

Four die in Rangamati as building topples

A CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

At least four people were killed and several others went missing last evening as a two-storied building toppled over into Kaptai Lake in Reserve Bazar area of the district.

The deceased were identified as Zahidul Islam, 45, his daughter Pinky, 13, her house tutor Umme Habiba, 22, and Saidul, 4, our local correspondent reports quoting Liton Kumar Palit, a physician at Rangamati Sadar Hospital.

The identity of the fourth victim is yet to be determined.

The building, located near Rangamati Government Women's College, overturned around 6:00pm, said, Manzurul Mannan, deputy commissioner of Rangamati.

The building might have given way after the water level in the lake rose due to incessant rain and partially inundated it, said Golam Mustafa, assistant director of Fire Service and Civil Defence.

Seven people have been rescued while a child remained missing, Golam Mustafa told this correspondent.

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A two-storied building tipped into the Kaptai Lake near the Rangamati Government Mohila College last evening after heavy rains caused a rise in water level. Firefighters and locals struggle in the mud and water to find trapped residents in the tin-roofed building.

PHOTO: STAR

JS thanks PM for winning awards

BSS, Sangsad Bhaban

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday unanimously adopted a thanksgiving motion on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for receiving the "Planet 50-50 Champion" and "Agent of Change Award".

Awami League lawmaker Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim brought the motion in the House under Rule 147 of the Rules of Procedure.

He said Hasina was conferred upon the "Planet 50-50 Champion" and "Agent of Change Award" for her outstanding contributions to gender equality and women empowerment.

The UN-Women recognised the PM as "Planet 50-50 Champion", while Global Partnership Forum handed over the "Agent of Change Award" to her at a high-level reception at the UN Plaza at the UN Headquarters in New York on Sept 21.

The citation of the "Planet 50-50 Champion" and "Agent of Change Award" mentioned that Bangladesh empowered women in every sector of the country.

Selim, a presidium member of the ruling Awami League, said Hasina, daughter of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

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'Dead' newborn found alive, again

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Ridwana Kawsar, assistant dental surgeon at Alikadam Upazila Health Complex in Bandarban, gave birth to a premature baby at Centre for Specialised Care and Research (CSCR) around 1:00am yesterday.

Her husband, Nurul Azam, a medical officer at Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital said, "After the baby was born, my wife heard a gynaecology consultant say that the baby's breathing was okay. The consultant asked on-duty doctors to take the baby to the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU)."

"But two hours later, they packed the baby in a box and sent it to my wife's cabin along with a death certificate," he alleged.

"As my wife herself is a doctor, she opened the box to verify, and was surprised to see that the baby was alive. But her body was cold."

"She immediately informed the doctors about it and asked them to take the baby to the NICU, but they refused saying she was wrong and her baby was dead," Nurul, who was at

work at the time, said.

"My wife noticed that the baby was moving, but the on-duty doctors said she was not moving," he said. "My wife asked them to examine the baby but they refused."

"Then my wife took the baby to another private hospital and put her in an incubator. It [the baby's temperature] became a bit normal. As there was no NICU there, the baby was taken to Max Hospital. She is now undergoing treatment at the NICU, but her condition is critical," Nurul said.

Taimul Islam, front desk executive at Max Hospital, said Ridwana's baby was admitted to the NICU around 6:00am yesterday.

Nurul alleged that the baby was kept without any care for two hours after her birth at CSCR.

"There was sheer negligence on the part of the on-duty doctors at CSCR's NICU, which left her in critical condition. They packed an alive baby in a box, terming it dead," Nurul alleged.

Contacted, Tanvir Zafar, resident medical officer of CSCR, said the baby

weighed only 500 grammes. "The baby was in the womb for 25 weeks and the viable age of a baby is 28 weeks," he said.

Asked why the baby was declared dead despite it being alive, Tanvir said the hospital management committee formed a probe body to investigate the matter. The committee was asked to submit its report within 48 hours.

Refuting Tanvir's claim, Nurul said his baby was in the womb for 27 weeks.

Calling it a sheer negligence and violation of medical ethics, Mahfuzur Rahman, a renowned pathologist, told The Daily Star that mostly intern doctors or junior doctors are on duty in the night shift at most private hospitals.

Due to their inexperience, junior doctors cannot make proper decisions most of the time, especially when the patient's condition is critical, he said.

"To avoid recurrence of such incidents, private hospitals should engage senior doctors in rotation round the clock," Mahfuzur said.

