

DRY WEATHER LIKELY



WEATHER TODAY

Unib, Dhaka

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today, said MetOffice. Night and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:25pm and rises tomorrow at 6:42am. Country's highest temperature 28.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at

Cox's Bazar and lowest 9.9 degrees at Srimangal. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage			Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening		Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	23.2	13.0	69	57	Khulna	24.5	15.0	79	60
Chittagong	26.5	15.2	74	58	Barisal	23.8	13.8	89	83
Rajshahi	23.4	10.6	83	58	Sylhet	25.2	12.5	83	68
Rangpur	19.3	11.4	97	85	Cox's Bazar	28.5	16.1	65	62

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



A grand design: blue mosque of Istanbul.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

Designs of Our Lives

The word design, according to the dictionary, means "to conceive or fashion in the mind." We often hear people say "the design of that house is functional", or "the artist designed a beautiful dress", or even "the incident was by design."

But it was not until I had worked several years as an engineer that I learned the nuances and depth of design. When building something, I discovered, there are two types of design: external design and internal design.

Perhaps this is best explained by a historical example. In the fourteenth century, the city of Florence became wealthy and wanted to build something that would announce their wealth to the world. So they held a design competition. The winner – drawn on paper – was a beautiful dome-shaped cathedral. There was only one problem. No one knew how to build it. It took almost two hundred years and the genius of Filippo Brunelleschi to build this dome. He had to solve several difficult problems in structural engineering for this accomplishment.

In this example, the external design (or the functional design) is the shape and size of the dome as conceived by the designer. It is the answer to questions such as "What will it look like?" and "How will people use it?" On the other hand, the internal design (or the engineering design) answers the question "How will you build it?" For any non-trivial project, both types of designs should be completed before starting the actual work.

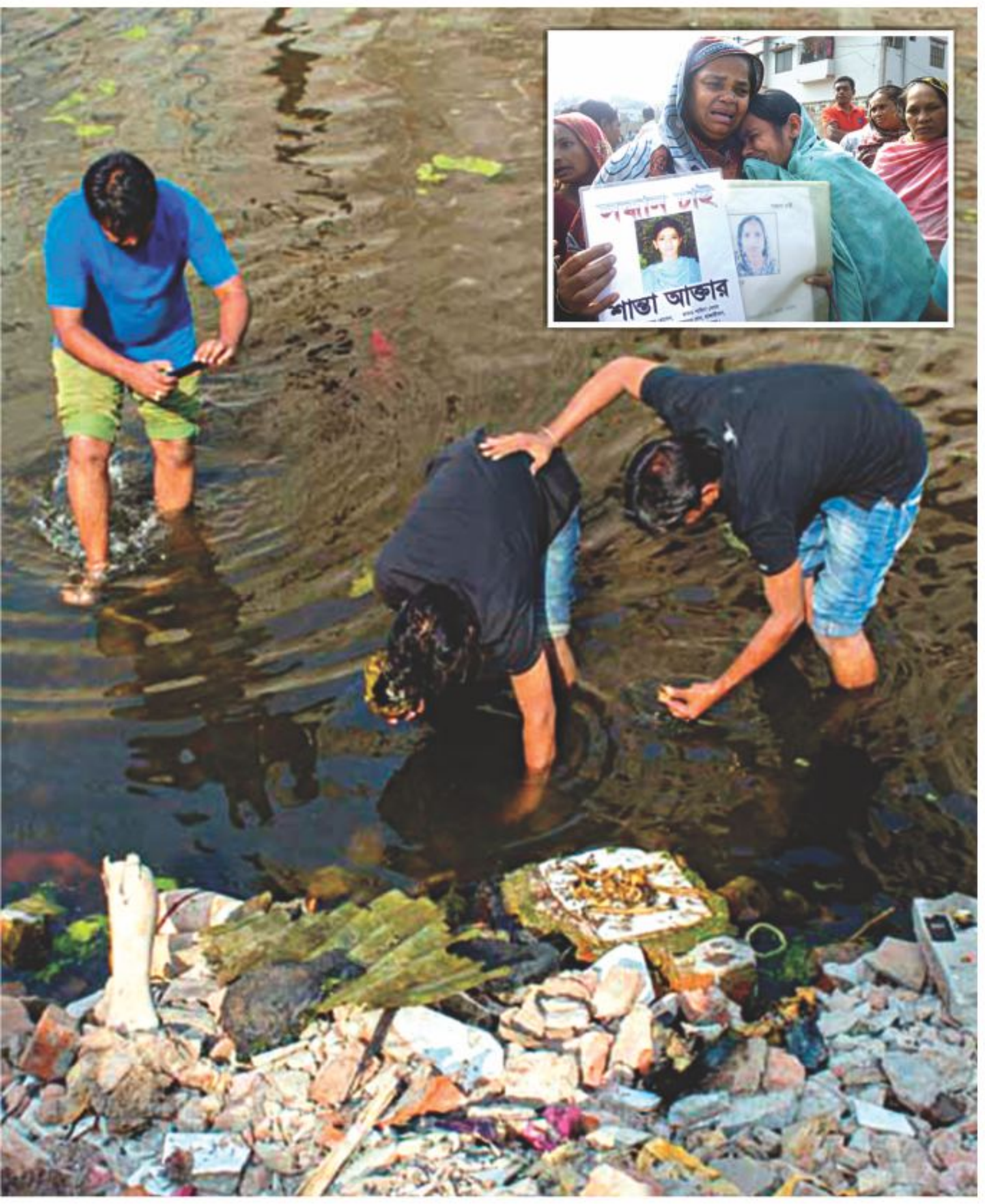
For many disciplines this distinction is critical. For example, if you build a bridge without proper internal design, all that concrete and steel may go to waste. But for software engineering, the distinction is often overlooked, because, once written, software can be changed or re-written without additional material cost. This tempts software engineers to take short-cuts in their design, but ill-designed software inevitably fails, both in performance and in the market.

