

# 37 shops gutted in Badda market fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-seven shops were gutted in a fire that ripped through a market at Badda in the city yesterday, causing a loss of around Tk one crore.

Natun Bazar at around 2.35pm, sources said.

The fire destroyed 22 cloth stores, eight shoe stores, four perfume stores, two tailoring houses and a showroom of electronic goods. Firefighters brought the fire under control after a struggle for about one hour.

# Regional cooperation in ICT sector stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a consultation meeting yesterday underscored the need for regional cooperation in the information and communication technology (ICT) sector to use it as a tool for poverty alleviation.

man of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), said the country is lagging behind other regional countries in many sectors, including the ICT.

Referring to the African countries, which are preparing a common agenda for the WSIS, he said the countries in this region should also prepare a common agenda for the Tunis phase.

The problems in South Asian countries are identical; so they should work together to place a common agenda at the Tunis phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), said Reza Rahman, advisor to the foreign ministry.

The ICT issues will also be incorporated into the agenda of the upcoming South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Sarec) Summit, he said at the inaugural session of the Regional Consultation on WSIS as chief guest.

# \$5m Standard Chartered Bank donation for tsunami victims

Standard Chartered PLC will donate 5 million US dollar for relief and reconstruction activities in countries affected by Asia's tsunami, says a press release.

The bank will channel its contributions through local relief funds in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, India and Malaysia.

"The scale and international impact of this disaster is unprecedented in recent times and is drawing a tremendous response from the public and governments around the world," said Standard Chartered's Group Chief Executive, Mervyn Davies.

Davies said 5 million US dollar was an initial contribution to the disaster. Some funds had already been released to help with relief efforts. The bank had established a task force to coordinate the bank's response to long-term reconstruction.

Two outstanding issues have become the focus of the Tunis preparatory process of the WSIS. These are Internet governance and financial mechanisms. The first phase of WSIS was held in Geneva, aiming to bridge the digital divide between the developed and developing countries.

In order to contribute to the global discussions on these issues, two major sessions focusing on Internet governance and financial mechanisms will be held today.

Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelley, chairman of the Centre for Development Research, Willie Currie of The Association for Progressive Communication, Geeta Sharma of One World South Asia and Reza Salim of Bangladesh Friendship Education Society also spoke at the meeting.

# \$ 30,000 Citigroup grant for Biswa Sahitya Kendra

Citigroup Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Citigroup, will provide a grant of 30,000 dollar to the Biswa Sahitya Kendra (World Literature Centre) today to support its programme titled "Encourage the new generation to read books," says a press release.

Biswa Sahitya Kendra Chairman Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed will receive the grant on its premises at 11:00am today.

The Citibank has completed a six-month campaign on raising funds for the programme.



Sammilita Ainjibi Samannay Parishad forms a human chain in front of the High Court in the city yesterday protesting the politicisation in recruitment of judges and tardy attitude of the government towards the separation of judiciary.

# Unite to protect judiciary from politicisation

## Lawyers urge people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sammilita Ainjibi Samannay Parishad yesterday called on all to unite to topple the government as it failed to check crimes and corruption.

They also protested the politicisation in recruitment of judges and tardy attitude of the government towards the separation of judiciary.

The Parishad formed a human chain on the Supreme Court Bar Association premises to register its protest.

Speaking at the programme, the Parishad leaders said this government doesn't believe in the rule of law and judiciary.

It has created the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) to kill people in viola-

tion of human rights, they alleged. The government is using the law enforcement agencies to serve its own purpose, they added.

Referring to the murder of Prof Yunus of Rajshahi University, the leaders said the intellectuals are being killed one by one, but the government has not yet taken any legal action against the culprits.

They said the government is also trying to politicise the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). Even it doesn't allow the ACC officials to work independently, they alleged.

The government is creating a new administration with its own political cadres, removing all who uphold the spirit of the Liberation War or have a link with the main opposition party, said Barrister M Amir-ul Islam, com-

panion of the Parishad.

Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court Sheikh Alim Rahman alleged that the government is undermining the sovereignty of the judiciary.

He called on all political parties to launch a tough movement to protect the judiciary from political interference.

Vice-President of Supreme Court Bar Association Sirajul Haque, Secretary Bashir Ahmed, Assistant Secretary Sayed Mamun Mahubb, Member Secretary Subrata Chowdhury and former law minister Abdul Motin Khasru joined the human chain.

