

Worker killed in wall collapse at Baridhara

3 injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A female labourer was killed and her three co-workers were injured when a wall fell on them at a construction site in the capital's Baridhara Society yesterday.

Bedena, 35, who had joined work only the day before, was declared dead on arrival at United Hospital Ltd. She hailed from Netrakona.

The injured, Mahbub Alam, Azibur and Abdul Khaleque, are being treated at Kurmitola General Hospital.

The four were clearing rubble and dirt from a ditch when the adjoining eight-foot tall wall on plot-7 fell on them around 9:30am. Gulshan Police Station Sub-Inspector Sheikh Shahanur Rahman told The Daily Star.

A coworker who was several yards away said he had heard "a loud thud" and saw the injured pinned down by large sections of the wall and only one hand of the deceased sticking out.

"All but the woman were crying for help," said Asadur Rahman, the coworker.

This correspondent found two large piles of stone and sand, which had been apparently resting against the wall, occupying a portion of the adjacent Road 13.

Baridhara Society Security-in-Charge Mojibur Rahman said they had verbally asked the authorities carrying out the construction to remove the piles a week ago but to no avail.

Gulshan police said they would try to identify the owners and construction authorities today. An unnatural death case has been filed.

Drop Rohingya

Rohingya minority citizenship, failing to protect them and itself perpetrating rampant and systemic violation of their human rights, including restrictions on movement; limitations on access to health care, livelihood, shelter, and education; arbitrary arrests and detention; and forced labour".

The statement said Myanmar's discriminatory citizenship policies also "refuse" to cooperate in the repatriation of Rohingyas.

"The Bangladeshi government needs to treat the persecuted Rohingyas humanely," Adams said. "Instead of dumping Rohingyas on a flooded island, the government should be seeking immediate donour support to improve existing conditions for the refugees".

Between 300,000 and 500,000 Rohingya Muslim refugees, most of them unregistered by the authorities, are in Bangladesh after fleeing persecution in Myanmar dating back to the 1990s, said the statement.

Since October 2016, nearly 69,000 Rohingyas from Rakhine State in Myanmar have entered Bangladesh to escape attacks by Myanmar security forces, including killings, sexual violence and "wholesale" destruction of villages, it added.

Ex-Rajuk boss

According to the case statement, Showkat and Ashfaq, also chairman of the executive committee of City Bank, applied for a 10-katha plot in Purbachal New Town Project on the outskirts of the capital under the industrialist category on August 23, 2001. The two, who were among 32,000 plot seekers, deposited Tk 1.5 lakh with Rajuk.

Rajuk later allotted plots to applicants, but the duo didn't get any, it read.

On December 18, 2003, they withdrew their deposits. Rajuk then cancelled their application. "They didn't apply for any plot again," said the case statement.

After the first phase of plot allotment, Rajuk on June 1, 2004 decided to hold a board meeting to allot plots to 1,000 more applicants.

Analysing the minutes of the board meeting held the following day, the ACC found that "Rajuk allotted two 10-katha plots to Showkat and Ashfaq against their cancelled application without any recommendation from the selection committee."

Initially, a special ACC team looked into the allegation. Last year, ACC Deputy Assistant Director Silvia Ferdous was given the responsibility to carry out the probe. The ACC filed the case, as the allegation was found true in primary investigation, she said.

The commission is now looking into 170 such allegations of irregularities in allotting plots by Rajuk.



The wall in Baridhara in the capital that fell on four construction workers yesterday, killing a female labourer.

PHOTO: STAR

Pvt sector's role

Dialogue, said the world is going through a turbulent transition.

He said the scenario has totally changed from what was five years ago when the role of globalisation was applauded and that now people are talking about its pitfalls.

The noted economist said new types of disasters are appearing, such as those in the form of Ebola and Zika, along with natural calamities.

Bhattacharya, however, also talked about opportunities in times of trouble. "...it is temporary. But those who survive are tough people and countries," he said.

He said during turbulent times, Asia remains the beacon of hope, not only because of India and China but also for new entrepreneurship and ongoing reforms in many countries even in the face of falling exports and productivity.

He said the continent is innovating not only in cases of reforms, policies, institutions, enterprises and inclusive finance. "Asia is also innovating regional and sub-regional cooperation," he said.

"On one hand, you have the turbulent transition. On the other hand, we have the most ambitious programme, namely SDGs," he said, adding that it remains to be seen how a bridge can be built between the turbulent transition and delivery of the ambitious 2030 Agenda.

"It is the role of the private sector by way of delivering and connecting the two and implementing the SDGs. It is much beyond the corporate social responsibility and it is much more about ethical business," he said.

