



FACTORY SAFETY

Progress is significant, but a lot remains to be done: analysts

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MIGRANT CRISIS

Merkel visiting Turkey to promote deal amid tension

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FANTASTIC FIZZ

Bowling magic fetches Mustafizur his first man of the match award in IPL

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ANOTHER RU PROFESSOR KILLED

Enemy of none, lover of sitar

Say family, colleagues; he never spoke against religion; 'IS claims responsibility'; 4th RU teacher killed in 12yrs; cops see blogger-killing hallmark

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi



Prof AFM Rezaul Karim

He was a sitar player. All his life, he was devoted to music, culture and peace.

His family members and colleagues don't believe he had enmity with anyone. He never said or wrote anything against any religion or hurt anybody's religious sentiment.

Yet, Prof AFM Rezaul Karim Siddiquee of Rajshahi University was brutally murdered in the city's Shalbagan area yesterday in an attack that police say bears the hallmark of the previous blogger killings.

The 58-year-old professor of English was on his way to the university when he was pushed to the ground from behind and hit in the neck with a scissor-like sharp weapon

about 7:40am, police say.

Two killers reportedly came on a bike when the teacher was waiting for his university bus. It took them less than a minute to complete their mission. They sped away, taking the weapons with them, according to police and witnesses.

Prof Rezaul, who was in white check shirt and blue pants, died on the spot. He was almost beheaded.

The body, recovered by police at 11:00am, was sent to Rajshahi Medical College for autopsy.

The attack follows the killing of another RU teacher, Prof KM Shafiqul Islam of sociology department. He was stabbed dead near his residence on November 15, 2014.

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PHOTO OF STUDENTS' PROTEST -- PAGE 5



A white throated kingfisher panting on a barbed wire fence of Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Narayanganj. The summer heat is causing even animals to suffer. The photo was taken on Thursday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

3 YEARS OF RANA PLAZA DISASTER

Trial of two cases yet to start

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The trial for the killing of more than a thousand people in Rana Plaza collapse three years ago is yet to begin.

The case filed for the violation of building codes in the construction of the nine-storey Plaza has been facing a similar fate.

However, charges were pressed in June last year against the accused in both the cases upon completion of the investigations.

The hearing on the charge framing is scheduled for April 28. The accused are expected to be produced on the day before the trial court where the cases were transferred in March last year, said a court source.

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CPD hails reform measures



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) yesterday lauded the reforms made after the Rana Plaza disaster to ensure workers' safety at garment factories in Bangladesh but said more needed to be done.

Foreign diplomats, international development partners and local rights groups also praised the development in the sector

after the world's worst industrial disaster that hit the country in 2013.

On this day that year, Rana Plaza, a multi-storey building came crashing down in Savar on the outskirts of the capital, taking with it the lives of at least 1,134 people -- mostly garment workers -- and injuring

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FACTORY WORKERS DESERVE BETTER PROTECTION -- PAGE 4



TOP QUOTE

"Rana Plaza was a symbol of poor compliance. Now it has emerged as a symbol of the efforts towards better compliance."

KG MOAZZEM
ADDITIONAL RESEARCH DIRECTOR OF CPD AT A DIALOGUE ON THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF RANA PLAZA DISASTER

Man victim of an awfully sick fun

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In an outrageous fun that turned tragic, fellow workers seriously injured a youth by pumping air through his rectum using an air compressor at Uttar Badda Satarkul in the capital yesterday.

Ahsan Habib, 25, from Chandpur, has been an employee of Dhaka Timber Complex in the area for three years.

Other colleagues took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital after his stomach swelled abnormally.

Doctors were operating on him at the time of filing this report last night. DMCH sources said his intestines tore in several places because of the high pressure.

Around 11:00am, his four colleagues -- Saddam, Kamrul, Zahid and Awal -- pumped air into his stomach during a tea break inside the factory, fellow workers said.

Factory Manager Zahirul Islam confirmed this to The Daily Star.

Police detained the four, but no case was filed as of last night, said Abdul Jalil, officer-in-charge of Badda Police Station.

During primary interrogation, they confessed to have done it "out of fun".

In August last year, a 13-year-old boy died after his former employer similarly pumped air into his rectum in Khulna.

The incident sparked outrage all over the country. A Khulna court in its verdict described the murder as "heinous and barbaric" and sentenced two people to death for his murder.

Dhaka signs Paris Climate Agreement

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has signed the historic Paris Climate Agreement, aiming to take various measures to save the world from the disastrous consequences of climate change.

Some 175 countries, including China and the USA, signed the deal at the UN headquarters in New York on Friday. Environment and Forests Minister Anwar Hossain Manju signed the agreement on behalf of Bangladesh.

The signing day coincided with the International Mother Earth Day. The signing ceremony turned out to be an event closely resembling the annual UN General Assembly sessions, featuring around 60 heads of state and government, according to a message

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Third-phase polls 'fairer'

Say EC, AL; BNP alleges massive ballot-stuffing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission and the ruling Awami League claimed that the third phase Union Parishad elections were free and fair while the BNP expressed frustration over the polls.

At a post-polls briefing yesterday, Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed said people had cast their votes in 620 union parishads of 46 districts this time in a congenial atmosphere compared to the first two phases.

Irregularities and violent activities in the latest polls were fewer than before, he said.

Large-scale violence did not take place since special measures had been taken to ensure transparency, the CEC said, adding, "We are expecting that the next polls will also be held in a congenial atmosphere."

About BNP's allegation

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After the taking over of a polling station, a man stamps ballots in favour of the ruling party chairman candidate at the Panchpukuria Primary School centre in Fatikchhari Sundarpur union while a policeman watches. The photo was taken around 2:00pm yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Violence lessens, not irregularities

Man shot dead in Pabna, over 200 hurt in 10 districts; voting in 24 polling centres suspended

STAR REPORT

The election to 614 union parishads in the third phase of UP polls yesterday saw some stray incidents of violence and electoral irregularities, including ballot-stuffing and taking of polling stations mostly by ruling party men.

Polls violence left one dead in Pabna and more than 200 injured in 10 districts. The injured include 11 journalists and four policemen, two of whom were hit by bullets.

The extent of violence in this phase was much less compared to the previous two phases in which more than 40 people were killed and several hundred injured.

Yesterday's polls, however, were marred by electoral irregularities as in the previous two phases of elections.

In the evening, Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed told reporters that though there were some stray incidents of violence and irregularities during voting yesterday's election was fairer than the previous two polls.

However, talking to this newspaper on condition of anonymity, an election commissioner expressed dissatisfaction over the incidents, saying the extent of violence lessened, not irregularities.

Voting in the third phase of the partisan local polls began at 8:00am and continued till 4:00pm without any break.

Three polling officials were withdrawn for helping fake

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UP POLLS	
AL	150
BNP	26
JP	10
OTHERS	51
237 OUT OF 614	