# Missing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Eumus Mia alias Nur Islam, aged about 55, has been missing for over four months.

Eumus, father of three children and a driver by profession, left his home at Wasspur, Hazaribagh, on September 1, 2004 on his first day of a new job but did not return.

Before leaving his home, he told his wife Shahana Begum that his new employer lives in Savar and runs a business of gravel in Dhaka and Chittagong.

Shahana and her three children have not heard from Eumus ever since.

The distressed family cannot even trace the employer as they do not know his address.

A general diary has been filed with Hazaribagh Police Station.

Any person knowing about the whereabouts of Eumus has been requested to call at 0193-46794 or contact Abdus Sattar, 93 Khatashur, Second Lane, Dhaka.

# Obituary



Md Suja-ud-doula, a renowned industrialist and former lawmaker, died of a cardiac arrest at Birdem Hospital on January 3 at the age of 59, says a press release.

He was also a chairman of erstwhile Eastern Mercantile Bank.

He is survived by his mother, wife, three sons and two daughters.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Uttara Jame Mosque Foundation at Sector No. 3 after Juma prayers tomorrow.

# Death anniversary



Today is the first death anniversary of renowned film actress Sumita Devi, says a press release.

She played roles in over 150 films and many television dramas.

Sumita also played an active role in organising the War of Liberation.

Milad mahfil will be held at a mosque adjacent to Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard in Mirpur and at her home.

# Abdus Sattar Chaudhury



Today is the 14th death anniversary of Abdus Sattar Chaudhury, the founder of Falgunkara Charity Order, says a press release.

A retired police officer, he received the Coronation Medal of Queen Elizabeth II and President's Police Medal Award before independence.

Milad mahfil and quarnkhiwani will be held at his home today. Abdus Sattar Chaudhury Memorial Health Care Centre will also hold a discussion tomorrow morning.

# ROXI MURDER One to die, 2 others get life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

A court here yesterday sentenced one person to death and two others to life term imprisonment in the sensational Roxi murder case of Brahmanbaria.

Judge M Hasan Imam of the Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal gave the verdict at a crowded court room at Liberty Tower in the city in presence of the accused.

The convict with death is Alal Mia while the persons sentenced to life term imprisonment are his brothers, Jahangir Mia and Kamal Mia. The lifers were also fined Tk 20,000 each, in default, to suffer one year's rigorous imprisonment (RI).

The judge in his verdict said that Roxi, a student of class three, was killed by accused Alal following a dispute over property with the victim's father.

The court acquitted four other accused - Jalal Mia, Runu Begum, Rabeya Basri and Chan Bibi -- of charges.

According to the deposition of the case, Roxi, son of Abu Bakar Siddiq alias Rocket Member, was kidnapped from his village home at Beharpara under Sarail upazila in Brahmanbaria on September 21, 2002.

Five days after the abduction, the decomposed body of Roxi was recovered from a well in the neighboring area.

The victim's father Abu Bakar Siddiq filed a case accusing Alal Mia and six others of the same family in this connection.

The court gave the verdict after cross-examinations of 25 witnesses, out of 31.

PP Ahmed Quamrul Islam Chowdhury Sajjad and Advocate Sahnunoy Bhattacharya appeared for the state while Advocate Ahsanul Haq Hena and Monzoor Ansari for the accused.

The government is closing down local industries in order to meet the dictates of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, Skop leaders alleged.

Employers have been making labourers work up to 14 hours a day without paying them overtime, in violation of the country's labour law, while workers have yet to receive a risk-free working environment, they added.

"The government is not paying much attention to our demands," said Nurul Islam, president of Trade Union Centre (TUC).

# Skop threatens strike for Feb 12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (Skop), an alliance of workers' associations, yesterday threatened the government with tougher agitation measures, including a strike on February 12, if their nine-point demand programme is not met by February 10.

Skop will hold a rally on January 15 at the Muktangan in the city demanding payment of their wages and bonuses before Eid-ul-Azha.

Thousands of workers also held a rally yesterday at the Muktangan demanding the implementation of an agreement they reached with the government on January 10, 2004.

