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Your Right to Know

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“Without increasing budget for education and research, increasing allocation for infrastructure has led to a toxic atmosphere at universities.”
PROFESSOR ANU MUHAMMAD



“Migration cost is killing migrant workers... let's work together and in a way that the migrant workers are not hurt.”
STATE MINISTER FOR EXPATRIATES' WELFARE IMRAN AHMED



“He [Putin] is not looking at all to get involved in Venezuela other than he'd like to see something positive happen for Venezuela.”
DONALD TRUMP, AFTER TALKS WITH HIS RUSSIAN COUNTERPART



Tall waves crash against a wall at the Patenga Beach in Chattogram around 1:00pm yesterday as Cyclone Fani passes over Bangladesh after making landfall near Puri of the Indian state of Odisha on Friday. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Puzzle of 5 floors

23-storey FR Tower found to be built on 18-storey foundation



TAWFIQUE ALI
While the 23-storey FR Tower on Kemal Ataturk Avenue has a foundation for 18 storeys, around a dozen other high rises on the same street are taller than permissible height but Rajuk has been silent about this all along, said government high officials.
A public works ministry probe committee gathered these on the March 28 FR Tower tragedy that killed at least 27 people. The findings also came up at a parliamentary standing committee's hearing on April 28 where the Rajuk chairman was questioned about the buildings.
“The Rupayan-Faruk Tower with additional five floors beyond the capacity of its foundation remains a real threat to public safety,” said a member of the probe
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A sigh of relief

Fani crosses Bangladesh; death toll now 14; people returning home from cyclone shelters; water transport may resume today

STAR REPORT

By the time Cyclone Fani entered Bangladesh around 8:00am yesterday, it became much weaker and caused much less damage compared with that by cyclones Sidr and Aila.
When it struck India's Odisha with winds gusting up to 200kmph on Friday morning, it created much panic among some 20 million people in Bangladesh's coastal belt.
For the coastal people, the memory of Sidr and Aila that battered the coastal belt in 2007 and 2009 is still fresh.
Sidr claimed more than 3,000 lives and affected some 40 lakh people while Aila claimed at least 121 people and affected more than 30 lakh.
The death toll from Fani rose to 14 yesterday, after seven more people died in tree fall and wall collapse in Barguna, Noakhali and Patuakhali yesterday. Two of them were children. Earlier on Friday, seven people died in lightning and tree fall in different districts, according to our district correspondents.
The very severe cyclone entered Bangladesh with wind speeds of 50-60kmph, and took



around 10 hours to cross the country through Khulna and Rajshahi regions before heading towards Assam of India.
“There is no fear of danger at all now as Fani already crossed the country,” Shamsuddin Ahmed, director of Bangladesh Meteorological Department, told The Daily Star yesterday afternoon.
However, most districts, including Dhaka, witnessed rain throughout yesterday and it may continue today, according to the Met office.
At least 36 villages in Patuakhali, Bagerhat, Bhola and Satkhira were
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FANI RUINS FARMERS DAYS BEFORE HARVEST -- PAGE 2

On night of fright, trees their saviour

M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL

Several hundred people in Dhal Char union of Bhola's Charfassion upazila had to take shelter in the jungle like “primitive people” during the Friday night's cyclonic storm Fani as there is no cyclone shelter in the island of about 17,000 people.
Most dwellers of the union spent a dreadful night in fear and anxiety finding no room in the mere three concrete structures with a total capacity of accommodating only 600 people.
“We are the most unfortunate people in the country that we had to take shelter in the forests like the primitive people. We are so ignored that even a cyclone shelter cannot be built for us,” said Md Babul, a local Jubo league leader.
“I was waiting around the union building with my wife as I didn't get room inside the building,” he added.
Abdur Rahman Bishwash, secretary of Dhal Char Chhatra League, said, “We did not sleep for a moment; we
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“I can only say that the findings [of the inspections] are frightening.”
RAJUK CHAIRMAN MD ABDUR RAHMAN ON THEIR FINDINGS OF THE SAFETY STATUS OF THE CAPITAL'S HIGH RISES.


All in scary conditions

Says Rajuk chief about 1,818 high rises under Rajuk jurisdiction

TAWFIQUE ALI
Building and fire safety conditions in all the 1,818 high rises under Rajuk's jurisdiction are scary, its chairman Md Abdur Rahman said yesterday.
He made the comment while replying to a query on the sidelines of a daylong workshop on children-friendly urban plan at the headquarters of Rajdhanee Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk), the capital's development regulator.
Following the March 28 deadly fire at FR Tower in Banani, which left at least 27 people dead, Housing and Public Works Minister SM Rezaul Karim directed Rajuk
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Jatiya Party drama just won't stop

Ershad makes Quader acting chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In yet another dramatic turn of events in Jatiya Party, Chairman HM Ershad last night appointed his brother GM Quader acting chairman of the party.
At an emergency press conference around 11:00pm at his Baridhara home, former military dictator Ershad, who has been suffering from old-age ailments for the last six months, announced, “Daily activities of the Jatiya Party chairman was being hampered due to ailments. That's why I am appointing Jatiya Party co-chairman GM Quader MP as acting chairman of the party to carry out the job until further notice.”
Ershad, 89, looked weak and sick at the briefing. He stumbled while reading out his statement from a piece of paper. GM Quader read out parts of it for him.
When reporters
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The authorities removed parts of the metal floor of a Bailey bridge on the Savar-Bhakuta road and raised the edges of the gaping hole so that heavy vehicles cannot use the bridge not meant for them. The authorities, however, created a death trap as anyone could fall into the canal below. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Sexual Abuse at Workplace

Legal framework inadequate

Say speakers at a roundtable on 'Women Friendly Safe Workplace'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The overall legal framework for addressing sexual harassment at workplace is not equipped to effectively deal with the issue as many women still face the abuse, said women's rights activists.
There is a serious lack of proper enforcement of the existing law, they said at the launching of ActionAid Bangladesh's three-year campaign “Women Friendly Safe Workplace”.
A 2009 High Court directive on forming committees in every educational institution and workplace, to deal with complaints of sexual harassment, has by and large gone unheard, they added.
“On one hand, laws hardly define sexual harassment at workplace, and on the other there is a lack of enforcement of the laws,” ActionAid Bangladesh Country Director Farah Kabir said at the programme.
“Existing laws do not comprehensively address or define sexual harassment at the workplace,” Dhaka University law faculty member Taslima Yasmin said while presenting the keynote paper.
She also called for enactment of law for protection from and prevention of sexual harassment at work.
The Labour Law 2006 insufficiently deals with addressing gender-based violence, including sexual harassment, at the workplace, she said, adding, “The way sexual offence is defined in criminal law is not sufficient to address gender-based violence.”
An ActionAid research found that the High Court
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