

# RANA PLAZA COLLAPSE

## Hope at Anjuman home for victims' children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Though nothing can make up for their loss, children of the Rana Plaza victims, who died or got severely injured in the tragedy, have found shelter and the hope of a better future at Anjuman Azizul Islam Balika Home.

The home for girls run by Anjuman Mufidul Islam, a reputed charitable, was opened in Pathalia of Savar outside the capital, following the April 24, 2013 Rana Plaza tragedy, which killed at least 1,135 and wounded over 2,400 garment workers.

"Initially, the land was intended for building an old home. But when the Rana Plaza tragedy occurred we thought we needed to provide shelter to the victims' children, who are our future," said Azim Buksh, vice president of Anjuman, while addressing the inauguration ceremony of the home at Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

The tin-roof concrete building sprawling on 16.5 decimals of land donated by one AHM Azizul Islam started its journey on February 5 this year, initially with five orphans of Rana Plaza victims.

Later, with the assistance of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), 10 more girls arrived there.

BGMEA President Atiqul Islam said, "It is

a reality that an orphanage can never be a substitute for parental love, but the education provided to these children by Anjuman Mufidul Islam will turn into an asset for them."

Residing in the home, Arifa Khatun, 11, daughter of deceased worker Reena Begum, wants to become a high official of the Bangladesh Army, when she grows up.

Arifa was admitted to class-VII of Nobin Green View Model High School after she came to stay at the home, from Rangpur where her father, a shopkeeper, and older sister live. "If I stayed back at the village, I would not have received the opportunity to study," she said.

"We want to take the responsibility of the education of 300 children of Rana Plaza victims," said Atiqul, promising to provide food, clothing, and education and healthcare to the kids at the institution, where five more children will be raised.

The BGMEA president handed over a cheque for Tk 2 lakh to the charity at the programme.

Anjuman Vice President Azim Buksh informed that till date, around Tk 86 lakh had been spent for building the home. "Tk 11,95,200 will be required yearly for 20 children," he added.

Md Enamur Rahman, an MP of Dhaka-19



Sixteen students of Anjuman Azizul Islam Balika Home, which is rehabilitating children of the Rana Plaza victims, dead or injured, by providing shelter and education. They were taken from Savar, where the home is located, to the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday during the institution's inauguration.

PHOTO: STAR

## Baishakhi fair in Ctg city ends with huge crowd, high sales

MINHAJ UDDIN, Ctg

The concluding day of the three-day Baishakhi Fair in Chittagong saw a huge crowd yesterday, while sellers expressed their satisfaction over high volume of sales.

The traditional fair in the city's Lal Dighi area offers a wide array of choices of locally made products to the people in the city.

The products include utensils, wooden showpieces; items made of bamboo, cane and clay; different toys, clothes, slings, furniture, musical instruments and sweetmeats.

Mukta Das, a resident of the city's Firingi Bazar area, said there were a huge variety of household items in the fair, and the prices were also relatively low.

The fair offers some mouth-watering sweetmeats that cannot be found elsewhere, said Ayesha Akther, a housewife of the city's Halishahar area.

Abdur Rahman, a sweetmeat vendor who came from Rangunia, said the sales had been good as per his expectation.

He said they had been selling sweetmeats in the fair for more than two decades. "We can sell everything we bring here every year," he added.

Different types of hand fans made of palm leaf, bamboo, cane are major attractions of the fair.

Habibur Rahman, a government employee, said he had come to the fair only to buy fans.

Sanjay Paul, a craftsman selling clay-made utensils, showpieces, toys in Cinema Palace area, said sales in the fair were always high.

Jaharal Hazair, president of the fair organising committee, said around two thousand shops had joined the fair this time.

He added that more than one lakh people had visited the fair each day. The fair started on April 24.

Though the 105th edition of the fair ended yesterday, the shops will remain in the area till end of the week, said shop owners and organisers.

## Children Science Congress on Aug 29-30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Society for the Popularisation of Science, Bangladesh (SPSB) will organise a two-day Children Science Congress-2014 by the end of August with the aim to encourage children and teenagers in science education.

