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Fire from lift crash: 5 killed

Over 100 hurt at city mall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five people, including two women, died and over 100 others were injured in a deadly fire at a shopping mall in the capital's Uttara last evening.

The fire originated at one of the three basements of 15-storey Tropical Alauddin Tower Shopping Complex after a lift fell in its shaft with a loud bang, said Abdur Razzak, inspector (investigation) of Uttara West Police Station.

Primary investigation suggests there was an explosion and a fire after the lift severed and hit the basement around 6:15pm, said Director General of Fire Service and Civil Defence Brig Gen Ali Ahmed Khan.

The officer-in-charge (investigation) of Uttara Police Station confirmed the death toll.

The dead are Mizanur Rahman, 52, a security guard at a nearby building, Salma Aktar, 40, who used to supply shopping bags at the market, Rezaul Karim Rana, 32, a technician, Kamrunnahar Lata, 23, a salesgirl of a first-floor shop at the market, and Jasim Uddin.

Mizanur was burnt beyond recognition while the others had their heads thrashed.

Lata went to the basement to say prayers while the rest to join an Iftar party, witnesses said.

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A woman cries as her relative, injured in an accident at a shopping mall in the city's Uttara, undergoes treatment at the Burn Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital last night. Right, mother of an injured two-year-old takes her baby to the Burn Unit. Locals crowd the main entrance to the mall after the accident.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Concern over 'worsening' freedom of expression

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing concern over the "worsening" state of freedom of expression in Bangladesh, the International Publishers Association (IPA) yesterday said the government played an "ambiguous" role in dealing with the killing of bloggers, writers and publishers.

"We feel the government has been ambiguous in its response. In 2013, after the killing of the first blogger, the government formed a special committee to name and investigate bloggers and writers instead of finding out the perpetrators," said Ben Steward, director of Communication and Freedom to Publish of the IPA.

He suggested the government be more critical while dealing with the killings of bloggers and writers.

Steward was addressing

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ATTACKS ON 3 FOREIGNERS

Charge sheets this week

SEPTEMBER 28, 2015

OCTOBER 3, 2015

NOVEMBER 18, 2015



Italian national Cesare Tavella was shot dead in the capital's Gulshan diplomatic zone



Japanese national Hoshi Kunio was shot dead at Alutari in Kaunia upazila in Rangpur



Piero Parolari, an Italian doctor, was injured in a gun attack by unknown assailants in Dinajpur town

SHARIFUL ISLAM and KONGKON KARMAKER

Police are set to submit within a week charge sheets in last year's murders of two foreigners -- Italian national Cesare Tavella and Japanese citizen Kunio Hoshi -- and the shooting on an Italian missionary Piero Parolari.

Tavella, an aid worker, was killed in the capital's Gulshan Diplomatic Zone on September 28. Barely a week after, Kunio Hoshi, a farmer, was shot to death at Alutari village of Kaunia upazila in Rangpur on October 3.

Then on November 18, physician Piero Parolari was shot in the neck while on his way to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital, where he worked. He survived the attack.

Middle East-based Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attacks, according to US-based SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadist activities worldwide.

The attacks raised concern about the security of foreign nationals, prompting many countries to issue travel alert about the visit of their citizens to Bangladesh and withdrew some of their staff members.

The government played down the concerns, and termed it all a conspiracy. The authorities maintain IS has no presence in the country and that opposition parties BNP and Jamaat and homegrown militants are to blame for the attacks.

Investigators said BNP leader MA Quayum planned the murder of Tavella as

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ATTACK THREAT

Red alert issued for all jails

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has issued a red alert for all jails across the country based on intelligence that subversive activities might be carried out in any of those.

A top jail official said the authorities issued the alert two days ago following a warning from the home ministry that a car bomb attack might occur in any prison.

Sources in Dhaka Central Jail said they increased the number of back-up guards and stepped up security check at the prison.

The jail authorities would also check the food brought for the inmates from outside. Besides, visitors would be allowed to meet their relatives in jail only after screening.

