



Floral wreaths placed at the sculpture of a pair of hands holding a hammer and sickle, built to commemorate the victims of Rana Plaza disaster at the site in Savar on the occasion of five years of the tragedy yesterday. Inset, Holding flowers, a boy walks past graves at Jurain graveyard in the capital where unidentified bodies of the victims are buried.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN, PRABIR DAS

QUOTA REFORM
Vested quarter out to distract students from movement: Duta
DU CORRESPONDENT

A vested quarter is trying to distract students from their logical movement for quota system reform, said Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) at a press conference at DU Club yesterday.

"Duta showed its solidarity with the demonstrators through a press release on April 11. The platform also urged law enforcers not to take action against them and demanded their safety," said Prof Muhammad Samad while reading out a statement.

"But a vested quarter is trying to intrude into the demonstration by... spreading rumours to gain political interest," he added.

Duta members said the group had spread rumour of death of an agitator. On April 10 night, it propagated that a Bangladesh Chhatra League leader cut tendon of a student of Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall. But, a probe found it to be wrong.

The teachers said the hall authorities identified four students of the hall who spread rumour during April 10 incident and handed three students over to their guardians following discussions with them.

But, a group spread that the students were evicted at

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

XULHAZ MURDER
None of four killers arrested in 2 yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two years have elapsed since LGBT magazine editor Xulhaz Mannan and his friend were murdered, but police could not yet arrest any of the four killers, let alone conclude the probe.

USAID staff Xulhaz, who used to work as a protocol officer of former US ambassador Dan W Mozena, and his friend Khandoker Mahbub Rabby Tonoy were hacked to death inside Xulhaz' flat in the capital's Kalabanga area on April 25 last year.

Five killers, aged between 25 and 28, were seen running away in footage of a CCTV camera installed about 300 yards from the house.

Four of the five youths entered the flat on the first-floor posing as couriers and directly took part in the killings, police said.

"We have identified the killers and drive is on to arrest them," Saiful Islam, additional deputy commissioner of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, which is now investigating the case, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Investigators also claimed that they had already arrested four persons -- Shariful Islam Shihab, Rashidun Nabi, Arafat Rahman Sazzad alias Siam, and Mozammel Hossain alias Saimon -- who aided and abetted the killings.

Shariful, arrested in Kushtia on May 14, 2016, supplied firearms to the attackers and Rashidun Nabi, also an accused in Jagannath University student Nazim Uddin Samad murder case, trained the killers, claimed police.

As none of the four killers are arrested yet, the investigators said they are not sure when they would be able to submit the charge sheet.

Meanwhile, expressing frustration over the state of probe, Xulhaz's elder brother Minhaz Mannan Emon said, "It's nothing, but a farce."

Apparently, police have no interest in arresting the killers, he alleged. "We have no more expectation," he told The Daily Star.

A day after the killings, Ansar Al Islam, the so-called Bangladesh chapter of al-Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), claimed responsibility for the double murder.

The US State Department, the US embassy in Dhaka, Amnesty International and other national and international organisations strongly condemned the killings.



It was a man-made disaster
Says Rushanara Ali on Rana Plaza

UNB, Dhaka

Referring to the 2013 Rana Plaza tragedy, Bangladesh-born British MP Rushanara Ali has described what happened as "not an accident" but "a man-made disaster".

She was speaking at a panel debate at the Houses of Parliament focused on improvements for women workers in the fashion industry, reports The Guardian.

The Labour MP directed the majority of her criticism towards fashion brands using factories and buildings such as



SEE PAGE 5 COL 7

Govt urges quick Boro harvest
Fearing flash flood in Sunamganj haors; labour crisis hampers process

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

The Water Development Board (WDB) in Sunamganj has urged the farmers to finish Boro harvesting as soon as possible as the water level of the rivers is on the rise.

Meanwhile, an acute labour crisis is delaying the harvest, according to the farmers.

Last year, the flash flood hit the Sunamganj haor areas on March 29 and in 2016, on April 14.

Due to the flooding, farmers lost their harvest completely last year and more than 60 percent the year before, according to the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in Sylhet.

The WDB has already started alerting the farmers, said Abu Bakar Siddique Bhuiyan, executive engineer of WDB in Sunamganj.

The water level in the haor basin is increasing rapidly, he said. It was measured one metre on April 19, 1.74 metre the next day and 2.74 on Monday.

It is also raining in India's Meghalaya as well as in Sunamganj, so

the water level could increase suddenly. All upazila nirbahi officers in the district have been alerted, he added.

The WDB built many embankments in haor areas to protect the Boro cultivation, he said. Those are 6.5 metres in height and the danger level is considered to be 8.5 metres, he said.

According to the DAE, Boro paddy has been cultivated on 4.73 lakh hectares of land in four districts of the division this year. In Sunamganj alone, paddy was harvested on 2.22 lakh hectares of land.

Ninety percent paddy is ripe enough and ready to be harvested, said Shwapun Kumar Saha, assistant director of DAE in Sunamganj.

Almost 30 percent of the paddy has already been harvested, he said adding that usually, the harvest should have been completed by this time.

But a shortage of labourers is hampering the harvest, said many of the farmers.

According to them, in the last two years, many had to leave their home and move to other places in search of jobs after flash floods wreaked havoc

in the haors.

In addition, due to the flash floods, the influx of seasonal labourers during harvest has also dwindled.