"The number of science students is declining in the country. It needs both government and private initiatives to make students interested in science education," said SPSB President Prof Muhammad Zafar Iqbal at a press conference at a city hotel yesterday.

The congress will be organised on August 29 and 30 at the National Museum of Science and Technology (NMST) in the capital.

Students from class three to five will be allowed to participate in primary category, class six to eight in junior category, and class nine to secondary in senior category.

Initial campaign on the congress will be launched by early next month at around 1,000 schools across the country, Zafar Iqbal informed.

Besides, science activation

## Develop Ctg city to global standard

Hossain Zillur urges residents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Three fundamental matters -- clean city, culture of abiding by rules, and practice of healthy living-- should be stressed for turning Chittagong city into a habitable city of global standard, said Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, former adviser to a caretaker government, yesterday.

He was addressing a follow-up meeting on the march titled "Walking for Chittagong" held on April 12, organised by Chittagong Research Initiative (CRI) in the auditorium of Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh in the port city.

The march was organised to make the city dwellers aware of keeping the city clean.

Hossain Zillur said the civil society has to come forward to clean the city along with the local administration and different government bodies.

Nasir Uddin Chowdhury, first vice-president of BGMEA, said only through spending money, it will not be possible to clean the city unless people themselves do not take participate and make others aware.

Urging all to clean their surrounding areas every month, Hossain Zillur recommended to create a platform titled "Habitable World Standard Chittagong" to observe the last Saturday of every month as "Clean Chittagong Day."

The platform will also run intensive cleaning programmes in Chawk Bazar and Reazuddin Bazar in cooperation with Chittagong City Corporation and also run awareness programmes in educational institutions, housing and market associations, he added.

Halda expert Manzoorul Kibria, Managing Editor Wahid Malek of the Dainik Azadi, BSRM Chairman Alihussain Akberali, East Delta University Vice-Chancellor Prof Sikandar Khan, and Karnaphuli expert Prof Idris Ali also addressed the programme where representative of different civil, social, business and educational organisations exchanged their opinions.

## C'wealth chief appreciates political stability

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Commonwealth Secretary General Kamalesh Sharma yesterday welcomed the stabilisation of political climate in Bangladesh and underscored the importance of upholding the constitution and democratic order.

"It's good to see that the political climate in Bangladesh has stabilised and that right-minded thinking is percolating through all political camps as evident from the recent local level elections," he said while meeting

with Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali in London.

The minister briefed the Commonwealth chief about the post-election situation and the recently-held upazila elections in Bangladesh, said a foreign ministry release.

"The Commonwealth would not like to see any form of violence, disorder and divisiveness in Bangladesh's democratic process," Sharma said.

He stressed the need for clear commitment among all political parties about the

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PHOTO: BPP UNIVERSITY

Barrister Amirul Islam; Prof Peter Crisp, dean and CEO of BPP University Law School, UK; Prof Julian Davies, director of LLB programmes at the university; Khaled Hamid Chowdhury, head of Laws London College of Legal Studies Bangladesh; and others at the inauguration of Online Law Programme for Bangladeshi students launched by the university law school at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in the capital on Thursday.

Century-old trees being cut down at Tigerpass in Ambagan area in Chittagong city's Pahartali yesterday. No one could ascertain who actually ordered the move, although people who were cutting the trees said a local Awami League leader instructed them to do so.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Miscreants fell roadside trees in Ctg city

2 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Trees on railway (east zone) land in Pahartali area of Chittagong city have been being felled for the last few days.

While visiting the area yesterday, The Daily Star correspondent found that some workers were cutting down the trees.

Asked, they said a local Awami League leader had instructed them to do so.

The trees included Krishnachura and Karoi. Locals said there were century-old trees too.

Contacted, the AL leader denied the allegation, and said he did not instruct anybody to cut the trees.

On condition of anonymity, a worker said there might be permission from the authorities concerned to cut the trees as Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) was expanding roads in the area.

