

UNITY AMONG NATIONS

Why should it require adversity, not common prosperity?

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NO GREATER THREAT

Obama sounds alarm over climate change

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'WAKE UP THE SOULS'

Tankian and fellow rockers dedicate tour for Armenian Genocide awareness

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PART-2

HILSA & KILLER-NETS

To us Bangalees, hilsa isn't just a fish. It's an integral part of our culture and heritage. Be it fried or cooked with mustard, hilsa is a must in Pahela Baishakh celebrations. But they aren't anymore safe in our rivers, home to world's 60pc hilsa. This four-part series focuses on the existential crisis, changing habitat and ways to conserve this much coveted fish.

GILL NETS BURNT; FACTORIES BOOM

Fishes being wiped out of rivers as manufacturing units of death-nets not shut down

PINAKI ROY and MOKAMMEL SHUVO

"Jhake Jhake jatka, current jaale atka."

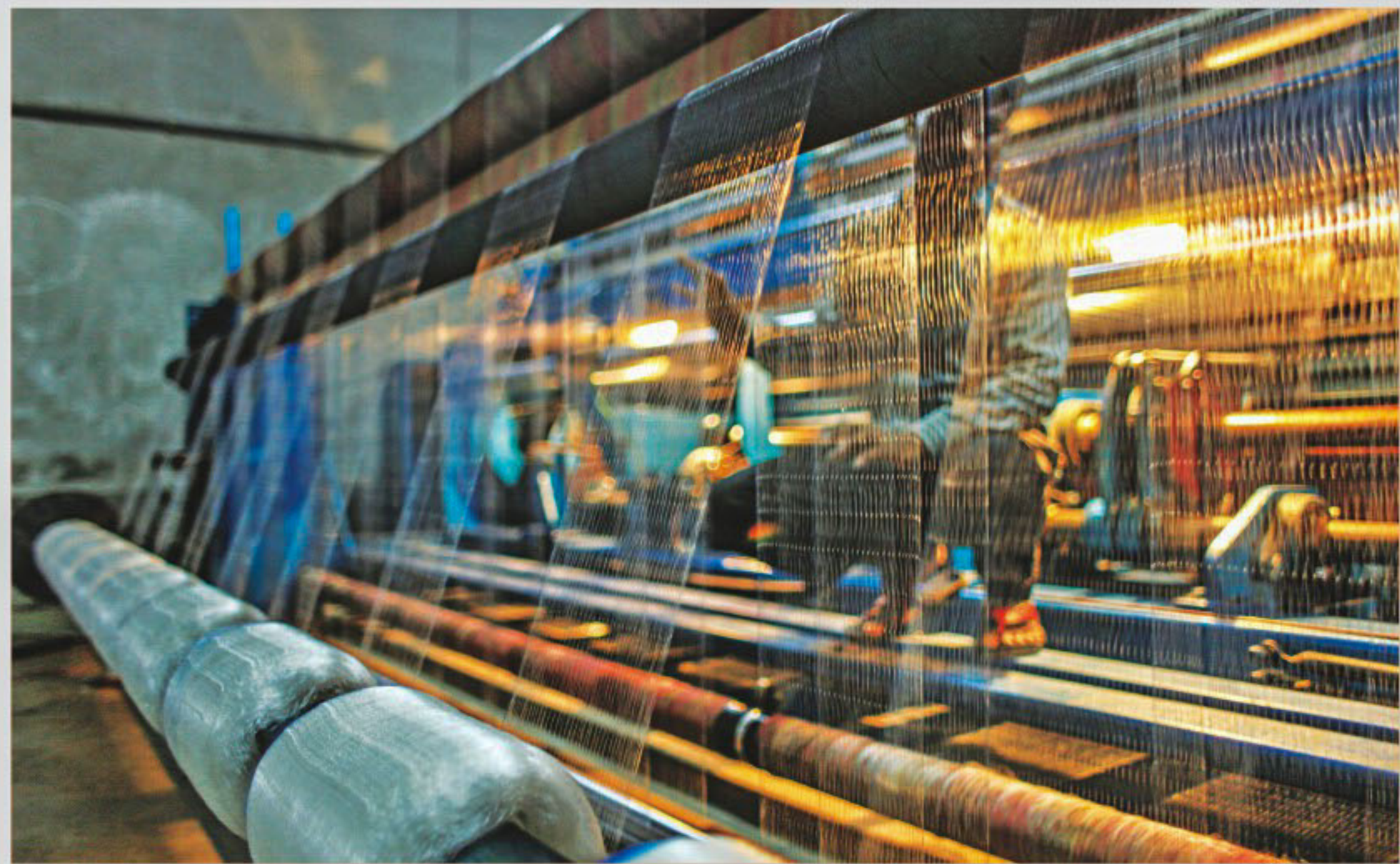
This was part of the dialogue of a popular television advertisement aired in the early 90s to raise public awareness against jatka catching with gill net, locally called current jaal.