Bhattacharya said business leaders themselves have spoken about the new partnership with the government and the civil society, and strategic partnership across borders with. "That gives us the hope," he added.

Asif Ibrahim, chair of the ESCAP's taskforce on disaster and climate risk reduction, presented recommendations from one of the sessions he moderated.

The entrepreneur said a central

network can be established where businesspeople will share their practical experiences in order to reduce disaster risks.

The private sector, governments, civil societies and development partners will have to work together to improve quality of life, he said.

The session on supporting trade and transport facilitation for regional integration advocated for not keeping any sensitive list of products under regional trade agreements. Schemes like "Everything but Arms" may be followed, it added.

Speakers in the session recommended completion of regulatory procedures in a single day and effective implementation of agreements under initiatives such as BBIN (Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal), the BCIM Corridor (Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Forum for Regional Cooperation) and the BIMSTEC (the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) for giving a big push to regional connectivity.

Speakers said structural policy reforms need to be strengthened in areas of education, governance and infrastructure, and that regional integration and quality infrastructure are very critical for sustainable growth.

The International Chamber of Commerce Bangladesh (ICCB) co-organised the event with the ESCAP and the commerce ministry of Bangladesh.

More than 400 delegates, including government officials and members of the civil society and business community, from home and abroad took part in the conference themed "Asia-Pacific Business Forum: Regional Integration to Achieve Sustainable Development".

Mahbubur Rahman, president of the ICCB, and Md Mosharrar Hossain Bhuiyan, senior secretary of the industries ministry, also spoke at the concluding session.

This is the first time Bangladesh hosted the event taking place since 2004. It will be held next in Hong Kong early 2018.

From shop assistant

In 2000, he left that job as well and the next year, he started his own NGO, Bandhan Financial Services, with an aim to help those in need.

He began this journey with nothing but his savings of two lakh rupees and an equal amount of money borrowed from a relative. With only three men, he set up his first office in Howrah district in West Bengal.

The NGO had to struggle much to raise funds for the first three years. Banks were not ready to finance it because it did not have enough capital and a balance sheet.

This obstacle, however, could not dishearten Ghosh.

Glued to his goal, he somehow managed a loan of 20 lakh rupees from the Small Industries Development Bank of India. In 2009, Bandhan was registered as a non-banking finance company lending people loans at low interests, ushering in hopes for it to become something giant.

The next year, the then Indian finance minister Pranab Mukherjee announced that the government would provide licence to new bank, and Bandhan applied for it.

Ghosh got the licence in 2014, becoming the first person from eastern India to gain a bank licence.

"I had to beat heavyweight contenders, including Reliance, Tata and Birla, for that," he said.

Today, Bandhan is the largest microcredit organisation in India.

The 17-month-old bank has spread over 32 states, with 772 branches, 270 ATM booths, nearly 1 crore customers, 1,416 microcredit offices, 23,000 staff and 20,000 crore rupees in deposits. The bank, based in Kolkata, earned nearly 850 crore rupees in the last nine months.

After its establishment, Bandhan bank reduced its interest rates by four percent, Ghosh said. "This is my satisfaction".

He said banking services in India still cater for the rich and the middle class. But Bandhan is a bank for both the poor and the rich.

"I have set up two different types of branches for the people from the classes of the society. I think such a bank was required in India".

However, the bank's focus remains unchanged on meeting the financial needs of the people overlooked by the formal banking system and on creating better education, healthcare and self-employment opportunities under its philosophy -- "Aapka Bhala, Sabki Bhalai (Your well-being, all's well-being)".

Bandhan also runs 2,500 schools that provide free education to around 70,000 students across the country.

Talking about Bangladesh's progress in different sectors, Ghosh said he was bullish about the country's development prospects.

"Bangladesh has a good potential to move forward. It is already performing quite well in areas like health and education. The economy is growing."

Ghosh also called for ensuring greater connectivity between Bangladesh and India for fulfilling mutual interests. "We could be borderless as all people are equal here," he said with a big smile.

It was murder

had killed Salman with the help of Salman's wife and mother-in-law and eight other accomplices. Rezvi, however, later disowned his confession given before the police.

On December 7 last year, a Dhaka court transferred the case to the Police Bureau of Investigation for fresh inquiry. The court passed order after Salman's mother Nilufar Chowdhury filed a no-confidence petition against the February 10, 2015 order that directed the Rapid Action Battalion to investigate the case.

On July 9, 2014, Metropolitan Magistrate Imdadul Haque submitted a probe report that found no indication of murder, and reported that the actor had committed suicide at his Eskaton residence on September 6, 1996.

61 arrested

Darussalam and Rupnagar areas, according to Rab.

