

PHOTO: COURTESY

Nishat Majumder on top of the world.

16 Women on top of the World *(May 19, 2012)*

Nishat Majumdar became the first Bangladeshi woman to climb the Mount Everest. She reached the summit at 9:39am and hoisted the flag of Bangladesh. Another Bangladeshi, Wasfia Nazneen, climbed the highest peak a week later, on May 26, 2012. Bangladesh is the 67th Everest conquering country of the world.



PHOTO: STAR FILE

Ganajagoron Mancha's protest at Shahbag intersection.

17 The Upheavals of Our Time *(February 5, 2013)*

Hundreds of thousands of Bangladeshis gathered at the Shahbagh intersection, an important point of Dhaka, with only one demand; the trial of war criminals. The protesters pointed out that the sentence of one of the accused Abdul Kader Mollah was too lenient, and demanded the death sentence for all the accused people. On the other hand, an organisation of Madrasa students and teachers called Hefajat-e-Islam organised a movement condemning Shahbagh protesters as 'atheists.' Both of these movements gathered hundreds of thousands of supporters in the capital. After a clash with the law enforcers on May 5, Hefajat-e-Islam was forced to leave Dhaka. And after the execution of Mollah, the Mancha, which has recently been suffering from severe internal conflicts, was also removed from its position in Shahbagh. These two massive upheavals had divided the country's population into two and it took a long time to restore normalcy in Bangladesh.



The ruins of Rana Plaza. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

18 The Rana Plaza Collapse *(April 26, 2013)*

This is one of the most tragic humanitarian disasters the world had ever seen. Thousands of garment workers died under the ruins of the eight-storied Rana Plaza. Preceded by several other disasters in the garment industry of Bangladesh, the collapse of Rana plaza alarmed the factory owners, international buyers and the poor workers about the working conditions of the industry. Under pressure from home and abroad, the government and factory owners are being compelled to improve the condition of industry workers. Human rights activists are also becoming conscious about the exploitative nature of Bangladesh's garment industry. ■

The writer can be contacted at shahnawaz.khan@thedailystar.net