

# Workplace deaths increased last yr

Says Safety and Rights Society report adding that most of 373 deaths occurred in construction sites, from electrocutions

**STAR REPORT**

The number of workplace deaths in 2015 was at least 373 in 282 accidents, an increase by 53 from 2014's 271 accidents, says a report of Safety and Rights Society.

The highest number of deaths, 147, was on construction sites followed by 101 in service-oriented organisations like hotels and workshops and 93 in factories such as those of garment, plastic and ship breaking industries, it said.

Of the remaining deceased, six worked in the agriculture sector while 26 in the transport, says a press release issued yesterday from the non-government organisation working for promoting workplace safety and ensuring rights of workers and the public.

The report, based on 26 (15 national and 11 local) daily newspapers, does not include deaths outside workplaces or in road accidents on way to or from workplaces.

The report said, like previous years, the majority of the deaths, 110, were caused by electrocutions followed by 47 from being crushed under falling machinery or heavy load or hard objects, 44 from falls from scaffolds, 31 from fires, 23 from building, wall or roof collapses and 23 from poisonous gas inhalation.

The remaining deaths were from various causes including boiler, chemical and gas explosions, road accidents, lightning, drowning and earth collapse, it said.

The report said most electrocutions occurred when iron rods being carried by construction workers came in contact with electric lines and during construction and electrical work.

It also noted that workers fell victim for not being provided protective equipment like helmet, gloves, shoes and harnesses and for use of poorly made scaffolds.

Sekender Ali Mina, executive director of Safety and Rights, said the report does not reflect actual figures as many deaths were not reported.



Horial at Purbachol. PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

# Back to Purbachol

Ten years ago I returned to Bangladesh after three decades abroad. There were many adjustments I had to make, but one of the best things about those early days was a bicycling group I joined. Every weekend our group cycled to Bashundhara, then crossed over to Khilkhet and followed a long, narrow but paved road that led us to the boat ghat at Tolna. After crossing the river by a small boat, we were in rural Bangladesh.

I never tired of bicycling on those village paths, meandering through villages such as Poshi, Shulpina, Gutiabo and Golan, crossing rivers by small boats, stopping occasionally to drink a *daab* from a village market and getting covered in red mud. On a good day we rode to Kanchon on the Shitalakhya river or points beyond before turning around.

Sometimes we stopped to chat with villagers. During our discussions the Purbachol project, expected to engulf all these villages, inevitably came up. But that seemed far away in the future.

Fast forward ten years. Today, the 300-foot wide Purbachol highway connects Bashundhara to Kanchon. For Dhaka residents, it provides easy access to a wide swath of countryside, including those long-ago bicycling villages just east of Dhaka. During the winter, the area becomes a birder's paradise.

There are all kinds of birds at Purbachol this time of year. High above, different types of eagles and kites circle looking for prey. These include booted and steppe eagles which come here for the winter.

Another raptor is the kestrel, a member of the falcon family. This reddish bird will usually perch on a

high spot – perhaps an electric pole – while looking for prey, including smaller birds. One day, as I watched, it flew off to attack first a drongo, then an Indian roller. It caught neither (both were too big for the crow-sized falcon) but the ferocity of its attack was stunning.

For seasoned birders, excitement comes from seeing uncommon birds: Burmese shrike, Eurasian wren and ashy drongo are some examples. For me, however, the concentration of birds also provides opportunities for making better photographs of common birds such as the brown shrike. This pretty bird - recognised by the black band running over its eyes - usually perches on a pole or a *macha*, and dives to the ground to catch a tasty grasshopper or other insect before returning to its place.

Used to the village population, the birds are normally friendly and allow one up close. For example, the other day I was walking back to my car from Shulpina as dusk was setting in. From a distance, I saw the silhouette of a dove-like bird on an immature bamboo tree against the sun. I went around to place the sun behind me and was startled to see a pair of *horials*, beautiful yellow-green pigeons with yellow feet. The last time I had seen them was high on a banyan tree in the Botanical Garden (when I had spent an hour trying to get a clear shot.) Yet here they were only twelve feet away in plain view.

Given skyrocketing real estate prices and population pressure, Purbachol's birding paradise will not last long. However, for now, it is there within easy reach for us to enjoy.

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Jatiya Garments Sramik Federation brings out a procession on Topkhana Road in the capital yesterday to press home several demands, including ensuring weekly holiday, maternity leave, right to trade unions and safe workplace. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# Effort to keep warm in the cold costs her life

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari**

She was sitting next to a clay oven to keep herself warm in the cold evening. Alone in the house, the elderly woman did not find out soon enough that the loose end of the blanket she wore came in contact with the burning wood. The fire was fatal.

