

## INFLATION WORRIES

The rate edges up in April due to political unrest and shutdowns

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## SERIES DECIDER TODAY

Bangladesh and Zimbabwe meet in the 3rd and final ODI today

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## BYE-BYE BLACK RHINOS

IUCN declares the exotic African prehistoric mammal extinct

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# SECRET cuts

Is the garment business jinxed, or is it made to look so?



Fire a few days back, building collapse yesterday and workers' vandalism over poor wage today. These are the headlines the largest forex earning sector makes, for several years now. Risky buildings can exist only when a government goes into hibernation and risky workplaces when an employer turns covertly criminal. As the government never wakes up to its task, tragedy revisits time and again. Culprit manufacturers enjoy the culture of impunity and workers continue to get killed. This sorry garment story is known to all. But stories that remain unknown are equally ominous, if not more.

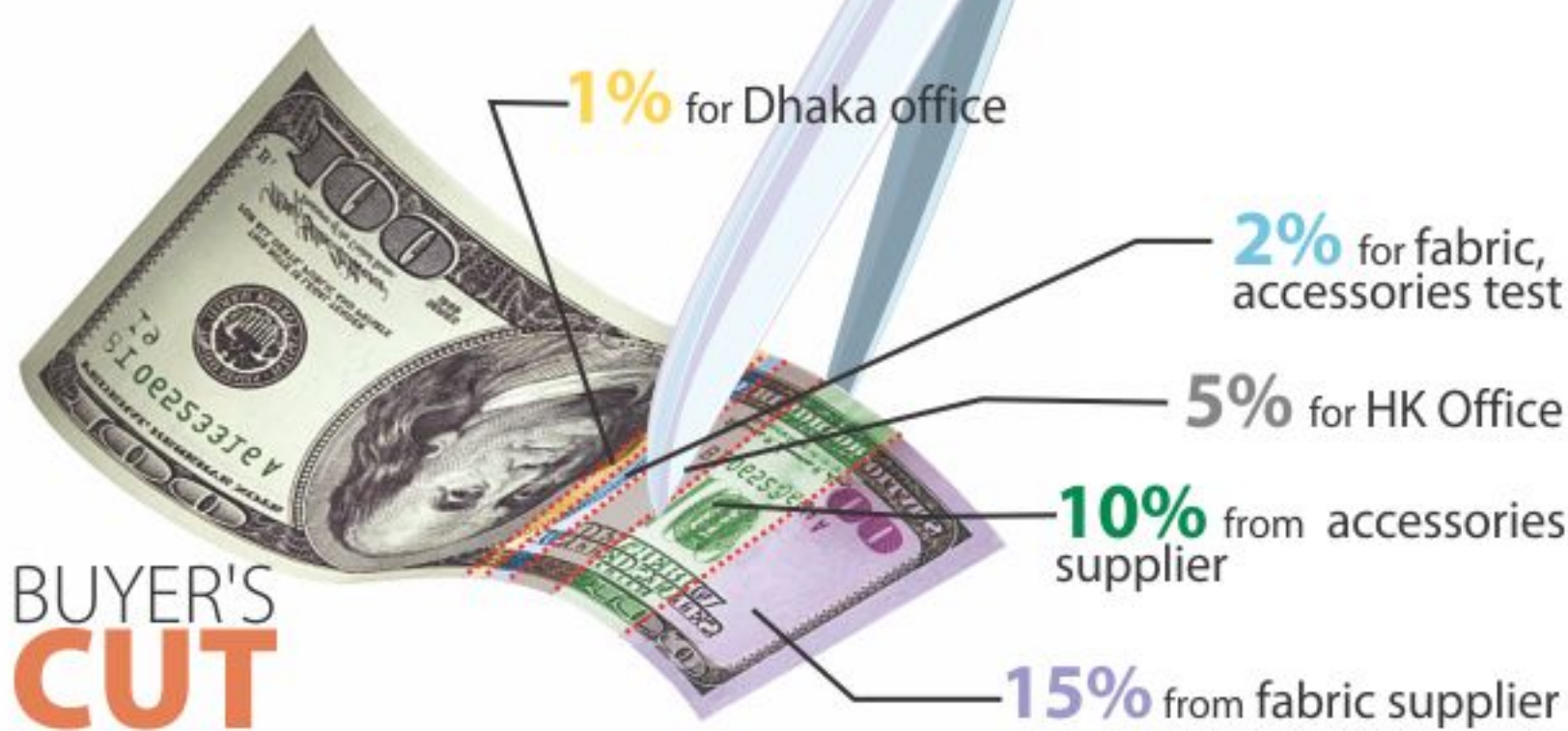
Syed Ashfaqu Haque with Inam Ahmed exposes the unethical face of leading garment buyers.

A good number of international buyers are raking in fortunes, investing virtually nothing for their orders in Bangladesh.

With a clause of deferred payment in letter of credit (L/C) -- the formal loan agreement for a purchase -- they are literally fleecing the Bangladesh garment sector and contributing eventually to the misery of the workers.

With such L/Cs, these greed merchants get products shipped out and release payments to manufacturers after months of delay.