Three Britons win Nobel in physics

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\$931,000 or 834,000 euros) prize, while Haldane and Kosterlitz share the other half.

Topology is a branch of mathematics that investigates the physical properties of matter and space -- shape in essence -- that remain unchanged under certain deforming forces.

These include stretching, compressing and bending, but not piercing, tearing or gluing.

An often-used example is a rubber coffee cup being bent, twisted and reshaped into a donut -- for topologists the two shapes are indistinguishable, though to the rest of us they are completely different.

In practical terms, these properties of matter may one day lead to the reshaping of common materials into "topological states" that can transport energy and information in very small spaces without overheating.

The trio's pioneering work "boosted frontline research in condensed matter physics, not least because of the hope that topological materials could be used in

new generations of electronics and superconductors, or in future quantum computers," said the Nobel jury.

'STUMBLED' ON DISCOVERY

In the early 1970s, Kosterlitz and Thouless overturned the theory that superconductivity or suprafluidity could not occur in very thin layers of material.

Superconductivity is when electricity flows through a material without experiencing any resistance or losing energy as heat, while suprafluidity is when a fluid flows without any friction.

For his part, Haldane discovered how topological concepts applied to chains of small magnets in certain materials.

Haldane said his prizewinning discovery had been serendipitous.

"Most of the big discoveries are done that way: you stumble on it and you have the luck to recognise you have something very interesting," he told reporters at the Nobel press conference via videolink.

"It's so surprising that it takes a while to grip, but when you see it you realise why no one had seen it before."

Thouless, 82, is professor emeritus at

the University of Washington in Seattle.

Haldane, 65, is a professor at Princeton University, and Kosterlitz, born in 1942, teaches at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island.

For Laurent Levy, physics professor at France's University of Grenoble, the trio's work had yielded "a conceptual revolution".

"They introduced new ideas and physics which have, later, resulted in heaps of new discoveries," he told AFP.

"Above all, it advanced our understanding of the properties of matter."

Last year, the physics prize went to Japan's Takaaki Kajita and Canada's Arthur McDonald for determining that neutrinos have mass, a key piece of the puzzle in understanding the cosmos.

The physics prize is the second of the Nobels for 2016 to be awarded, after the medicine prize on Monday went to Yoshinori Ohsumi of Japan.

He was honoured for his pioneering work on autophagy -- a process whereby cells "eat themselves", which can result in Parkinson's and diabetes when disrupted.

Dhaka 'agrees' on new fencing

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Sharma said the decision would affect 148 villages completely outside the IB fence as well as 137 villages partially outside it.

"A majority of these villages are in West Bengal state of India while a few are in other Indian states that share a border with Bangladesh. As the population lives and works here, the fence will have gates for people to cross over to the other side and come back," he said.

The BCB chief said the situation in these villages outside the fencing is very challenging at many places.

Both the DGs said regular issues such as cattle smuggling and circulation of Fake Indian Currency Note (FICN)

came up at the meeting.

Sharma said, "The FICN menace has seen some reduction but much more needs to be done to further bring this criminal activity down."

Maj Gen Aziz said both the sides are sharing a lot of information, and that the BCB personnel are cooperating with the BSF in curbing cattle smuggling from India to Bangladesh.

"We also want it stopped... We do not want Indian cattle in Bangladesh. Our government has initiated a new project of domestic cattle farming to meet our needs," he said.

The BCB chief noted that most of the killings of Bangladeshis by the BSF on the border occur due to cattle smug-

gling, and both the BCB and the BSF would like to bring these numbers to zero.

Both the DGs said the talks were "cordial" and a number of issues were sorted out during the conference that began on October 3.

The BSF chief said they also took up the issue of security situation following the recent "surgical strikes" by the Indian army across the de facto border with Pakistan, and that both the forces are on "high vigil."

"There is no new input [about Bangladeshi territory being used by terrorists]... However, vigil has been increased along the Indo-Bangla border too," he said.

Bangladesh will be with India

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security advisors spoke over phone, top Pakistani official Sartaj Aziz said.

The home boss was addressing a views-exchange programme at the Secretariat organised by Bangladesh Secretariat Reporters Forum.

Responding to another question, he said the law enforcers did not pray for fresh remand for Tahmid Hasib Khan, one of the Gulshan café attack survivors, as they did not get enough information in previous remands.

"We will be able to question him further if we need to," Kamal added.

A court on Sunday granted bail to Tahmid, who was released the same night.

It had earlier been widely reported that Tahmid, a Canadian university student, and Hasnat Karim, a former

private university teacher in Bangladesh, were taken in by detectives for interrogation immediately after the 11-hour bloody siege ended on July 2.

