



PHOTO: STAR
Covering their faces with black ribbons, community primary teachers continue their hunger strike at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday demanding nationalisation of their jobs.

250 shanties gutted in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least 250 shanties and valuables worth over Tk 5 lakh were gutted in a fire at city's Halishahar area yesterday rendering around one thousand people homeless.

Fire sources said the fire broke out at a slum of a colony at Sundaripara of city's Halishahar G-block area at around 2:00am. The fire spread fast engulfing adjoining houses and also four other colonies.

Around 250 tin-shed slum houses of the five colonies were reduced to ashes in the fire.

Eight fire fighting units from city's different fire stations rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire at 5:25am.

The fire originated from electric

short circuit and damages in the fire were estimated at Tk 5 lakh, fire service sources said.

However, the witnesses and local people claimed that the damages in the fire would exceed Tk 7 lakh and around one thousand people became homeless.

Myanmar citizens observe Democracy Day today

Different socio-cultural, professional and human rights organisations will form a human chain and hold a rally in the city today to express solidarity with the citizens of Myanmar struggling for democracy in their country, says a press release.

The Myanmar nationals living in Dhaka have been observing the day (August 8) as 'Democracy Day' to mark the anniversary of Myanmar's bloody 1988 student uprising. Hundreds of demonstrators were gunned down to suppress the student uprising.

Twenty-one organisations including Forum for Secular Bangladesh, South Asian People's Union against Fundamentalism and Communalism, Muktijuddher Smriti Sangrakshan Kendra, Sammlito Samajik Andolan, Sammlito Sangskritik Jote, Udichi Shilpi Goshthi, Group Theatre Federation, Sammlito Nagarik Samaj and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will join the human chain in front of the Supreme Court.

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury will preside over the rally.

All the progressive people and organisations are requested to join the human chain from 10:00am to 11:00am.

Ex-MP Sirajul Islam passes away

UNB, Dhaka

Sirajul Islam former member of parliament from Gaibandha passed away due to old-age ailments on Sunday at the age of 86.

He was buried at his family graveyard at Pargayra village in Gobindaganj upazila of Gaibandha after second namaz-e-janaza there. The first janaza for Islam was held in Dhaka.

Speaker Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, in a condolence message, expressed deep shock at the death of Sirajul Islam.

The Speaker said that Sirajul Islam was an experienced parliamentarian. "At the death of Islam, the nation lost a leader imbued with nationalist spirit."

President asks EC officials to update voter list properly

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday directed all concerned to do their job properly in updating the voter list accurately to ensure free and fair elections.

"All concerned will have to perform their responsibilities properly for holding a free and fair election in the country," he said.

The President gave the advice when Election Commission officials went to Bangabhaban to update his name on the voter list, under the ongoing countrywide drive.

The name of President's wife, Dr Anwara Begum, was also updated on the voter list.

President's Military Secretary Major General M Aminul Karim, Secretary AFM Solaiman Chowdhury, Press Secretary M Mukhlesur Rahman, Dhaka district election officer-2 M Hasanuzzaman and other officials were present on the occasion.

CARJACKING Hearing on bail prayer of chief whip's son tomorrow

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court will hear tomorrow the bail prayer of Akter Hamid Paban, son of Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain, arrested on charge of carjacking on June 7.

Judge Mohammad Momin Ullah of the Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court fixed the date after the defence lawyers filed a criminal appeal against the rejection order of the lower court on July 2.

Earlier, lower courts rejected Paban's bail petitions thrice saying that the charges brought against him were primarily proved. Moreover, Paban's accomplice Zahirul Islam Robin confessed to a magistrate that he and Paban were involved with an organised carjacking ring.

Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested Paban at Bailey Road with a stolen Toyota Premio on June 7.

Three criminals hijacked the vehicle from the owner at Motijheel in the city at gunpoint on October 13 last year.

DB produced Paban before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court on June 8. The court then ordered to send him to jail rejecting the bail prayer.

The same court placed Robin on a four-day remand against the prayer of a 10-day one.

Tower Hamlet Mayor meets Khaleda

UNB, Dhaka

The visiting Mayor of Tower Hamlet of London, Shafiqul Haque, made a courtesy call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at the PMO yesterday.

The Prime Minister called for carrying out more work "to uphold the image of Bangladesh and its people abroad", particularly in the United Kingdom.

The Mayor thanked PM for giving him audience.

PM's political secretary Harris Chowdhury was present.

1,482 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,482 people from across the country on various charges in the last 24 hours ending at 6:00am yesterday.

During the drive, the law-enforcers also seized six firearms, 14 other weapons and 394 bullets, said an official handout.



PHOTO: STAR
Rakhain Women's Union, an organisation of Myanmar women living in Bangladesh, stages a demonstration in front of the High Court in the city yesterday demanding restoration of democracy in Myanmar.