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# 'It was an act of God'

## BGMEA boss says about Rana Plaza disaster, tries to save factory owners

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The Rana Plaza victims were cheated out of their rightful dues by the BGMEA that worked out the compensation package by profiling the industrial accident as a natural disaster.

"The building collapse was beyond the owner's control. It was an act of God," said Atiqul Islam, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

The garment sector's apex trade body employed Sections 12, 16 and 20 of Bangladesh Labour Law 2006 to formulate the compensation package under which the victims were paid much less than what they deserve.

Section 12 of the law stipulates that owners can shut down their factories anytime in case of events beyond their control. Such events include fire, malfunction, blackouts, epidemic and violence.

With only days to go before Eid, people have started leaving the capital to enjoy the festivities with families and relatives. This scene was noticed at Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday.



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

# Justice Mizanur cleared

## Judicial Council finds 'no proof of misconduct'

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The Supreme Judicial Council headed by the chief justice has not found any proof of allegations of misconduct against Justice Mizanur Rahman Bhuiyan, a judge of the High Court, law ministry sources said yesterday.

The allegations were raised against Mizanur after he distributed copies of a report, published in the daily Inqilab on February 17, among the judges of the High Court and the Supreme Court.

The report termed slain Ahmed Rajib Haidar, an

**ATAB** ASSOCIATION OF TRAVEL AGENTS OF BANGLADESH

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# SECURITY ALERT

## US, Canadian missions shut in Dhaka

STAR REPORT

The US kept dozens of its embassies in Muslim countries, including Bangladesh, closed yesterday following Washington's worldwide travel alert in tandem with an Interpol global security warning.

Canada also kept its Bangladesh mission closed.

The US embassy in Dhaka and 21 US embassies and consulates in 16 other countries were closed while Britain, France and Germany kept their offices in Yemen shut and will keep them closed today as well.

Fears that al-Qaeda may launch attacks in the Middle East, North Africa and beyond in the coming days prompted the unprecedented move, reported CNN.

Interpol issued the warning as it believes jailbreaks across nine countries, including

# MUEEN UDDIN, ASHRAFUZZAMAN

## Martyr's daughter seeks justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Accusing Chowdhury Mueen Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman Khan of abducting and killing her father, Farzana Choudhury Neepa, daughter of martyred intellectual Alim Chaudhury, yesterday prayed for their capital punishment.

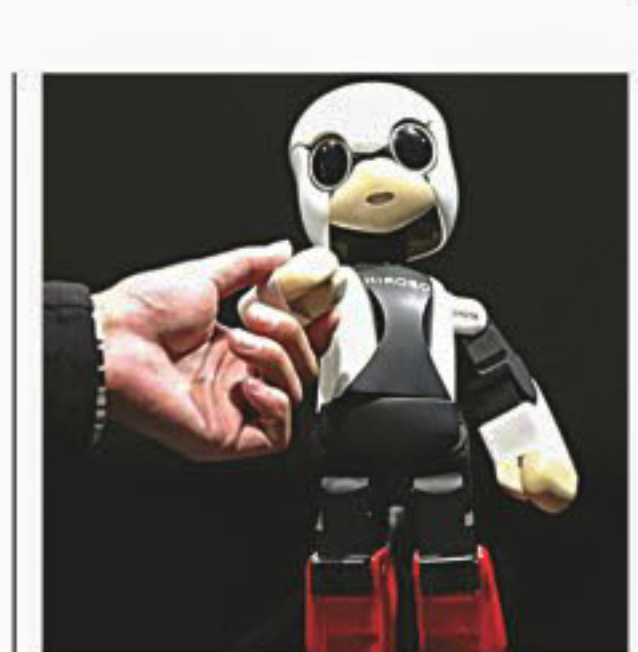
Neepa, the ninth prosecution witness in the case against the "absconding Al-Badr leaders", appealed to International Crimes Tribunal-2 to try and punish their "main organisation" Jamaat-e-Islami for its role in 1971.

Mueen Uddin was Al-Badr operation-in-charge, while Ashrafuzzaman was its chief executor, she said adding that Jamaat leaders Motiur Rahman Nizami and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed were "main organisers" of the infamous force.

Mueen Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman, who were indicted on 11 charges for allegedly killing 18 intellectuals in 1971, were also leaders of Islami Chhatra Sangha, the then student wing of the Jamaat.

Neepa, who was only three in 1971, said she had gathered information from her mother, grandmother and two of her father's colleagues, who had witnessed her father's abduction, and also from newspapers, books and documentaries.

"I appeal for the trial and sentencing of all war criminals and their main



# First talking robot lifts off into space

INDEPENDENT ONLINE

The first talking humanoid robot "astronaut" has taken off in a rocket. Kirobo, as it has been named by its Japanese

**ONLINE POLL**

Do you think BNP leader Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir's allegation that the government has started a mechanism to eliminate the BNP and hold a one-party election is justified?

Yes (57%)  
No (43%)

TOTAL VOTES: 283

The Daily Star  
Integral Energy Limited  
TODAY'S POLL  
Do you agree with Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad that his party will not take part in a stage-managed election?  
PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

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27	6	4-04	6-42
28	7	4-04	6-41

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