

Four hurt in Gazipur factory explosion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four construction workers suffered burn injuries in an explosion at an under-construction building in Kaliakoir upazila of Gazipur yesterday.

The injured were identified as Ripon Mia, 30; Gulzar Hossain, 40, and Shahed Miah, 35, said Dr Partha Shankar Paul, a resident surgeon at the burn unit of DMCH, adding the trio was undergoing treatment in the hospital.

Among them Ripon suffered 65 percent burns while Gulzar and Shahed suffered 38 and 23 percent burns respectively, the doctor added.

Another worker Jahirul, who sustained burns on both hands, was given primary treatment.

"The explosion took place when I accidentally punctured a gas line while drilling a hole on the ceiling around 10:00am," Ripon Mia said.

Around 200 labourers were working on the ground floor of the under-construction Yarn Dyeing factory.

2 schoolgirls found dead in Turag

Families reject police's suicide suspicion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

The bodies of two schoolgirls were recovered from Turag river in Savar on Wednesday.

The deceased are Sathi Akthar and Afroza Siddika. Both the 14-year-olds were ninth grade students of Dhanmondi Rotary Club Girls High School in Ashulia's Ghoshbag area.

Fishermen found the bodies near Ashulia Bridge in the evening and informed police.

Javed Masud, inspector (investigation) of Ashulia Police Station, said, "After primary investigation, we suspect they might have jumped off the bridge to commit suicide."

However, families, school teachers and classmates refused to believe the suspicion.

Sathi's father, Nuruzzaman, a security guard at a factory, said his daughter went to school in the morning. "Later at night, we heard that her body was recovered from the river."

"Why would she commit suicide?" he said.

Afroza's father, Mohammed Masud, echoed the same.

This correspondent also spoke to the school's headteacher, Emarat Hossain. He said, "Both Sathi and Afroza were good students. They used to come to school regularly, but on Wednesday they were absent."

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Madrasa

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all the students to a mosque outside its premises to offer morning prayers.

But Mamun was still there as he was late to get up. During that time, Mahmuda was stabbed to death, said the OC.

Her nephew witnessed the incident after he had come out of a toilet, he said. Both the bodies were found with their throats slit.

However, police immediately could not say why Ibrahim had his wife killed.

On Wednesday, Mahmuda's father Hanif Gazi filed a murder case with the station accusing Ibrahim and at least four unnamed persons.

Meanwhile, a Gazipur court placed Ibrahim on a three-day remand after police had produced him before it with a 10-day remand prayer.

Two die in road crashes

STAR REPORT

Two people were killed in road accidents in two districts yesterday, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Chattogram, Devasis Roy, 55, died as a human haulier hit by a truck knocked him on Dhaka-Chattogram highway in Mirsarai area, said police.

In Sirajganj, Sathi Khatun, 40, was killed as a bus hit her in bus terminal area of the district.

Keep in mind

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Devrim Ozturk, the Turkish ambassador to Bangladesh. He emphasised the aspect of accountability.

"Accountability remains crucial for the way forward. This is required for the prevention of such crimes in the future," said Ozturk.

Mia Seppo, the resident coordinator of the United Nations, said that the solution of the crisis can only be solved in Myanmar.

"The secretary general of the UN, after visiting the camps, described it as a miracle on the edge. It was a miracle in terms of the response, and it was also a miracle in terms of the void in the loss of life and having been able to improve the condition. This miracle was possible thanks to a collaborative effort," she said.

Senior Economist at the Policy Research Institute, Ashique Rahman, stressed the need for more financial support from the international donors.

"Currently Jordan is facing a similar crisis with the Syrian refugees. Jordan is spending USD 3,650 per refugee, which amounts to six percent of its GDP. Bangladesh has 1.1 million refugees. The UN has only sought \$1 billion from its contributors, which is a conservative demand," said Rahman.

"If we don't stand beside them we are depriving them of basic needs and that increases the risk of radicalisation," he added.

The programme, entitled "Rohingya Crisis: Response of Bangladesh and International Community" took place at a city hotel yesterday afternoon.

Left Democratic

FROM PAGE 3

Ruhin Hossain Prince, Sajjad Jahir Chandan, Sharifuzzaman Sharif, and Chief Coordinator of Ganosamhati Andolon Zonayed Saki were among the 50 injured, said Manabendra Dev, former president of Bangladesh Chhatra Union.

