

কর্মজীবনের শেষে অবসরকালীন আর্থিক নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিত করতে  
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## Workplace safety still a far cry

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday called upon the authorities concerned to include workers' security-related provisions and trade union rights in labour laws to ensure workplace safety.

Solidarity Center Bangladesh organised the roundtable titled "Creating a Path Forward for Health, Safety, and Trade Union Rights in the RMG Sector and Beyond", marking the 11th anniversary of the Rana Plaza Tragedy, at a Dhaka hotel.

"Still today, thousands of workers in the ready-made garment sector, and also in a wide range of other sectors, do not have access to safe and healthy workplaces," said Monika Hartsel, deputy country programme director of Solidarity Center Bangladesh.

"Trade leaders and workers, who stand up for their rights on the job, are often subjected to violence and harassment. The past years were a painful reminder that the industry is not safe yet," she added.

Addressing as the chief guest, former lawmaker Shirin Akhter said everybody has to work to quickly resolve the cases related to the Rana Plaza tragedy.

"The victims should be identified and rehabilitated, and the reasons behind the incident should be unravelled to ensure that it does not happen again in the future," she added.

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

While these running buses halting temporarily to pick up passengers, a man slides through the small gap left between them to get to the other side of the road. In situations like these, disasters might strike at any second. The photo was taken in the Paltan area yesterday.

## Environmental issues to be included in textbooks

Says Saber

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury yesterday said his ministry has initiated the inclusion of issues related to environmental conservation and climate change mitigation in the curriculum for students from class 3 to 8.

"The ministry is undertaking such initiatives to instill awareness in children from a young age," he said.

The minister made these remarks while speaking as the chief guest at the National Seminar on "Citizen Roadmap to Advance Sustainable Urbanisation and Environmental Protection", organised by Counterpart International with funding of USAID, held at a hotel in the capital.

Saber said everyone must be more mindful of plastic  
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## 'A milestone in women empowerment'

MJF lauds govt initiative to assess economic value of women's unpaid care work

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) congratulated the parliamentary standing committee on Ministry of Women and Children Affairs for its recommendation to assess the economic value of women's unpaid care work.

During a meeting on April 23, the committee emphasised the need to quantify economic contribution of women's unpaid care and domestic work.

In April last year, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina directed the authorities concerned to include women's household work in the calculation of GDP.

MJF has been at the forefront of advocating for the inclusion of  
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# Scorching sun, stifling homes

Plight of slum dwellers amid ongoing heatwave

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and SAJJAD HOSSAIN

As the scorching summer sun beats down on Korail slum, the tin shed houses feel like stifling ovens. Inside one such residence we met Asma Akhter. She wiped sweat from her forehead, her clothes all damp.

"It feels like the house is always on fire -- just touching the walls burns your hand."

Entering the kitchen feels like stepping into hell, she said. The heat from the cooking stove coupled with hot air makes it insufferable.

"My whole body feels like it's burning," she sighed. The relentless heat had taken its toll -- she has been suffering from fever and headache for a week now.

Asma's story is similar to the plight of countless slum dwellers during this brutal heatwave.

Cramped conditions inside the tin shed homes further exacerbates their misery. Asma, her husband, their two children, and a cousin, all have been sharing a single-room for nearly five years.

"There's barely any space," she

It feels like the house is always on fire -- just touching the walls burns your hand. Entering the kitchen feels like stepping into hell. My whole body feels like it's burning.

ASMA AKHTER  
Resident of Korail slum

Representatives and government agencies are indifferent towards slum people as they are perceived as temporary settlers. The authorities should work to aid slum dwellers during this heatwave.

ADIL MOHAMMAD KHAN  
President of Bangladesh Institute of Planners

said. "We all have to sleep on one bed, and even the single fan we have fails to cool the entire room. The children sleep closest to it, but none of us get a good night's rest."

Fatima Akhter, another Korail resident, echoed her.

"Because of the lack of sleep at night, my husband cannot work properly as a day labourer. After working for 3-4 hours, he gets sick," she said.

Jamal Hossain, a rickshaw puller, said there is no open space or trees inside the slum to take

respite from the scorching heat.

The Daily Star correspondents visited six slums in the capital -- Korail, Sattola in Mohakhali, and Dhamal Court, Abuler Goli, Benaroshi Polli, and Culvert in Mirpur.

During the visit to the Korail slum, they saw that most people were resting on the streets. Many women who cannot afford to buy water have to walk long distances in search of it.

Slum dwellers claimed they  
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## DEATH OF STUDENT DSCC sacks garbage truck driver, two assistants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) yesterday sacked a driver of a garbage truck and two assistant workers over the death of a 13-year-old schoolboy.

Driver Md Kamal and his two assistants, Akhtar Hossain and Abdul Kader Jilani Babu, have been dismissed from their posts by DSCC, said spokesperson of the corporation Abu Nasher.

DSCC Secretary Akramuzzaman signed two office orders dismissing them, he added.

Mahin Ahmed was killed after being run over by a garbage truck of DSCC in the city's Madinabagh area on Thursday night.

The accident took place around 9:30pm when Mahin, a seventh grader at Ideal School and College, Motijheel, was walking to his friend's house in Mugda.

## TK 70.82CR GRAFT ACC presses charges against PK Halder

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday pressed charges against 23 people including former managing director of NRB Global Bank Proshanta Kumar Halder, known as PK Halder, in a case filed over embezzling Tk 70.82 crore from International Leasing and Financial Services Limited (ILFSL).

ACC Deputy Director Gulshan Anwar Pradhan and also the case's investigation officer, submitted a charge sheet to the Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court.

The other accused are: Amitav Adhikari, managing director of Anan Chemical Ltd, and its directors Pritish Kumar Halder, Uzzal Kumar Nandi, Purnima Rani Halder, Ratan Kumar Biswas, Omar Sharif and Rajib Som, ILFSL former managing director Rashedul Haque, former acting managing director Syed Abed Hasan, Vice-President Nahida Runai, Assistant Vice-President Al Mamun Sohag, Senior Manager Rafsan Riad Chowdhury and Company Secretary Rafiqul Islam Khan, ILFSL Directors Nurul Alam, Nasim Anwar, Md Nuruzzaman, MA Hashem, Md Abul Hashem, Zahurul Alam, Anwarul Kabir, Nowsherul Islam and Vashudev Banerjee.

PK Halder, the case's prime accused, was arrested in Ashoknagar, India, on May 14 of 2022 on charges of money laundering.

Uzzal, Rashedul and Rafsan were earlier arrested and are now in jail custody. Uzzal and Rashedul had also confessed to the embezzlement. Nineteen others were shown fugitives in the charge sheet.

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Amid the sweltering heat, a man drives his motorcycle with one hand while holding an umbrella over his child with the other. Though as a guardian he is trying to protect the child from the sun, such action could lead to an accident and do much more damage. The photo was taken in the Dhanmondi area yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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