

## CTG RMG FACTORY FIRE

# 17 HR bodies to file writ in HC to seek justice for victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A forum of 17 human rights organisations will file a writ petition in the High Court soon to seek justice and proper compensation for the victims of the country's worst-ever industrial fire at the KTS Composite Textile Mill in Kalurghat BSCIC Industrial Area on Thursday evening.

Sramik Nirapatta Forum (Workers' Security Forum), which comprises 17 organisations including BLAST, BELA, Ain O Salish Kendra and BNWLA, will file the petition, said BLAST Deputy Director Soma Islam at a press conference at Chittagong Press Club yesterday.

## 1,647 arrested

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,647 people on various charges from different parts of the country in last 24 hours ending at 6:00am yesterday.

During the drive, the law-enforcers also recovered eight firearms, six other weapons and 10 bullets, says an official handout.

"In our petition, we will ask to form immediately a probe committee to be headed by a judge by taking representatives from the BGMEA, human rights and workers' organisations to ensure transparency and accountability of the investigations," she added.

Soma said BLAST has already begun an investigation into the cause of fire and on its completion, it will file criminal and civil cases against the KTS owners to mete out exemplary punishment to the culprits.

BLAST is now preparing a case under the Fatal Accident Act of 1855 to realise due compensation for the families of the victims, she added.

Senior lawyer and Blast Chittagong unit President Subhash Chandra Lala, senior lawyer Rana Das Gupta and Blast Chittagong Coordinator Advocate Rezaul Karim Chowdhury were also present.

Meanwhile, leaders of Bangladesh Janaswadhin Garment Sramik Federation, Chittagong yesterday demanded Tk 5 lakh as compensation for each victim's family.

At a meeting they also demanded judicial inquiry into the accident.

Fifty-five workers have so far died and 132 are now fighting for life.



Students who received gold medals pose for photograph with President Iajuddin Ahmed and other guests at the 5th convocation of the East West University at Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday.

# Edn in ICT is important to cope with challenging world

## President tells 5th convocation of East West University

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed said education in Information Communication Technology is very important to make students competent and efficient so that they can cope with the challenging world in the new millennium.

"The unprecedented advancement of ICT has transformed the world into a 'Global Village'. Free

flow of ICT is now the demand of new millennium. No country can survive keeping itself distanced from this modern trend," he said.

Iajuddin was addressing the 5th convocation of the East West University at Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

"Our survival as a nation and our continued progress and prosperity depend upon capable human resources. Universities are the main source of creating human resources through its tools," he told the function.

"Universities, private or public, as we know, are the centre of excellence and a field of free-thinking. For achieving the desired goals it needs congenial academic atmosphere."

He said this type of atmosphere can be achieved through sincere effort and cooperation both from

the students and the teachers.

The President also emphasised surrounding environmental elements, including open campus, teacher-student relations, library and modern IT facilities, co-education curriculum and, above all, dedication.

"We have been observing that private universities face many constraints, including their own campus, library facilities, research works and, above all, congenial atmosphere. But it is a ray of hope that many private universities are striving to provide desired education for the students," he said.

Congratulating the graduating students, he said the convocation does not mark end of their learning rather just the beginning of a process whereby the knowledge earned so far will be put to test.

## Condolence meeting held

A meeting to condole the deaths of two employees of the daily Ittefaq was held yesterday at the Ittefaq office in the city yesterday, says a press release.

The two employees are Sirajuddin, a worker at the Rotary Department and Abul Kalam Molla, a worker at the Process Department, both of them died recently.

The meeting was organised by Dainik Ittefaq Workers' Union with its President Fazole Imam in the chair.

Participants prayed for the salvation of the departed souls of the deceased and expressed condolence and sympathy to the members of the bereaved families.

# Juta election today

## Tough contest likely

JU CORRESPONDENT

The election to the 15 posts in Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association (JUTA) will be held today.

A total of 331 voters are expected to cast votes in the election scheduled to be held from 9:00am to 2:00pm at the university club.

Academic activities at different departments came to almost halt yesterday as teachers were campaigning in support of their

candidates. Candidates of different panels were seen leading their own groups and roving from department to department to persuade voters.

A tough contest between the panels formed by the VC and anti-VC groups is likely to take place while left-leaning teacher's panel is also hopeful about the results.

Votes of neutral teachers are considered to be the determinant in the polls as both the groups seem equal in the number of their supporters.