Despite such awareness campaigns, the use of gill net has never stopped as the government has done little to stop its production and trade.

Cheap and effective in catching fish, this small-mesh net made of monofilament synthetic nylon fibre is very popular among fishermen.

The net easily traps hilsa fries or jatka -- less than 25cm in length. It is also a danger to other fishes, big or small, and aquatic species like

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Gill net being manufactured at a factory of Sarkar Para in Munshiganj. There are over 500 such factories in the district and 200 of them are big business units. As the government could do little to stop its manufacturing, the net, locally known as current jaal, keeps threatening hilsa population in our rivers. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



COUNCILLOR ASPIRANTS

Troubles different

BNP rebel-free but not in scene; AL full of rebels, faces campaign chaos

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and RASHIDUL HASAN

With just a week to go in election campaigns of the polls to city corporations, the Awami League and the BNP are still struggling to get all their ducks in a row.

The AL high command, despite hectic efforts, could not convince all AL leaders to quit running against party-endorsed councillor candidates.

In most wards of the three city corporations -- two in Dhaka and one in Chittagong -- AL-backed councillor



aspirants would face challenges from AL's own.

The party keeps issuing note of caution against those leaders who refused to back down, but they don't seem to budge.

However, the BNP camp does not have this issue but has another. The party's senior- and mid-level leaders are yet to join the campaign for the party-backed mayor aspirants in the two city corporations in Dhaka.

The party leaders alleged that those BNP leaders refrain from campaigning

to avoid getting arrested and harassed. Many BNP-backed councillor aspirants have also had cases filed against them in the last three years.

The entire situation has annoyed BNP chief Khaleda Zia. She on Friday night rebuked some of her party seniors when they went to meet her, sources added.

"Police and ruling-party men are harassing and obstructing our party men from campaigning," claimed BNP senior leader Moudud Ahmed while talking to The Daily Star yesterday.

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OC, 6 OTHERS HURT

'Accidental' shooting at Zafarullah's rally

STAR REPORT

At least seven people, including a police official, were injured after a shotgun "accidentally" went off during a rally in Faridpur's Bhanga upazila yesterday.

There were different versions on whose gun it was.

Police said the gun belonged to a local Awami League leader but AL Presidium Member Kazi Zafarullah, who was the chief guest at the rally, claimed it was a police gun.

The incident took place around 8:30am when Zafarullah, also a former lawmaker from the area, went to the rally venue at

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PHOTO: STAR

Students protest on DU campus yesterday against sexual assaults of women during the Nababarsha celebration.

BAISHAKH SEXUAL ASSAULT

Police see it, finally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police, albeit five days late, admitted that women were sexually assaulted during Pahela Baishakh celebrations in Dhaka University.

"We have noticed [in the CCTV footage] incidents that fall within the definition of sexual assault," said Monirul Islam, joint commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

He neither could say anything about the perpetrators, their identities nor did he have any arrests to show for.

He, however, asserted that no woman was stripped naked and that no woman had filed any complaints.

The DMP held a press briefing yesterday afternoon in the wake of scathing criticism of law enforcers for doing almost nothing during and after the attacks on women.

Police and Dhaka University authorities had been

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In remembrance on the 1ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF

M.A. Qasem

(Group Director of BEXIMCO Group)

On this date the April 19, The Almighty Allah called you to your permanent adobe in 2014. Your departure has put us all overwhelmed with sorrow. It is straining that you are not in this mundane world with us. But you are with us all the way and will be. How can we ever get used to living without you?

We pray to Almighty Allah for the salvation of your departed soul and request all friends, relatives and well-wishers to pray from the core of their hearts. May Allah the Beneficent bless you with the eternal bliss of heaven. Ameen.

Bereaved Members of the Family.

CONGRATULATIONS

We, the members of Masco Group, are elated to know that the young eminent business entrepreneur and Managing Director of Masco Group **Mr. Ahmed Arif Billah** has been elected as **Vice Chairman** of United Commercial Bank Limited.

We are proud to extend our whole-hearted congratulations to a true leader of the business arena **Mr. Ahmed Arif Billah** for his remarkable achievement. Our prayers and good wishes will always be with him.

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