



'FEAR, FORCE & FABRICATION'

A documentary on how the media sometimes tell stories devoid of truth

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DUTY WAIVER

Bangladesh seeks withdrawal of 17pc duty on garment exports to Turkey

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'NOT PLAYING IS NO EXCUSE'

Nafees on his coming back to the nat'l fold after a long gap

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Big time for garment

Top buyers see Bangladesh as China's alternative for basic garments; delegation in Dhaka for assessment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leading international buyers have said that Bangladesh is their first choice for sourcing apparel products in the wake of China's shift from basic garments to other industries.

"Bangladesh is our first choice...the country has a long history of producing readymade garments," said Richard Vuylsteke, leader of the delegation of international buyers that include more than two dozen global brands and retailers.

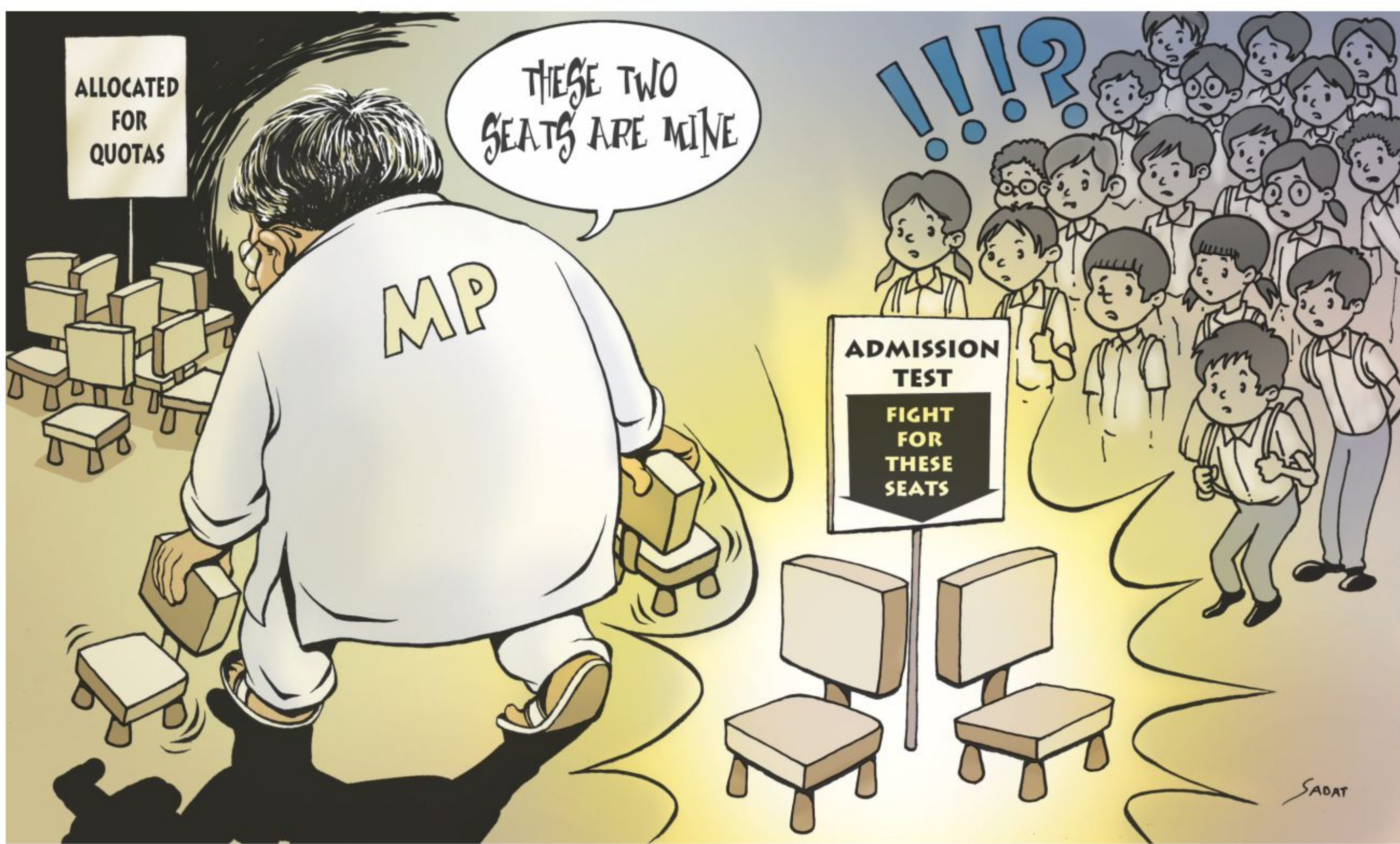
"Cambodia, Indonesia, Vietnam and Myanmar are the other alternatives," he said after a meeting with Bangladesh

Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) at its office yesterday.

These international buyers imported readymade garments worth \$5.6 billion from Bangladesh in 2011-12, more than one-fourth the country's total garment exports worth \$19 billion in the fiscal year.

Vuylsteke, also president of American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, said they are in Dhaka to diversify sourcing, particularly after China's shift to heavy industries from apparel manufacturing.

