

# Fire drill for garment workers



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

It seems that whenever a fire breaks out at any garment factory, workers are injured due to stampede and disorganized evacuation. A fire drill system must be set up which must be practiced regularly so that in case of fire, all workers can be evacuated from the building quickly in a safe and organised manner. Most garment factories are poorly equipped with just a few "Hand-Held" fire extinguishers which are okay for small fires but barely sufficient if a major fire breaks out in the building. Another safety feature is an "Automatic Sprinkler System" which sprays hundreds of gallons of water in each floor of the building automatically if fire breaks out. It is mandatory in the USA and must be made mandatory here in Bangladesh.

There must be regular inspections by authorities to check the fire equipment and whether fire-drills are being practised regularly. Insurance companies must also make these inspections and reserve the right to cancel insurance policies if violations are suspected.

Aminur Rahim

New DOHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka

## News men and Bishwajit's killing

I agree with the writer about the letter titled "Why didn't shot-taking reporters save Bishwajit?" Really, where were the shot-taking reporters and bystanders when Bishwajit was hacked to death? The reporters could at least take Bishwajit to the hospital, if they could not stop the attackers. Where were they when a rickshaw puller took him to the hospital? And why didn't the bystanders save him as the photographers were so busy taking photographs? Why were they so scared to save an innocent life? The police also didn't react. Why? Our country will have a bad reputation if this type of incident keeps taking place in Bangladesh.

Muhammad Khalil

On e-mail

## Will our cops ever learn to respect people?

It was very shocking indeed to witness the spot interview of a cop on duty during the recently enforced hartal by the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) backed by the regime in power in support of banning religion-based politics in Bangladesh. The manner in which the cop responded to the question of a journalist is highly disappointing, by which he simply portrayed himself as an arrogant person.

For about two months, I have been working as a cashier in a Gas Station at Woodway Dr. Houston, Texas. The local police buy gas for their official vehicles from this gas station by maintaining a local account with the company and makes payment on a monthly basis. The night before, a police officer drove in to fill the gas tank of his official car after which he came in to sign the invoice and the receipt.

After completing the formalities, he requested for a copy of the receipt by saying, "May I have a copy of the receipt please" not to mention, a number of times in the past I have been addressed as sir by the cops on duty on different occasions. What a contrast between the cops of America and Bangladesh! I wonder in dismay, will the cops of Bangladesh ever be able to respect the people?

Saleh Mohammad Ayub

## What is there to celebrate?

I got an invitation from Bangladesh Embassy to celebrate the Victory Day on December 16 at the Bangladesh Embassy to Sweden. In 1971, I was about 16. I clearly remember my active and energetic days, starting after hearing the historic speech of Bangabandhu over radio on March 7, 1971....

On December 18, 2012, I thought, what is there to celebrate? What have we achieved to celebrate? I recollect the faces and memories of friends, teachers, cousins and relatives who got killed in 1971. I recollect the cry, pain and sorrow from the flow of thousands of families walking for days with women and children to cross the border to save lives from the evil forces. Many were tired, sick, and hungry. Many were left behind....

In 2012, 40 years after 1971,

- All our children can not go to school because of poverty.

- 70% of the people do not have access to quality and affordable health care services. The government hospitals do not provide quality services because the doctors are more focused on their more financially attractive private clinics.

- Many people do not have access to clean drinking water and still suffer from diarrhoeal diseases. People in Dhaka do not get clean air and children and elderly suffer from respiratory diseases.

- Almost 80% of the students do not get quality education because the teachers at schools, colleges are more focused on their financially more attractive private coaching.

- The university students can not focus on studies because they have to serve the evil purpose of the political parties.

- University graduates cannot find creative jobs, so they get involved in evil political forces, and under the political leaders' shelter, commit all sorts of brutal crimes.

- Children are being kidnapped and dying on the way to school.

- The administrative and judicial system cannot function professionally due to the political pressure from the ruling party.

- Investors do not find Bangladesh safe to invest because they do not like the political situation, transportation system, interrupted power supply, lack of security, etc.

What is there to celebrate? Whose victory shall we celebrate?

Mannan Mridha  
Stockholm, Sweden



SOURCE: SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY

## Cloning a lost child

It is said that cloning a human being effectively means making an identical twin, and doctors would therefore simply be copying what nature has already produced. So any attempt to clone a human would raise a host of complex ethical issues. The biologists claimed people would soon overcome their concerns if the technique became medically useful. It may be mentioned that after the birth of Louise Brown, the first test tube baby, in-vitro fertilisation became widely accepted. But before it was first developed, this type of fertilisation was regarded with extreme suspicion. We have learnt from a recent report of this daily that Sir John Gurdon, whose work - cloning frogs in the 1950s and 60s led to the later creation of Dolly, the sheep by Edinburgh scientists in 1996, regularly asks his audience during his public lecture if they would be in favour of allowing parents, who are no longer fertile, to create another copy of their deceased child using the mother's eggs and skin cells from the first child, assuming the technique was safe and effective. The average vote on that is 60 percent in favour. The reasons for "no" are usually that the new child would feel they are some sort of a replacement for something and not valid in their own right.

