



A portion of a road at Barura inside the DND embankment is still under water as the road was damaged during recent rainfalls which led to waterlogging in the area.

FIRE AT KARWAN BAZAR 30 tin-roofed houses, 14 shops gutted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirty tin-roofed houses and 14 shops were gutted in a devastating fire at Karwan Bazar in the city yesterday.

An oven in a house sparked off the fire that fast engulfed all other houses used as bachelor quarters near North Karwan Bazar Falpatti (fruit wholesale market) at around 12:00 noon, according to the fire fighters.

Apart from houses, 10 steel trunk-making shops, a workshop, one grille shop, a barber's shop, and a fruit wholesale shop were gutted in the blaze.

"I was shaving one of my customers when the fire broke out. I ran out of my shop leaving behind all my belongings," said Faridul Islam, the owner of the barber's shop.

He said that he has lost everything,

including Tk 7,000, to the blaze.

All the five-foot by eight-foot rooms in the bachelor quarters were reduced to charred debris, said a witness. Mostly the traders of Karwan Bazar stayed there.

The witnesses alleged that the fire fighters reached the spot about half an hour later when 75 percent of the belongings have been burnt.

The fire fighters said 11 units from Tejgaon, Mohammadpur and the Fire Service Headquarters brought the blaze under control at about 12:25pm.

They estimated the loss at around Tk 5 lakh, but the shop owners said the figure would be double that.

Fruits worth around Tk 50,000 were destroyed by the fire, said trader Altaf Hossain.

Govt urged to increase funds for UPs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Bangladesh Union Parishad Forum (BUPF) yesterday urged the government to increase allocation for the union parishads (UPs) and remuneration for chairmen and members and block allocation.

They demanded formation of local government commission with representatives from the government agencies and non-government organisations.

They placed the demands at a meeting of UP chairmen and members at the Biam auditorium in the city yesterday.

Democracywatch, a non-government organisation, organised the meeting in collaboration with the USAID to "exchange the experiences of BUPF and developing its skill and set future strategy".

A Taleya Rehman, Executive

Director of Democracywatch presided.

BUPF President Golam Sarwar said the policymakers are giving priority to the development of the urban areas instead of rural areas.

He called upon the government has to strengthen the local government institutions to strengthen democracy.

The meeting adopted 27 recommendations to strengthen UPs.

The recommendations include passage of right to information act, transparency in budgetary allocation for UPs, and curb on power of the parliament members in local governments.

Later, the meeting formed a 10-member sub-committee to submit the recommendations to the authorities concerned.

Dr Tofael Ahmed, Golam Murtoza, Tarekul Belal Hossain, Mahbubur Rahman Tulu, Aklima Rahman Chameli, Shaila Sharmin of BUPF spoke at the meeting.

SSKOP strike called off

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sangbadik Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SSKOP) at a meeting at the National Press Club in the city yesterday called off its tomorrow's 24-hour strike in the newspapers and news agencies following the government's decision to from the 6th Wage Board, says a press release.

The SSKOP urged the chairman to call a meeting of the 6th wage board immediately and announce 60 per cent dearness allowance for the newspapermen.

SSKOP Co-convenor Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, member secretary Ruhul Amin Gazi, Joint Member Secretary Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul and Matiur Rahman Talukdar, Altaf Mahud, Elahi Newaz Khan Shaju, Shah Alamgir, Sarder Farid, Abul Hashem, Khairul Islam, M A Mannan and Nazrul Islam spoke at the meeting.

SSKOP Co-convenor Fazle Imam presided.



Students of Bangladesh Bank High School form a human chain in front of the High Court in the city yesterday demanding removal of acting headmaster and reinstatement of three teachers of the school.