This means they virtually get their products on credit and pay



manufacturers only after selling those.

The Daily Star has obtained four such L/Cs in one of which payment was disbursed six months after

shipment.

With payment being deferred, Bangladeshi manufacturers are actually forced to subsidise the

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## 5 days to go up in smoke

Weekend falls between 3 hartals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hot on the heels of Hefajat men's widespread violence in the capital and elsewhere, the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance enforces countrywide dawn-to-dusk shutdowns today and tomorrow, protesting the "killing of Hefajat activists" during and after the Dhaka siege programme.

On the same grounds, Hefajat-e Islam, a Chittagong-based Islamist outfit, yesterday called a nationwide dawn-to-dusk hartal for Sunday and extended support to the 18-party alliance's shutdown.

This means, the country is again in a hartal trap, this time for five days. With the 18-party hartal beginning

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## NEWS ANALYSIS

### Shapla Chattar & act of Houdini

SHARIER KHAN

Since the Sunday violence centring around the demonstration of Islamist group Hefajat-e-Islam which was followed by law enforcers' late night action to drive away some 35000 activists, the country has been abuzz with rumours that the cops killed around 2500 people and buried them somewhere.

Contrary to such rumours which are being spread through social media, blogs and word of mouth, The Daily Star reporters who were present throughout Hefajat's demonstration till the law enforcers completely drove away the activists at 5 am Monday found 13

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## Train set on fire again

5 Shibir men among 7 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

In a pre-dawn arson attack yesterday, some suspected Chhatra Shibir men torched five coaches of the Dhaka-bound Subarna Express at the Chittagong Railway Station.

Following the arson, Government Railway Police (GRP) rounded up two youths -- Md Ehsan, 23, a student of a private university in Dhaka, and local vendor Md Mithu, 25, -- at the station.

Later, taking lead from the two, the GRP detained five more people at the city's

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## Held Hefajat leader blames Jamaat

50,000 sued for violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Junaid Babunagari, detained secretary general of Hefajat-e Islam, yesterday blamed activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir for Sunday's violence across the capital.

During an interrogation, he also denied responsibilities for the killing, attack, arson, vandalism and looting that took place during the Dhaka blockade of Hefajat, said Khandaker Nazmul Alam, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Motijheel) yesterday.

"Junaid said they could not imagine that the situation would take such a serious turn. But we are not convinced," added the official.

Asked, the DC said police were trying to unearth the financial sources of Hefajat and trying to arrest its senior leaders who had gone into hiding.

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Defying rain, a rescuer tries to pull out a body -- apparently yet to be decomposed -- from the rubble of the collapsed Rana Plaza in Savar yesterday.

YESTERDAY'S BODY COUNT **67**

DEATH TOLL **746**

## Procession of dead goes on

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The more rescuers remove rubble of the collapsed Rana Plaza, the more they find dead, decomposed bodies. Some 67 bodies were pulled out of the wreckage on the 14th day yesterday since the deadliest industrial disaster in the country.

Including these victims, the death toll reached 746, which is expected to go up when rescuers get deeper into the concrete mess. The nine-storey building at Savar outside Dhaka housed five garment factories and

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## কুলখানী ও দোয়া মাহফিল



অত্যন্ত দুঃখের সাথে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, খিলগাঁও চৌরাস্তা নিবাসী বিশিষ্ট সমাজসেবক মরহুম আলহাজ্ব মোঃ আক্কেল আলী সাহেবের সহধর্মিণী বিশিষ্ট সমাজসেবিকা ও দাত্রী আলহাজ্ব মোসাম্মত শরিফুল্লাহ গত ৩রা মে, ২০১৩ ইং রোজ শুক্রবার বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকায় রাজধানীর এপোলো হাসপাতালে বার্ষিকজনিত কারণে ইন্তেকাল করেন (ইন্না লিল্লাহি ওয়া ইন্না ইলাইহি রাজিউন)। মৃত্যুকালে মরহুমার বয়স হয়েছিল ৮৪ বছর। তিনি তিন পুত্র, সাতজন নাতি-নাতনী ও অসংখ্য গুণগ্রাহী রেখে গেছেন।

মরহুমার বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করার জন্য আগামী ১০ই মে, ২০১৩ ইং রোজ শুক্রবার বাদ আছর তাঁর নিজ বাসভবন ১৪৭৬/এ, খিলগাঁও চৌরাস্তায় (খিলগাঁও মডেল কলেজের সন্নিহিত) এক দোয়া মাহফিলের আয়োজন করা হয়েছে। সকল আত্মীয়-স্বজন, শুভাকাঙ্ক্ষী, গুণগ্রাহী এবং এলাকাবাসীকে উক্ত দোয়া মাহফিলে শরীক হওয়ার জন্য সবিনয়ে অনুরোধ করা হলো।

পরিবারের পক্ষে নিবেদক

প্রকৌঃ মোঃ রিয়াজত আলী বাচ্চু ; প্রকৌঃ এ.এফ.এম. লিয়াকত আলী বাবুল ; এ.কে.এম. মাহবুবুল আলম রেশম ; প্রকৌঃ রাজীব হায়দার মুন্না (নাতি)

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