# An Uneasy Peace

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Fortune is a privileged position. The greater it is the mightier it becomes. For underdeveloped and developing countries like Bangladesh it naturally gets the homage its privilege demands from the wielders of power and authority. Fortune, it is generally acknowledged is not a good master for it may bless one without any moral scruples.

Unbridled fortune in unscrupulous persons is a matter of wholesale concern. They find obliging mates among those associated with governance and public service. In this liaison of sharing the spoils, there is little place for considerations like the interest of the country, general welfare of the people and the higher ground of social justice.

Governance attends all walks of national life. When unscrupulous fortune gets a clutch on it or on any of its branches big or small every crime becomes 'as chaste as ice' and wealth grows by leaps and bounds. And bad governance only spreads the contagion. It is a malaise in the foul mélange of Third World countries. The Savar tragedy is a glaring indictment of this unholy alliance.

The tragedy has brought to the fore that the political actors, the private sector business and the public sector officials are caught in moral torpor. National earnings from the garments sector and from foreign remittances play a major role in the growth potential of Bangladesh and in its efforts to advance into the status of a developed country. Yet the attention and treatment they get do not do justice to what they contribute.

There is a general apathy in most of the branches that deal with them. It is a crisis of attitude that works among them and of the vulnerability of the social profile of those who labour in these sectors. The scenario does not build trust nor do the social factors provide a base where the operators can no longer force a wage, a contract and a working condition of their choice.

It is a dispiriting field and the workers and the wage earners drudge on in forgetful resentment.