When I started work in Silicon Valley as a software engineer, it took me time to understand design. It was not until I built the software for a medical ultrasound machine that I learned the distinction between the two types of design. For example, I could create a clever software technique for making measurements from the ultrasound images, but it was pointless if the radiologist could not easily access or use this functionality.

Why talk about design in the new year? Because when we set ourselves goals – New Year's Resolutions – we are, in a way, attempting to design our life. Our goals may include, for example, "Achieve a GPA 5" or "Get that desirable job" or "Visit the place I always wanted to see." Then the challenge lies in taking the steps needed to achieve those goals. Unlike software or construction projects, life has many uncertainties; yet we all know people who find their way around life's obstructions and manage to achieve seemingly impossible goals. I suppose that's why we talk about a "well-lived life" and not a "well-designed life."

Dear reader, may this year bring you closer to your goals and peace for this suffering country.

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Some Rana Plaza collapse survivors and labour rights activists search for human remains in the site where the nine-storey building once stood. The move came after dozens of bones and several skulls have been recovered from the place on several occasions since mid-December with the authorities playing a silent role. In the April 24 collapse, over 1,100 people, mostly garment workers, were killed and at least 159 went missing. Inset, relatives of the missing victims wait at the site holding photos of their dear ones.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF HABIBA NOWROSE

BSF on high alert

CITY DESK

Security along India-Bangladesh border has been tightened further, as political turmoil hits Bangladesh ahead of tomorrow's polls, Delhi-based news agency ANI reported yesterday.

The paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) has been put on high alert in the Lankamura area of Tripura state and it has been ordered to remain vigilant to foil any infiltration attempt.

Recently, fresh violence erupted in Bangladesh ahead of the general election, as the opposition, led by Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), says it will not take part in the vote unless an interim government overrules it and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina steps down.

The opposition's boycott means more than half of 300 parliament seats will go uncontested, undermining the legitimacy of the election and making it highly unlikely it will do anything to restore

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Pro-AL leader killed by Jubo Dal men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A leader of Awami Torun League was strangled allegedly by the activists of Jubo Dal, the youth wing of the opposition BNP, at Putimari Dola village in Lalmonirhat sadar upazila Thursday night.

