



Survivors and affected families, joined by several hundred people, light candles in memory of their dear ones at Savar Rana Plaza site last evening. Labour rights bodies arranged the programme on the eve of the first anniversary of the building collapse that killed at least 1,134 garment workers and wounded hundreds.

PHOTO: STAR

COMPENSATION FOR RANA PLAZA VICTIMS Industry owners urged to chip in

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Garment factory owners and their associations were urged to come forward to compensate the victims of Rana Plaza collapse at a human chain yesterday.

IndustriALL Bangladesh Council (IBC), the local chapter of the IndustriALL Global Union that represents 50 million workers in 140 countries, organised the programme at the site of the collapse in Savar. IBC Secretary General Roy Ramesh Chandra said the victims and their families were yet to get any compensation though one year had been elapsed.

He said the families were facing a tough time. The garment factories housed at Rana Plaza used to prepare

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Lenses peer into victims' humanity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the eve of the first anniversary of the Rana Plaza disaster, which claimed over 1,100 lives, a photo exhibition at the main gate of Suhrawardy Uddyan depicting violent images of the tragedy takes visitors back to the horrors that unfolded for 20 long days at a stretch.

The three-day exhibit, "Aftermath: Rana Plaza", calls visitors to the park not to forget the tragedy—to see the humans behind the gore, and internalise it just like the clothes feeling on their back, made by the garment workers, the casualty of the collapse.

Taken by a group of photojournalists from national and international media, many of the images portray the living people who died later, or dead people who were alive once.

Many of them allow a sneak peek into the lives they had

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KILLING OF SHIBIR MAN Gayeshwar, Aman denied bail again

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again rejected bail petitions of BNP leaders Gayeshwar Chandra Roy and Aman Ullah Aman in a case filed for killing a Shibir man in the capital last year.

Judge Md Jahurul Haque of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order after lawyers of the duo submitted two separate petitions against the rejection order of a lower court.

On Sunday, Metropolitan Magistrate Harun-ur-Rashid rejected bail petitions of Aman and Gayeshwar and sent them to jail, but granted bail to BNP leader Mirza Abbas in the same case.

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23 Bangladeshis jobless in Qatar for three months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-three Bangladeshi workers, who were deceived by some compatriots, have been living in Qatar in miserable conditions without job for the last three months.

The Qatari police, however, recently arrested four of the Bangladeshi brokers who took the workers to the Gulf state on tourist visas, Shaful Azim, labour counsellor at Bangladesh embassy in Doha, told The Daily Star yesterday over the phone.

Darul Islam, who was detained with Enamul, Babul, and Mokbul, however, is on bail for his disability, he said. "Based on some of the victims' complaints, we...identified the four Bangladeshi nationals who allured the victims of coming to Qatar on tourist visas for lucrative jobs."

"As their visas have expired, they became illegal. But we are trying to arrange jobs for them legally after discussions with Qatari authorities," the official said.

He said the brokers took Tk 3 lakh to 3.5 lakh from each of the victims with the help of some dishonest Bangladeshi recruiting agencies and brought them to Qatar in January.

The 23 people are now staying in a labour camp of

a company owned by an Indian who has alleged links to the Bangladeshi deceivers, he added.

Meanwhile, a report of Amnesty International published in the Gulf News yesterday says Qatar has failed to protect migrant domestic workers facing severe exploitation, including forced labour and physical and sexual violence.

In the report, "My sleep is my break: Exploitation of domestic workers in Qatar", Amnesty painted a bleak picture of women recruited to work in Qatar with false promises about salaries and working conditions, only to be made to work extreme hours and seven-day weeks.

There are at least 84,000 woman migrant domestic workers in the Gulf state, mainly from South and South East Asia including Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Indonesia and the Philippines.

According to the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET), around 3,000 Bangladeshi females are currently working as domestic helps in Qatar.

Replying to a query, the labour counsellor said they hardly received complaints from the Bangladeshi women on any sort of exploitation mentioned in Amnesty's report.

CHINESE PROPOSALS FOR DEEP-SEA PORT, SATELLITE Different govt voices being heard

Says Ambassador Li Jun

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

China yesterday said decisions about building a deep-sea port and launching of Bangladesh's first satellite "Bangabandhu Satellite" in space now lay with Dhaka, as Beijing had already expressed its interest in the projects.

"It's for Bangladesh's government to make their decision...also there are different voices coming from the government side, so I keep silence," Chinese Ambassador Li Jun told a country lecture session in the capital.

The Bangladesh Institute of International Strategic Studies (BIISS) organised the session styled "China's Development and China-Bangladesh Relationship"

in its auditorium with BIISS Chairman Munshi Faiz Ahmad in the chair.

The Chinese envoy mentioned that these two projects and construction of an exhibition centre in Bangladesh were among several important projects discussed during Bangladesh prime minister's visit to China in 2010.

Official sources said the government was examining the proposals of some countries to invest in the proposed deep-sea port at Sonadia Island in Cox's Bazar while the offer of China Great Wall Industry Corporation (CGWIC) over the launch of "Bangabandhu Satellite" was also under consideration.

