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# SANTALS IN GAIBANDHA Worried about the missing

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

The situation is still tense at Gaibandha's Gobindaganj upazila after Sunday's attack on the Santal community leaving two of them dead.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Philimon Baske, a local leader of the Santals said, "We are really worried about our missing men. Three of us are missing."

The panicked Santals are not going out of their homes as the situation has not become normal yet, said Rafayel Hasda, another local leader of the indigenous community.

"We are so afraid of further attacks that we can't even go outside to bring food. We also can't look for work," he said.

On Sunday, the local Santals clashed with a group of Bangali settlers and labourers of Rangpur Sugar Mills. Police fired shots to control the situation leaving two Santal men dead and 15 others injured.

Santal houses were flattened with tractors later that night. The clash broke out over land dispute.

Meanwhile, ruling Awami League leader Mahbubul Alam Hanif yesterday told The Daily Star that a delegation from the party would visit the Santal community in Gaibandha today.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is sending the team to get firsthand report on the situation there, he said.

Yesterday, the Santals in Gaibandha said they would not take any aids from the local administration unless their problems are solved.

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Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman, *extreme right*, introducing foreign guests on the stage during the 18th founding anniversary celebrations of the Bangla daily at the capital's Hotel Sonargaon last night. Prothom Alo turned 18 on November 4.

# Prothom Alo celebrates 18th founding anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pledging not to give in to any pressure and to continue with impartial journalism, the Bangla daily Prothom Alo celebrated its 18th founding anniversary in the capital's Hotel Sonargaon last night.

Participation of dignitaries including noted foreign journalists, ministers, political leaders from both ruling and opposition parties, diplomats, current and former government officials, businessmen, journalists, showbiz stars, business leaders, art luminaries, and eminent civil society members made the anniversary programme remarkable.

The theme of the celebration was the "Strength, Inspiration, Dream and Love" that are found in the heart of an 18-year-old person.

Paying tribute to the sacrifice of his grandson

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# YOUTHS SPEAK TO GLOBAL SHAPERS SURVEY

# Corruption, instability affect country most

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

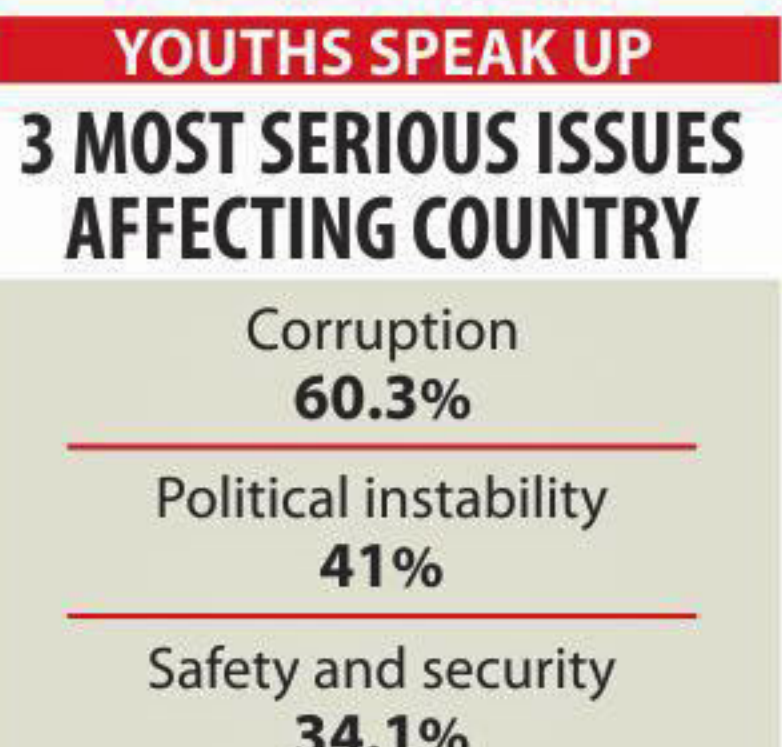
The government's lack of accountability and transparency or corruption is the most serious issue affecting Bangladesh right now, according to World Economic Forum's Global Shapers Annual Survey 2016.

Lack of political freedom and political instability, and safety and security are the two next serious issues affecting the country, says the survey published on Wednesday.

A total of 672 Bangladeshi youths responded to the survey on five issues - economy, politics, values, technology and business. Asked which three most serious issues were affecting the country today, majority of the respondents picked the issues.

"I think the issues that came up in the survey reflected the reality," said Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh.

About the three most serious issues affecting the world today, the Bangladeshi youths pointed at climate



change or destruction of natural resources, religious conflicts and a large-scale conflict or war.

Over 26,600 youths aged between 18 and 35 from 187 countries took part in the survey.