Contacted, Abu Saleh, executive engineer of CCC, said no trees had been cut for the expansion work.

Tarun Kanti Bala, divisional engineer-2 of Bangladesh Railway (East Zone), said a joint team of railway and police had visited the spot in the evening, and arrested two workers while cutting trees.

The team also seized a truckload of woods.

He, however, could not ascertain who instructed the workers to cut the trees.

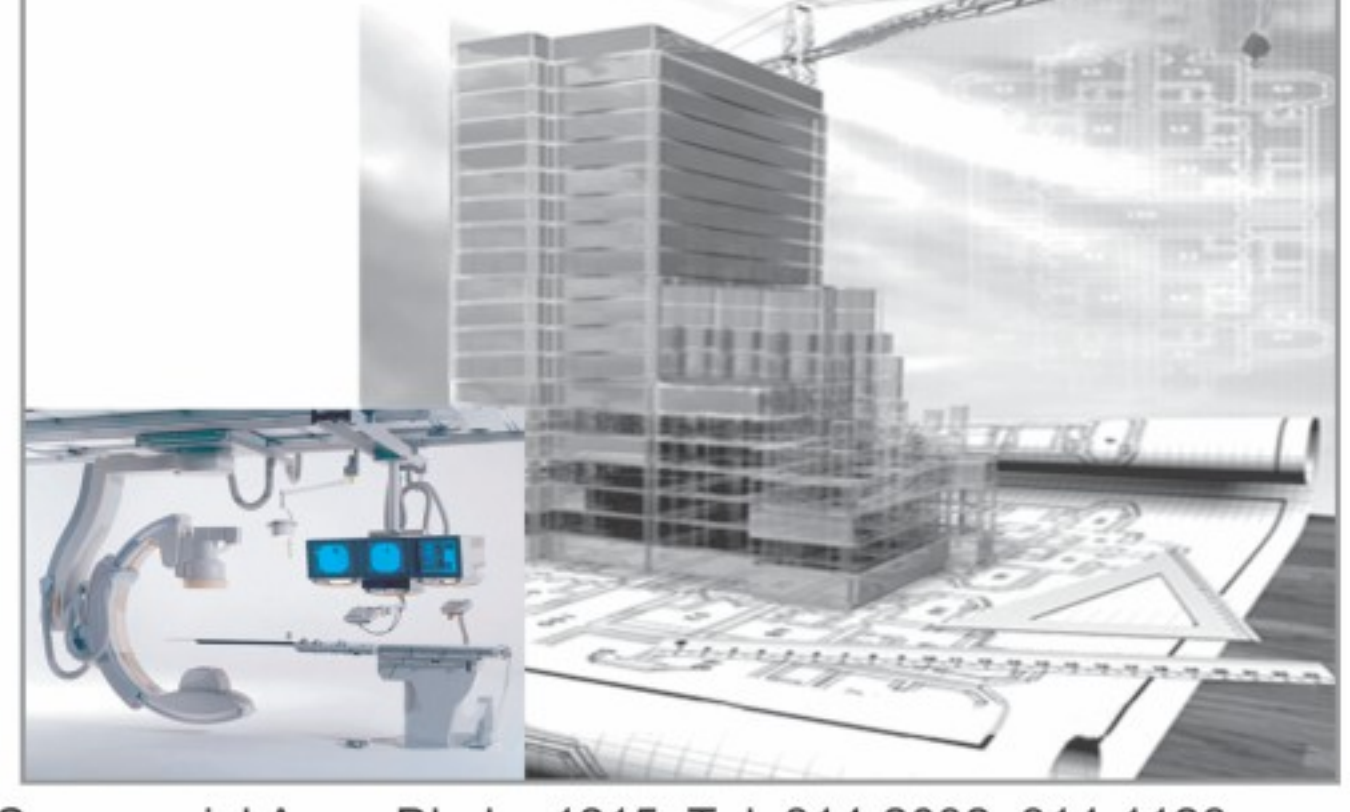
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