The deceased, Sabbir Ahmed Raju, 24, of Durakuti in the upazila, was general secretary of Mogholhat union unit of the pro-Awami League organisation.

Jubo League man Swapan Kumar, 25, who was with Raju, has been missing since the incident.

Lalmonirhat Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Jamir Uddin said after committing the murder Aslam Hossain, president of Jubo Dal's Lalmonirhat municipality's ward no-5 unit, and his associates went into hiding.

Police recovered the body from a potato field at Putimari Dola around 8:15pm.

Raju had been stabbed before he was strangled, hospital sources said.

Raju's father Ahmmad Hossain said Swapan called him

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Shibir activists cut AL man's tendons

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Shibir activists cut the tendons in the right hand and leg of an Awami League activist in Raniganj area under Ghoraghat upazila of Dinajpur on Thursday evening.

The victim is Md Shawkat Hossain 35, of Bhelamari village, said police.

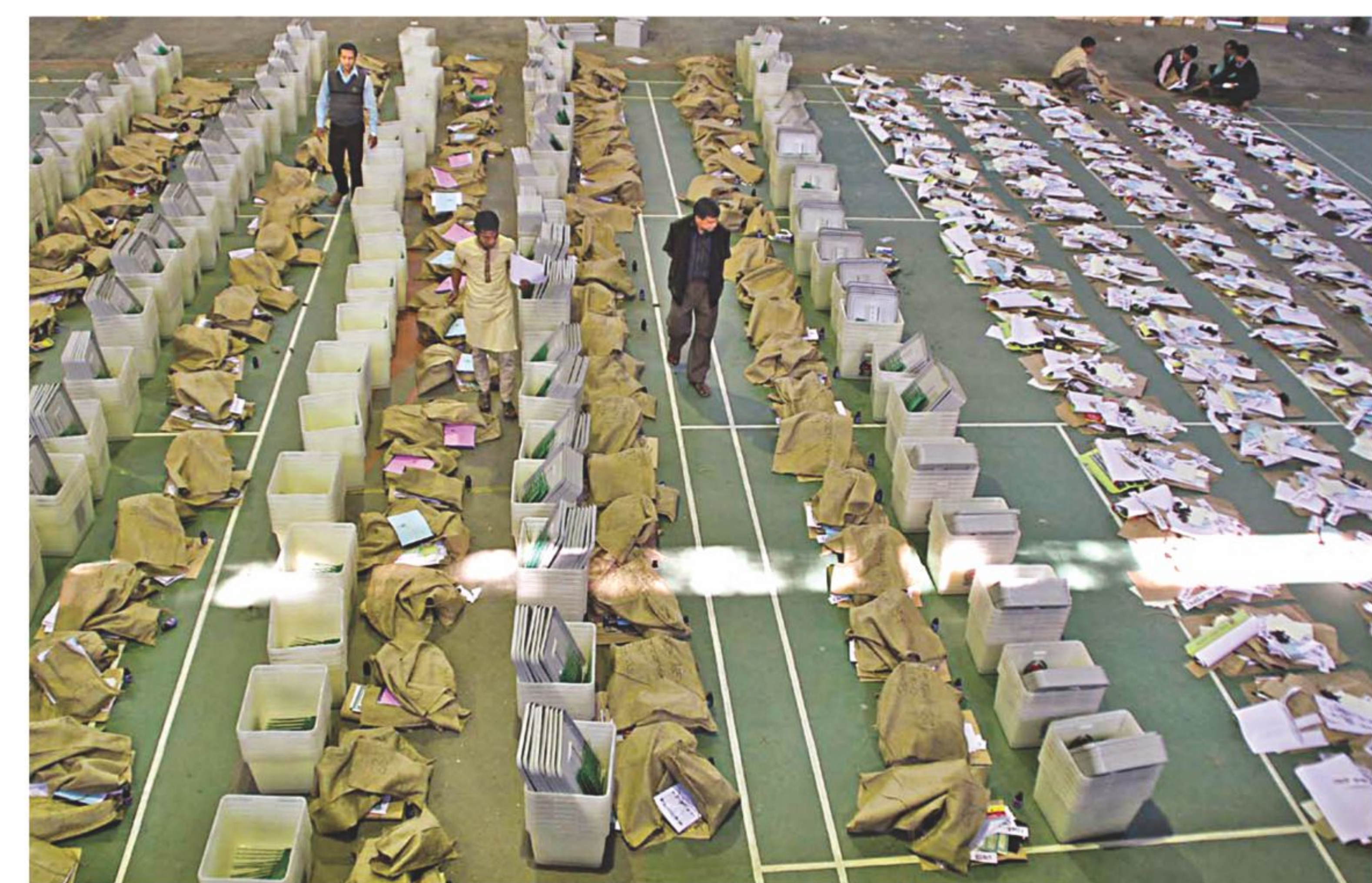
Quoting witnesses, police said Shawkat was attacked near Raniganj Bazar by a group of people led by Sirajul Islam, an activist of upzila unit of Shibir.

