



Faraaz's mother Simeen Hossain, sixth from left, her elder son Zaraqif, third from right, former Afghanistan president Hamid Karzai, fourth from left, former Indian union minister Farooq Abdullah, fifth from left, Indian film director Mukesh Bhatt, fourth from right, and other dignitaries hold hands and take oath to win the battle against terrorism and change hearts. Transcom Group Chairman Latifur Rahman, his wife Shahnaz Rahman, and their daughter Shazhreh Huq are seen, in the photo on the right, also holding hands and taking the oath along with everyone in the audience. Latifur Rahman's grandson Faraaz Ayaaz Hossain heroically gave his life during the Holey Artisan Bakery attack in July. The photos were taken during the award giving ceremony at a Mumbai hotel yesterday.



PHOTO: AFP

# Honour for a young hero

FROM PAGE 1  
Faraaz's mother Simeen Hossain and elder brother Zaraqif Ayaaz Hossain received the award at the main banquet hall of the hotel. Everyone present at the programme stood up and welcomed the mother and son with a round of applause.  
Former Afghanistan president Hamid Karzai and Mother Teresa's disciple Sister Priscilla handed over the award to Simeen and Zaraqif.  
This is the first time the Harmony Foundation gave the award to a foreign hero posthumously.  
Earlier this month, the Harmony Foundation named Faraaz, son of Simeen and Muhammad Waqer Bin

Hossain, for the prestigious award.  
Receiving the award, Simeen said, "I wanted to raise my son as a good human being."  
"Faraaz did not leave his friends, the people he loved, and he did not act like a coward."  
The audience burst into applause, as she said, "For you, Faraaz, I am the proudest mother in this world."  
Faraaz was the grandson of Transcom Group Chairman Latifur Rahman and Shahnaz Rahman.  
During the bloody siege at the upscale Gulshan café, the terrorists particularly targeted foreigners dining there. The gunmen were looking for "infidels," taking a test as to who could

recite verses from the holy Quran and who couldn't.  
Faraaz, a student at Emory University's Goizueta Business School in the US, recited from the holy Quran, and was given the chance to walk out of it all.  
But he chose to stay with his friends -- Abinta Kabir, a Bangladesh-born US citizen and a student at Emory University, and Tarishi Jain, an Indian student at the University of California, Berkeley -- with whom he had gone to the café on that fateful night.  
At one point during yesterday's programme, former Indian union minister for new and renewable energy Farooq Abdullah and noted

Indian filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt went up on the stage and talked to Simeen.  
Trying to hold back his tears, Farooq told Simeen that she had indeed raised Faraaz as a true human being.  
He then told the audience, "Let's come and take an oath by holding hands that we will win the battle against terrorism. We would not use terrorism against terrorism; we'll change hearts. This should be our pledge."  
Captivated, the audience took the solemn oath holding hands.  
Earlier, Indian media quoted Simeen as saying, "When my son stood by his friends, including Tarishi who

was an Indian, he represented true Islam while those who murdered them were monsters. I refuse to accept the terrorists were Muslims."  
Harmony Foundation President Abraham Mathai said, "Faraaz is a hero and we feel privileged to honour him."  
An audio-visual presentation on Faraaz was made towards the end of the programme. The last slide of the presentation flashed a photo of a smiling Faraaz, written beneath which were the words "He chose friends over life."  
The Mother Teresa Memorial International Award for Social Justice is an initiative of the Harmony

Foundation that recognises extraordinary work undertaken by individuals or organisations.  
The award, instituted in 2005 in memory of Mother Teresa, is the only one in the world recognised by the institution she founded, the Missionaries of Charity, Kolkata.  
Some of the past recipients are Médecins Sans Frontières, the Dalai Lama, Malala Yousafzai, Dr Mahathir Mohammad and Baroness Caroline Cox.  
In July, Garden of the Righteous, a commemorative garden, was set up in Tunis, the capital of Tunisia, in honour of five Muslim righteous individuals, including Faraaz.

## 4 hurt as ceiling plaster falls on school students

The govt school had been in bad shape for long

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

At least four second grade students were injured by falling debris on Saturday as they were attending their class in a dilapidated building of a government primary school in sadar upazila.  
The incident took place around noon at Dakkhin Chandukhali Government Primary School where chunks of plaster came off the ceiling of grade two classroom and fell on the students, said Sonia Sultana Koli, head teacher of the school.  
The injured -- Dalia, Arafat, Sumon and Rahat -- were taken to local medical facilities where they were given first aid for minor injuries, she said.  
The single-storey building of the school, consisting four rooms, was declared unfit for use by Primary Education Office of the district and they asked the school authorities to move to a safer building a year ago, the head teacher said.  
However, the school authorities had been continuing operations of the school in the hazardous structure as they could not arrange any other alternative, she explained.  
The school is only 15 kilometres away from the district headquarters and it has 125 enrolled students, said sources.  
No renovation or repair work had been conducted on the building since it was constructed in 1994-95 fiscal year by Local Government Engineering Department.  
During a visit to the school this correspondent found debris of the ceiling gathered on the floor of the classroom.  
Golam Mostafa, a guardian of a student of the school, said parents were worried to send their children to the school operating in that unsafe building.  
The authorities concerned should take immediate steps for the sake of the children and reconstruct a building for the school, he added.  
Saifuddin Ahmed, assistant upazila education officer, said the head teacher had informed him of the incident over cellphone.  
He then asked the school authorities to move to a different location until the school building is reconstructed.



