

15 shops gutted in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Some 15 shops were gutted in a devastating fire in the city's

Fire at rubber factory storehouse

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A storehouse of a rubber factory was gutted in a fire at Postogola in the city in the early hours of yesterday.

The fire broke out at the Nippon Rubber Factory at around 1.45am.

Firefighters from Postogola, Sadarhat and Ramna Headquarters unit rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control after over one and a half hours.

It was not known how the fire started. However, there was no report of casualties.

The loss in the fire was estimated at about Tk 7 lakh, said the factory owners.

Chandgaon area yesterday morning.

The blaze that started at around 5.40am engulfed a row of shops at Khezurtola near the Kalurghat Bridge.

The loss in the fire was estimated at over Tk 3 lakh, fire service sources said. An electrical short circuit reportedly sparked off the fire.

The firefighters brought the blaze under control after over an hour-long struggle.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The fourth death anniversary of Syed Mahbulul Haque (Benu Mia) was observed yesterday.

A valiant freedom fighter and leading businessman in Magura, Mahbulul Haque died of colon cancer on November 30, 1999 at the age of 72.

To mark the occasion, a doamahfil followed by feeding of the destitute was held after Zohr prayers at his village home in Magura.

BNP leader Sirajul Islam passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

BNP leader Sirajul Islam, a former MP, died of cancer at his residence at Chandgaon in the city yesterday at the age of 68.

He is survived by his wife and five sons.

Sirajul Islam was elected a member of parliament from Chittagong-10 constituency twice in 1979 and 1991, said a press release.

He was also a Union Parishad chairman in Charandwip for 10 years since 1961.

Sirajul Islam was buried at his family graveyard at Charandwip village in Boalkhali after namaz-e-janaza at Chandgaon, Laldighi Maidan and Charandwip village.

BSS adds: Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday expressed her deep shock at the death of BNP leader Sirajul Islam.

In a message, Khaleda said Sirajul Islam was an honest and devoted politician.

She recalled his contribution to strengthening nationalist politics and to the development of Chittagong.



Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain inaugurates an AIDS awareness campaign in the city yesterday to mark the World AIDS Day 2003. The UNIC, LIFE and Children's Voice organised the campaign.

Standard Chartered's AIDS awareness campaign

The Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) has offered HIV/AIDS awareness training to its 30,000 employees worldwide as part of its 'Living with HIV' campaign, says a press release.

The goal was to train all the employees to lower the risk of exposing themselves to HIV by December 1, the World AIDS Day.

The campaign is an innovative peer education programme aimed at informing employees about the facts of HIV/AIDS, how it spreads, how it can be prevented, and how to care for those infected by HIV.

SCB Chairman Bryan Sanderson said, "As one of the world's leading international companies we have a role in building awareness about HIV/AIDS. We have a responsibility to our employees and to the communities in which we operate."

One to die for killing wife

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced one person to death for killing his wife at Keraniganj in April 2001.

The Judge Shamsul Haq of the Seventh Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka gave the verdict at 1:00am at a crowded courtroom in presence of the victim's husband Salimullah alias Jewel.

The judge said the convict can appeal to the High Court against the judgement within seven days.

After hearing the verdict, Salimullah remained calm in the dock.

The prosecution story in brief is that Salimullah killed his wife Sabina Akhter following a family

feud at their rented house at Rasulpur under Keraniganj thana on April 22, 2001. Later, he contained the body of Sabina in a cartoon and dumped it at Agasadek Lane at Pakistan Math in the city. The following day Kotwali Police recovered the body from the stair of second floor of a house at 100 Agasadek Lane and sent it to the Mitford Hospital for autopsy.

Later, victim's elder sister Nargis Akhter filed a murder case with Keraniganj thana accusing Salimullah the same day.

The Investigation Officer of the case submitted charge sheet against Salimullah on June 6, last year. The court framed charges against him on March 18.

Ten prosecution witnesses were examined during the trial.