Md Ibrahim Khalil, additional superintendent of police of Rab-4, told The Daily Star that while investigating some recent complaints of threats, they found a mismatch between customers' information and their addresses. Later, it was found SIM distributors and sales representatives were using false information for selling new SIM cards, he said.

Based on information, Rab raided MR Communication's office and found its staff using false addresses, printing fake national ID cards, and attaching copies of them to SIM card registration forms, in presence of the Banglalink zonal manager, he said.

Khalil said the distribution agency gave targets to its sales agents to sell at least 8,000 SIM cards per month. In a hurry, the sales agents just took finger prints and the national ID numbers to activate the SIM cards and give them to customers but they did not take photos or other information.

Later, they used to fill a fake form and attach copies of fake national ID cards and photos with it, said Khalil. "Because of this, we did not find the customer addresses."

A case was filed with Pallabi Police Station.

Asif Ahmed, head of Corporate Communications of Banglalink, in a statement, said, "We will further investigate when officially informed of this particular case. Banglalink is a compliant organisation guided by a strong code of conduct. Banglalink operates its business as per rules and regulations of the Bangladesh government. If any of the business partners is found to be involved in malpractice, we take immediate action."

Expatriates

The home ministry then prepared a draft as recommended and sent it to the law ministry for vetting in 2015. The law ministry then scrutinized the proposed law and sent it back to the home ministry.

The cabinet in 2016 asked the law ministry to further examine the proposed law.

The law ministry has made a move to amend some provisions of the proposed law, considering the logical demands of people, particularly the Bangladeshi expatriates, the sources said.

Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Gowher Rizvi, Supreme Court Bar Association President Yusuf Hossain Humayun, journalist Mahfuz Ullah and Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division Secretary Mohammad Shahidul Haque also spoke at the meeting chaired by Nonresident Bangladeshis Chairperson MS Shakil Chowdhury.

When frog

to see. What I saw surprised me -- the bird was trying to flutter its wings on the surface of the water.

At first I thought it might be a snake trying to pull the bird inside the water. But within a minute I realised that a big fat frog trying to hunt the bird. I was really astounded at the sight.

I have often watched this on National Geographic that snakes usually bring their prey to shore from water and crocodiles do the opposite. In this case, the frog was mimicking crocodile's style of hunting. The frog bit the bird's head and pulled it under water until its heart stopped beating -- the same technique crocodiles usually apply. After a while, the frog came ashore with the bird's motionless carcass and dragged it into a bush.

I have seen shrikes attacking frogs and snakes many times, but this time the opposite happened. It was an incredible experience that I can hardly put into words. How the ecosystem balances everything so nicely, what could be a better example than this?

Trump breaks ice

Last week, US ties with staunch ally Australia became strained after the Washington Post published details about an acrimonious phone call between Trump and Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

"That is the last thing China wants," a source familiar with China's thinking on relations with the United States told Reuters. "It would be incredibly embarrassing for President Xi and for Chinese people, who value the concept of face."

A senior non-US Western diplomat said China was unlikely to be in a rush to set up such a call.

"These things need to happen in a very controlled environment for China, and China can't guarantee that with the unpredictable Trump," the diplomat said.

"Trump also seems too distracted with other issues at the moment to give too much attention to China."

There are a number of contentious areas where China fears Trump could go off script, the diplomat said, pointing in particular to the issue of self-ruled Taiwan, as well as trade.

Trump upset China in December by taking a phone call from Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen. China considers Taiwan a wayward province with no right to formal diplomatic relations with any other country.

Trump has also threatened to slap tariffs on Chinese imports, accusing Beijing of devaluing its yuan currency and stealing US jobs.

In his Senate confirmation hearing, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said China should not be allowed access to islands it has built in the disputed South China Sea. The White House also vowed to defend "international territories" in the strategic waterway.

China has repeatedly said it has smooth contacts with the Trump team. The Foreign Ministry in Beijing said last week the two countries were

JS body

According to the draft, a boy below 21 and a girl below 18 should be considered under-aged and so should be ineligible to marry. Such marriages, except for the special cases for girls, should be treated as child marriage.

Women and rights bodies have been demanding cancellation of the "special provision" since the cabinet approved the draft of the proposed law in November last year.

The government had faced a wave of criticism when it, more than two years ago, planned to lower the minimum marriage age for girls to 16. The provision put forward at the time was such that a 16-year-old girl would be allowed to marry with her parents' consent or a court's permission obtained on justified grounds.

Amid protests, the government backtracked on that position but in the final draft left the scope for special cases.

The Jatiya Sangsad committee also recommended replacing the word "parents" with "parents or guardians where necessary" and punishing girls for violation of the law. The original bill had provisions for punishing boys only.