Halima Khatun, 60, wife of Abdul Hafiz of Uttara Abason area in Saidpur municipality of Nilphamari, was taken to a hospital by neighbours a few hours after the incident.

Dr Abdur Rahim, residential medical officer of 100-bed Adhunik Hospital in Saidpur, told The Daily Star that 40 percent of her body was burnt and the injuries in her respiratory tract were severe.

She was given first aid there before doctors referred her to the burn unit of Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

Halima, who was a mother of five children, succumbed to her injuries around 10:00am yesterday.

**Journo abducted**

FROM PAGE 3

Tanmoy, and his accomplices Mohsin, and Saju of Kamal Kachna area and 10 unidentified people.

Protesting the abduction, journalists under the banner of Sammito Sangbadik Samaj will form a human chain before Rangpur Press Club at 11:00am on Sunday.

## Bagerhat AL office set on fire

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat**

A local office of the ruling Awami League burned down in Bagerhat Sadar early yesterday after allegedly being set alight by miscreants.

Nothing could be salvaged from the fire, said Joyanal Abedin Titas, station officer of Bagerhat Fire Service and Civil Defence.

Jahangir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Bagerhat Police Station, visited the spot. No one has been detained yet in this connection.

Takchhir Hossain, an adviser of local AL, suspects the "arson attack" was related to last year's municipal election on December 30.

## Stalker held on Sust campus

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar**

The students of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) on Thursday evening caught and handed over a youth to police for allegedly stalking female students on the campus in Sylhet city.

Joyanal Bari Nadel, a BBA student of Sylhet Metropolitan University, used to stalk students every day, said Prof Kamruzzaman Chowdhury, Sust's proctor.

## Youth held with arms, ammo

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj**

Police arrested a youth and seized two unlicensed pistols, two magazines and six bullets from his house in Mokimpur village of Chapainawabganj's Shibganj upazila yesterday.

A case was filed against Md Emon, 21.

## 1200kg of jatkas seized

**UNB, Munshiganj**

Bangladesh Coast Guard seized 1,200 kilogrammes of jatka (hilsa less than 10 inches long) from a launch in the river Meghna in Gozaria upazila of Munshiganj yesterday morning.

Jetty Officer Aminul Haque of Gozaria Coast Guard said on secret information, a team of the coast guard conducted a drive in Dhaka-bound launch MV Jamal-3 from Barisal on the river in the morning and seized the fish.

Persons carrying the fish could not be found, added the coast guard official.

The seized hilsa were later distributed among local orphanages.

## Classmate held in student murder case in Sylhet

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar**

A teenager was arrested on Thursday night for allegedly stabbing to death his classmate at Jamiya Islamia Darul Ullum Madania Madrasa.

Mohsin Uddin Nayem, 19, son of Maolana Ashraf Ali, the madrasa's founder, was arrested in his Notunbazar house in Sylhet district's Bishawnath upazila. Locals found Salman Ahmed's body on a road in Notunbazar area on Wednesday.

The victim's mother filed a case on Thursday morning.



Two of the 30 bull carts which took part in a traditional race organised annually on empty fields following the harvest of Aman paddy in Jessore's Kashimpur union. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Post-polls clash injures 14

**UNB, Chuadanga**

At least 14 people, including four women, were injured when supporters of the newly elected councillor of ward-7 Abul Hossain of Chuadanga municipality and defeated councillor candidate Abdul Razzaque Taru clashed over election results yesterday afternoon.

Afterwards, police brought the situation under control, said Saiful Islam, officer-in-charge of Chuadanga Sadar Police Station.

## CPJ welcomes

**FROM PAGE 4**

police as the mastermind, said the statement quoting media reports.

The court also sentenced Jashimuddin Rahmani, the leader of banned outfit Ansarul Islam Bangla Team, to five years in jail for "abetting murder" by inciting students to kill secular bloggers.

Rajib, also known as "Thaba Baba," wrote critically about Islamic fundamentalism and had covered mass protests known as the Shahbagh movement shortly before his murder, added the release.

Last year, four other bloggers and a publisher were hacked to death by Islamic extremists, claimed the statement basing on a CPJ research. To date, there have been no convictions in those cases.

## Youth held with pistol in Benapole

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole**

Police arrested a youth and seized a pistol from his possession in Sarsa Bazar area in Jessore upazila headquarter yesterday.

Yasin Ali, 29, of Sarsa thana's Islampur village, is accused in many cases including murder and extortion, said police.

A case was filed.

বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ড			
১৭১-১৭২, বায়েজিদ বোস্তামী সড়ক, নাসিরাবাদ, চট্টগ্রাম			
"বেশি বেশি চা পান করুন স্বাস্থ্য সুন্দর সতেজ রাখুন।"			
"বেশি বেশি লিকার চা পানো ক্যালার, হৃদরোগ হার মানে।"			
<b>গভীর নলকূপের অসম্পন্ন কাজের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি</b>			
১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়।	
২	এজেন্সী	বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ড।	
৩	সমগ্রকারী সংস্থার নাম	বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ড।	
৪	সমগ্রকারী সংস্থার অবস্থান	১৭১-১৭২, বায়েজিদ বোস্তামী সড়ক, নাসিরাবাদ, চট্টগ্রাম।	
৫	আহবানকৃত দরপত্রের নাম	গভীর নলকূপ, পাস্প হাউজ ও আভারহাউজ রিজার্ভ ট্যাঙ্কের অসম্পন্ন কাজ এবং ওভার হেড ওয়াটার রিজার্ভ ট্যাঙ্ক নির্মাণ ও পানি সরবরাহ সংক্রান্ত কাজ সম্পাদনা করা।	
৬	সমগ্র পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।	
৭	দরপত্র নং	বিটিবি/বায়ানকো-১২/২০০১-৫২৬(২)/(৪) তারিখঃ ২৯/১২/২০১৫	
৮	অর্থের উৎস	বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ডের সংগৃহীত রাজস্ব খাত।	
৯	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও স্থান	০৩/০১/২০১৬ হতে ১৭/০১/২০১৬ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত। স্থান: ১। বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ড, ১৭১-১৭২, বায়েজিদ বোস্তামী সড়ক, নাসিরাবাদ, চট্টগ্রাম; ২। মহা-ব্যবস্থাপকের কার্যালয়, চা বাগান ব্যবস্থাপনা কোষ, নিউ সাননবাগ চা বাগান, উপজেলা-বড়শোবা, জেলা-মৌলভীবাজার।	
১০	দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	১৮/০১/২০১৬, দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ড, চট্টগ্রাম।	
১১	দরপত্র কোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	১৮/০১/২০১৬, দুপুর ১২:০৫ ঘটিকা, সচিব এর দপ্তর, বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ড, চট্টগ্রাম।	
১২	দরপত্রদাতাদের যোগ্যতা	সংশ্লিষ্ট চিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আয়কর পরিশোধের হালনাগাদ প্রমাণক, ভ্যাট নিবন্ধকরণ সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট এবং টেন্ডার সিডিউলে উল্লিখিত অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ, এমুয়াল টার্নওভার ও লিকুইড এসেট এর তথ্যাদি দাখিল করতে হবে।	
১৩	দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য	৫০০/- টাকা প্রতিটি (অফেরতযোগ্য)।	
১৪	কাজের পরিচিতি	কাজের অবস্থান	কার্য সম্পাদনের সময়
গভীর নলকূপ, পাস্প হাউজ ও আভারহাউজ রিজার্ভ ট্যাঙ্কের অসম্পন্ন কাজ এবং ওভার হেড ওয়াটার রিজার্ভ ট্যাঙ্ক নির্মাণ ও পানি সরবরাহ সংক্রান্ত কাজ সম্পাদনা করা।		পাথারিয়া চা বাগান, পোঃ- দক্ষিণবাগ, উপজেলা-বড়শোবা, জেলা-মৌলভীবাজার।	৯০ (নব্বই) দিন
১৫	টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটির অর্থ	৩০,০০০/- টাকা (কেরতযোগ্য) হিসাবে সরকার অনুমোদিত যে কোন তফসিলী ব্যাংক হতে সচিব, বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ড এর অনুকূলে উক্ত টাকার ডিডি/প-অর্ডার দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।	
১৬	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম, পদবী ও যোগাযোগের বর্ণনা	সচিব, ফোনঃ ০৩১-৬৮২০৯৬, ফ্যাক্সঃ ০৩১-৬৮২৮৬৩, E-mail: secretary@teaboard.gov.bd, Website: www.teaboard.gov.bd	
১৭	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	ক) দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত যে কোন তথ্য অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে জানা যাবে। খ) উল্লিখিত কাজ সরেজমিনে পরিদর্শন পূর্বক দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। অন্যথায় দরপত্র দলিল বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। গ) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা সলল দরপত্র বর্জন করার পূর্ণ ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।	
জিডি-৪০১৭		সচিব বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ড	

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