Schoolchildren look at the debris in their classroom at Chandukhali Govt Primary School in Patuakhali's sadar upazila. A number of students were hurt after parts of the worn-out roof collapsed on them during their class yesterday.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

## 120 killed in Indian train accident

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belongs. I am feeling so helpless, my whole world has turned upside down."

Hundreds of army and police have been deployed at the scene, where rescue workers used metal cutters to slice through severely mangled coaches to try to get to survivors.  
Disaster response teams also set up special lights to ensure rescue work was not hampered in the night.  
"We have been able to pull out 24 people so far, out of which five were found to be alive," said Brigadier A Chhibbar, who is leading the army's rescue operations.  
"We will carry on day and night, till there is any inkling of even a single person being pulled alive."  
Police said 120 people had been killed and at least 200 others were undergoing treatment in nearby hospitals, which were placed on high alert after the early morning disaster.  
"The death toll has reached 120. At least 200 others are injured," Zaki Ahmad, police inspector general of Kanpur zone, told AFP.  
The accident was the worst since 2010 when a passenger train crashed into a freight train in the eastern state of West Bengal, killing 146 and injuring over 200.  
Authorities have launched an official investigation into the accident, which junior railways minister Manoj Sinha said may have been

### MAJOR TRAIN ACCIDENTS IN INDIA SINCE 1988

Nov 20, 2016 Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh	100 killed 200 injured
May 28, 2010 West Midnapore, West Bengal	148 killed
September 9, 2002 Aurangabad, Bihar	100 killed 150 hurt
August 2, 1999 Gaisal, Assam	290 killed
November 26, 1998 Khanna, Punjab	212 killed
September 14, 1997 Bilaspur, Madhya Pradesh	81 killed
August 20, 1995 Uttar Pradesh	400 killed
April 18, 1988 Lalitpur, Uttar Pradesh	75 killed
July 8, 1988 Kerala	107 killed

SOURCE: THE INDIAN EXPRESS

caused by damage to the tracks.  
India's railway network, one of the world's largest, is still the main form of long-distance travel in the vast country, but it is poorly funded and deadly accidents occur relatively frequently.  
A 2012 government report said almost 15,000 people were killed every year on India's railways, describing the deaths as an annual

"massacre".  
Nitika Trivedi, a student who boarded the train with her family, said images of the victims' bodies would long haunt her.  
"I had never seen anything like this in my life before. I am shaken to the core," she said.  
Anxious relatives thronged the station in Indore in central India where the train originated, many clutching pictures of their loved-ones.  
Railway officials said special trains and buses had been deployed for stranded travellers.  
"We are also trying to clear the tracks and complete the restoration work as quickly as possible," Vijay Kumar, a spokesman for north-central railways, told AFP.  
Local media reports said the train was packed with families, some of them travelling home for weddings.  
In 2014 an express train ploughed into a stationary freight train, also in Uttar Pradesh, killing 26 people.  
And last year 27 people died when two trains derailed in Madhya Pradesh state during heavy rain.  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has pledged to invest \$137 billion over five years to modernise the crumbling railways, making them safer, faster and more efficient.  
Modi yesterday tweeted that he was "angushed beyond words" by the loss of life in the latest accident.

## Titans triumph to take top spot

FROM PAGE 1  
Mushfiqur Rahim in the 16th over left them needing 54 runs from just 26 balls with just four wickets in hand. Kevon Cooper then got rid of Nadif Chowdhury and Junaid Khan had Rayad Emrit caught in the deep. It was then left for Shafiu to complete a second four-wicket haul by bowling Rumman Raees and having Taijul Islam caught in the deep in the last over.  
In chase of a challenging score, Barisal were pegged back by the wickets of openers Fazle Mahmud and Jeevan Mendis, both of whom departed within four overs to leave the Bulls wobbling at 25 for two. Fazle was trapped in front off the eighth ball of the innings delivered by Junaid Khan, while Mendis was caught at mid on, giving Shafiu Islam his first wicket.  
In-form batsman Shahriar Nafees and Shamsur Rahman then tried to rebuild, but they were too slow in their efforts and heaped the pressure on themselves, which only increased when Shamsur fell to Mahmudullah in the 10th over with just 45 on the board. Barisal's last real hopes were then together at the crease when Mushfiqur Rahim joined Nafees, who was progressing too slowly. Mushfiqur, however, responded brilliantly with four boundaries in the next three overs.  
At the end of the 13th over 73 runs were needed and the two batsmen able to pull it off were at the crease. But Mosharraf Hossain had Nafees caught at long on for a mediocre 35-ball 28, and then followed it up with the wicket of big-hitting Thisara Perera in the same over. Mushfiqur was the only man

