

## Undocumented, defrauded

*Injured Bangladeshi worker 'forced' by Malaysian co to cover up its role in an accident, deprived of promised compensation*

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and WASIM BIN HABIB

Little did Miraj Munshi know about the misfortune that would befall him. With hopes for a better future, the 35-year-old migrant worker from Comilla joined a construction company in Malaysia in the first week of March.

Barely four weeks later, his world turned upside down. He broke his right leg badly in an accident at his workplace on March 30.

What came next was nothing short of a nightmare. Taking full advantage of his status as an undocumented worker, his employer, Peck Chew Piling (M) Sdn Bhd, forced him to lie about the incident to cover up its fault, and then went back on its promise of compensating him in exchange for "cooperation".

Miraj, the lone breadwinner of a five-member family, had applied for legalising his travel documents in January after the Malaysian government announced that it would legalise undocumented foreign workers.

But his application was still pending with the authorities. And he eventually had to return home empty-handed without proper treatment.

"My life is finished. I don't know what to do..." said Miraj, a high school dropout, lying on a bed at a private hospital in Dhaka. There was a big

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Miraj Munshi looks helplessly at his bandaged broken leg supported by an external fixator at a hospital in the capital. The migrant worker returned to Bangladesh after having an accident at his workplace in Malaysia in March. According to him, his Malaysian employer forced him to cover up its role in the mishap and deprived him of the compensation. The photo was taken recently.

## Govt urged to withdraw duty, VAT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Print media owners yesterday urged the government for withdrawal of all duty and VAT on newsprint import to facilitate the industry to sustain the rising operating costs.

The industry operators said they have to pay a total of 20.75 percent tax, including 5 percent duty and 15 percent VAT to import the raw material from abroad because of the low quality of the locally-produced newsprint.

"Local print media is not in a good state. So, waiver from import duty and VAT will be a great help for the industry," said Matiur Rahman, president of Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab).

Noab made the appeal at

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## Rahman saved canola farmers in Canada

REAZ AHMAD

Bangladeshi scientist Prof Habibur Rahman is now the most revered man within the scientific and the farming fraternities of Canada.

He has been working on oilseeds for a long time, and this year, his perseverance gifted the North American country its long-awaited answer to clubroot, the most significant disease threat to canola.

Canola -- one of world's top traded edible oil -- is Canada's number one cash crop, fetching the country an annual business of \$20 billion. Over a fifth of global canola export volume comes from Canada.

However, in recent years, Canadian canola farmers lost up to one fifth of their potential yields to the disease.

Prof Rahman, born in Karimganj of Kishoreganj, has over the years developed dozens of canola cultivars,

received a patent on his name and been engaged in cutting-edge research.

A professor at the University of Alberta, Rahman took up the challenge of fighting clubroot in 2004, a year after the Canadian canola growers started complaining about the emergence of the disease.

Twelve years down the line, his mission is now accomplished. He has

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Canola breeder Prof Habibur Rahman caresses the first canola cultivar that has double resistance to clubroot, canola's most significant disease threat. The photo was taken at Alberta in Canada.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## 16TH AMENDMENT Govt moves to SC for stay on HC verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday filed a petition with the Supreme Court seeking a stay on the High Court verdict that scrapped the 16th constitutional amendment empowering parliament to impeach its judges for misconduct or incapacity.

The attorney general's office submitted the petition with the SC on behalf of the government.

The chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the SC may hold a hearing on the petition today, Deputy Attorney General Motaher Hossain Sazu told The Daily Star yesterday.

Citing the petition, he said the 16th amendment was part of the original constitution and it could

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## HELD WITH PISTOL AT POLLING CENTRE BCL leader jailed for two years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Nurul Azim Rony, general secretary of Chittagong city Chhatra League, was sent to jail yesterday, a day after he was held with an illegal firearm at a polling centre in Hathazari upazila.

Rony was caught and jailed for two years by a mobile court, said police.

Sub-inspector Robiul Huq of Hathazari Police Station also filed a case against him under arms and explosives act on Saturday night.

Chittagong city BCL and family members of Rony termed the incident a "pre-planned political conspiracy" against him.

The mobile court also found the BCL leader guilty of casting fake votes at the polling centre during the fourth-phase of union polls on Saturday, said Mohammad Ismail, officer-in-charge of Hathazari Police Station.

Rony was arrested with a 9mm pistol, 15 bullets, Tk 26,000 and a voting seal at Chariya Board School centre at Mirzapur union by the mobile court led by Metropolitan Magistrate Harunur Rashid.

According to an eyewitness, a group of BCL activists went to the centre and tried to force their way in around 11:30am. The mobile court went to the spot around the same time.

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## Don't meddle in internal affairs

Dhaka tells Islamabad on war crimes trial

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Expressing frustration over a statement made by Pakistan about the apex court verdict on condemned war criminal Motiur Rahman Nizami, Dhaka yesterday asked Islamabad to stop interfering in Bangladesh's internal affairs.

"We never welcome anyone's concern in our domestic affairs but Pakistan is interfering in our domestic issues despite our repeated reminders," State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam said while talking to reporters yesterday.

Responding to the statement of Islamabad made on Friday, he said those

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**TOP QUOTE**

"All army camps except four brigades would be withdrawn from the hills."

PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA ON WITHDRAWAL OF MILITARY CAMPS IN THE CHT AREAS, AT A PROGRAMME ON BAILEY ROAD

## PM wants end to CHT land dispute

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said most of the works under the guidelines of the CHT peace accord, except land reform, had been completed.

"All army camps except four brigades would be withdrawn from the hills," she said.

The PM was addressing the foundation laying ceremony of 'Parbatya Chattagram Complex' (Chittagong Hill Tracts Complex) on Bailey Road in the city.

She said her government constituted and reconstituted the commission for land reform in the CHT areas time and again, but its work could not progress satisfactorily because of some mistrust and confusions.

"To find out a solution, both sides need to sit across the table."

The government was making progress in the implementation of the CHT accord. The rest of the work would be done gradually, she said.

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## REHAB Newly Elected Board of Directors 2016 - 2018

 Mr. Alamgir Shamsul Alamin President	 Nurun Nabi Chowdhury (Shaon), MP Sr. Vice President				
 Liakat Ali Bhuiyan Vice President-1	 Abul Fatha Md. Abkam Ullah Imam Khan Vice President-2	 Engr. Sardar Md. Amin Vice President (Administration)	 Engr. Mohd. Shohel Rana Vice President (Finance)	 Md. Abdul Kautam Chowdhury Vice President	
 Naimul Hassan Director	 Asadur Rahman Joarder Director	 Engr. Md. Al Amin Director	 Shahid Reza Director	 Nazrul Islam Director	 Md. Shakil Kamal Chowdhury Director
 Md. Jashim Uddin Director	 Dr. Engr. Masuda Siddique Rozy Director	 S. M. Zahidur Rahman Director	 Mohammad Abu Bakar Siddique Director	 Alhaj Engr. Mohd. Usdani Hoque Chowdhury Director	 Engr. Md. Rabiul Hasnat Director
 Engr. Ratan Kumar Dutta Director	 Arch. A.K.M. Kamruzzaman Director	 S. M. Hafiz Al-Ashad Director	 Engr. Md. Mohiuddin Sikder Director	 Md. Zohir Ahmed Director	 Shahabuddin Ahmed Director
 Kamal Mahmud Director	 Mohammad Nazim Uddin Chowdhury Director	 Engr. N.M. Nur-Kutubul Alam Director	 Mohammed Omar Faruque Director		