



## NO MORE IMPUNITY

The govt must ensure implementation of Torture & Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013

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## 'WE TORTURED SOME FOLKS'

Obama acknowledges the US was guilty of torturing captives after 9/11

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## A VOICE ACROSS TIME

Star tribute to legendary folk singer Abdul Alim on his birth anniversary

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## BLOODSHED IN GAZA

# 296 children killed so far

*Air strikes, tank fire on; Israel 'close to completing' anti-tunnel operation; death toll 1,667*

AFP, Jerusalem

At least 296 Palestinian children and adolescents have been killed since Israel launched its offensive in the Gaza Strip, the UN said yesterday as fighting escalated after a humanitarian ceasefire collapsed to end the violence.

"Children make up for 30 percent of the civilian casualties," said the UN children's agency UNICEF, adding that the toll was based on deaths which it was able to verify and was likely to rise.

The toll breaks down to 187 boys and 109 girls, with at least 203 of them under the age of 12.

Meanwhile, air strikes and tank fire continued pounding huge areas of southern Gaza into rubble, killing scores more people, as militants kept up their cross-border fire, with 56 rockets hitting Israel and

another six downed, including two over greater Tel Aviv.

Since midnight (2100 GMT), more than 86 people have been killed, the vast majority in Rafah, raising the overall toll to 1,676, emergency services spokesman Ashraf al-Qudra said, putting the number of wounded at more than 9,000.

UN figures indicate at least two thirds of the dead are civilians, with around one third women and children.

Amid raging violence, the Israeli army yesterday gave a first indication it was ending operations in parts of Gaza, while continuing to bombard other areas ahead of fresh truce talks in Cairo.

As a Palestinian delegation flew to Egypt in search of a ceasefire, the Israeli army messaged residents of part of northern Gaza that it was "safe" to return home.

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A Palestinian boy stands next to the wreckage of a building, which was hit in an Israeli strike, in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. A fresh wave of violence killed dozens in Gaza after the collapse of a UN and US-backed ceasefire.

PHOTO: AFP

## Gaza strikes to continue

*Netanyahu threatens to exert more force*

AGENCIES

Israel will keep up its military campaign in the Gaza Strip for as long as needed and with as much force as necessary, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday.

And he said that all options were "on the table" to achieve that mission.

"From the beginning, we promised to return the



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## Israel gets boost from US, UK

*US Congress okays \$225m fresh aid to strengthen Israel's anti-missile defence system*

AGENCIES

When musician Brian Eno saw a picture of a Palestinian man carrying the remains of his dead son in a plastic bag, he was moved to write an open letter to his American friends, asking them to explain their country's unconditional support for Israel.

"Why does America continue its blind support of this one-sided exercise in ethnic cleansing? Why?"

While Israel comes in for harsh criticism in many parts of the world for the Gaza onslaught that so far killed more than a thousand Palestinians, including nearly 300 children, the US and the UK reiterate their supports for the Jewish state.

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## NEWS ANALYSIS

# Can't home going be any better?

INAM AHMED

Eid is over. We can heave a sigh of relief. Relief that not any major road accident or launch capsized has happened. Relief that people could finally find usable roads they could travel on, not the terrible bumpy journey they were looking at.

The communications minister, Obaidul Quader, could be thanked for taking that last minute initiative to repair the roads. But his late actions could be questioned in many ways. And the whole Eid home-going throws up many new things to think about.

Everybody knew Eid was coming and this is the time when a sudden influx of passengers takes place. Probably nowhere in the world do such a huge number of people go home for festivity. Only the Chinese New Year is comparable to it when workers in their hordes go on mass vacation.

So when we knew the Eid rush was round the corner, why

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# Rana Plaza probe at final stage

*Charge sheets in 3 cases likely this month; 42 to be accused*

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Investigators have found a total of 42 people responsible for the Rana Plaza collapse that left at least 1,135 people dead and scores maimed in April last year.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police has "almost completed" the probe into the country's worst industrial disaster in Savar on the outskirts of the capital, and it is likely to submit two charge sheets to the court within this month.

However, Assistant Superintendent of Police Bijoy Krishna Kar, who is leading the investigation, recently told The Daily Star that they would not be able to submit the charge sheets by August 13 as they were asked to by a Dhaka court last month. The CID may seek more time for this on that day.

Rana Plaza owner Sohel Rana, owners of the garment factories housed in the building, some officials and engineers of Savar municipality and the Department of Inspection of Factories and Establishment (DIFE) have been found to be responsible

for the collapse of Rana Plaza and the loss of lives, he said.

According to Bijoy, owners of Rana Plaza and the garment factories had forced the staffs and workers of the factories to work inside the building even after cracks were found in the building. So, the owners are responsible for the deaths and will be accused of killing people in the charge sheets.

The then executive engineer, assistant engineer, sub-assistant engineer and town planner of Savar municipality have been found responsible for giving clearance to constructing garment factories inside the building without studying the feasibility of constructing three more storeys of the building.

The DIFE officials, who had issued the licence for using the commercial building for industrial purposes without even inspecting the building and examining necessary construction features, will also be accused in the charge sheets.

The officials are responsible for

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The garment workers of Tuba Group on their hunger strike inside their factory in Badda in the capital yesterday. They have been on the strike since the day before Eid demanding unpaid wages of three months and Eid bonuses.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## PAYING ARREARS TO TUBA GROUP WORKERS

# BGMEA seeks emergency funds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BGMEA yesterday sought emergency funds from big garment companies to clear the dues of Tuba Group workers who continued their protests for the sixth day.

The development came at a meeting between leaders of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association and State Minister for Labour and Employment Mujibul Haque Chunnun at the BGMEA office in the capital.

A source present at the meeting told The Daily Star that initiatives had been taken to pay the workers. "We hope the big groups will respond to our call, as we have already said the workers will

be paid within seven working days."

The sum would be given to Tuba Group as loans, said another meeting source.

More than Tk 4.14 crore is needed to pay three months' arrears and Eid bonus to 1,600 workers of the Group.

Both the BGMEA and Tuba management had applied for bank loans to pay the workers. But the applications were rejected for failure to provide a guarantee from Group's Managing Director Delwar Hossain, who has been in jail since February 9 for his role in Tazreen fire that killed 112 people in November 2012.

Following yesterday's meeting, Chunnun told reporters that the workers would be paid in a day

or two.

The government cannot pay the workers of a private company like Tuba Group, said the state minister. "That is why I urged the garment factory owners to manage funds for paying the workers."

He said Delwar was granted bail before the Eid holiday, and the court order for his release was expected to reach the jail authorities today or tomorrow.

Meanwhile, workers of the Group took to the streets, and obstructed the road in front of the factory at North Badda around 11:00am.

The demonstrations, also joined by 11 left-leaning organisations, continued till 1:00pm.

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Today is the 1st Death Anniversary of  
**Sobera Ahmed Rizvi (Rita)**



We request all relatives, friends  
and well-wishers to remember her in their  
prayers and to pray for eternal peace of her soul

Shahinshah, Yasser, Nasser, Zain, Fatema, Zarah & Zameer