standing with 12 an over needed off the last five, but the pressure was too much for the usually indomitable national Test captain, and he holed out to deep midwicket off Shafiu in the 16th over for a 23-ball 35.  
Earlier, fresh off a match-winning innings against league leaders Dhaka Dynamites on Saturday, Mahmudullah top-scored with a quickfire 44 to help his team to a fighting total of 151 for seven after being asked to bat first.  
It was Mahmudullah and Riki Wessell's 53-run partnership in 6.1 overs that set Khulna back on track after a brilliant opening spell from left-arm spinner Taijul Islam who bowled a double-wicket over, the fifth of the innings, to get rid of openers Andre Fletcher and Hasanuzzaman. Both were caught trying to clear long on, but that was a result of Taijul conceding just four runs in his first two overs. The left-arm finished the over with figures of two for eight after three, and later added the wicket of Mahmudullah, who after hitting a straight six in the 11th over fell to Taijul's brave play to flight the very next ball and was caught at short third man.  
Mahmudullah hit three fours and two sixes in his 26-ball knock, including a four and a six off Fazle Mahmud in the 10th over, which was the middle of a three-over period that netted the Titans 33 runs. That purple patch ended with Mahmudullah's wicket, and the tide seemed to have turned back in Barisal's favour when off the very first ball of the next over, Shuvagata Hom was run out at the striker's end despite Wessels shouting a loud 'No!' after he completed the

single through a nudge to long on.  
But Wessels ensured that all the good work of his skipper was not undone. He had played second fiddle in their partnership -- he was on five off 11 when Mahmudullah departed -- but he took charge from then on, hitting five fours and a six from the 12th over to the 17th, when he was the fifth man out for a 29-ball 40, bowled by Rayad Emrit. Kevon Cooper followed in the next over, gloving a pull off Rumman Raees to the keeper.  
From 128 for six in the 18th over, Ariful Haque and Taibur Rahman carried the score to 151, on which score the latter departed caught at mid off in the last ball of the innings delivered by Perera.  
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Crossing the Myanmar border with Bangladesh.  
On Saturday, the coast guards prevented 125 Rohingyas, including women and children, from entering Bangladesh through the Naf river as the group tried to escape violence in Myanmar.  
Yesterday's meeting also decided to increase monitoring along the borders across the country to resist smuggling from the neighbouring countries.  
"We will also set up scanning machines at all check posts along the borders to stop all sorts of arms smuggling," the minister said.  
Replying to a query, the minister said that law enforcers between January and June arrested 9,862 people and seized contraband items worth Tk 1,261 crore in 308,600 raids across the country.

## 2 Santal men

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Baske, a Santal leader.  
In another development, the Rangpur Sugar Mills authorities filed a general diary in connection with Saturday's fire incident at a sugarcane field in Shahebganj, mentioning that it caused a loss of Tk 3 lakh, said Abdul Awal, managing director of the sugar mills.  
Meanwhile, a team led by Bangabir Kader Siddiqui, president of Krishak Samik Janata League, visited the Santal villages in Joypurpara and Madarpur areas of Gobindaganj upazila.  
Kader urged the government to return the land to the Santal community and pay the affected Santals adequate compensation for their losses. He also sought justice for the killings of the Santal men in the name of land recovery.  
While visiting the Santal villages yesterday, ASM Abdur Rob, president of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, demanded the rehabilitation of Santal families on their forefather's land and sought a judicial investigation into the incident.  
At a press briefing yesterday at the DC office, the local administration and police alleged that leaders of Sahebganj-Bagdafarm Bhumi Uddhar Sangram Committee instigated the Santal community to occupy the land in Shahebganj sugarcane farm on July 1.  
On July 12, Santal men attacked labourers working at the sugarcane farm. On information, police rushed

to the spot and brought the situation under control.  
Policemen also came under attack by the Santals. Assistant Sub-inspector of Gobindaganj Police Station Shafiqul Islam and constable Sourav Roy were injured in the attack. Police then filed a case, said Ashraf Islam, superintendent of Gaibandha police.  
To keep law and order under control, police had set up a temporary camp at the sugarcane farm. Enraged, the Santals on August 7 attacked the police camp and looted a shotgun, injuring some policemen. Another case was lodged, the SP said.  
About the police firing on November 6, the Gaibandha police boss said labourers of Rangpur Sugar Mills went to the farm to harvest some sugarcane. They were resisted by the Santals and a clash ensued between the two groups.  
Later, police, led by upazila nirbahi officer and officer-in-charge of Gobindaganj Police Station, rushed to the spot.  
As soon as the cops reached the spot, Santal people also attacked them with arrows, injuring eight cops. As the situation went out of control, police fired blank shots after getting permission from the executive magistrate to bring the situation under control, the SP said.  
Police did not launch the eviction drive, the police official added.  
Two Santal men were killed and several others injured in the clash. One of the injured died later.