Their demands include forming a minimum wage board, renegotiating salaries and benefits in line with current market prices, ensuring trade union rights, reopening closed factories, ending privatisation and taking initiatives to make ailing industries profitable.

Leaders of Skop urged the government to take effective steps for saving the country's industries and factories.

"The government said it would implement the agreement by May 2004, but it has failed to do so even up until today," said Dr Wazzedul Islam Khan, Co-ordinator of Skop.

The government is closing down local industries in order to meet the dictates of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, Skop leaders alleged.

Employers have been making labourers work up to 14 hours a day without paying them overtime, in violation of the country's labour law, while workers have yet to receive a risk-free working environment, they added.

"The government is not paying much attention to our demands," said Nurul Islam, president of Trade Union Centre (TUC).

Skop also observed a 24-hour strike on September 6 to call for implementing the agreement, but the government did not meet their demands.

Jatiya Sramik League president Abdul Matin Master presided over the rally, which was followed by a long procession.

# SUTRAPUR TRIPLE MURDER Case transferred to Speedy Trial Tribunal

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Sutrapur triple murder case against Jatiyatubadi Jubo Dal leader Rafiqul Islam Kajal and eight others, has been transferred to the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1, Dhaka for its quick disposal.

The home ministry in a gazette notification on December 29 last year said the case has been transferred to the tribunal from the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka for the public interest.

The ministry also transferred 45 other sensational cases to the four tribunals, Dhaka Division for quick disposal.

Mohammad Shamsul Haq, a businessman of Old Dhaka, his son Russel Sheikh, 29, and chauffeur Moazzem Hossain were abducted on March 26 last year and butchered in a bid to grab a hosiery market and Tk 5 lakh.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of Police pressed charges against Kajal and eight others in the triple murder case on October 5 the same year.

# Siddiq transferred to fisheries ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday transferred Secretary of the Ministry of Food, Disaster Management and Relief Siddiqur Rahman to the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock cancelling a previous order.

According to the previous order on January 1, he was transferred to the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education.

Secretary of the fisheries ministry Iqbal Hossain Chowdhury has been transferred to the Ministry of Food, Disaster Management and Relief, said an official notification yesterday.

The reason for cancellation of the January 1 order could not be known.



Sara Advertising Director Harun-or-Rashid receives the "Television viewers award 2005" from singer Kumar Biswajit at Osmani Memorial Hall in the city recently. Sara Advertising was adjudged the best ad firm in the poll of the Television Viewers Forum.

## WEATHER TODAY

# Slight fall in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry over the country till 6.00pm today.

Light to moderate fog over the country is expected during the morning, said Met Office said predicting slight fall in night temperature.

Highest temperature 30.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong and Teknaf and lowest 11.0 degree Celsius at Sayedpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:27pm today and rises at 6:43am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	26.1	15.2	79	46
Chittagong	30.2	16.5	78	58
Rajshahi	26.4	13.4	68	53
Khulna	26.5	15.8	79	62
Barisal	27.0	14.0	100	81
Sylhet	26.9	14.1	84	72
Cox's Bazar	29.5	19.4	69	--

## SIXERS

1st Test has already started. Now it's time to know the scores.

Just send an SMS to 2233 and get your team's score after each over.

**How to know your Team's score**

Go to the message option of your handset. Type: **0098 SCR SCR Team's Name** Send it to **2233** You will get a return SMS confirming your team's score.

Message: **0098 SCR TIGERS** Phone Number: **2233** Your score in this match: **125** Top score in this match: **250**

For more details please visit: [www.callcenter.com](http://www.callcenter.com) Call center (from Sat to Sun): 9134668, 9172599133, 0172151918 Email: [info@callcenter.com](mailto:info@callcenter.com), [core@callcenter.com](mailto:core@callcenter.com)

\*SMS charge applicable

Official Sponsor of Bangladesh National Cricket Team

## DHAKA TODAY

**Scandinavian film show**  
Dhaka Chalachchitra Sava will screen two Scandinavian films titled 'The Passion of Anna' and 'Hour of the Wolf' directed by Ingmar Bergman of Sweden. Venue: 62, Science Laboratory Road. Time: 5.00pm and 7.00pm.