Its report suggests that the time of detention be increased from 15 days to 30 days and fine from Tk 5,000 to Tk 50,000.

DSCC files

hawkers on behalf of a vested quarter, said a DSCC official, wishing not to be named.

Some of those who are instigating hawkers to protest eviction drives against them were also made accused, he added.

The official said the cases were filed taking into consideration some lists of the offenders prepared by several hawkers' organisations and investigative reports published in different newspapers.

Rafiqul Islam, general secretary of Jatiya Hawkers' Federation, said they had long been demanding action against those "linemen".

Each of such "linemen" collects Tk 50 to Tk 300 every day from a hawker on behalf of some "police officials, local goons and political leaders", he claimed.

Despite repeated attempts, the authorities failed to evict hawkers from the city's footpaths, as they manage to continue their business by paying "extortion money", said a report published in this newspaper in October last year.

There are around 3.5 lakh shops on the city's footpaths, and the hawkers pay Tk 3 crore in "extortion money" a day, according to leaders of different hawkers' associations in the capital.

Since January 15, the DSCC has been conducting drives in Gulistan and its adjacent areas, including Purana Paltan, Dainik Bangla Mor and Motijheel areas, to keep footpaths free from hawkers.

Protesting the move, the hawkers staged demonstrations.

remaining "in close touch".

That contact has been led by China's top diplomat, State Councillor Yang Jiechi, who outranks the foreign minister.

Yang told Michael Flynn, Trump's National Security Advisor, last week that China hopes it can work with the United States to manage and control disputes and sensitive problems.

The source familiar with China's thinking said Trump's administration was "very clear" about China's position on Taiwan. Trump has yet to mention Taiwan since he took office.

Chinese state media has wondered whether Trump has a China policy at all.

On Thursday, the widely read Global Times tabloid, published by the ruling Communist Party's official People's Daily, noted that Trump had not immediately confronted China as had been expected because he had realised upsetting Beijing would backfire badly.

"He has probably realised that real tough action against China would result in a complex chain reaction, even beyond his control," the paper said in an editorial.

Wang Yiwei, a professor of international relations at Beijing's elite Renmin University, said the letter suggested the new US administration wanted to signal the importance it attached to the U.S.-China relationship without risking being confronted on specific issues.

"Trump has sent many messages that makes the world confused, like on the South China Sea and 'One China' policy, so if he makes a phone call President Xi will ask 'what do you mean?'," Wang said. "He wants to avoid this so he just sends a letter for the first step."

Wikipedia

Usually the broadsheets are better than the tabloids but there are circumstances when tabloids provide better coverage such as sports and crime. And if we exclude the Mail, there are a lot of other publications of lower quality that would still be considered reliable.

And N-HH said: "Bashing the Mail is fun, and it doesn't look as if anyone disagrees much that it is best avoided, but that there will possibly be rare occasions when it will be a good source, given the context (eg, as noted, something about the paper itself)."

"But that's the point: identifying appropriate sources is all about context, and there are plenty of rubbish websites out there that should rarely or never be used, and plenty of occasions when even broadsheet reporting isn't worth much for an encyclopaedia."

The editors' statement added: "If there are topics where it might be a reliable source, then better sources (without its disadvantages) should also exist and can be used instead."

Editors have asked for volunteers to comb through the thousands of citations that currently rely on links to Daily Mail stories and change them "as appropriate".

45,000 posts

up a project to construct necessary infrastructures in the schools, he said in a scripted answer.

Nahid also said drafting of the education bill to implement the National Education Policy-2010 was now at the final stage. "The draft education bill will be sent to the cabinet soon for its approval."

4 ACC men

Karmakar, its driver Biplob and police constable Misbah Uddin.

The ACC team went to the DC office around 4:30pm to arrest Azizur Rahman, an office assistant, over an allegation that he accepted bribe. But a group of DC officials stood in the way, and snatched their colleague from the ACC officials, Wahid alleged.

They said the ACC could arrest Azizur only with the deputy commissioner's approval, he added.

An argument followed and officials of both sides, including ACC Director Sharmin Parvin and DC Joynal Abedin, sat in a meeting to clear the air.

As the ACC team was waiting outside the meeting room, some officials of the district administration attacked them with bare hands and sticks around 6:00pm. They mostly punched the ACC team members in the face.

In the meantime, suspect Azizur, who was also present at the meeting, fell sick and was taken to a hospital. The DC said he suffered a mild stroke.

The ACC team left the DC office around 7:00pm under police protection.

The DC confirmed about the ACC raid, but said he could not comment on the attack as he was in the meeting room at the time.

The ACC filed a general diary over the attack with the Kotwali Police.