



Different organisations paid their homage to Rana Plaza victims at Jurain graveyard yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## 6TH ANNIVERSARY OF RANA PLAZA TRAGEDY

## Survivors, victim families still await justice

## STAR REPORT

Hundreds of people from all walks of life yesterday gathered at the site of Rana Plaza to remember the victims of the tragedy on its sixth anniversary and demanded proper compensation for the survivors.

They also demanded exemplary punishment of Rana Plaza owner Sohel Rana and others accused.

At least 1,100 people were killed and over 2,500 were injured on April 24, 2013 in the building collapse, considered one of the major industrial disasters in the country.

"I want justice for my son's death. I want capital punishment for building owner Sohel Rana and all other accused," said Maksuda Begum, mother of Al Masud, who lost his life during Rana Plaza collapse.

Shayla Begum, a survivor of Rana Plaza tragedy, worked on the fifth floor of the building and was severely wounded.

"I am still living in trauma. I'm unable to continue my treatment due to financial restraints," said Shayla, who like many others went to the spot to honour the victims.

Shayla also said her husband died before Rana Plaza disaster and she started working there to educate her daughter, who sat for SSC examination this year.

"I hope she secures GPA 5 in the exam but still worried about her future as I don't know how I will bear her educational expenditure further," said a frustrated Shayla, seeking government assistance.

Different labour organisations, injured victims, and family members of the victims went to the Savar Rana Plaza site and paid homage. They placed wreaths at the base of the Rana Plaza Memorial that stands on the vacated land where the building once stood.

People started arriving at the spot beside Dhaka-Aricha highway around 8am.

They formed human chains by the highway, demanding proper compensation for the survivors and exemplary punishment of the Rana Plaza owner.

Local administration and law enforcers also paid homage at the base of the Rana Plaza Memorial.

Khairul Mamun Mintu, organising secretary of Garments Workers Trade Union Centre, said survivors should have been given access to free healthcare for life, as many of them have been living in distress without proper treatment.

"We want some changes in the worker compensation law," he added.

Rafiqul Islam Sujon, president of Bangladesh Garments and Industrial Workers Federation, said government should ensure proper compensation for the victims.

**TWO SURVIVORS FALL ILL DUE TO HUNGER STRIKE**

Two survivors of Rana Plaza tragedy, who have been observing hunger strike for the third consecutive day with an 11-point

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## Zayan laid to rest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League Presidium Member Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim's grandson Zayan Chowdhury, who was killed in the series blasts in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday, was laid to rest in Dhaka yesterday.

A heart-wrenching scene occurred at Banani graveyard at the time of Zayan's burial.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at Banani Chairmanbari field after Asr prayers, Md Imrul, personal secretary of Sheikh Selim, told The Daily Star.

Zayan's grandfather and other AL leaders were present at the janaza, he said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited her paternal cousin Sheikh Selim's residence in Banani to console the family members.

She went there around 2:45pm and stayed for over an hour.

The body of eight-year-old Zayan Chowdhury was brought to Dhaka from Sri Lanka in the afternoon.



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## Students block Nilkhet for second consecutive day

DU CORRESPONDENT

Commuters suffered hours of traffic congestion yesterday as students of seven colleges affiliated with Dhaka University blocked the Nilkhet intersection for the second consecutive day, demanding explanation of mass failures in examinations and re-evaluation of answer scripts.

As per their previous announcement, about 500 students gathered at the busy intersection around 11am and formed a large circle on the road.

The agitating students roped off the intersection and barred every vehicle and even pedestrians from crossing.

Traffic movement in the adjacent roads remained halted for about four hours due to the blockade.

Vehicles were stranded in long tailbacks and many people, including

Higher Secondary Certificate examinees, were seen walking to their destinations.

Rishad Hasan, an HSC examinee who appeared for his exam at Dhanmondi Govt Boys High School, said, "I had to walk for nearly an hour to reach my residence at Azimpur as no buses were operating through that route."

Upon receiving information, DU Proctor AKM Golam Rabbani went up to the students around 1:30pm and urged them to withdraw, assuring that their demands will be met.