They beat him up and then took him to a secluded area, they added.

Following Shawkat's screams, locals found him bleeding and rushed him to a local hospital. He was later shifted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital in a critical state.

Forhad Imrul Kayes, officer-in-charge of Ghoraghat Police Station, confirmed the incident, saying the victim is a local AL activist.

No case was filed yet.



Election Commission employees pack polling materials into gunny sacks at the gymnasium of MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong city before sending those to polling centres across the city yesterday. The 10th general election will be held tomorrow.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

BNF to propose direct election of president

Announces election manifesto

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Announcing its election manifesto a day before the country goes into election tomorrow, the country's youngest political party, Bangladesh Nationalist Front (BNF), yesterday said it would propose a parliamentary government system in which the president, prime minister, and parliament would be elected through direct voting by the people.

"A national consensus is essential for a stable democracy. A 'mixed government' system comprising the president, prime minister and a sovereign parliament can ensure this," said BNF chief

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3 lakh Ctg voters yet to get nat'l ID cards

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Around three lakh people in Chittagong are facing difficulties in availing different services as they are yet to get their national identity (ID) cards for which they applied between November 2012 and November 2013.

However, an official notice at the office of the District Election Officer states that they will be able to cast their votes in the 10th parliamentary election tomorrow by showing their receipts.

They could not distribute the ID cards among them as those were yet to arrive from the Election Commission office in Dhaka, said Khorshed Alam, district election officer.

Consequently, the card seekers are facing hassles in opening bank accounts, applying for a loan and the likes.

"I gave my particulars at Bagmoniram Boys' High School in Chittagong city in November 2012 and submitted the national ID card application with necessary information. I was given a receipt that month, but I never got to see my ID card," said Amjad Hossain, a student of Dhaka University, Wednesday morning.

He could not apply for a scholarship in a university abroad for not having the national ID card, he added.

Facing similar problems, Nurul Alam and Nayan Sarkar, students of Chittagong University, were also seen leaving the office of District Election Officer disappointed.

"Casting vote is not our prime concern," said Nurul.

He recently lost his cellphone SIM card and could not apply for a new one as a copy of the national

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Observation not 'mandatory' for fair polls

Says Bangladesh representative in UN

Dr AK Abdul Momen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Dr AK Abdul Momen yesterday said observation was not mandatory for a free and fair election in a country like Bangladesh, while the likes of the USA, UK, and Malaysia did not have this practice.

Addressing an opinion sharing meeting with journalists at the circuit house in Sylhet city, he said the days of election rigging were over due to people's awareness and strong media presence.

Momen, who is thought to replace his elder brother AMA Muhith, the aging finance minister, as the future Awami League candidate, held the meeting to "clarify some information about Bangladesh's recent political affairs and UN's involvement". He has come on a weeklong vacation to his home city, Sylhet.

Referring to some news reports which

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Human remains found again in Rana Plaza site

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Human remains were unearthed again yesterday from the site of Rana Plaza in Savar, on the outskirts of the capital.

A human skull and over 20 bones belonging to different body parts were found. A mobile phone was discovered as well.

Locals and survivors of the building collapse unearthed the remains.

On information, police collected the bones and skull and those will be later sent for DNA tests, said Md Shamsuzzaman, sub-inspector of Savar Model

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NON-FICTION

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