

Water: Garments' invisible price

1500 BILLION LITRES OF GROUNDWATER IS USED FOR RMG MANUFACTURING

THIS IS EQUAL TO 600,000 OLYMPIC SWIMMINGPOOLS OR 2 DAYS' NEED FOR DHAKA CITY

DHAKA'S GROUNDWATER TABLE FALLS BY 2-3 METRES A YEAR

INAM AHMED and REFAQAT ULLAH MIRDHIA

Bangladesh boasts as being the world's number two garment exporter. Every third European has a T-shirt made in Bangladesh on his back. Every fifth American wears jeans manufactured in Bangladesh.

But this is not a story of how many million pieces we export. This is a story about the invisible price we pay every time a jeans rolls out of a factory in Bangladesh. A western buyer knows little about how much water, that precious resource, was used to wash and dye his trousers.

The figures are mind-boggling.

THE BOOM

Thirty-nine years ago, Bangladesh tentatively stepped into the global apparel scene with a small consignment of 13 million Francs to a Paris-based firm in 1978.

Today it exports \$28.14 billion worth of the item or 6.4 percent of the global apparel pie. The country's trade critically depends on this commodity that represents 82 percent of Bangladesh's exports.

The export target by 2021 has been set at \$50 billion. With the decline of China in the



IN DESPERATION... A boy climbs onto a truck as aid is being distributed among Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Dealers go rogue with OMS rice

Rice meant for Rajshahi's Durgapur people sold in market; 4,000 tonnes seized in Ctg

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

At a time when consumers are hit hard by high prices of rice, a section of government-appointed dealers allegedly sold rice, meant for Open Market Sale programme, in the market.

Three dealers in Rajshahi's Durgapur upazila showed on paper that they had sold rice on Wednesday at a subsidized rate under the OMS programme. But locals there alleged that they couldn't buy any rice from the dealers that day.

Taking advantage of lax monitoring by food officials, the dealers had sold three tonnes of rice -- the total allocation for OMS on Wednesday -- on the black market, as

none of the dealers was seen selling rice, said a number of locals in Durgapur.

The government has fixed the price of OMS rice at Tk 30 a kg, around Tk 20 less than the current market price.

Learning about the launch of OMS programme in the upazila on Wednesday, college teacher Mizanur Rahman shuttled between the three dealers' outlets the whole afternoon but found that none of them was selling OMS rice till 5:00pm.

"Where would they sell the rice other than the black market?" asked Mizanur.

Two of the dealers told him that they would start the OMS sale yesterday as they could not collect their allocations from



Members of a mobile court and police during a raid on a warehouse in Sagorika area of Chittagang city yesterday. The owner had hoarded 4,000 tonnes of rice in the warehouse.

PHOTO: STAR

Rohingyas missing in his call

REUTERS, Sitaw

Myanmar's army chief yesterday called for people internally displaced by violence in Rakhine State to go home and rebuild communities, but he made no mention of 4,22,000 Rohingyas who fled to Bangladesh to escape his force's operations.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, in a major speech on his plans for Rakhine State on his first visit there since the latest strife erupted, claimed the military had handled the situation as best as it could after a wave of coordinated attacks by Rohingya insurgents on August 25.



Min Aung Hlaing

It's genocide

Macron says, calls on int'l community to act; British PM, Iran president for ending violence; Myanmar VP claims crisis easing

AGENCIES

French President Emmanuel Macron has termed the attacks on Myanmar's Rohingya minority as genocide and called on the international community to act to stop it.

France will work with other members of the UN Security Council for a condemnation of 'this genocide which is unfolding, this ethnic cleansing', he said in an interview with the French TV channel TMC on Wednesday.

Macron's use of the word "genocide" marks his strongest verbal attack yet on the military drive against the Rohingyas, which the UN sees as a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing," reports AFP.

"We must condemn the ethnic purification which is under way and act," he said.

Meanwhile, Myanmar second vice president claimed that the crisis in violence-torn Rakhine state was easing.

"I am happy to inform you that the situation has improved," said Htun Myint, while addressing the UN General Assembly on Wednesday.

