



Was shooting at them the only option?

Asks wife of RMG worker who died from pellet wounds
SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MUNTAKIM SAAD

Like every morning, Nargis Parvin made sure to tell her husband Jalal Uddin to stay safe when he would leave for work.

As his workplace -- Islam Garments in Gazipur's Konabari -- became a dangerous place to be due to the ongoing workers' protests and clashes with police, Nargis was more worried than usual.

A supervisor of the factory, Jalal tried to stay away from troubles.

When chaos erupted near the factory on November 8, prompting SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



"Has baba died?" a crying seven-year-old Mariyam repeatedly asked her mother, Nargis Parveen, who could not stop wailing while in front of the morgue at the DMCH. On November 8, Nargis's husband Jalal Uddin, a garment worker, was shot when police tried to disperse a demonstration. He succumbed to his injuries early yesterday in the hospital's ICU.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Penalised for going by the book

Documents show attempts to game tender for Tk 463cr BTCL project

MAHMUDUL HASAN

Can a superior thwart a subordinate from doing their job diligently and sincerely? This is exactly what transpired in the case of a Tk 463 crore telecom ministry project to get the infrastructure ready for 5G.

Documents pieced together by The Daily Star show the superior prevailed, while the subordinate was removed from his job for going by the book, in a demonstration of how projects in Bangladesh often end up with faulty designs or sub-par equipment.

In February last year, the telecom ministry tasked the Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited

(BTCL) to install an optical fibre transmission network as part of the preparations for the 5G roll-out.

As the managing director of BTCL, Asaduzzaman Chowdhury was also the head of the procurement entity (HOPE). However, he was thwarted from performing his duty as the HOPE by Abu Hena Morshed Zaman, secretary to the posts and telecommunications division that oversees BTCL.

The tender floated by BTCL in December last year had three takers: Huawei, ZTE and Nokia.

However, all three applicants did not fully meet the technical requirements of the project, according to the report by SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

"It's imperative that the Anti-Corruption Commission investigates this as soon as possible."

Abu Saeed Khan, a senior policy fellow at LIRNEasia.

RMG WORKERS' DEMOS Timely delivery of goods a concern for int'l retailers

Says BGMEA president; gazette on new minimum wage published

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The international clothing retailers that source garment products from Bangladesh are concerned about receiving their shipment on time because of the labour unrest, said the garment factory owners' association BGMEA yesterday.

If the unrest continues the buyers may not place fresh work orders, BGMEA President Faruque Hassan told a press conference at the BGMEA office in the capital's Uttara.

"We are trying to make them understand that only five percent of the factories are affected," he said.

Over 130 garment factories remained closed yesterday with the owners invoking section 13(l) of the labour law which means "no work, no pay", according to him.

Although the international brands had committed to paying more to make up for the increased salary of workers, the prices have not been negotiated yet, he added.

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BCB cannot just sit on WC debacle

AL-AMIN

Bangladesh cricket team returned home yesterday after a disastrous World Cup campaign in India where they were eliminated from the group stage with seven defeats against only two wins.

Fans and cricket experts have termed the performance as one of the worst since Bangladesh's maiden appearance in the showpiece event way back in 1999. The listless performance of the Tigers in this World Cup, which included a chastening defeat against ICC's associate nation the Netherlands, was something nobody was expecting, especially after the team had finished third in the ODI Super League.

The burning question doing the rounds now is how a well-drilled one-day machine collapsed on all fours with the batting in shambles, the bowling lacking bite and the confidence in the dressing room very low.

However, pointing fingers at the players and the team management for the failure will only be a futile exercise to hide the bigger picture where everyone

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Nine in nine for India

Tigers qualify for CT
REUTERS, Bengaluru

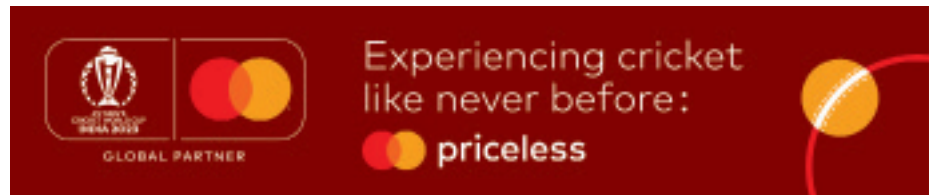
Shreyas Iyer and KL Rahul hit hundreds as World Cup hosts India geared up for the semi-finals with a crushing 160-run victory over the Netherlands on Sunday to keep intact their 100% record with nine group wins.

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India's KL Rahul celebrates with Shreyas Iyer after reaching his century in the last World Cup group-stage game against the Netherlands at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS



A arsonists set fire to a parked bus of Naf Paribahan in the Godnail area of Narayanganj's Siddhirganj around 6:30pm yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Rights record go under UN scrutiny

Govt claims enforced disappearance victims hid voluntarily

ZYMA ISLAM

The UN's Human Rights Council will be reviewing Bangladesh's human rights situation in Geneva today as part of its four-yearly Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

A delegation from Bangladesh, led by Law Minister Anisul Huq, is now in Geneva, and it is accompanied by high officials from the ministries of foreign affairs, law, and Chattogram Hill Tracts affairs.

Bangladesh will be presenting a report summarising the human rights situation in the country. The other member states of the council will take stock of how Bangladesh is performing and make recommendations, which can either be

implemented or rejected.

The government's national report named victims of enforced disappearances and claims that they are actually not victims of enforced disappearances, but rather voluntary disappearance for personal reasons.

It named university teacher Mubasshar Hasan, Hummam Quader Chowdhury, retired diplomat Maroof Zaman, BNP leader Salaudhin Ahmed, journalist Utpal Das among others. They all "returned voluntarily", it said.

Regarding Zaman, the national report said, "Some speculated on Rab liability for his disappearance. However, he reappeared by himself after 15 months."

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CONGRATULATIONS

In recognition to the contribution of foreign currency earnings through exports, **Managing Director of the PRIMATEK GROUP M. A. Quieum** received the **National Export Trophy (Gold)** for the fiscal year 2020-2021 from **Mr Tipu Munshi (MP)**, Honorable Minister for Commerce of the **People's Republic of Bangladesh**.

Officers and employees of the PRIMATEK GROUP hereby expressed heartfelt congratulations to their **Managing Director**.

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