Manabendra, who was present at the procession, also said eight activists were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Two of them were moved to a private hospital as their condition deteriorated, he added.

Later, they called off their programme with brief speeches by Zonayed Saki who announced that they would lay siege to the EC office on October 11 to press home their demand.

Contacted, Mazharul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Tejgaon Police Station, denied the allegation of charging batons.

"We put up a barricade as it was a VIP road. But the procession broke the barricade and tried to move further. We barred them and tried to send them back," he told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, police foiled a protest procession of the LDA in Satkhira soon after they began marching from the Press Club. Three leaders were allegedly picked up from the procession.

They are Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) Coordinator Nityananda Sarkar and BSD members Khagendranath Sarkar and Prashanta Kumar Roy, the LDA leaders said.

OC Mostafizur Rahman of Satkhira Sadar Police Station claimed that they were picked up on charge of involvement in anti-government activities.

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) President Mujahidul Islam Selim and CPB General Secretary Md Shah Alam have condemned the police attack on LDA procession in their statements.

Signal system

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leads to poor development of road networks, planning, regulation and ineffective enforcement of law," he said.

Regarding this, he mentioned illegal car parking, piling of construction materials and setting up of bins on footpaths, which create bottlenecks at important junctions of the city roads.

In his presentation, Akter Mahmud suggested creating a pedestrian network through the development of footpaths for easy movement of commuters.

Nirapad Sarak Chai Chairman Ilias Kanchan cautioned against copying the models of developed countries in designing road networks. "We have to take population density and their behaviour into consideration while planning road networks." He urged the government to include contents on road safety issues in textbooks to train the future generation.

No escape from searing

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"It is nothing new in this city. Along with summer comes frequent power cuts. But the paradox is that at the same time BPDB claims to have hit milestones in power generation, we were struggling with frequent power cuts," said Shuvesha Ghosh, a master's student of Chattogram College and resident of Bakalia's Rahatar Pool area.

Besides multiple power cuts, some areas have been facing voltage fluctuations over the last few weeks.

"We cannot switch on air conditioners and fridges, owing to low voltage. We neither could increase the fan speed on such hot days," said Nusrat Lisa, a resident of Agrabad.

Amir Hossain, lecturer at a private college and a resident of Oxygen area, said, "We are facing power cuts eight to 10 times a day on average."

Other areas like Bahaddarhat, Chawkbazar, Battery Goli, Askar Dighir Par, Anderkilla, Shulakbahar, Panchlaish, Muradpur, and Bibihat have also been facing more power cuts than before, some seven to 10 times on average, over the last few weeks.

When the problem was brought to the notice of BPDB officials in Chattogram, they initially did not respond clearly as to the reason behind these cuts.

When pressed for comment, Prabir Kumar Sen, chief engineer of BPDB Chattogram said, "This is not load-shedding. We are getting enough electricity from the national grid to meet the demand."

The power cuts are taking place due to technical glitches, cable faults, and maintenance and repair works, he added.

"We have to stop the total power supply in an area if a technical glitch occurs even in one line," he said.

"At present, we have 6,000 transformers for the port city. Of them, 4,500 have either been replaced or repaired. The rest 1,500 are decades-old which malfunction frequently," he said, adding, "Moreover, the cables are also decades-old and can fail anytime. It will take time to fix them all."

Businesses are bearing the brunt of the frequent power outages in the port city as well.

Junayed Rahim, owner of a restaurant in Panchlaish, said, "I don't even want to talk about the damage or loss we are incurring due to the power outages. We have faced the power crisis for years... and it is not going to subside in near future as our government only makes false promises about resolving this crisis."

"They only give us figures and numbers but we don't get any result. Living under such circumstances becomes unbearable especially when you have to pay electricity bills, which is incongruous with your consumption," he added.

Contacted, Prof Md Shafiqul Islam, chairperson of electrical and electronics engineering department at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), said the government has put emphasis on power production, but has overlooked the fact that the transmission system needs to be modernised as well.

Due to a lack of proper maintenance, decades-old transformers and transmission cables malfunction frequently, and therefore citizens are not getting the benefit of the increased power production.

However, if the demand and power supply are equal, there is no reason for a particular area to experience power outages five to six times a day merely for technical problems, he added.

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Obituary



With profound grief and sorrow we mourn the sudden demise of our beloved father Mr. Abdullah (Abdullah Solenghi), owner of Rahman Metal Industries, who breathed his last at the age of 80 on September 17, 2018 (Inna Lillahi wa Inna ilayhi rajiun).