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SIDDHIRGANJ POWER PROJECT

Govt counts loss to favour a deal

SHARIER KHAN

Five months after signing a contract to set up a large power plant in Siddhirganj without securing more than half of its cost, the government is now set to pay \$194 million from its own funds for implementation of the project.

The Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh (EGCB) signed the deal with Spanish Isolux and Korean Samsung joint venture in May to set up the 335 megawatt gas-fired combined cycle power plant.

The joint venture is locally represented by ex-minister Syed Abul Hossain's family company Sahco.

The project with an estimated cost of \$269m was approved in 2009 with a World Bank fund of 196m. And the project was based on cheaper simple cycle power generator.

During the re-tender process, the government increased the plant's capacity by making it a combined cycle one which uses the same amount of gas consumed by a simple cycle plant to generate nearly double the amount of power.

The first tender was foiled due to wrong selection of a bidder that was also represented by Sahco. The first tender drew

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Second Hay Festival on Nov 15-17

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Hay Festival returns to town for a second consecutive year, bringing together creative minds from Bangladesh and abroad in an unparalleled celebration of the written word.

The launch of the Hay Festival Dhaka was announced yesterday at a press conference at Bangla Academy in the

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NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

Admission quota for MPs

Govt move kicks up an uproar among educationists, guardians

WASIM BIN HABIB

Despite graft allegations against lawmakers centring school admissions, the government is set to introduce parliamentarians' quota for enrolment at non-government schools across the country.

It is not clear which students will fill it.

However, the percentage of seats under this quota will be finalised today as the education ministry issues next year's admission policy for private schools.

The policy is going through some changes based on recommendations, including 2 percent quota for

MPs, made by the parliamentary standing committee on education ministry, sources said.

Lawmakers pressed for the quota last year as well, but the ministry did not entertain it considering massive irregularities in admissions to private schools in the capital.

The ministry in a meeting yesterday reviewed the policy with Education Secretary Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury in the chair.

Meanwhile, guardians and educationists have strongly opposed the move, saying it will open up a new area of "corruption" as the lawmakers might misuse the quota. Besides, so many quotas will shrink the

opportunity for others.

Already, the ministry had imposed 5pc quota for freedom fighters' children and grandchildren and 2pc for the disabled on all non-government schools.

Moreover, private schools in the capital reserve 2pc seats for the children of the ministry officials.

Around 75 lakh students are now studying in more than 18,000 non-government junior, secondary, and secondary and higher secondary schools in the country, according to the ministry website.

Yesterday, the meeting discussed proposed 1pc rise in quotas for

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Belarus PM in Dhaka

Several deals to be signed during his 3-day visit

UNB, BSS

Belarus Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikovich arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a three-day official visit to sign a number of deals on agricultural and industrial cooperation, and expansion of trade and export.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina received Myasnikovich at the VVIP Terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 2:40 pm.

A red carpet was rolled out when the Belarus premier landed from a special flight. He was accorded a static guard of

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A child presents Belarus Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikovich flowers as Bangladesh premier Sheikh Hasina receives him at Shahjalal International Airport yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: BSS

Schoolboy kidnapped

Criminals shoot mother, sister, driver before leaving on motor bikes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Using a style seen in Hollywood action films, criminals abducted a six-year-old boy, shooting the mother, sister and the driver of their family car at Shuvadda Paschim Para in Keraniganj yesterday.

Lipi Rani Mondol, 32, was about to make the school run yesterday morning with her son Parag Mondol, a student of KG-I at Heed International School, 11-year-old daughter Pinaki Mondol and eight-year-old daughter Piyal Mondol in their chauffeur-driven car.

Around 7:15am, when they were about to get into the car parked just 60 metres away from their home, four criminals on two motorbikes ambushed them.

One of the men rather politely told Lipi that they needed the car and it would be returned by afternoon. Lipi said she needed her car as her children had exams. At this point, one of the criminals grabbed Parag.

Lipi tried to stop them and was shot twice, once in the chest and then in the leg. Pinaki too tried to save Parag and she too was shot in the leg.

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George Entwistle

BBC chief quits over abuse row

AGENCIES

BBC director general George Entwistle has resigned over airing of mistaken allegations of child sex abuse against a former leading politician.

The resignation came on Saturday, just two months after he got the job.

Meanwhile, BBC's governing board chief

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TAX EVASION Koko's trial begins in absentia

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday began the trial of a tax evasion case against Arafat Rahman Koko, younger son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, in absentia with depositions of two witnesses

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AL govt most communal

Khaleda tells Ukhia rally; urges all to ostracise it

RASHIDUL HASAN, from Ukhia

Terming the Awami League government the "most communal", BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon all to "reject" this government in a bid to establish religious harmony and "save the country".

The leader of the opposition also asked youths to get united and oust the government to save their future

as well as to save the country from the hands of AL.

"You [youth] did not get a chance to take part in the 1971 Liberation War. But now, you have the opportunity and time to protect the country from the hands of Awami League," Khaleda said while addressing at a rally on Ukhia High School ground in Cox's Bazar.



On the night of September 29 and

temples had taken place.

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