



SPECIAL ON ICT AWARDS
Meet the four individuals and four firms that received the laurels
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AFRIDI JOINS RANGPUR
The Pakistan all-rounder arrives in Dhaka today to play in the BPL
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'SURRENDER OR DIE'
Warns Iraq PM as forces enter IS-held Mosul
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RMG & 'SECURITY' CONCERN Some buyers get new tool to cut prices

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Some unscrupulous international retailers are taking advantage of security concerns after the July 1 Gulshan cafe attack to lower prices of apparel items. The Daily Star has learnt, talking to more than a dozen garment exporters.

Soon after the attack, retailers either suspended or cancelled their trips to Dhaka. With the government coming down hard on militancy, many of them resumed their business trips in recent months. But some of the retailers continue to use "security" as a tool to cut down garment prices further, said industry insiders.

"Lower price is not the only setback that we are facing now", said a mid-level knitwear exporter, who neither wanted to be named nor to disclose the identity of his retailer.

Retailers are asking manufacturers to hold meetings in a third country such as Hong Kong, Singapore, Germany, Thailand or India for placing work orders. This means travel expenses borne by local manufacturers would add to their production costs.

"One of my US retailers offered me \$3.5 for a woven shirt last month, which was sold at \$5 before the Holey Arisan cafe attack," said another exporter, seeking anonymity.

The security situation appeared to have given them an "edge" to bargain, he said, adding that the price was finally fixed at \$4.5 after a lengthy negotiation.

The reduction of price to \$4.5 from \$5 meant 10 percent less per piece of shirt whereas the profit range on the value of Freight on Board (FoB) varies between 2 and 7 percent, the manufacturer said.

"It means that I have been sending goods at loss. And I have been doing so only for running my business and with a hope of profit in the future," he said.

That is how garment businesses go. They don't complain

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A Hindu woman stands in the ruins of her home in Nasirnagar of Brahmanbaria yesterday. On Sunday, religious zealots attacked homes and temples in the area over an alleged Facebook post.



PHOTO: STAR

ATTACKS ON HINDUS Good Samaritans outnumbered

RASHIDUL HASAN, from Brahmanbaria

When religious zealots were rampaging through Hindu houses and temples in Brahmanbaria's Nasirnagar on Sunday, some Muslims in the upazila tried to put up a resistance against the criminals.

However, all their efforts went in vain as the attackers outnumbered them.

Many Muslim families also gave shelter to their Hindu neighbours to save them from the attackers, several local Hindus told The Daily Star.

Two Muslim men tried to protect the Goura Temple in Nasirnagar union after they heard about the imminent attack on it. They, however, were hit with sticks by some of the attackers, Anindo Das, a guard

of the temple, told The Daily Star on Sunday.

Mina Rani Das, 50, from Nomoshudro Para area, said she along with her daughter rushed to a nearby house of a Muslim family who welcomed and gave them shelter.

Armed with sticks and sharp weapons, around 200 religious bigots attacked at least five temples, and vandalised and looted about 100 Hindu houses in several localities in Nasirnagar over a Facebook post from the account of Rasraj Das, 27. Rasraj is in jail now in a case filed over the post.

The attackers also beat up more than 100 people. Many who shoved the attackers while trying to stop them were injured, said locals.

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A curious case of FB post

Relatives suspect the account was hacked

RASHIDUL HASAN from Nasirnagar, Brahmanbaria

Three days after the hate attack on the Hindus over an alleged Facebook post, Brahmanbaria still reels from shock as police have yet to identify the masterminds behind the incident.

Many Hindus fled their homes fearing further attack.

Law enforcers have so far detained 15 suspects, but their role is not yet clear in the incident that took place in Nasirnagar upazila.

"We are scrutinising some video footage to identify the culprits," said Mizanur Rahman, superintendent of the district police.

Also, the local administration is yet to make a complete list of the victims.

However, Choudhury Moazzem Ahmad, Nasirnagar Upazila Nirbahi Officer, said they identified 14 community and family temples that were damaged in attack that lasted two hours.

The mayhem followed a Facebook post from the account of Rasraj Das, "hurting the religious sentiment" of the Muslims.

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Elma on father Alim's lap in a photo taken recently. A special initiative of the social welfare ministry helped Elma to have a surgery to restore her hearing, something her parents could not afford.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Making children smile Govt programme helps parents afford expensive surgery for their hearing impaired children

ABDULLAH AL NAYEEM

When Mostakur Rahman Alim and Sarower Nimmy saw pus-like liquid oozing out of their daughter Elma's ear four years ago, they had no idea what was in store for them.

Clueless, the parents from capital's Jatrabari took their one-year-old to a doctor the next day. The doctor gave them some medicine and Elma Akter gradually recovered within a few days.

But the story did not end there.

A few days later, they noticed Elma was having hearing issues. As she turned one and a half years old, they realised that she started losing her ability to hear. She also faced difficulties in uttering a few words she used to pronounce well before.

"It seemed our whole world turned upside down. Our Elma tried to talk but couldn't," said Mostakur, an electrician by profession.

Elma was born a normal child with beautiful blue eyes. Her birth had brought a world of happiness to her parents. She is the reason that her grandparents reconciled with her parents after a long time, as they got married without their consent.

While growing up, Elma could hear

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TOP QUOTE

"Those who kill people by creating religious fanaticism will definitely go to hell."

PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA SAID WHILE INAUGURATING NATIONAL YOUTH DAY AT OSMANI MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM YESTERDAY

SWINDLING TK 85.87 CRORE Hall-Mark chief arrested again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday arrested Hall-Mark Group Chairman Jasmine Islam in a case of realising Tk85.87 crore from Janata Bank's Motijheel corporate branch against fake documents.

Jasmine, her husband and company's Managing Director Tanvir Mahmud, some of their employees and bankers have been facing 11 graft cases for swindling over Tk 2,600 crore out of Sonali Bank.

The chairman, who had been on bail, was picked up

Jasmine Islam

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'DUAL RULE' COMMENT Law minister contradicts CJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday contradicted the statement by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha on "dual rule" in the judiciary.

"With due respect, I beg to differ about his [chief justice] statement," he said.

The High Court has cancelled article 96 of the 1972 constitution while the chief justice wants restoration of article 116 of that constitution which is "self-contradictory", the minister observed.

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Meril Presents

DHAKA INTERNATIONAL FolkFest

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