Asked about picking the top three important factors contributing to inequality in Bangladesh, more than 68 percent respondents pointed out corruption and lack of transparency, while 47 percent referred to lack of access to quality education and 40

percent to political ideologies.

The majority of Bangladeshi youths said abuse of power or corruption by the government leaders -- like the president, prime minister, ministers and mayors -- frustrated them most. They were also disappointed with lack of accountability, dishonesty and administrative barriers.

Start-up ecosystem and entrepreneurship, access to internet, free media or social media, globalisation and transparency in governance are the most important factors contributing to youth empowerment in Bangladesh, according to the survey.

About the top three important ways for the Bangladesh government to demonstrate transparency and accountability, some 62 percent respondents said visible penalties should be imposed for poor governance by officials, 47 percent said protecting the independence of judiciary must be ensured and 38 percent said the authorities should accept criticism or be open to protest.

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# Ruet closed after BCL factions clash

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) was declared closed yesterday for seven days after a faction of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) clashed with another on the campus.

The Academic Council of Ruet chaired by Vice Chancellor Prof Rafiqul Alam Beg announced the decision around 9:30am yesterday following an emergency meeting after the two factions of BCL -- student front of ruling Awami League -- were engaged in a fracas the night before.

Prof NHM Kamruzzaman Serker, general secretary of Ruet Teachers Association, told the Daily Star that the university was closed following the violence between the two factions of BCL and all residential students were asked to vacate their dormitories by 3:00pm yesterday.

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# 'Mud dragon' dinosaur found



CNN ONLINE

The fossilized remains of a new species of winged dinosaur have been discovered in southern China by construction workers, who almost destroyed it with dynamite.

The fossilized corpse was unearthed at a construction site in the city of Ganzhou when workers blasted away surrounding rock with TNT. Named *Tongtianlong limosus*, the dinosaur was a winged and feathered ancient ancestor to modern birds. The fossil is estimated to be from the Cretaceous period, making it between 66 and 72 million years old.

The discovery was originally reported by the journal *Nature Scientific Reports* on Thursday.

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# Snowden urges action, not fear of Trump

AFP, The Hague

Former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden has urged people to work together to protect themselves from intrusive government surveillance as Donald Trump prepares to move into the White House.

"If we want to have a better world, we cannot hope for an Obama and we should not fear a Donald Trump. Rather we should build it ourselves," Snowden said late Thursday, addressing an audience in the Netherlands in a live video chat from Russia.

While he said Trump's victory in Tuesday's US presidential elections was "a dark moment" in American history, he insisted the bigger question was "how do we defend the rights of everyone, everywhere, without regard to borders?"

Snowden leaked thousands of classified documents in 2013 revealing the vast US surveillance of

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# Policeman found dead in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A policeman was found dead at his house in the city's Pallabi area yesterday.

Police suspect he had committed suicide.

Somen Hasnain Rabbani, 39, a sub-inspector of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police, was found hanging from a ceiling fan of his room, said Dadan Fakir, officer-in-charge of Pallabi Police Station.

Police said Rabbani was

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**PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 12**  
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5-00 12-45 3-45 5-22 7-00  
JAMAAT 5-35 1-15 4-00 5-25 7-30  
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Karen Lugo captivates the audience with a mesmerising display of flamenco on the second night of the Dhaka International Folk Festival at the Army Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# RMG factory fire kills 13 in India

AFP, Ghaziabad

Thirteen workers died in a fire at a suspected illegal garment factory on the outskirts of the Indian capital early yesterday as they slept in the workshop.

The blaze started in the early hours of the morning on the ground floor of the narrow residential building, which was being used to make fake leather jackets, on the eastern edge of New Delhi.

Residents rushed to the factory after they heard screams from those trapped inside as the fire quickly spread to the first floor where most of the workers were sleeping, eyewitness Shahabuddin Ali said.

"We started dousing the fire ourselves with buckets and garden pipes," he said.

"The fire department officials reached only two hours after the fire."

The police confirmed that 13 people died, adding that the fire was likely caused either by a short circuit or a cigarette.

"The fire broke out at a factory in a residential area of Sahibabad around 4:30 am in the morning. Thirteen people, who were sleeping there have died and another two or three people are getting treated at the hospital," Bhagwat Singh, local police spokesman told AFP.

Police superintendent Salman Taj said that three of the dead were burnt to death while the others died of smoke inhalation.

Residents and a local fire officer said that two of the workers survived by jumping from the building's balcony.

"The two of them woke up by chance and say they screamed for others to wake up while running towards the terrace but others didn't wake up, perhaps it was already late," local fire officer Abbas Hussain said.

Hussain described piles of leather stacked in the

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