**Ananda Mela**  
The inaugural ceremony of a three-day Ananda Mela 2005, organised by the Officers' Club Mahila Committee, will be inaugurated by Information Minister M Shamsul Islam as chief guest. Venue: Officers' Club Dhaka, Bailey Road. Time: 10.00am.

**Blood donation camp**  
The Quantum Foundation organises a voluntary blood donation camp. Venue: Banani Super Market, Banani. Time: From 10.00am to 5.00pm.

**Poetry festival**  
Muldhara, a forum of writers, journalists and artists, organises a winter festival of poetry. Venue: House-15, Road-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.00pm.

**Rotary Greater Dhaka**  
The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Greater Dhaka will be held. Venue: Hotel Eastern Dhaka, House # 14, Road # 27, Block # J, Banani. Time: 6.00pm.

**Roundtable**  
Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs organises a roundtable on 'Regional energy cooperation in the Asia Pacific'. Venue: House-22, Road-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 2.00pm.

**Workshop**  
A two-day international workshop on 'Improving and developing the strategies for prosecution of cross-border traffickers and smooth

repatriation of trafficked victims', organised by Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association, will begin. Venue: Brac Centre Inn, Mohakhali. Time: 9.00am.

**Sheba Bangladesh**  
The launching ceremony of Sheba Bangladesh, a voluntary organisation, will be held, with Law Minister Moudud Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3.00pm.

**Cultural function**  
Greenfield School will hold its annual cultural function. Students of the school will perform at the programme followed by a cartoon animation show. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.00pm.

**Workshop**  
Greenfield School will hold its annual cultural function. Students of the school will perform at the programme followed by a cartoon animation show. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.00pm.

**Workshop**  
Greenfield School will hold its annual cultural function. Students of the school will perform at the programme followed by a cartoon animation show. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.00pm.

**Workshop**  
Greenfield School will hold its annual cultural function. Students of the school will perform at the programme followed by a cartoon animation show. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.00pm.

**Workshop**  
Greenfield School will hold its annual cultural function. Students of the school will perform at the programme followed by a cartoon animation show. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.00pm.

**Workshop**  
Greenfield School will hold its annual cultural function. Students of the school will perform at the programme followed by a cartoon animation show. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.00pm.

**Workshop**  
Greenfield School will hold its annual cultural function. Students of the school will perform at the programme followed by a cartoon animation show. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.00pm.

## Are you ready to take the Challenge?

ETA-Ascon group is a multidimensional, vastly diversified organization. Headquartered in Dubai, the group network encompasses 26 branches and associate offices all over the globe. The Group's consolidated sales for the year ending 2004 was in excess of USD \$ 2 Billion.

As a part of its diversification, the company is establishing a state of art cement grinding plant of 2000 TPD at Mukhtarpur, Munshigonj. Keeping in mind the importance of quality of cement the plant is equipped with most modern German machinery. The plant is expected to be in production very soon.

**Emirates Cement Bangladesh Limited** is now inviting applications from the persons who are confident to take over the following positions.

- 01. Assistant Sales Manager:** Masters in any discipline, having minimum 3-5 years working experience in any cement manufacturing company. (Preferably in multinational company)
- 02. Assistant Manager Technical Sales:** B.Sc. in civil Engineering, having minimum 2-3 years working experience in any construction material manufacturing company preferably in cement manufacturing company.
- 03. Brand Executive:** Masters in Marketing/MBA having minimum 3-4 years working experience in any advertising firm/Cement manufacturing company. Highly experienced candidate might be offered a higher position.
- 04. Logistics Executive:** Masters in any discipline having minimum 2-3 years working experience in any manufacturing company as a logistic executive, preferably in cement manufacturing company.
- 05. Sales Accountant:** Masters in Accounting having minimum 2-3 years working experience in any commercial organization as sales support staff. Must be familiar with all modern Accounting software.
- 06. Finance Executive:** M.Com. (C.A. Inter) having minimum experience of 5 to 7 years with specific exposure to VAT & Taxes.

All applicants have to be fluent in English, computer literate, willing to work long hour & may need extensive travel.

Company offer attractive compensation package and excellent career progress in all the position. If you think you are the right person we are looking for please send your CV, contact phone number & recent passport size photo before **16th January 2005** to:

**Box No: A-06**  
**C/O. The Daily Star**  
**19, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215**

Please mention the name of the position at the top of the envelope. Confidentiality will be strictly maintained.