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# 'Twin' trouble

Neighbour's faulty piling leads to evacuation from Sundarban Hotel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The boundary protection in the deep pit of an under-construction 12-storey twin tower caved in at the capital's Sonargaon intersection yesterday morning, leaving the adjacent Sundarban Hotel at the risk of collapse.

Three construction firms are building the National Bank Limited Twin Tower at the site. They dug a 50-feet-deep pit there to build four basements.

Fifty guests were evacuated from the six-storey hotel on instructions of the fire service department, said Wazed Ali, general manager of the hotel.

A stretch of the footpath along the CR Dutt Road, some makeshift roadside shops and a portion of the hotel's foundation soil subsided due to the collapse. An electric pole fell on the road.

It also damaged the underground gas, water and sewer pipes, forcing the authorities to cut the connections, including that of electricity.

Wazed said they had alerted the site engineer a month ago about some cracks in the boundary protection, but the engineer didn't pay heed to them.

He filed a general diary with Kalabagan Police Station yesterday.

Brig Gen Ali Ahmed Khan, director general of Fire Service and Civil Defence, said the subsidence put the hotel in an imminent danger of collapse. "So we had to immediately strengthen the damaged piling with sand bags."

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) Mayor Annisul SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



The concrete reinforcement pillars placed for the construction of a new building next to Hotel Sundarban near Sonargaon intersection in the capital gave way yesterday and tonnes of soil from under the hotel slid.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Salahuddin sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Shillong court in India yesterday sent BNP leader Salahuddin Ahmed to judicial custody for 14 days in a case filed for trespassing.

After a brief hearing, Chief Judicial Magistrate KML Nongbri of Shillong District and Sessions Judge Court ordered police to send Salahuddin to Shillong jail, Vivek Syiem, superintendent of police of East Khasi Hills district in Meghalaya, told The Daily Star over the phone.

He also said the BNP joint secretary general would be produced before the court again on June 11 in the case lodged under the Foreigners Act.

Indian Bureau Chief of Somy Television Subrata Achary, who was present during the hearing, said police did not appeal to the court for placing Salahuddin on remand. The BNP leader was taken to the court around 2:30pm (Bangladesh time).

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# Culprits 2, not 5

Rab claims after arresting 'rapists' of Garo girl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The indigenous girl, who was raped in a running microbus in the capital on Thursday night, was lured into the offenders' trap with an offer of a better job, claimed the Rapid Action Battalion.

Two men, not five as initially claimed by the victim, committed the heinous crime, the Rab said in a press brief after arresting the duo in the early hours yesterday.

Ashraf Khan alias Tushar, 35, and Jahidul Islam Lavlu, 26 -- the suspected rapists -- were paraded before the media during the



Tushar



Lavlu

press conference. Both were working as drivers at a garment buying house in Gulshan.

In the case filed with Bhatara Police Station on Friday, the victim mentioned that five people had "gang-raped" her for over an hour that night.

However, the elite force yesterday said apart from the two arrested, a third person named Firoz, another driver working at the same firm, was involved in the planning but did not appear on the night of the incident.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## NEWS ANALYSIS

# Well done, Rab

Law enforcers can catch sexual offenders if they are sincere

AASHA MEHREEN AMIN

It is unfortunately not a common occasion these days that one hears that law enforcers have promptly caught sex offenders and made significant leads in an investigation. But yesterday's report that the Rab has been able to arrest two men in connection with the gang rape of a young Garo woman brings a rare sense of relief. The arrested men have confessed to the rape and the law enforcers have been able to locate the microbus where this barbaric crime occurred.

What is most horrific is that these men actually planned to rape this woman days before they kidnapped her and

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

## MOJAHED APPEAL AGAINST DEATH

# Verdict June 16

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on June 16 will deliver its verdict on an appeal filed by war criminal Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed challenging death penalty and other sentences handed down to him.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha yesterday fixed the date after hearing the appeal for nine days. Three other judges of the bench are Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana, Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Hasan Foez Siddique.

This is the fourth appeal regarding crimes against humanity cases in which the apex court is set to announce verdict.

After the SC fixed the date, both the state and the defence counsels expressed hope that the verdict would go in their favour.

In July 2013, the International Crimes Tribunal-2 sentenced the 67-year-old Jamaat-e-Islami secretary general to death, jailed him for life and sentenced him to five years in prison in five separate charges.

He filed the appeal with the SC on August 11 the same year, seeking acquittal of all the charges against him.

During the hearing of the appeal yesterday, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam prayed to the Appellate Division to uphold the Tribunal-2's verdict, saying the tribunal had given the judgement rightly after properly examining documents, evidence and statements of witnesses.

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Indian fishermen catch fish in a shrunken pond in the village of Phaphamau on the outskirts of Allahabad on Tuesday. At least 1,100 people have died in a major heatwave that has swept across India.

PHOTO: AFP

## HEATWAVE IN INDIA

# Toll tops 1,100

AFP, Hyderabad

More than 1,100 people have died in a blistering heatwave sweeping India, authorities said yesterday, as forecasters warned searing temperatures would continue.

Southern India has borne the brunt of the hot, dry conditions and many of the victims are construction workers, elderly or homeless people unable to heed official advice to stay indoors.

In the worst-hit state of Andhra Pradesh nearly 900 people have died since May 18 -- double the total number of heat-related deaths last summer, authorities said.

In neighbouring Telangana, where temperatures hit 48 degrees Celsius

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

# Text that can crash iPhones

THE INDEPENDENT

iPhones can be crashed if they receive a text containing one specific line of Arabic characters and symbols.

Sending the letters in a text message causes the phone to crash and then power off, leaving the Messages app unusable once the iPhone turns back on. Users have found a way of fixing the problem

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



## Congratulations



On behalf of directors, employees & workers of FARR Ceramics Ltd we congratulate our Honorable Chairman **Ms. Khodeja Farhad Ruhi** for being awarded as CIP (Industry 2014) by the Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

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