



Walking under danger



Behind every headline is a family left grieving. The victims are not construction workers who knowingly entered hazardous sites; they are pedestrians using public roads.

FROM PAGE J1

A CITY EXPANDING UPWARDS, EXPOSING THOSE BELOW

Dhaka is building vertically at an extraordinary pace. Old residential houses are being replaced with multi-storey apartments and commercial towers. Construction sites appear almost overnight and sit directly beside schools, markets, offices, and bus stops. In many neighbourhoods, pedestrians are routinely forced to walk inches away from active construction zones.

Footpaths are often encroached upon or unusable, forcing people closer to buildings under construction. Above them, workers move materials manually, stack bricks near open edges, and hoist steel rods several floors high. Without protective nets or overhead covers, any mistake or slip can turn deadly for someone passing below.

WHAT THE LAW ACTUALLY REQUIRES

Bangladesh's construction safety framework clearly anticipates these risks. The Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC) includes provisions requiring construction sites to be enclosed with proper fencing when located near public spaces. It also specifies the use of protective netting around buildings under construction. The code further calls for warning signs, controlled work zones and safe methods of material handling and disposal.

protective measures reflects a systemic failure in urban safety management,"

WHY ENFORCEMENT FAILS IN PRACTICE

The persistent failure lies in enforcement. Oversight of construction sites is divided among multiple agencies, including planning authorities, city corporations, labour inspectors and law enforcement. This fragmented system often results in weak coordination and unclear accountability.

Inspections are irregular and frequently reactive, occurring only after a fatal incident has already taken place. When violations are found, penalties are often minor and inconsistently applied. Responsibility tends to fall on site-level workers, while developers, contractors and building owners, those with decision-making power, are rarely held accountable. There is also a strong economic incentive to ignore safety.

THE HIDDEN COST OF HUMAN LIVES

Behind every headline is a family left grieving. The victims are not construction workers who knowingly entered hazardous sites; they are pedestrians using public roads. Their deaths are sudden and deeply unjust. These incidents rarely result in long-term consequences for those responsible. Media attention fades, legal cases stall, and construction continues. For families, there is often little compensation and even less closure.

WHAT REAL PREVENTION WOULD LOOK LIKE

Preventing these deaths does not require new laws; it requires seriousness. Pedestrian protection must be treated as a non-negotiable condition of construction permits. Before work begins, developers should be required to submit and implement site-specific safety plans that include fencing, netting, debris containment, and protected pedestrian corridors. Inspections must be frequent and empowered. Authorities should have clear stop-work powers when safety violations are found. Work stoppages create real consequences in a way that small fines do not. Finally, citizens should be able to report unsafe construction sites through a transparent system that triggers inspections. Public participation can act as an early warning mechanism before tragedy strikes.

A QUESTION OF URBAN PRIORITIES

As Dhaka continues to grow, the question is not whether construction will continue, but whether pedestrian lives will be protected and treated as a priority in the process. Falling debris deaths are not freak accidents; they are predictable outcomes of neglect. Until safety rules are enforced properly and accountability reaches those who profit from construction, the danger will remain overhead. And the next falling brick or steel rod will not be an accident. It will be a failure we already knew how to prevent.

In addition to the BNBC, legal accountability exists through other laws. The Building Construction Act provides authorities with enforcement powers over unsafe construction. The Penal Code allows for criminal liability when death occurs due to negligence. The Bangladesh Labour Act outlines safety responsibilities within construction sites as workplaces. Sadman Hasan, a road safety activist reflecting on this matter says, "Construction work should not come at the cost of human lives. The lack of designated pedestrian paths and



NEXORA

Smart toilet for urban living

BHL Group highlights Perla Sanitary Ware's Nexora Smart Toilet as a locally made, affordable smart solution that fills Bangladesh's urban demand for hygienic, water-efficient bathroom fixtures and reduces reliance on costly imports.

The toilet uses a reinforced ceramic body and secure floor anchoring to ensure stability. Electronic modules are tolerant of vibration and building movement. The construction supports performance in mid- and high-rise buildings and in seismic conditions. Materials are non-combustible and follow low-voltage wiring standards for safety.

Advanced Hygiene and Safety
Automatic hands-free flushing reduces germ transmission and saves water. Self-cleaning nozzles and multiple cleaning modes maintain hygiene without manual contact. Deodorisation systems and a built-in night light improve comfort and user experience. Heated seats and adjustable water temperature increase comfort for occupants.

Efficient Water and Energy
Sensor-based flushing and optimised flush volumes lower daily water consumption. Dual flush options further conserve water in regular use. These measures help reduce operating costs and decrease environmental impact. The toilet design balances comfort features with energy-conscious operation.

enables faster delivery and standardised installation protocols. Spare parts and after-sales service are available through domestic channels to reduce commissioning delays. End-to-end quality control includes raw material inspection and functional testing of sensors and electronics. This approach improves reliability at installation.

Durability for Coastal Climates

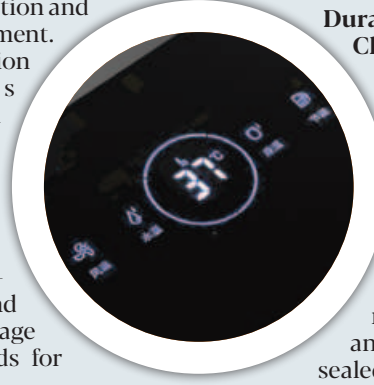
High glaze nano-coated ceramic surfaces resist staining and microbial growth in humid environments. Corrosion-resistant fittings and moisture-sealed electronic housings extend service life. These measures ensure long-term performance in coastal and polluted urban settings.

Compliance and Market Application
Nexora aligns with national BNBC hygiene and plumbing principles and with international sanitary benchmarks. The toilet is suitable for residential, hotel and commercial projects. Developers can adopt the product without compromising design intent or regulatory compliance.

Value Across the Lifecycle
Although the product may appear premium initially, the total cost of ownership can be lower. Reduced water bills, minimal maintenance and a long operational lifespan decrease lifecycle cost. Local production also avoids import duty and long replacement delays for assets.

BHL Group produces Nexora and offers technical support to architects, developers and contractors to simplify specification and project delivery across urban developments in Bangladesh.

Nexora demonstrates that locally engineered sanitary ware can meet modern expectations. The product offers practical benefits for urban housing, hospitality and commercial construction. Wider adoption can support local manufacturing while improving hygiene and resource efficiency.



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