

THE LEGACY OF A SCHOLAR

Article reads the life of Dr Muhammad Shahidullah on his 44th death anniversary

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SECRET OF LONG LIFE

How China islands centenarians become the "longevity celebrities"

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THE FLYING SIKH

Bhaag Milkha Bhaag, film on Indian athletics legend, opens in theatres

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FEMALE WORKERS ABROAD

Low pay, hostile environment

Job seekers from Bangladesh discouraged despite huge demand in Middle East

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPOLO

FEMALE WORKERS ABROAD

Lebanon:	74,025
UAE:	57,805
Jordan:	32,822
KSA:	29,535
Oman:	10,481
Bahrain:	2,570
(from 2004 to 2013)	

Despite a huge demand for women workers in the Middle East, Bangladesh is unable to tap into the potential, as female job seekers are discouraged by returnee workers' stories on horrific working conditions.

Against a demand of around 10,000 female workers a month, Bangladesh is able to send only about 2,000 women a month due to workers' unwillingness to go to the Middle East, said a high official of the expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry.

According to the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET), around two lakh Bangladeshi women are currently working abroad, 90 percent of them in the Middle East.

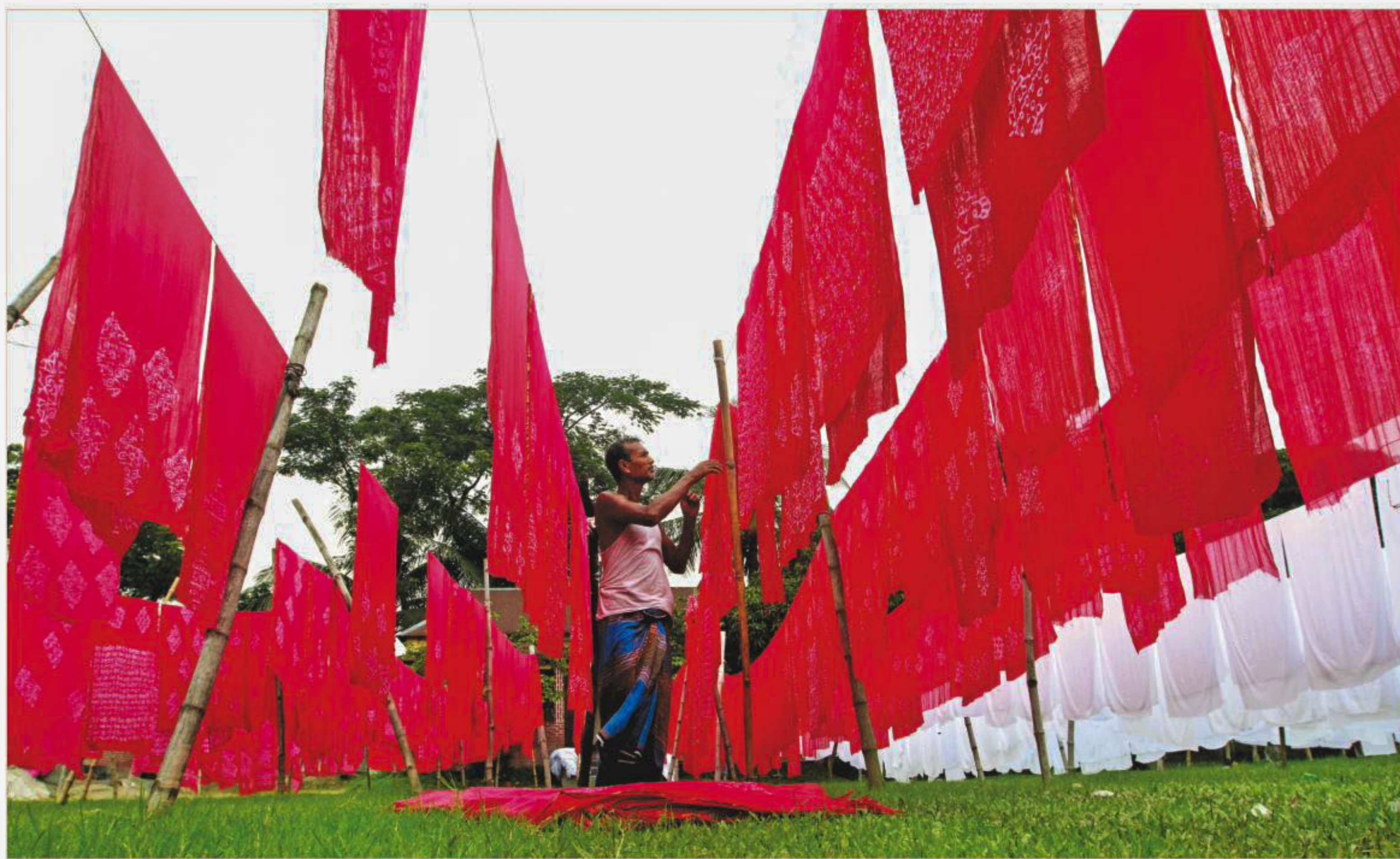
But many of them had bitter and frustrating experience. Many had poor pay, long working hours and some had even been locked up. Returning home, they often complain of physical and mental torture and delays in getting wages.