Masudur Rahman, a farmer in Shanir Haor area under Tahirpur upazila, said, "I cultivated Boro on 28 acres of land. It is impossible for me to finish harvesting on time; I'm still looking for labourers... The paddy is ripe enough but if the flash flood hits... it will destroy everything."

To face the labour crisis, Sunamganj District Administration has already requested the upazila parishads to purchase equipment such as machines for harvesting from their funds to support the farmers.

Sabirul Islam, deputy commissioner of Sunamganj, said, "The farmers went through tough times in the last two years... we are trying our best to protect the harvest."

"Apart from purchasing equipment, we also requested solvent people to buy such machines and support poor farmers by lending them those," he said.



A bus stops in the middle of the road for taking in passengers, while the other parks just behind the door in an apparent move to prevent the former from doing so. In the recent past, several people got severely injured, some of them even died, in road accidents in the capital due to the unhealthy competition of the bus drivers, but the attitude of the bus staff remains the same. Meanwhile, there is no visible initiative from the authorities concerned to address the issue. The photo was taken near Agargaon intersection in the capital yesterday. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Specific policies needed to stop border killings
Says ASK

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Specific policies and state-level administrative commitments regarding the use of lethal and non-lethal weapons in the borders are needed to stop recurrence of border killings, said Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) yesterday.

The continuation of border killings, tortures and harassments are contradictory to international law and human rights, ASK came up with the

SEE PAGE 5 COL 7

93pc malaria patients from CHT: Speakers
World Malaria Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the government has made a significant progress in eradicating malaria, the hilly districts of the country are still vulnerable to the mosquito-borne infectious diseases, speakers said yesterday.

They called upon the authorities concerned to put a special focus on those districts -- Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban -- for controlling malaria-carrying Anopheles mosquitoes and others to keep the country malaria free.

Speaking at a press conference, they also stressed the need for increasing mosquito control activities in urban areas, especially

in the capital, as the country already experienced Chikungunya outbreak last year.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Brac jointly organised the conference at Jatiya Press Club. The programme was organised marking World Malaria Day, to be observed today.

This year's theme is -- "Ready to beat malaria".

Addressing as the chief guest, Prof Abul Kalam Azad, director general at the Directorate General of Health Service (DGHS), said no malaria patient has been identified in 51 districts in the last few years.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

CARELESS CHILDCARE
Further probe declared

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The director (health) of Chittagong Division yesterday declared that their investigation into the incident in which a baby girl was exchanged with the body of a baby boy by a Chittagong clinic was not completed and they would go for further probe.

Dr AM Mozibul Hoque, director of Chittagong divisional health office, made the decision instantly during a press conference after journalists showed him the soft copy of death certificate signed by a doctor of the clinic. The journalists also asked why the probe committee did not recommend action against the doctor concerned.

In reply, Mozibul said their investigation was not complete. He said he and the Chittagong civil surgeon would also be included in the new probe body for further investigation. "We will complete the investigation by Thursday," he said.

A three-member probe body headed by Dr Asim Kumar Nath, superintendent of General Hospital, Chittagong, submitted the report to him on Monday.

Primarily, the committee found negligence of on-duty nurses regarding the incident, he said, adding, "We would ask the clinic authorities to take action against four nurses responsible for this incident."

During the press conference, the official also said a show-cause notice would be served on the authorities of the private clinic -- Child Care Hospital -- as per

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Piles, Fistula, Constipation, Dysentery, Colonoscopy, Polyp, Colon, Rectum Cancer & laparoscopy

Pioneer Colorectal Surgeon of Bangladesh & the Sub-Continent

Worldwide highest performer of successful operations in colorectal surgery

Prof. Dr. AKM Fazlul Haque

International Scholar (USA); Fellow, Colorectal Surgery (Singapore)

Founder Chairman (Retd.), Dept. of Colorectal Surgery

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Dhaka.

Edited by: **DR. ASIF ALMAS HAQUE**

MBBS(SSMC) MRCS(ENGLAND) FCPS(SURGERY), REGISTRAR (SURGERY), BIRDEM

EDEN MULTI-CARE HOSPITAL

753 Sat Masjid Road, South West Bahajani Field, Dhanmondi, Dhaka. Phone: 02-58150507-10

Mobile: 01755697173, 01755697174, 01755697175-6

www.profdrakmfazlulhaque.com, www.piles.care

Star Eid

Midsummer **EID**

PORTFOLIO

For decades, Star Eid Fashion Album/Portfolio has been the forerunner in putting forward the latest in Eid fashion to the trend seekers and fashionistas. Do not miss out on this opportunity to reach a wider audience, through the industry's most revered magazine.

Star Eid Fashion Album/Portfolio 2018

Criteria for participation --

1. Materials used should be produced locally
2. All submissions must be accompanied by the name of the designer, address, contact number, price, and a description of the product clearly written in English and Bengali. Submissions should include details of the colour, the nature of the fabric, and embellishments (if any).
3. Designs should be original and suitable for the weather conditions
4. The attires and accessories sent for the album will be returned
5. Entree fee per submission is Tk.500 (minimum four entries for each participating house)

For submission of products and matters related to advertisements, please contact

SYEED AHMED CHOWDHURY
01711 623 905

KAMAL HOSSAIN
01716 232 534

LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION

25 APRIL, 2018

PARTICIPANTS NATIONWIDE ARE REQUESTED TO SEND THEIR SELECTED OUTFITS AND ACCESSORIES FOR THE MAGAZINE.