found formalin in 82 percent mangoes, 91 percent bananas and 100 percent grapefruits.

The Paribesh Banchao Andolan (Paba) had found the chemical also in 59 percent apples, 95 percent grapes and 77 percent dates, said the group yesterday at a press conference in its Dhaka office.

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## TAZREEN FIRE TRAGEDY REPORTS

# HC kept in wait

### Police chief given time again

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Not even the High Court's repeated expressions of disappointment could make powerful public and private organisations respond in time to its directives in the public litigation case relating to last year's Tazreen Fashions fire.

Anthropologists Naznin Akter Banu, Saydia Gulrukh Kamal and Mahmudul Hasan Sumon filed the litigation on April 28, seeking directives on the government to arrest Tazreen owner Md Delwar Hossain to ensure his trial for criminal liabilities.

The HC bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice ABM Altaf Hossain has been dealing with this case since May and at every proceeding, it had to struggle to get reports from government or

private organisations.

The deadliest factory fire in the nation's history burned to death at least 112 garment workers and injured many others at the Ashulia-based Tazreen Fashions on November 24 last year.

After repeated directives for over a month, the law officer submitted the home ministry probe report on June 19, although it was prepared in December and the ministry is just a 20-minute walk from the court.

Also on June 19, the HC directed the labour ministry and Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) to submit separate reports on the compensation disbursed to the fire victims. The same day, it also asked the inspector general of police (IGP) to place the DNA test report

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## Man falls thru' shaft, dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An elderly person died after plummeting down the shaft of an elevator in the capital's New Market area yesterday afternoon.

The freak accident occurred around 3:30pm when Amar Kundu, 60, stepped inside to board the elevator on the sixth floor of a building as its doors had parted.

The elevator was yet to reach the sixth floor although its doors were wide open, said residents of the 17-storey building of Biswas Builders.

Amar, who used to work

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## Morsi supporters stay defiant

### Saturday's death toll revised to 72; world powers, rights groups condemn protest deaths

AFP, Cairo

Supporters of Egypt's ousted president Mohamed Morsi yesterday pledged to press ahead with their protests, a day after bloody clashes at a Cairo sit-in killed at least 72 people. Sporadic violence was reported in several towns early yesterday, with two dead in separate incidents.

Saturday's violence drew international and domestic condemnation, including from Washington, a key backer of Egypt's army.

Following the clashes near the Rabaa al-Adawiya mosque where Morsi loyalists have been camped for weeks, the interior minister pledged to disperse the protests "soon".

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Communications Minister Obaidul Quader in pouring rain walks on a waterlogged street near Babubazar in the capital yesterday to see for himself the condition of roads, emergency repairs and traffic. He was disappointed with what he saw.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

## BNP vows to beat AL's agitation for caretaker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Vice-chairman Sadeque Hossain Khoka yesterday threatened to come up with "programmes tougher than 'logi-boitha' (poles and oars)" to compel the incumbent government to restore the caretaker government system.

"The Awami League killed many people by hitting with logi-boitha to press home their demand for the formation of caretaker government in 2006. If necessary, we will take stronger measures to realise our demand," he said at a protest rally at the National

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## The Slumdog Footman

DAILY MAIL ONLINE

He began life in a slum apartment in the backstreets of Kolkata, yet rose to become the Royal Footman who announced Prince George's birth to an expectant nation.

To the cheers of thousands of people standing patiently outside

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

**ONLINE POLL**

Do you share the war crimes trial campaigners' concern that the execution of death penalties awarded to war criminals by the ICTs might not happen during the tenure of this government?

Yes (76%)

No (24%)

TOTAL VOTES: 195

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you agree with prime minister that the general election might not be held in the country even in 10 years if any unconstitutional government assumed power?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

# Now electricity from Indian private sector

## Govt fixes rate; price double that of state's

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka is going to purchase 250 megawatts of electricity from an Indian private power company at almost twice the price suggested in the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) signed between the two countries early last year.

The cabinet committee on public purchase yesterday approved buying the power at a rate of Tk 6.34 per kilowatt hour (each unit). However, the indicative price in the PPA

was set at Tk 3.40 for purchasing per unit power.

India's state-owned National Thermal Power Company (NTPC) offered the same indicative price to Bangladesh for purchasing another 250 MW power.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the two countries in 2010 regarding import of a total of 500 MW power from India.

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**BRB**

**SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS**

Ramadan	July	Sehri	Iftar
19	29		6-47
20	30	3-59	6-46
21	31	4-00	6-45

**PRAYER TIMING July 29**

Fajr	Azan	Jamaat
Zohr	3-59	4-04
Asr	12-45	1-15
Maghrib	5-00	5-15
Esha	6-47	6-57
	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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