However, it seems it is an encouraging news for many that a British scientist who won this year's Nobel Prize for medicine has predicted that parents who lost children in accidents may be able to clone 'copies' to replace them within 50 years. And hopefully people will not be against human cloning for medical use.

Mobarak Ali  
RK Mission Road  
Gopibagh  
Dhaka

## Sachin Tendulkar the great



Sachin Tendulkar, the world's greatest cricketer, has retired from one-day cricket. He is the most successful batsman in the history of one-day cricket as he has 49 centuries, 18,426 runs and 463 matches to his name with all the three being world records.

Besides, he is also one of the two players to play in six World Cups. The master batsman also became the first cricketer to make a double-century in a 50-overs game when he achieved the feat against South Africa at Gwalior in 2010, making an unbeaten 200 against one of the strongest teams in one-day cricket.

Miton Kumar Gupto  
Phulbari  
Dinajpur

## Love brings wealth and success

I wonder why the rich always look down upon the poor. It is the negligence of the owners of the garment factories that has caused so many fire incidences in the garment industries resulting in deaths and the consequent sufferings of the bereaved families. We must decide to be honest. Money will come automatically if we gather wisdom and take care of the working hands. Love brings both wealth and success. So love everybody, both rich and poor, and save our country from the impending danger.

Abdus Subhan  
Ishwardi Govt. College, Ishwardi

## Rapists must get capital punishment

The recent gang rape of a 23-year-old female student on a running vehicle in New Delhi, India raised triggered widespread protests across the country. The rapists didn't just rape the girl viciously, they also attempted to murder her as they had beaten her up brutally and eventually dumped her on the road from the moving bus. We are traumatised by such ruthless behaviour of the rapists. The rapists, whoever they are, should get harsh punishment.

Tanbir Uddin Arman  
Department of International Relations  
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## What a misuse of power!

A recent report of The Daily Star clearly says that the information ministry has instructed all government, semi-government offices and autonomous bodies to subscribe to only five national dailies, leaving out the top circulated newspapers. The dailies are Janakantha, Sangbad, Ittefaq, The Daily Sun and The Independent. These dailies are supposed to be in favour of the present government. The report also says that officials of these offices can buy other newspapers at their own expense. This is a clear sign of tyranny or we can call it misuse of power. We have not expected such ill-motivated move from our information ministry. I hope the government would change its decision immediately.

Md. Abir Hossain  
Department of English



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leave your comments.

Top Terror Bikash Freed  
A 50cr taka question?  
(December 23, 2012)

### MAG Osmani

Send undercover operatives to India and hunt him down. Or else you can bribe one of his close associates having him to betray. We need to get rid of him before he creates further trouble, just like what the staff correspondent mentioned. It will be a political disaster. However, thanks to the media for bringing us such sensational breaking news. Now those great journalists must dig further to know who are the recipients of that large sum of Tk. 50 crore? What a state where money can buy everything!

### Watchdog

Congratulations, AI govern-

ment. First you made the president to pardon the top convicted criminals, now the rest.

**Virendra**  
So now you would provide criminals safe passage to other countries. That means it is ok if India, Burma or Thailand etc., start sending their criminals to our country.

**Outspoken**  
This is the way of our pro-liberation force.

**Khalid, UK**  
This is an early forecast of what sort of electioneering we are heading for. How can a government behave in

such callous way to invite disasters? What are they up to? Is there any government functioning inside the country or is it a playground for some? Where were the BGB and BSF? If criminals can buy the government, then why don't they take over and govern this country.

### T. Nabi

One should not be surprised to see him in parliament in the next term of Awami League.

### Ahmad Sharief

Awami League is great!

### Rch

Ok, if India gives shelter to terrorists, then can we say that India is a safe haven for terrorists?

### Javed Helali

Why India? With that amount of money, he can get an investor's visa to the USA!

### Towhid Salam

Over the last several years, we have been observing an ominous trend -- the president pardoned criminals;

several ministers were involved in corruption and now releasing criminals from prison. It is unclear who is giving advice to the prime minister these days. The ruling party should remember the past national election results where people rejected them overwhelmingly.

### Saidur Rahman

If Bikash's release and safe passage were facilitated by the ruling party leaders, then this news will hardly have any value to the government until the party chief looks into it seriously. The ruling party must think of decent political strategies to win people's support.

### Asad Zaman

This is why the opposition must be present in parliament to ask why a hardcore criminal should get services from diverse sources of the government. They could ask questions about his release and inform people about it in detail.

This is quite interesting to know that he "had good links with several top leaders

of BNP, including one who had been staying in the UK for several years."

### Jibon

I am waiting for the reaction of the pro-Awami League intellectuals who relentlessly talk about the spirit of Liberation. Is it the reflection of that very spirit? Is it not an attempt to destroy Bangladesh just to cling to power?

### Raqiullah

He has been sent to India to become an assassin. He will be trained there to kill some people in Bangladesh -- possibly politicians, etc.

### Ekatturer Jishu

This is the state we live in. I request The Daily Star to publish the names of people responsible for this. We readers must know who these people are so we do not vote them in the coming election. Do the country this favour. And thanks again for bringing these stories to the lime-light through your exceptional journalism.

### Kamruzzaman

This government has lost its