So bad was her experience, Taslima of Faridpur, who returned from Lebanon earlier this year, told The Daily Star that she would never go to work in the Middle East.

Almost every month some women return home and share how horrific their tortures were and the crookedness of the employers and the middlemen, said non-government organisations that work with migration.

These incidents were creating a negative impression among female job seekers about

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Rugganj, an upazila of Narayanganj, is famous for boutique prints and handmade cloths. A community of experienced and skilled weavers dye and print cloths using traditional, local technology and send their products to markets across the country. They work throughout the year but demand for their products soars ahead of Eid or any other festival. In this photo taken recently, a worker in Rugganj is drying the dyed cloths. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

REVIEW OF QUOTA SYSTEM

Govt sits on PSC recommendation

1,493 recruited on merit, 1,686 from quotas under 15 general cadres in last 5 BCS exams

WASIM BIN HABIB and PROTIK CHAKRABORTY

Despite repeated proposals from Public Service Commission (PSC) and experts, the government has taken hardly any initiative to reform the quota system in public service recruitment.

Job seekers, too, on many occasions have protested the system calling it "discriminatory". They observe many talented candidates fail to join the civil service due to the quota provision.

In the five BCS exams from 2005-2012, PSC recommended appointing 3,179 successful candidates to the posts of 15 class-I general cadres. Of them, 1,493 were picked on merit and 1,686 from different quotas.

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VIOLENCE AT DU

1,200 sued, 36 arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday detained 36 people and filed a case against 1,200 more in connection with the clashes with the law enforcers and vandalism a day before over cancellation of the quota provision in the BCS examination.

They have been detained on suspicion of planning fresh demonstrations and were being grilled about whether they had plans to carry out subversive activities, said Shibli Noman,

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Debacle in city polls rattles AL

Ministers, party leaders blame each other for defeat

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Some ruling Awami League leaders and ministers are now blaming each other for the humiliating defeats of the AL-backed mayoral candidates in the recent polls to five city corporations.

Most of the AL rank and file who are not in the government think the party-backed contenders lost because of some controversial activities of the government. So, the government must shoulder the responsibility for the defeats.

Several ministers, on the other hand, say it is the party that should be blamed as it failed to engage leaders and workers in Rajshahi, Khulna, Sylhet and Barisal city polls on June 15 and the Gazipur polls on July 6. According to them, the government has nothing to do with these failures.

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Malala 'would not be silenced'

Addresses UN on her birthday

AFP, New York City, United Nations

Pakistan teenager Malala Yousafzai told the United Nations yesterday that she would not be silenced by terrorists, in her first public speech since being shot by the Taliban.

"They thought that the bullet would silence us, but they failed," Malala said on her 16th birthday in a presentation that was quickly hailed for its power.

"The terrorists thought that they would change my aims and stop my ambitions, but nothing changed in my life, except this: weakness, fear and hopelessness died. Strength,

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People stand in knee-deep floodwater that has inundated Bhogdanga union of Kurigram sadar upazila. The photo was taken yesterday. Story on page 5. PHOTO: ABDUL WAHED

CLOTHING FIRMS IN BANGLADESH

Accord, alliance or disunity?

THE ECONOMIST

The message was unequivocal from the bosses of 17 North American retail chains, including Walmart and Gap, when they launched the Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety on July 10th. They called the record of Bangladeshi factories "unacceptable" and said that improving it "requires our collective effort".

After 1,129 people died in a factory collapse at Rana Plaza on the outskirts of Dhaka on April 24th, and subsequent reports that many other factories in Bangladesh were in a dangerous condition, the need for collective action seems clear. So why are North American retailers pursuing their own action plan, rather than joining the Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh, launched on May 13th and now supported by 72 big clothing retailers -- mostly from the European Union?

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Int'l buyers won't leave Bangladesh

REUTERS, Tirupur

With knitwear exports of over \$2 billion a year, India's garment manufacturing hub Tirupur has earned the nickname "Dollars City," but its allure for price-conscious global retailers obsessed by discounts of as little as one US cent pales before Bangladesh.

Indian and Southeast Asian apparel manufacturers had hoped the orders would come flooding in, after the deadly collapse of a Bangladesh garment factory complex this year

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