On hacking of a Sylhet college student, the home minister firmly stated that the attacker, who stabbed Sylhet Government Mahila College student Khadija Akter Nargis yesterday, would be brought to justice, irrespective of his political association.

On Monday evening, Khadija, 23, daughter of Masuk Miah, a resident of Hausa village in Sadar upazila, was stopped on her way home from college allegedly by Badrul Alam, 30, assistant secretary of BCL unit at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST).

Kamal said his ministry has

approved in principle a proposal to form an air wing for police. "To make the police self-sufficient and to speed up their operation, a decision over forming an air wing has been taken in principle.

"The finance ministry would decide about the number of helicopters to be purchased. We will proceed gradually," he added. Replying to another query, he said police personnel would be trained on how to operate helicopters.

On a question about shooting unarmed Bangladeshi nationals on the border, the minister said the government filed protests with the Indian authorities every time a Bangladeshi citizen was killed by Border Security Force (BSF).

He added both the countries were trying to reduce border killings.

10 countries host

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the global refugee crisis: from shirking to sharing responsibility".

"That situation is inherently unsustainable, exposing the millions fleeing war and persecution in countries like Syria, South Sudan, Afghanistan, and Iraq to intolerable misery and suffering.

"It is time for leaders to enter into a serious, constructive debate about how our societies are going to help people forced to leave their homes by war and persecution."

Amnesty said the top refugee hosting country was Jordan, which has taken in

more than 2.7 million people, followed by Turkey (more than 2.5 million); Pakistan (1.6 million) and Lebanon (more than 1.5 million).

The remaining six nations listed in the top 10 each hosted hundreds of thousands of refugees: Iran (979,400); Ethiopia (736,100); Kenya (553,900); Uganda (477,200); Democratic Republic of Congo (383,100); and Chad (369,500).

The statistics are based on figures from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Amnesty said many of the world's wealthiest nations "host the fewest and

do the least".

"It is not simply a matter of sending aid money. Rich countries cannot pay to keep people 'over there'," it said.

The "self-interest" of such countries meant the international refugee crisis was set to get worse, not better, Amnesty claimed.

"If every one of the wealthiest countries in the world were to take in refugees in proportion to their size, wealth and unemployment rate, finding a home for more of the world's refugees would be an eminently solvable challenge," said Shetty.

What a waste!

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"I have been catching fish for 25 years and I have never seen such a huge catch before," said Samiran Jaladas, 42, referring to their Sunday's catch.

"... we deployed 21 nets ... After we retrieved 11, our boat got filled with fish. So, we had to ditch the hilsha catch from the remaining nets," he said.

Many other fishermen had a similar experience.

On an average day, they catch around 100 to 120kgs of fish. However, during this season, it ranged between 200 and 600kgs. On Sunday and Monday, some boats caught even a tonne of fish each, The Daily Star learnt after talking to several fishermen.

The local fisheries office gave similar information.

"After returning to the ghat, we saw

fishes being sold at throwaway prices. Still, we failed to find any buyer," said Samiran.

The fisherman said he sent some fish to a customer for Tk 7,000. With no buyer and no cold storage available, he then sent many more to Chittagong city where the fish was sold for just Tk 8,000 as they had already started to rot.

"We had to dump the rest of the fish into the sea," said Samiran, adding, "I could earn at last Tk 2 lakh had there been a cold storage here."

Almost all the fishermen in the ghat dumped one third of their catches on that two days. They demanded a cold storage be set up there immediately.

Fishermen in Banshabaria union's Boaliakhul Ghat and Sonaichari union's Fakirhat Ghat also had to dump fish for the same reason, locals said.

Nurul Goni, a wholesale buyer at

Kumira Ghat, said he bought around 10 tonnes of fish on Sunday. He has been selling fish in Dhaka, Chittagong and other districts for over two decades.

However, some 2.5 tonnes of the hilsha had to be dumped into the Bay as Goni could not afford preservatives like ice and salt due to their high prices.

Fishermen and wholesale buyers at the ghat alleged that local traders hiked the prices of ice and salt following the huge catches.

A piece of ice weighing around 80kgs usually costs Tk 80, but the traders were charging Tk 1,200 for the same quantity on Sunday. Besides, the price of salt was hiked by Tk 8 to Tk 10 a kg.

Upazila Fisheries Officer Selim Reza said they were aware of the incident and that he would inform the higher authorities about the fishermen's demand for a cold storage.