

Worker dies falling from factory roof

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A worker died after falling from the roof of a cement factory's silo plant in Bandar upazila of Narayanganj yesterday.

The deceased -- Md Chayon (24) -- hailed from Faridpur.

He used to work at a Bashundhara cement factory in Madanganj area, said police.

Chayon succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said Bandar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Dipok Chandra Saha.

Quoting factory officials, the police officer said Chayon along with other workers were assigned to clean the ground floor.

He was not permitted to go to the silo plant. So, it is not clear how he went there and how the accident occurred.

The OC further quoted the factory officials as saying that Chayon had a phone with an earphone in his ears.

The police officer said legal action will be taken after investigation.



As the misery of the working people deepens due to the resumption of the "strict lockdown", some former students of Dhaka University have banded together to help out people around TSC area with daily essentials such as rice, oil, and potatoes. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

First UN resolution on visual impairment adopted unanimously

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The UN General Assembly has unanimously adopted the first ever resolution on vision impairment, committing access to eye health for the 1.1 billion people living with preventable sight loss by 2030.

Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the UN in New York, Ambassador Rabab Fatima, introduced the resolution on behalf of the Friends of Vision, an informal like-minded group at UN working for the greater access to eye health care.

The resolution titled "Vision for Everyone: Accelerating Action to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals" is unique as it is the first agreement among the member states of this highest global body and is designed to tackle preventable sight loss.

Ambassador Fatima, in her speech, urged all countries in the world to set a target for vision for everyone by 2030 by ensuring full access to eye care services for their populations.

Rabab Fatima said, "The adoption of today's resolution on vision is a watershed moment in global efforts for vision care. 1.1 billion people live with preventable sight loss. Preventable sight loss is a global challenge that needs a global solution -- and that is what we have agreed today."

Referring to a global survey data, the ambassador stated that vision impairment and blindness pose an enormous global financial burden with the annual global costs of productivity losses estimated to be US\$ 411 billion.

The resolution calls upon member states to make eye health integral to their nation's commitment to achieving SDGs. It also asks for international financial institutions and donors to provide targeted finances, especially to support developing countries in tackling preventable sight loss.

About 90 percent of people who do not have access to proper eye health care live in low- and middle-income countries.

In Bangladesh, according to an estimate of 2018, the number of blind people, aged 30 and above, is 750,000 and more than 6 million people in Bangladesh need vision correction by spectacles or by any other means.

Rawhide selling

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Ramnagar hide market to sell them. The trader only offered him Tk 600 for the two hides.

"I demanded Tk 1,000, but finally settled for Tk 600," he said.

Julfikar Ali, president of Rawhide Traders Association in Dinajpur, said around 1,00,000 animals were sacrificed in Dinajpur this Eid. Of them, hides of 30,000 cows already arrived at the hide market in Dinajpur.

He claimed that good-quality cowhides were purchased under the government-fixed rate. "We are expecting more cowhides."

All hide traders together bought 50,000 cowhides last year. Shortage of liquidity is an obstacle in the business this year, as the traders are yet to get their outstanding payment from tannery owners. Besides, there is no support from local banks, he said.

The hide market was also still in a downturn in Rangpur.

Rangpur city's Hajipara rawhide market used to be vibrant on Eid afternoons, but this year, there was little to no activity. Most warehouses of the traders remained closed. Only a few traders were seen purchasing rawhides.

Cowhides were being sold for Tk 200 to 600

apiece, depending on quality, while goat and sheep skins were offered Tk 5 to 15 apiece.

"The price was unexpectedly low," said Humayun Kabir, who sold the skin of his sacrificed cow for Tk 600. Most cowhides were being offered Tk 300, according to him.

Abdul Latif Khan, president of Rawhide Traders Association in Rangpur, blamed tannery owners' syndicate for such a bad market condition. The situation will not improve until the government decentralises the tanning industry by setting up tanneries in other divisional cities.

Most hide traders are not willing to stay in the business, he said, which brings down the rate of hides. "Most traders are not willing to buy hides."

