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Public safety ignored

Workers, pedestrians in danger at Moghbazar flyover site due to scanty safety measures

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Construction of the massive 8.7km Moghbazar-Mouchak flyover in the capital without adequate safety measures is putting the workers' lives and public safety in great danger, said experts.

Public safety measures like enclosures, scaffolding and fencing are ignored at the construction site, leaving thousands of people passing by the site every day in peril, said Prof Syed Ishtiaq Ahmad of civil engineering department at BUET.

Likewise, the standard safety rules for the workers are grossly ignored too, he added.

A construction worker was killed after an iron rod fell on his head at the flyover's construction site in Eskaton yesterday. He was not wearing any safety gear.

Tapash Ghoshal, a sub-inspector of Ramna Police Station, who recovered Rabbi Ahmed Emon and rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said, "Emon had no safety gear, not even any helmet, on when we recovered him."

Apparently, the safety manual designed for such a major project is not being followed, said noted civil engineer Jamilur Reza Chowdhury.

Rudimentary personal safety gears like helmet (hard hat), special boot and retro reflective vest are mandatory for a construction worker as per standard safety guidelines, he said, adding that the workers engaged in piling work have to have ear protector and those engaged in welding must have eye protector.

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The point, circled, of the under-construction Moghbazar-Malibagh flyover in Eskaton from where an iron bar fell on a worker underneath and killed him yesterday. Construction of the 8.7km flyover in the capital is going on without ensuring adequate safety measures, putting the workers' lives and public safety in peril.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

MOGHBAZAR FLYOVER Worker dies as iron rod falls on him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A construction worker was killed yesterday after an iron rod fell off Moghbazar-Malibagh flyover and hit his head in the capital's Eskaton.

The deceased was identified as Rabbi Ahmed Emon, 25, of Gaibandha.

The iron rod struck Emon's head around 11:30am when labourers were working on the Eskaton site of the flyover, said Tapash Ghoshal, a sub-inspector of Ramna Police Station.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead, the SI added.

Emon's co-worker Sohel Rana said Emon had duty the previous night and that he continued working until yesterday morning.

Five to six workers were working on the flyover when a rod dropped hitting Emon, said Jamila Begum, a tea vendor in the area.

Following the incident, the construction work on the spot was suspended.

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TK 21CR BRIBERY CASE HC clears way for trial of Tarique, three others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for a lower court concerned to resume the trial proceedings against BNP leader Tarique Rahman and three others in a bribery case involving Tk 21 crore.

Three other accused in the case are former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar, Abu Sufian, director of East West Property Development Pvt Ltd, a sister concern of Bashundhara Group, and former lawmaker Qazi Saleemul Huq Kamal.

On October 10, 2007, the Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case with Ramna Police Station against Tarique, senior vice-chairman of BNP, Babar and four others in

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Clinton, Trump move closer to nominations

Rubio bows out of US presidential race

AFP, Cleveland

Hillary Clinton took a monumental step toward clinching the Democratic party's White House nomination, while Donald Trump's seemingly unstoppable rush to victory hit a bump in Ohio.

Trump on Tuesday won key Republican primaries in Illinois, North Carolina and Florida -- where he thumped home state Senator Marco Rubio, who immediately announced he was suspending his presidential campaign.

"This was an amazing evening," a buoyant Trump told supporters. "We're going to win, win, win and we're not stopping."

Rubio's loss was a major setback for Republicans trying to stop the bell-couse businessman, whose populist anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim stance they fear will split the party.

The 69-year-old Trump was clinging to a narrow lead in Missouri with nearly all of the votes counted, but was denied a clean sweep by Ohio Governor John Kasich, who carried his home state, a key general election battleground.



Hillary Clinton



Donald Trump

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BIOMETRIC DATABASE Indian govt's move raises privacy fears

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's parliament is set to pass legislation that gives federal agencies access to the world's biggest biometric database in the interests of national security, raising fears the privacy of a billion people could be compromised.

The move comes as the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) cracks down on student protests and pushes a Hindu nationalist agenda in state elections, steps that some say erode India's traditions of tolerance and free speech.

It could also usher in surveillance far more intrusive than the US telephone and Internet spying revealed by former National Security Agency (NSA) contractor Edward Snowden in 2013, some privacy advocates said.

The Aadhaar database scheme, started seven years ago, was set up to streamline payment of benefits and cut down on massive wastage and fraud, and already nearly a billion people have registered

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All female crew in historic flight



BBC ONLINE

Three Royal Brunei Airlines pilots have made history by being the company's first all-female flight crew, making their first journey to Saudi Arabia, where women are not allowed to drive.

The women flew the Boeing 787 Dreamliner from Brunei to Jeddah. The milestone coincided with Brunei's National Day to celebrate independence.

Last year women in Saudi Arabia cast their votes for the first time in municipal elections. A total of 978 women also registered as candidates.

They were alongside 5,938 men and had to speak behind a partition while campaigning, or be represented by a man.

The decision to allow women to take part was taken by the late King Abdullah and is seen as a key

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WAR CRIMES TRIAL Nizami to seek SC review

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Convicted war criminal Motiur Rahman Nizami would seek a review of the Supreme Court verdict that upheld his death penalty handed down by a special tribunal in October 2014.

"He [Nizami] has directed us to file a review [against the SC verdict],"

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PRAYER TIMING

MARCH 17

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN	5-00	12-45	4-30	6-14	7-45
JAMAAT	5-35	1-15	4-45	6-18	8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Denmark happiest nation

Bhutan leads South Asian countries in happiness index

AGENCIES

Denmark overtook Switzerland as the world's happiest place, according to a report that urged nations regardless of wealth to tackle inequality and protect the environment.

Bangladesh ranked 110th among 157 nations across the globe while Bhutan, 84th, is the happiest country in South Asia.

The World Happiness Report 2016, prepared by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and the Earth Institute at Columbia University in New York, showed Syria, Afghanistan and eight sub-Saharan countries as the 10 least happy places on earth to live, Reuters reported yesterday.

The top 10 this year were Denmark, Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, Finland, Canada, Netherlands, New

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An excavator in operation at Gulshan Lake in the capital's Banani area yesterday. The Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha, the authority to oversee the development of the capital city, has recently taken up a project to restore and augment the beauty of the lake.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Efforts on to get UK cargo ban lifted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has launched hectic efforts at home and abroad for the withdrawal of UK's ban on all direct cargo flights from Dhaka to London.

Law Minister Anisul Haq, who is now visiting the UK, on Tuesday met Lord Ahmad, parliamentary under secretary of state for transport and home office of the UK.

The minister apprised Lord Ahmed of the government's steps in improving security and management at Shahjalal International Airport, officials at Bangladesh High Commission in London said.

Earlier on March 8, British Prime Minister David Cameron in a letter to his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina called for a visible improvement of airport security by March 31 to avoid further measures like banning of direct Biman passenger flights from Dhaka to London.

Hasina has already written back to Cameron, requesting him to review the decision. More minister-level communications between the two countries are expected, said a foreign ministry source.

Talking to The Daily Star, a diplomat at the Bangladesh mission in London yesterday said the law minister briefed Lord Ahmad on the safety and security measures taken so far at the airport.

He said officials of both Bangladesh and the UK prepared a list of short, medium and long term measures and identified the measures needed to be taken on a priority basis to provide security pursuant to an international standard at the airport.

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