

# Fix dilapidated walls, save lives

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After the death of two people when a part of the shabby boundary wall of Airforce Officers' Mess collapsed on them on May 5, the residents of West Nakhhalpara and Shaheenbagh now fear similar incidents.

The airforce authorities have been indifferent to the complaints of locals for the last few years and have not taken steps to construct a new wall.

Rickshaw-puller Ali Akbar and Saleha Begum died in the wall collapse while passing through Shaheenbagh street on May 5. Another pedestrian was injured in the incident.

"The wall tilted to the street a year ago but the authorities did not repair it even though they were informed about it," said owner of a tea-stall in the area.

The residents say the collapsed southern and western boundary walls of the airforce officers' mess are over 40 to 50

years old and the authorities always ignored their maintenance. They however reconstructed the northern and east-

side the Shaheenbagh Road and is being supported with bamboopolls.

"Trees on the mess premises

dent of the area.

Others alleged that the piling work for constructing a swimming pool could be a reason behind the wall collapse. The contractor of the pool denied the allegation.

The eastern boundary wall, alongside Shaheenbagh by-lane is also bent towards the street. Waterlogging inside the wall has weakened the base of the wall.

When locals complained to the airforce authorities, the damaged walls were broken down and tin fences were put in places.

"It seems that the authorities are more interested in saving their own property than saving the lives of the common people," said a resident of West Nakhhalpara.

A source from the Bangladesh Airforce administrative authorities said the BAF will sufficiently compensate the families of the two wall collapse victims.

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Currently, the 8-foot southern wall is in a dangerous position

which were leaning onto these old wall have damaged the base of the walls," said Mizan, a resi-



Tin fences have come up along the boundary of the Airforce Officers' Mess at Shaheenbagh instead of solid brick walls.

STAR PHOTO

3x2

3x2

7x2

13.5x6