Around 20,000 cowhides were brought to the market as of Friday noon, he said. He demanded the government set up a tannery field in Rangpur to salvage the market.

The situation also remained the same in other districts, including Thakurgaon, Panchagarh and Joypurhat.

According to Department of Livestock officials, around 10 lakh animals were sacrificed this Eid-ul-Azha in the eight districts of the division.

Fate of trees

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DAG Samarendranath told The Daily Star on July 23 that the ministry has finalised the resolution of its decision taken at the meeting on June 24, but he did not collect it as the court functions are suspended now.

"I will place it before the High Court when the court functions resume," he said.

DAG Samarendranath said he did not know what decision the ministry has taken about the trees at Suhrawardy Udyan.

Meanwhile on July 23, Minister AKM Mozammel Haque told this correspondent that the process for cutting trees at Suhrawardy Udyan has already been stopped and no tree will be felled for implementing the project.

The construction works will continue keeping the trees intact, he said. He also said his office will inform the decision to the HC in due time.

Petitioners' lawyer Syeda Rizwana Hasan also said the ministry has not informed them of its decision.

"An engineer of Public Works

Department, Md Sohanur Rahman, communicated with me over phone to join the meeting on June 24 without giving any prior notice to the petitioners. I was busy with another international programme on that day and could not attend the meeting," she said.

She said the government could have submitted the ministry's meeting resolution to the HC in compliance with its requirement.

Contacted, Sohanur Rahman said the ministry had organised a workshop on June 24 that included Botany professors of Dhaka University. The workshop was about making Suhrawardy Udyan more green, he added.

The resolution of the workshop is with the ministry, he said, adding that he did not know about the decision.

Earlier on May 20, the HC bench led by Justice Farah Mahub expressed hope that the problems regarding Suhrawardy Udyan's tree felling will be resolved amicably, through discussions between the

government and environmentalists.

On May 9, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, Association for Land Reforms and Development, Nijera Kori, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon and Ain O Salish Kendra, and architect Mubasshir Hossain collectively filed the petition with the HC seeking its directive on the government to refrain from any further tree felling in the historic Suhrawardy Udyan for commercial purposes and/or for purposes not directly related to the preservation of the memories of the national liberation and historic War of Independence.

In the petition, they prayed to the HC to order the government to plant trees three times higher than the number of trees which were felled in the name of implementing the project.

On June 29, DAG Samarendranath told the HC that the government has suspended the process of cutting trees at Suhrawardy Udyan.

SYLHET CATHOLIC DIOCESE

Shorot Francis Gomes installed as Second Bishop

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Bishop Shorot Francis Gomes was installed as the second Bishop of Sylhet Catholic Diocese through a solemn religious and cultural ceremony at Lohkipur Catholic Church in Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar on July 20, Tuesday.

Apostolic nuncio and Vatican Ambassador Archbishop George Kochery led the installation programme accompanied by priests, clergy, religious and local Catholic faithful.

At the beginning of the programme, local Catholic faithful greeted the new Bishop and the guests. As directed by Archbishop Kochery, the papal bull (appointment letter from the pope) was presented and read out in front of the audience amid a round of applause.

Following special installation Mass, the new bishop was accorded with a reception ceremony arranged by the local Church.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the programme was open only to invited participants. About 300 people including Vatican ambassador, two archbishops, two bishops, priests, nuns, and some locals attended the ceremony.

Must prioritise

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quality of Oxford University, but we couldn't maintain that quality. This is because we couldn't keep the best teachers at DU at the beginning of the university's journey; they went abroad on professional grounds. Maybe we're not recruiting the best teachers for the university; we couldn't attract the best teachers.

DS: We are seeing a decline in DU's position in various international rankings. What should be done to bring back the university's glorious past and improve education quality?

Prof Faiz: One of the reasons (for the decline) is that we're lagging behind in conducting research. This is because we never got adequate funds from the government in this regard. Despite this, different departments have carried out good research in collaboration with outside sources.

But the fact is we couldn't convey this information to authorities who are involved in ranking universities globally.