Chinese firms are willing to take

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Dhaka, Beijing to see series of high-level visits this year

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and China will witness a series of high-level visits between them in the coming months to add momentum the bilateral relations between the countries.

President Abdul Hamid will visit China to attend Shanghai summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) at the end of May.

Chinese ambassador in Dhaka Li Jun at a lecture session in the capital yesterday disclosed that three important Chinese leaders will visit Bangladesh in the coming months.

He said vice chairperson of China's National Congress and vice chairperson of

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Mitford interns suspend strike for 7 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Medical interns of the capital's Mitford Hospital last night announced postponement of their strike for seven days from today after the authorities assured them of helping withdraw two cases filed by Ekushey Television (ETV) against them for beating up its journalists and videographers four days ago.

"The problems caused by the strike in terms of serving patients will be over from tomorrow morning," the hospital director, Brig Gen Zakir Hasan, told The Daily Star.

Interns, however, said

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GENDER RESPONSIVE PROJECTS OF GOVT No data to assess how allocations benefit women

Observe economists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Though relative allocation of gender responsive projects taken by government increased during the last one decade, there is no data as to how the allocations actually benefited women, economists observed at a discussion yesterday.

The observation was made at a discussion organised by the Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP), a women's rights body, at Cirdap auditorium, with BMP President Ayesha Khanam in the chair.

Presenting a paper on "Gender Sensitive Budget Implementation - Evaluation", Sharmind Neelormi, associate professor of Economics at Jahangirnagar University, said almost all the ministries in their reports had mentioned the number of gender respon-

sive projects they took.

However, such projects mostly relate to building infrastructures, said Neelormi, also a member of BMP.

In the paper, it was shown that relative allocation for women targeted programmes in the ADP such as the secondary school stipend had declined sharply in the last nine years.

Welcoming BMP's pre-budget discussion, noted economist Prof Bianyak Sen said the cooperation between labour and women rights movements had to be strengthened to realise common demands.

Recalling the Rana Plaza collapse last year, which killed 1,135 workers mostly women, Sen emphasised the need for workplace safety.

He urged the government to primarily

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Two girls are forced to walk over heaps of rubbish littering a footpath in Kurmitola camp area of the capital's Mirpur. Residents throw rubbish there as there are no dump sites in the neighbourhood. The photo was taken on Monday.

PHOTO: STAR

ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOLS

Take action against readmission fees

HC directs govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to take effective steps to prevent the English medium schools across the country from charging the students readmission fees for the next three months.

In response to a writ petition, the court issued a rule upon the government to explain in four weeks why it should not be directed to form a monitoring cell to supervise the admission, readmission and session fees at English medium



The concluding rally of BNP's two-day long march on the Dalia point heliport in Nilphamari, close to the Teesta barrage, yesterday. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: STAR

3-storey tin-shed house gutted in Mirpur

Fire breaks out at foam factory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-storey tin-shed house was burnt to ashes in a fire in the capital's Mirpur yesterday.

The fire originated from the first floor of the house of Rafique Mollah alias Bangari Mollah at Mirpur-2 around 12:00pm and burnt to ashes the structure which was made of corrugated iron sheets and timbers. Three tin-shed rooms of another adjacent house were also gutted in the blaze.

Hazera Begum, a resident of the house, told The Daily Star that the fire burnt to ashes the inhabitants' all the valuables as most of them were at their workplace.

On information, four fire fighting units rushed in and doused the fire after

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'LAND ACQUISITION ATTEMPT' Keraniganj residents block highway

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Locals blocked Dhaka-Mawa highway in South Keraniganj for about three hours yesterday morning protesting against an alleged attempt to acquire their land for a real-estate project for retired army officers.

A few thousand people from Tegharia and Konda unions in South Keraniganj, on the outskirts of the capital, gathered on the highway around 8:15am and blocked it until 11:00am. Many of them were carrying sticks.

They blocked a two-kilometre stretch between Rajendrapur Bridge and Tegharia Primary School burning tyres and halting traffic on the highway that connects the capital with Munshiganj, Faridpur, Khulna and Barisal districts.

Traffic started rolling again around 11:00am when the agitators left the scene following reassurances from the authorities concerned, said locals.

However, it took several hours for the traffic jam that ensued to clear up.

Superintendent of Police Habibur Rahman of Dhaka district told The Daily Star that some people carrying cameras went to the area yesterday morning and enquired locals about pieces of land.

He said this raised suspicion that they had gone there in connection with acquiring the locals' land. When the rumour spread, people gathered and staged demonstrations, he said,

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SEXUALLY HARASSING STUDENT

Sust relieves asst prof of duties for 1 year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The authorities of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) have relieved Assistant Professor Nasir Uddin of his duties for one year on charge of sexually harassing a female student.

Along with the assistant professor of public administration department, the authorities also dismissed Abu Saleh, an employee of the department, and demoted Atiqur Rahman, assistant administrative officer.

According to a press release of the university, the decisions came at an emergency meeting of the syndicate chaired by Vice Chancellor Prof Md Aminul Haque Bhuiyan on Tuesday night.

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