



Workers remove gutted garments at a sweater factory at Tejgaon Commercial Area in the city yesterday.

Sweater factory gutted, property worth Tk 5 cr damaged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A sweater factory was gutted by fire yesterday at Tejgaon Commercial Area and damaged machines and properties worth around Tk five crore.

Locals and officials of the Sydney Fashion Limited said that the fire originated from a short circuit.

The factory was closed during the fire, employees said. They said that a burst in the transformer triggered a short circuit in the factory at around 5:00am.

Firefighters from 11 units brought the fire under control at around 9:30am.

The fire engulfed the factory and damaged sweaters and its machines worth about Tk five crore.

Decision to stop subsidies to public varsities protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) and Progressive Teachers' Forum (PTF) yesterday protested the government decision to stop subsidies to public universities.

Leaders of the two organisations said the decision would compel the students to pay their tuition fees at commercial rates to study there.

SCF central committee President Khaleduzzaman Lipon and General Secretary Mosharraf Hossain, in a joint statement, said it is the duty of the government to run the public universities.

"It is a conspiracy of the alliance government for commercialisation of education," they added.

The leaders said students of low and middle income families would not be able to pursue higher education if the government stop subsidies to the public universities.

They called on the students to be united to resist the decision.

PTF central committee Convenor Prof Abidur Reza and Member-Secretary Ashraf Uddin said the decision would make higher education available only for the rich.

They urged the teachers' to resist the move.

Muggers stab constable in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two persons, including a police constable, were stabbed in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

Muggers stabbed Md Faruque, a constable of riot police (South), early hours of yesterday at Agargaon.

Faruque was stabbed when he grabbed a mugger as a CNG-run three wheeler passenger was being mugged. Muggers stabbed him in head and legs and fled the scene. Faruque's fellow mates shot four rounds but missed.

He is undergoing treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

In another incident, muggers stabbed one Golam Kibria, 30, in front of Mirpur Shal Ali School at 7:30am and snatched away his valuables.

Kibria was admitted to the DMCH.

Judicial probe into RU violence demanded

'Remove VC or face tough movement'

RU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally yesterday demanded immediate removal of the vice-chancellor and proctor of Rajshahi University (RU).

They also called for withdrawal of false cases against 54 general students.

The rally was organised by six left-leaning student organisations at the zero point of the city.

The student leaders rejected the probe committee formed by the university authorities and protested the inclusion of in the committee a teacher who was allegedly involved in the attack on October 30.

They demanded a judicial probe into the incident and exemplary punishment to the persons responsible for the attack.

The speakers also called for cancellation of the appointment of the employees involved in the attack.

They threatened to launch tougher movement if the administra-

tion does not withdraw the false cases and punish the culprits.

The rally was addressed by Samajtantrik Chhatra Front RU unit General Secretary Sushanto Singha, Chhatra Federation RU unit General Secretary Manisha Mahruha, Chhatra Union President SM Chandon and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader Gazi Mohammad Haque Polin.

Earlier, the students brought out a procession led by BCL central Joint Secretary Kamruzzaman Chanchol.

On Saturday, 11-party alliance led by Workers Party Politic Bureau Member Fazle Hossain Badsha met with RU acting vice-chancellor Prof KAM Shahadat Hossain Mondal at his office and submitted a memorandum.

The memorandum demanded immediate withdrawal of false cases, cancellation of the controversial appointment of 544 employees, punishment to the attackers, and formation of judicial committee.

Director (traffic) of Chittagong port, Ahsanul Kabir, said "at this moment we can't say anything about the origin of the fire or loss of property. But the fire was not devastating".

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Fire at Ctg port shed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A fire broke out following an electric short circuit in a shed of Chittagong port yesterday and caused a bit of damage of imported goods, including clothes and plastic items, port and fire brigade sources said.

Fire Brigade personnel had to fight for an hour to bring the blaze under control that originated at about 2:00am.

A four-member committee, headed by Assistant Terminal Manager Golam Sarwar, has been formed to probe the cause of fire and ascertain the loss of property.

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