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Clothing brands cover up safety flaws

States int'l labour rights forum about accidents at garment factories

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Major global apparel companies continue to put at risk the lives of garment workers in Bangladesh by covering up problems identified in confidential audits and ignoring best fire safety practices, a Washington-based labour rights group said yesterday.

Brands and retailers have conducted factory audits but not warned government agencies or workers about imminent dangers, the International Labor Rights Forum (ILRF) said in its 60-page report, *Deadly Secrets*.

The brands and retailers collectively possess thousands of confidential factory audits that may reveal workplace hazards and even imminent threats to workers' health and safety. But it seems they have chosen to cease business with factories to safeguard their reputation and brand images rather than reveal their deadly secrets and tell workers about the risks they face. They have kept their silence."

The report from the advocacy organisation came in the wake of two recent deadly factory fires in Pakistan

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A worker of North Pole Garments in Chittagong threatens to smash the windscreen of a car on Airport Road. She eventually restrained herself. The workers of the factory yesterday barricaded the road in front of the Export Processing Zone demanding three months' arrear wages.

PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

Stay alert to conspiracies PM asks armed forces

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the armed forces and civil administration officials, and people to remain alert about the anti-liberation forces' conspiracy against the sovereignty of the nation.

"The anti-liberation forces are trying hard to raise their heads again. They are on a destructive path ignoring the democratic one...their conspiracies will continue.

"I urge the patriotic armed forces, civil administration and the people of the country to remain alert," she said.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 4

Abul spared to protect bigwigs Alleges Khaleda on Padma bridge graft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Branding Syed Abul Hossain and Abul Hasan Chowdhury as "thieves," BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday said the government spared the duo to protect some other bigwigs from being exposed.

"Country's image has been destroyed through bribery even before the construction of Padma bridge. Why are the Abuls excluded? The fact is the government knows that some bigwigs' name would come up [in the Padma

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Human cloning in 50 years?

THE TELEGRAPH ONLINE

Parents who lose children in accidents may be able to clone "copies" to replace them within 50 years, a

SEE PAGE 12 COL 4



ILLEGAL WEALTH Railway official Enamul sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Enamul Huq, suspended security commandant of railway's Dhaka division and one of the four who were detained at Pilkhana over the railway-gate

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

Arguments in Azad's case start on Dec 23

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday fixed December 23 for recording closing arguments of the case against expelled Jamaat-e-Islami member Abul Kalam Azad.

The tribunal made the decision after the state-appointed defence counsel failed to produce any defence witness or a list of witnesses for Azad, now on the run.

The case against Azad, also known as Bachchu Razakar, entered the final stage as only the verdict delivery would remain

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

WAR CRIMES TRIAL Ghulam Azam seeks retrial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Defence counsels for former Jamaat chief Ghulam Azam yesterday filed a 600-page petition seeking retrial of the crimes against humanity case against their client.

Abdur Razzaq, chief defence counsel for war crimes accused Jamaat leaders, yesterday told International Crimes Tribunal-1 that trial of a case proceeding begins from charge framing. "Incident of forgery took place in Ghulam Azam's charge framing," he claimed.

He said his claims were based on the alleged Skype conversation between former Tribunal-1 chief Justice Md Nizamul Huq and legal expert Ahmed Ziauddin, on which Bangla daily Amar Desh had published a series of reports recently.

Justice Huq stepped down following the publications of the "transcript of the conversation".

The tribunal, led by Chairman Justice ATM Fazle Kabir and his two members Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim and Justice Md Anwarul Haque, fixed Monday for hearing the petition.

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The Daily Star



Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think the World Bank will respond positively following the Anti-Corruption Commission's latest action regarding graft in Padma bridge project?

Yes (9%)

No (88%)

No Comments (3%)

TOTAL VOTES: 462

TODAY'S POLL
Do you agree with the government probe committee on the Tazreen fire disaster that it was an act of sabotage?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.netYOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT facebook.com/dailystarnews

PRAYER TIMING December 20	
Fajr	5:25
Zohr	12:45
Asr	3:45
Magrib	5:24
Esha	7:00
Source	Islamic Foundation

ঢাকা মহানগরীর ক্রমবর্ধমান বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা বাড়ায়
উত্তরা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড-এর ২১তম শাখার

শুভ উদ্বোধন



অধিকতর গ্রাহকসেবা প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে উন্নততর সকল ধরনের অনলাইন ব্যাংকিং সুবিধাসহ উত্তরা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড "বাড়া শাখা" ঢাকা এর শুভ উদ্বোধন
আজ ২০ ডিসেম্বর' ২০১২ বৃহস্পতিবার।

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উত্তরা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

আ ব হ মা ন বাং লা র ঐ তি হে লা লি ত

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পাহাড়, নদী, সমুদ্রের আশীর্বাদপূর্ণ চট্টগ্রামের দোহাজারী ও পথের হাট-এ^১
বেসিক ব্যাংক-এর ৫৮ ও ৫৯ তম শাখা^২ ত্রুটিপূর্বৰ্তী করা হয়েছে।

বেসিক ব্যাংকের শাখা দুটির শুভ উদ্বোধন করেন
ব্যাংকের চেয়ারম্যান জনাব শেখ আব্দুল হাজুর।

ব্যাংকের ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালন জনাব কাজী ফখরুল ইসলামের সভাপতিতে অনুষ্ঠিত এই উদ্বোধনী অনুষ্ঠান দুটিতে বিশেষ
অতিথি হিসেবে উপস্থিত ছিলেন ৯নং দোহাজারী ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান জনাব আবদুর আল নোমান বেগ,
রাউজানের নোয়াপাড়া ডিপু কলেজের অধ্যক্ষ জনাব কফিল উদ্দিন চৌধুরী, বিশিষ্ট ব্যবসায়ী জনাব হেলান উদ্দিন চৌধুরী।
এসময় উপস্থিত ছিলেন ব্যাংকের উপ-ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক জনাব ফজলুস সোবহান, জনাব এ কিউ এম কিবারিয়া
ও জনাব এ মোনায়েম খান। এছাড়াও উপস্থিত ছিলেন ব্যাংকের মহাব্যবস্থাপক কূমু, গণ্যমান্য ব্যক্তিবর্গ, স্থানীয় উদ্যোক্তা এবং ব্যবসায়ী ও শুভানুধ্যায়ী।

বেসিক ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
শতাব্দি রাষ্ট্র মালিকানাধীন ব্যাংক

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