The proctor said complications like session jams and timely publication of results arose while affiliating National University students to Dhaka University, which the authorities are trying to solve.

While reading out a written statement, Prof Rabbani said

decisions have been made to publish their results within 90 working days of examinations. Results of particular subjects, in which most students failed, will be re-evaluated following applications from the students, he added.

But the protesters paid no heed to the assurance and remained in Nilkhet, adamant on their demands.

However, the students left the streets at around 2:30pm as they earlier declared that they would block the roads from 10am to 2pm.

One of the coordinators of the movement, Shaheen Hosen, told The Daily Star that a delegation went to DU VC's office yesterday afternoon.

He added the protesters will hold a press conference at Dhaka College canteen today at 10am to declare their next course of action.

## G2G agreements failed to protect female domestic workers in Gulf nations

UN Women Bangladesh research suggests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Government-to-government labour agreements have failed to protect female domestic migrant workers in Gulf nations. The lack of protection by the domestic legislations of the destination countries is the reason why bilateral contracts fail to serve the purpose.

The findings came up in a research by UN Women Bangladesh on "Intergovernmental mechanisms for the recruitment of women migrant domestic workers from Bangladesh". The results were shared in an expert group meeting at a city hotel yesterday with Ahmed Munirul Saleheen, additional secretary of the expatriates' welfare ministry, as the chief guest.

The bilateral labour agreements (BLA) and memoranda of understanding signed with the recruiting nations were reviewed with the lens of gender equality and with the aim of "creating fair and decent employment for women migrant workers". The analysis was

done under UN Women's Regional Programme on Empowering Workers in Asia.

The country is signing an increasing number of such agreements with Gulf states with the intention of creating overseas employment markets, speakers said.

The research, however, suggests that the agreements "suffer from implementation failures and are a weak form of migration governance". And so the protection of migrants, who help boost the economy through sending in remittance, remains only on paper.

From interviewing 30 aspiring female migrants and 32 returnees, it was also found that they were not made aware of what was on paper.

Pinky, 20, who was about to travel to Saudi Arabia, said during the study, "Dalal [middleman] said 'you need to sign few papers... Dalals do not say what the papers are for.'

The involvement of unlicensed

## Giasuddin Al Mamun sentenced to 7 years for money laundering

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun to seven years' rigorous imprisonment in connection with a case filed over siphoning off 4,18,852 British pounds to the United Kingdom.

Judge Abu Syed Diljar Hossain of Special Judge Court-3 of Dhaka announced the sentence in presence of Giasuddin, a close friend of BNP's Acting Chairperson Tarique Rahman. The court also fined him Tk 12 crore.

Mamun was shown arrested in the case on April 29, 2012. According to the provision of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), Mamun's jail term would be deducted from the date when he was shown arrested in the case.

The court ordered Bangladesh Bank to take an initiative to bring back the 4,18,853 British pounds from UK and confiscate it in favour of the state.

Earlier, the court recorded statements of eight prosecution witnesses including complainant of the case.

Owner of Bangladesh Telecom M Shahzad Ali and his wife Tahmina Ali, who deposited money in Mamun's

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## DHAKA TODAY

## EXHIBITION

Antobihin Poth by Parveen Zaman  
Shammu  
Venue: Gallery Chitrak, Dhanmondi

Academy  
Time: 10am  
7pm

## MUSIC

Make Some Noise Volume-1  
Venue: EMK Center  
Time: 6pm  
7pm

## FILM SCREENING

Testimony of a Thread  
Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh  
Time: 6pm

Midnight in Paris  
Venue: Charcha, Mohammadpur  
Time: 6:30pm

## CONCERT

Akcent Live in Dhaka  
Venue: Le Méridien Dhaka  
Time: 7pm

Igloo Ice Cream Festival  
Venue: ICCB  
Time: 11am

## Financial Closure

of

USD 50 million and BDT 3,900 million

Syndicated Term Loan Facilities

for

## KUSHIARA POWER COMPANY LIMITED

A 163 MW Gas Fired Combined Cycle Power Plant

## LEAD ARRANGER &amp; AGENT



TOGETHER FOR TOMORROW

PARTICIPANTS



25 April 2019

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