



12 killed as house built on marsh caves in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 12 people, including five women, were killed yesterday as a two-storey tin structure, housing around 20 families, collapsed in a marshland in the capital's Rampura area.

The victims along with scores of others got trapped under the wreckage when the ground floor of the makeshift structure went down in water around 3:00pm. The illegal structure was built with tin, metal bars and wood about a year ago, said locals.

At least 20 people were rescued by locals. But it couldn't be known how many still remained trapped under the debris.

A trader named Monir built the structure in Hajipara Matir Masjid Jheel

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Onlookers and rescuers gather at a marshland in the capital's Rampura yesterday after a large two-storey structure made of corrugated iron sheets over the water went down. Only the first floor of the structure is visible and the "ground floor" has gone under water. The house had 20 rooms in which an estimated 120 people lived.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

CITY CORPORATION ELECTIONS 2015

BNP stumbles yet again

As Abbas' bail remains unsettled, the party cannot start full-on campaign in Dhaka city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP cannot yet start electioneering in full swing, as its Dhaka south mayor hopeful Mirza Abbas is unable to hit the campaign trail for legal reasons, with less than two weeks to go before the polls.

And to avoid arrest, the former city mayor may have to keep from campaigning in person until he gets bail in three cases over vandalism, arson and corruption, BNP sources said.

Party policymakers had been waiting for his bail from the High Court, as they were planning to launch the campaign for the April 28 city polls at full throttle. But yesterday's split order on his bail means the party will have to wait more.

The bail petitions along with the dissenting orders will now be forwarded to the chief justice, who will refer those to another HC bench for disposal.

The split verdict from a two-member bench appears as a SPLIT ORDER ON ABBAS' BAIL -- PAGE 16



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Refrain from wholesale criticism

PM asks editors, writers on govt activities

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said she expects constructive opinion and judgment of the media about the government's activities.



Wholesale criticism only helps the anti-liberation forces, she said.

"Criticism will help us to stand corrected. But I expect you will not do anything which will strengthen the hands of anti-liberation forces who even didn't want our nation's freedom," she said.

The PM made the remarks while speaking at a gathering of editors, columnists, writers and participants of television talk shows at Gono Bhaban yesterday. She invited them to exchange greetings on the occasion of the Bangla New Year 1422.

"We want to move the country forward. I want your cooperation in this regard, and it is very important for us. Of course, you will criticise our lapses and flaws. But, it should not be for wielding the anti-liberation force to bark against us," she said.

Hasina, also chief of the ruling Awami League, said her government had come to power to serve people, not to make its own fortunes.

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BAISHAKH CELEBRATION

Outrage over sex assault

Cops were 'yards away' as the attack continued for about an hour

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The joyous celebration of the Bangalee's biggest festival -- Pahela Baishakh -- was tainted by incidents of sexual assault on women on the Dhaka University campus Tuesday evening, sparking widespread public outrage.

Witnesses said some 30 to 40 rowdy youths assaulted and sexually harassed around 20 women for about one hour at the Suhrawardy Udyan gate near the TSC area around 6:00pm.

They alleged although law enforcers were stationed only 20 yards from the spot, they did nothing to rescue the women or arrest those who launched the sexual assault.

The incident, which happened close to writer Avijit's murder scene, ignited fury on social networking sites. Several organisations condemned the assault and demanded immediate arrest of the attackers.

Bangladesh Chhatra Union, the organisation that came forward to rescue the women, at a press conference on the campus yesterday demanded that police identify the culprits and bring them to book immediately.

Several student organisations brought out processions in protest at the shocking incident.

Even one day after the incident, police could not even identify the culprits, let alone arrest them.

However, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Mohammad Asaduzzaman Miah claimed no incident of sexual

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Interpol issues red notice on Tarique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The UK law enforcers could arrest and deport BNP Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman, if they choose to, since the Interpol has recently issued a red notice regarding Tarique.

"The individuals concerned are wanted by national jurisdictions [or International Criminal Tribunals, where appropriate]

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MIGRANTS' ILLEGAL SEA VOYAGE

400 feared dead

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Nearly 400 migrants attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea from Libya are feared to have drowned after their vessel capsized.

It follows other similar incidents that have happened this week. Details of their plight are still emerging as hundreds of rescued migrants arrived in the Sicilian capital, some of the 8,480 saved from the water since an armada of rickety boats began to sail from Africa earlier this week.

Those rescued said that one vessel carrying between 500 and 550 people was barely 24 hours into its journey when it capsized.

Harrowing testimony detailed how, as the situation became more frantic, one victim's body was tossed overboard and torn apart by sharks.

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TOP QUOTE

"The barbaric incident that took place today [Tuesday] in front of Suhrawardy [Udyan] gate during Pahela Baishakh celebrations was much worse than many acts of barbarity that had happened before. Some beasts swooped on women and minors like vultures and sexually harassed them in front of hundreds of people."

— BANGLADESH CHHATRA UNION LEADER & GONOJAGORON MANCHA ACTIVIST **LUCKY AKTER** IN A FACEBOOK POST

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