

Waste but not useless

Used electronic items being turned into products worth millions

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

We all love our cell phone, computer and TV and depend heavily on them in our day-to-day life. But each of these electronic equipment eventually reaches the end of its life and is replaced by a new one.

The old and seemingly obsolete stuffs become electronic waste and end up in landfills or in the open, leaking harmful substances into the environment.

But there are some businessmen who went against the current to help get rid of the pollutants, making money at the same time.

At Abul Kalam Azad's factory -- Azizu Traders -- in Narayanganj's Fatullah, nothing seems useless. From mobile chargers to photocopy machines, anything can be recycled for sale.

Run by Azad and his son Sidur Rahman, Azizu Traders is arguably the first and one of the largest e-waste recycle factory in the country. Employing more than 130 people, the plant can recycle 50 tonnes of e-waste every month.

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"Everybody talks about environment pollution but no one really takes things upon themselves to minimise the problem. Recycling e-waste helps reduce the pollutants significantly."

ABUL KALAM AZAD
E-WASTE RECYCLING ENTREPRENEUR
OWNER OF AZIZU TRADING



Discarded electronic devices, collected as e-waste from around the country, are separated in a systematic way at the factory of Azizu Recycling and E-waste Company in Narayanganj. The waste is recycled to get 17 types of materials, including some precious metals.

PHOTO: MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA



2016 CYBER HEIST
BB, NY Fed plan to sue Manila bank

REUTERS, Dhaka

Bangladesh's central bank has asked the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to join a lawsuit it plans to file against a Philippines bank for its role in one of the world's biggest cyber-heists, several sources said.

The Fed is yet to respond formally, but there is no indication it would join the suit.

Unidentified hackers stole \$81 million from Bangladesh Bank's account at the New York Fed in February last year, using fraudulent orders on the SWIFT payments system. The money was sent to accounts at Manila-based Rizal Commercial Banking Corp and then disappeared into the casino industry in the Philippines.

Nearly two years later, there is no word on who was responsible and Bangladesh Bank has been able to retrieve only about \$15 million, mostly from a Manila junket operator.

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SCAN THE QR CODE
TO WATCH VIDEO



TO USE QR CODE ON YOUR SMARTPHONE, INSTALL FREE QR READER SOFTWARE FROM GOOGLE PLAYSTORE OR APPSTORE. TURN ON THE SOFTWARE AND HOLD THE PHONE CAMERA OVER THE QR CODE TO GET THE VIDEO LINK.

BANANI MURDER
Two suspects shot dead

Police say they were killed in 'shootout'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people, earlier identified by police as suspects in the murder of Banani manpower businessman, were killed in a "shootout" between detectives and their cohorts in the capital's Badda early yesterday.

However, families of the deceased -- Al Amin, 34, and Saddam, 25 -- alleged that they were picked by some people, who claimed themselves to be detectives, several days ago.

Shaikh Nazmul Alam, deputy commissioner of the Detective Branch (north) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said the "gunfight" took place around 4:00am when a team of detectives went to Aftabnagar to arrest suspected killers of the businessman.

As soon as the DB men reached there,

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UN for tripartite repatriation deal

Refugee agency stresses safe, voluntary, dignified return of Rohingyas to Myanmar

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Calling Bangladesh and Myanmar for a tripartite repatriation agreement, the UNHCR yesterday said all refugees have the right to return and this should happen voluntarily and only when people feel the time and circumstances are right.

The UN refugee agency also said it is ready to help the two governments to enable refugees to exercise their right to return.

The UNHCR was not a party to the voluntary repatriation agreement signed between Bangladesh and Myanmar on November 23.

The deal refers to forming of a joint working group within three weeks of its signing -- by Dec 14 -- as well as start of the repatriation in two months.

"We are ready to be part of this group and to help the two governments work towards arrangements that would properly enable refugees to exercise their right to return -- freely, safely and in dignity. This should, in our view, include a tripartite voluntary repatriation agreement," UNHCR spokesperson Adrian Edwards said during a press briefing in Geneva yesterday.

The UNHCR has not been formally invited to join the working group yet, but it is referenced in the agreement text.

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REMARKS ON KHALEDA BNP says PM should apologise

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday asked Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to apologise for making "false and defamatory remarks" about its Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

It also threatened to take legal action against the PM if she didn't do so.

"The prime minister's comments on siphoning off money by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia are totally false, fabricated and baseless. The main motive behind making such a fictional story on corruption is to tarnish the image of Khaleda Zia and her family members," said

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EXPORT EARNING FROM IT SECTOR

Bangladesh on right track to earn \$5b

But it needs to adapt to technological changes, develop skilled human resources

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is on the right track to achieve the target of raising its ICT export to \$5 billion by 2021, ICT industry leaders said yesterday.

However, huge challenges lie ahead, and the next few years will be very crucial as the industry needs to adapt to technological changes, they said.

The ICT industry leaders were speaking at a seminar titled "\$5 Billion Export" organised on the sidelines of the country's biggest ICT event, Digital World. The four-day mega event ends today.

"We have enormous opportunities in the field of digitisation, but we don't have

enough skilled human resources to meet the needs of the information and communications technology industry," Mustafa Jabbar, president of Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS), said at the seminar in the city's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

The ICT industry is even capable of exceeding the government's export target. But for that to happen, the shortage of skilled manpower has to be addressed, he said.

The government has set a target of increasing ICT export to \$1 billion by 2018 and \$5 billion by 2021.

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A Palestinian protester uses a sling shot to hurl stones towards Israeli troops while another flashes the V-sign near the West Bank city of Ramallah yesterday as Palestinians call for a "day of rage" in response to US President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Left, Israeli forces detain a Palestinian man at Damascus Gate in Jerusalem's Old City.

PHOTO: REUTERS, AFP

US isolated at the UN

5 European nations say the new US policy contradicts UN resolution; 1 killed in 'day of rage'

AGENCIES

The United States stood alone yesterday as one after another fellow UN Security Council member criticised its decision to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

The debate unfolded at a largely symbolic emergency meeting of the council -- no vote on a resolution was planned, as the US has veto power -- two days after President Donald

Trump reversed two decades of US policy on the holy city.

Five European countries on the council insisted the new US policy is not in line with UN resolutions including one that considers east Jerusalem to be Israeli-occupied, reports AFP.

The meeting was convened by no fewer than eight of the 14 non-US members of the council.

This seemed a vivid show of the discord triggered by Trump's

announcement, which included plans to move the US embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Asked what he expected to come from the UN meeting, one diplomat said: "Nothing." Another said the session would show US "isolation" on the issue.

The UN coordinator for the Middle East peace process, Nikolay Mladenov, warned that the US decision could lead

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অঙ্গন

LIRA
GROUP

লীরা ফ্রপ অব ইডেন্সিজ -এর
কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারিবৃন্দ



ACCL

কে. এম. আলমগীর ইকবাল
প্রেসিডেন্ট (২০১৭-২০১৮)
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