

Fire Service, Civil Defence Week 2007 begins today

BSS, Dhaka

Fire Service and Civil Defence Week 2007 begins today with a view to create awareness among people about the devastation of fire, as fire incidents have been increasing gradually, claiming a lot of lives.

Advocate Tapan Chowdhury will inaugurate the week at Mirpur while the Director General of Fire Service and Civil Defence, Brig Gen Rafiqur Rahman will preside over the function.

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Chief Adviser Fakhrul Islam Ahmed issued separate messages on this occasion wishing for success of the week.

A total of 92 people were killed while properties worth about Tk 238.76 crore were gutted in 9,542 fire incidents

recorded in 2006. Fire Service sources said adding that a total of 54 people were killed in various fire incidents in 2005.

Fire incidents took place mainly due to faults in electricity supply, which were 3,334 in number last year, according to an official statistics.

The official figures said the number of the incidents of fire jumped to an alarming rate last year. The number of the fire incidents was 7,135 in 2005, 7,140 in 2004 and 6,289 in 2003.

Meanwhile, the Rajdhani Unnayan Katripakkha (Rajuk) and the Fire Service has no statistics about the number of high-rise buildings in the city.

Brig Gen Rafiqur Rahman said mass awareness of fire safety measures at individual level is needed as urbanisation has been growing rapidly.



Gunmen kill 2 Pak Shiite clerics

AFP, Multan

Gunmen shot dead two Shiite clerics in suspected sectarian violence in a central Pakistani town overnight, police said yesterday.

The attackers, believed to be Sunni militants, sprayed bullets at the clerics who were sleeping in the guest house of a Shiite leader in the town of Chubara, local police chief Rafi Muhammad Tahir said.

The clerics, who were visiting Chubara, 150 kilometres (90 miles) northwest of Multan, died on the spot while another guest, a Shiite lawyer, was injured, he said. The attackers fled in a car.

A car that knocked a pedestrian down at Bangla Motor intersection and dragged him a further hundred yards with its bumper, turned turtle in front of Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday. Locals rescued the injured and sent him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The driver was handed over to police.

Quack's delivery led to 10 babies' death

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Sadek was arrested on May 5 from a room at Hotel Golden Prince on station road in Kishoreganj. He was produced before a Kishoreganj court on April 26 and the court granted him bail, police said.

In his statement, Sadek gave a grotesque description of murdering newborns by deceiving and taking advantage of the naivety of rural people from the lower income group.

He admitted that he did not have any surgical instruments or did not employ any anaesthetist in his clinic. He mutilated and dissected body parts to kill fetuses during deliveries and later buried those at a convenient location.

During interrogation by Rab 9, he said that he had killed over ten babies over the last seven years with the help of untrained nurses, health assistants and sweepers at his clinic and in a room of Abdul Aziz Municipal Matri Sadan at Bhairab Municipality.

Sadek's baby killings came to light on April 19 this year when a pregnant Nayan Begum from Chapur village of Bhairab upazila lost her child at Sadek's clinic. Earlier on April 15, Sadek made a forced delivery attempt on her. During the attempt, he used sharp objects and unsanitary blades that caused severe head injuries to the baby. The baby died on April 19 at a clinic in Dhaka. Nayan's eldest daughter filed a murder case the same day accusing Sadek and his assistant Sufia, 45, said Aminul, sub-inspector of Bhairab Police

Station (PS).

Sadek was arrested on April 25 and was produced before a Kishoreganj court on April 26 and the court granted him bail, police said.

A total of three murder cases were filed against Sadek and his employees so far with Bhairab PS, said Officer in Charge (OC) Jamir Uddin.

Quack Sadek claimed to have spiritual powers. After reciting his saint's name five hundred times and with the help of the power, he delivered babies without any medical instrument, he said.

Many rural women who might have been victimised by Sadek might not come forward to press charges since matters related to childbirth could embarrass them in front of the society, added the OC.

Quoting locals, Bhairab police said Sadek engaged sanitary inspector Nasima, clinic employees Khukumoni, Jenny, Feroza, sweeper Sufia Begum, health worker Snigdha and Bonna to lure impoverished pregnant women into seeking medical help at his clinic.

Whenever a poor pregnant woman came to his clinic for diagnosis and treatment, Sadek would tell her that the fetus in her ovary was dead and if she did not allow forced delivery with the help of an expert physician like him, the mother would also die, police said quoting locals.

On April 28, a team led by Upazila Nirbahi Officer

Masudul Karim sealed off Sadek's clinic.

Bhairab's civil surgeon Shajid Uddin said a three-member investigation team led by deputy civil surgeon Din Mohammad is investigating the allegations.

Programme for poor cleft-lipped boys, girls held in Dinajpur

Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited (DBBL) organised a three-day plastic surgery operation from Friday to Sunday in Dinajpur under its "Smile-Brighter" Programme for the poor cleft-lipped boys and girls at the bank's own cost to bring back enduring smile on their faces, says press release.

The operation was performed by a surgery team headed by eminent plastic surgeon Prof Dr AJM Salek.

On the occasion, a discussion was held at Brac Susashtha Kendra, Dinajpur recently. AHM Nazmul Quadir, additional managing director of DBBL was present as the chief guest. Among others Dr Nowshin, In-Charge, Brac Susashtha Kendra and Dr Salek also spoke on the occasion.

The AMD in his speech said DBBL has taken this noble initiative in 2003 to bring back smile on the faces of the boys and girls cursed with cleft-lipped face.

Medical consultant of the bank Dr Mozammel Hossain Khan said about 130 cleft-lipped boys and girls have been enlisted for surgery. Of them, 60 have been successfully operated during the campaign. The rest of the boys and girls will be operated soon, he added.