We'll have to go a long way, regardless of whether we get recognition or not. There is no denying that we're way behind in the field of research.

Regarding bringing back its glory, the VC has a tremendous role to play. The VC may be appointed by a government, but they must be neutral when carrying out their job. They will have to play their role by going beyond the identity of political parties and opinions.

They must prioritise merit -- especially when

recruiting teachers and admitting students.

There should be no political consideration, and opportunities in university halls must be provided only on the basis of merit.

Just by keeping these in mind, we can improve the quality of the university considerably.

After that, we'll have to increase facilities for students. We couldn't increase the required infrastructure for the increasing number of students.

The halls, where many students stay in one room, don't provide a proper environment for studying. There are not enough facilities in the library, and the quality of food must be improved. We are also not being able to meet necessary mental health requirements for students in the halls.

DS: How should a modern and progressive university administration work?

Prof Faiz: The university administration will have to prove that they are working neutrally and taking decisions on the basis of merit. It should be accepted and respected by teachers and students, and consequently, receive cooperation from all.

DS: Why is teacher and student politics necessary at university?

Prof Faiz: Teachers may possess certain political thoughts, which is normal, but politics should not make them blind. They must consider what is good as good and bad as bad, and their political ideologies cannot adversely affect the students.

Ex-state minister

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her dead as she was taken to hospital, said LDP leader Shahadat Hossain Selim.

She had long been suffering from various diseases, including dementia. Jahanara left behind two sons, one daughter, and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn her death. Her husband Engineer Ahmed Mostafa died in 1986.

Family sources said she will be buried at Shahjahanpur graveyard after her elder son returns home from the USA.

Jahanara was the founding president of BNP's Jubo Mohila Dal. She was made an MP from the reserved seat in the fifth national parliament.

Jahanara was elected a lawmaker from Rajbari-1 with BNP's ticket in the sixth parliamentary election, held on February 15, 1996.

She was inducted in Khaleda Zia's cabinet as the state minister for cultural affairs when BNP formed the government in 1991. She was made adviser to then Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on Primary and Mass Education in 2001.

Jahanara along with some BNP leaders, led by Oli Ahmed, left BNP in 2006. Later, they formed Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). She was made the founding secretary general of LPD.

She also left LDP and joined Barrister Nazmul Huda-led Bangladesh Nationalist Front (BNF) as its co-chairman in 2012.

She then gradually became inactive in politics due to illness.

Meanwhile, LDP president Oli Ahmed, Gonoshasthaya Kendra founder Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury and another LDP faction president Abdul Karim Abbasi and general secretary Shahadat Hossain Selim, and NAP chairman Jebel Rahman Gani and general secretary Golam Mostafa Bhuiyan expressed deep shock at her death.

In separate condolence messages, they prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and conveyed their sympathy to the bereaved family members.

CJ forms

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Supreme Court Registrar General Md Ali Akbar issued a notification to this effect yesterday.

On Friday, Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain decided to run judicial functions of the High Court on a limited scale to deal with extremely urgent cases till August 5 due to the ongoing lockdown enforced by the government to curb Covid-19 infections.

By-poll

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Hossain Chowdhury was present among others at the meeting.

The Sylhet-3 constituency fell vacant after parliamentarian Mahmud Us Samad Chowdhury died of coronavirus on March 11.

Around 3.52 lakh voters of three upazilas -- Dakshin Surma, Fenchuganj and Balaganj -- will be casting their votes at 149 centres from 8am to 4pm.

Ruling Awami League candidate Habibur Rahman Habib, JP candidate Mohammad Atiqur Rahman, Bangladesh Congress candidate Junayed Mohammad Miah and BNP rebel candidate Shafi Ahmed Chowdhury are contesting in the by-polls.



During monsoon, the possibility of getting drenched looms over every rickshaw-puller in the city. But whether out of health risks or just sheer dislike, some choose to wait the time out sitting under the partial cover of their hood. Like this rickshaw-puller at Dhanmondi, who'd rather take some rest with headphones on than take a random shower in the drizzle.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

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