



Worker's death raises safety questions

One killed, 2 others injured as girder falls from under-construction Moghbazar-Malibagh flyover

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Accidents and deaths in Moghbazar-Malibagh Flyover construction continue as safety measures are not being maintained even though a High Court verdict last year ordered ensuring public safety there.

Early yesterday, a 36-metre-long girder weighing about 70 tonnes fell from the flyover and killed 42-year-old temporary hourly worker Md Swapan near Malibagh Level Crossing in the capital.

It also left two others -- Palash Baran Dhar, an LGED assistant engineer, and Noor Nabi, a concrete mixer truck driver -- seriously injured. Both of them have lost a leg each.

Another girder fell during installation at the same spot last month, but nobody was hurt, said sources.

Almost a year ago, 25-year-old construction worker Rabbi Ahmed Emon died when iron rods from the flyover fell on him in Eskaton.

The project authorities, however, seem indifferent to the casualties. Within a half kilometre from yesterday's accident spot, workers were seen without any safety gear and people were walking beneath the under-construction flyover as the pavement and street was almost unusable there.

Sushanto Kumar Biswas, project director of Moghbazar-Malibagh Flyover, said, "An accident is an accident... what else can I say?"

"I don't claim that we were able to take the required public safety precautions," he said, adding, "You understand... how much safety precautions can we take on an

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The collapsed girder of under-construction Moghbazar-Malibagh flyover at Malibagh Level Crossing in the capital. The 36-metre-long girder fell from the flyover in the wee hours yesterday, killing one person and injuring two others.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Dinajpur 'pir', aide stabbed, shot dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A "pir" and his female attendant were stabbed and shot dead last night at his shrine in Doula village of Dinajpur.

The motive behind the murders could not be known immediately. However, Dinajpur Superintendent of Police Hamidul Alam said conflicts over religious views might have driven the killings.

Local people found the

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IGP trashes claim of café siege by IS

Rejects Prof Gunaratna's statement linking the terror body to the attack, says he lacks 'experience in real issues' on Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque yesterday dismissed an international security expert's statement that Islamic State carried out the July 1 Gulshan attack last year.

The expert, Prof Rohan Gunaratna, lacks "experience in real issues" about Bangladesh, the country's top police official

said at a press briefing in Dhaka on the second day of an international conference organised by Interpol and Bangladesh Police.

"Rohan is neither a police officer nor a military officer. He doesn't deal with any security issues. He is an academician... He has done academic research on his own," the IGP said in response to a question.

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Police need to share terror info directly

Police chief at regional meet points out diplomatic red tape

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque yesterday said police forces of different countries needed direct communications for sharing of real-time information on terrorists and quickly responding to terror strikes.

The diplomatic procedures are time-consuming and will come to no use in catching terrorists, he said on the second day of a regional security conference in a Dhaka hotel.

"The systems in conventional institutions are bureaucratic with a lot of red tapes. If we want to send a letter somewhere, we'll have to go to the foreign ministry and different other places. It would take more than six months to get a response."

The police boss said

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BNP positive on polls

Starts preparations at grassroots level, working on a formula for polls-time govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP is taking preparations for contesting the next parliamentary election though political parties are yet to reach a consensus on the election-time government.

The ruling Awami League wants the current government, led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, to remain in office as per constitutional provisions.

But the BNP-led alliance wants a new form of government, which they term "supportive government" to run the

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Rejoinder, our reply

The NRB Commercial Bank has sent a rejoinder to a report titled "Tk 44cr shares, lot of questions" published in The Daily Star on March 8, 2017.

The rejoinder was signed by Haider Akhlaque, vice president and head of public relations division of the bank. The following is its text related to our report.

"It is to be mentioned here that, all the news articles, including yours cited Bangladesh Bank Inspection Report, which

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Worst year for Syrian children

Unicef tells harrowing tales

AGENCIES

A new report from the United Nations child relief agency (Unicef) has said that last year saw the highest recorded levels of grave violations against Syria's children since the outbreak of war in 2011.

At least 652 children were killed in 2016, but since Unicef only records verified deaths, the true figure is likely to be much higher, the agency said

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