Security measures have been tightened against the backdrop of rising attacks by suspected militants in

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Office cake culture 'danger to health'



BBC ONLINE

Having cake at work to celebrate colleagues' birthdays, engagements or just surviving the week is a danger to health, a senior dentist argues.

Prof Nigel Hunt, from the Faculty of Dental Surgery, at the Royal College of Surgeons, says "cake culture" is fuelling obesity and dental problems.

At the organisation's annual dinner for dentists, he will say workplace temptation stops people losing weight. And staff should be rewarded with fruit, nuts or cheese instead.

In the speech, he will say: "Managers want to reward staff for their efforts, colleagues want to celebrate special occasions, and workers want to bring back a gift from their holidays."

"But for many people the workplace is now the primary site of their sugar intake and is contributing to the current obesity epidemic and poor oral health."

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SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS

Ramadan	June	Sehri	Iftar
19	25	3-4:15	6-5:30
20	26	3-4:15	6-5:30
21	27	3-4:15	6-5:30



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PRAYER TIMING
JUNE 25

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN	3-4:15	5-00	6-53	8-17	
JAMAAT	3-5:2	1-15	5-15	7-03	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A woman checks a jamdani sari at a shop in Pathrail of Delduar upazila, Tangail. Bottom, a weaver is busy weaving a sari. Sari traders in the area have been doing a brisk business ahead of Eid. The photos were taken on Monday.



TANGAIL SARIS

Bold colours the trend for this Eid

MIRZA SHAKIL with ANDREW EAGLE

With Eid fast approaching, Tangail's sari weavers are working at full capacity. Deep and bright colours are in vogue this season, often styled with chumki, applique or other embroidery features. Cotton and half-silk saris adorned with golden-thread jori stitching and alpna motifs along the sari's decorative end, the anchal, and along the sari's borders, are in demand. Block prints are also experiencing a revival.

"I buy Tangail saris every Eid," says Tangail teacher Ashrafunnessa Khan, "not only for myself but for my daughters and daughters-in-law. The traditional product in its various qualities and price ranges attracts me."

Red, magenta, ash, black, reddish-yellow, orange, violet, light blue, saffron and green are all colours making a grand appearance in this year's range.

"For this Eid we have jamdani and silk saris ranging in price from Tk 16,000 to Tk 30,000 that have won the hearts of women buyers," says Prodig Sarkar, a salesman of Jageswar & Co at Pathrail in Delduar upazila. "We have cotton saris selling from Tk 1,600 to Tk 2,500 that are also in high demand."

Producing saris worth from Tk 400 up to perhaps Tk 40,000, Tangail's weavers from across Delduar upazila, with many also based in villages of Tangail sadar and

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RACE TO WHITE HOUSE

Sanders to vote for Clinton

CNN ONLINE

Bernie Sanders said yesterday he will likely vote for Hillary Clinton for president in November, the strongest expression of support yet from the Vermont senator, but he left the door open that he could change his mind.

"In all likelihood, it will be Hillary Clinton," Sanders told CNN's Chris Cuomo on "New Day."

Sanders said he was focused on his leverage over the Democratic party platform.

"My job right now as a candidate is to fight to make sure that the Democratic Party not only has the most progressive platform in the history of the Democratic Party, but that that platform is actually implemented by elected officials," Sanders said on CNN.

He also declined to say whether the time will come that he fully endorses Clinton, saying he is waiting to see what she says about his priorities. He also would not say explicitly, when pressed by Cuomo, that she won the nomination fairly.

"I think the system has many, many flaws, but we knew what we were getting into," Sanders told Cuomo. "I'm not saying that they changed the rules. No, they didn't."

But he also expressed time and again that he was working to defeat Trump. Asked if the lack of a 100% answer meant he would vote Trump, Sanders said, "Oh, God no."

Earlier, in another TV appearance, Sanders was firmer in his support for Clinton.

Asked on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" if he would vote for the former secretary of state, Sanders said: "Yes. Yes, I think the issue right here is I am going to do everything I can to defeat Donald Trump. I think Trump in so many ways will

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