"Accordingly, we are concerned by reports that the numbers of Muslims crossing into Bangladesh remain unabated. We would need to

Force Myanmar to take back Rohingyas

PM to IOM DG

UNB, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Wednesday urged the Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) William Lacy Swing to create pressure on Myanmar government so that it takes back Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh.

She made the call when the IOM DG met her at her hotel suite in New York.

Foreign Secretary M Shahidul Haque briefed reporters after the meeting.



PHOTO: IOM

9,000 logged in nine days

Minister says all Rohingya refugees will be biometrically registered in two months

PINAKI ROY and MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT from Cox's Bazar

Around 9,000 Rohingya refugees have been brought under biometric registration in nine days after the listing began on September 12.

Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, relief and disaster management minister, yesterday said all the Rohingyas, now in Bangladesh fleeing persecution in Myanmar, would have their biometric registration completed within two months.

Currently, Rohingyas, only above 12, are eligible for the registration, said Magistrate KM Lutfar Rahman, who is looking after the registration process in Cox's Bazar.

Nur Kolima, a 14-year-old Rohingya girl who received her biometric registration card at Naya Para camp in Teknaf



A BGB member taking fingerprint of a Rohingya girl for her biometric registration at Nayapara camp in Teknaf yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

A PEPSICO Global Initiative

Faraz Hossain

COURAGE AWARD 2017

Faraz Ayaaz Hossain, a name etched forever in our hearts; a name that shines today as a symbol of the unbreakable values of true courage, friendship and humanity.

Faraz Hossain was martyred in the horrific attack at the Holye Artisan Bakery, Dhaka on July 1, 2016. He sacrificed his life refusing to abandon his two dear friends, despite the terrorists allowing him to leave. Faraz exemplified true friendship, standing against injustice and connecting a humanity beyond the boundaries of race, religion and nationality with love and harmony. He demonstrated an exceptional strength of character in the final moments of his life, rising above all self-interest.

True courage is demonstrated when an individual, facing extreme danger, stands up to protect a fellow human being.

After a year since Faraz's lion-hearted sacrifice; indomitable courage continues to surge through Bangladesh.

The first Faraz Hossain Courage Award, inaugurated on December 7, 2016 by PepsiCo's Chairman and CEO Ms. Indra K. Nooyi was the beginning of a 20-year journey with the aim to highlight Bangladesh's courageous individuals. Mr. Miraz Sardar was the first-ever winner of the Faraz Hossain Courage Award; he put himself at risk in pursuit of two assailants, then returned to save the victim.

To continue recognizing the spirit of bravery among Bangladeshi youth, the very spirit Faraz inspires, the search for yet another brave soul begins for the second year of PepsiCo Global's annual 20-year initiative, the "Faraz Hossain Courage Award". The purpose of the award is to recognize acts of exceptional courage by individuals setting examples of empathy for fellow human beings.

In addition to a Certificate of Recognition and a plaque, the award will carry a cash prize equivalent of USD 10,000/- (Ten Thousand US Dollars).

The winner must fulfill the following criteria:

- Exemplify exceptional personal courage;
- Has taken outstanding initiative to help other human beings;
- Symbolizes highest standards of moral and ethical values;
- Be a male or female citizen of Bangladesh below age of 35;

To find the winner of the award, we seek your personal and institutional help. If you happen to come across or have heard of such an extraordinary individual, please try to obtain the name and details of the person and inform us through email courageaward@farazahossain.com or please call +88 0170833289 or +88 01708144289 (9 am to 8 pm). All such information should be communicated no later than **October 19, 2017.**

A jury comprising of eminent personalities will review all proposals to finalize the individual winner who will be given the "Faraz Hossain Courage Award" along with a prize equivalent of USD 10,000/- (Ten Thousand US Dollars).

2nd Death Anniversary

This day on 22nd September 2015, "Late Nurjahan Begum (Pakhi)", the second daughter of Late Abul Khair, the founder of Abul Khair Group had left us by the will of Almighty Allah the beneficent. Remembering her memories we pray for the salvation of her departed soul with our distressed heart and request all our friends, relatives and well-wishers to pray for her from the core of the heart. May Almighty Allah the beneficent bless her with eternal bliss of paradise. Ameen.

BEREAVED CHILDREN, BROTHERS & SISTERS