

Factory workers in Asia

SIR – How odd that foreign clothing companies are being targeted as the main culprits for the factory disaster in Bangladesh ("Disaster at Rana Plaza", May 4th). International companies should check on their suppliers and abide by local laws and international standards, but let us not forget the simple fact that it was the building's owners and management who chose to ignore these standards. Let us also stop pretending that they did so wholly in order to survive. Their actions were the result of a calculated bid to maximise profits, which they did on the backs of their less fortunate fellow Bangladeshis.

The owners and managers of factories in Asia, as elsewhere, have a responsibility for their workers, legally and morally. Blaming companies in the West for a disaster that happens in Asia stops local owners from taking responsibility for their business.

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