We deeply request all the readers, acquaintances, well wishers and relatives to pray for the salvation of the departed soul. May Allah swt grant him abode in Jannatul Ferdous.

Humbly
The Family Members

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Bangladesh Railway
Dhaka

Corrigendum-3

No. BR/ADB/75 MG Luggage Van/Bid

Date: 20-09-2018

The following amendment is made to the Invitation for Bid No. BR/ADB/75 MG Luggage van, issued on 1st July 2018 for "Procurement of 75 Nos. Meter Gauge Luggage Van for Bangladesh Railway".

Clause reference	Existing paragraph/ sentence/word in the bidding document	Amendment
Section 2 ITB 24.1 of Bid Document	The deadline for bid submission is: Date: 24-09-2018 Time: On or before 12:30 hours	The deadline for bid submission is: Date: 22-10-2018 Time: On or before 11:30am (Bangladesh Standard Time)
Section 2 ITB 27.1 of Bid Document	The bid opening shall take place at: Floor/Room number: 3rd Floor/Room No. 411 Street Address: 16 Abdul Gani Road, Railbhaban, Dhaka-1000 City: Dhaka Country: Bangladesh Date: 24-09-2018 Time: 12:30 hours	The bid opening shall take place at: Floor/Room number: 3rd Floor/Room No. 411 Street Address: 16 Abdul Gani Road, Railbhaban, Dhaka-1000 City: Dhaka Country: Bangladesh Date: 22-10-2018 Time: 12:00noon (Bangladesh Standard Time)

Date of selling of bid document up to 21-10-2018 till 04:00pm.

The other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

Abdul Matin Chowdhury
Project Director
Rolling Stock Operations Improvement Project
(Rolling Stock Procurement)
Room No. 709
Railbhaban, Bangladesh Railway
16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000
Bangladesh

WFP World Food Programme
wfp.org

Expression of Interest

For Prequalification of Retailers and food wholesalers to WFP Cox's Bazar
Ref. CXB18NF78EOI

The World Food Programme (WFP) is the world's largest humanitarian organization and the United Nations front-line agency fighting hunger worldwide.

About the programme:

- A surge of Myanmar nationals (Rohingya) have arrived in Bangladesh since violence broke out in Myanmar's northern Rakhine on 25 August 2017. To date, it is estimated that 624,000 people have crossed the border into Bangladesh.
- In Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, WFP provides assistance to vulnerable Rohingya refugees from Myanmar with electronic cards. E-cards are the principle assistance modality, beneficiaries use the cards in WFP-contracted shops around the camps. Significantly, the cards allow beneficiaries to choose preferred foods to meet their individual consumption needs.
- WFP will establish additional outlet structures to be run by wholesaler(s) / retailer(s) where Rohingya refugees will be assisted by way of an electronic voucher system operable at various locations of Cox's Bazar District. These locations require to be stocked with food commodities (and potential other basic non-food items) redeemable by refugees using the Assistance Card (e-voucher), and operated as wholesale/retail outlets.
- UN World Food Programme will be launching Request for Proposals for the contracting of food suppliers/wholesalers/retailers. Interested and reputable firms, retail companies, wholesalers able to supply in quantity and quality and meeting the following minimum requirements are kindly requested to send letter of interest to the email address below.

Minimum Requirements:

- Legal capacity to enter into a contract (legal registration).
- Ability to acquire all required legal licences needed for companies to trade in Bangladesh and Cox's Bazar.
- Company with a minimum of two years' experience as an established business; (Retail business experience is preferred).
- Company accepts WFP's payment terms and conditions;
- Ability to provide staff training on retail operations and in-store services and /or store maintenance;
- Ability to provide store operations and back of house operation manuals in the required language;
- Readiness to dispatch additional company staff to outlet locations;
- Willingness to learn and apply data analytics to improve and efficiently run; retail operations, maintain uninterrupted food supply and maintain required quality, cleanliness and hygiene levels.
- Ability to potentially scale up operations to provide food commodities to 500,000 – 900,000 refugees distributed between multiple retailers and locations around the camps.

Interested suppliers can get the WFP Supplier Registration Form and more information on WFP's requirements by sending an e mail to: coxsbazar.procurement@wfp.org

Looking forward for your responses

Deadline for registration:
Tuesday 25 September 2018, at 15:00 hrs Dhaka time