

One burnt alive, properties worth Tk 12 lakh gutted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CG

An unidentified youth was burnt alive and properties worth over Tk 12 lakh were gutted in two fire incidents at Hathazari in the district in the last two days.

The youth, aged around 25, was burnt alive while some seven shops were reduced to ashes when a fire broke out at Hathazari Sadar Bazar at around 12:45am on Friday.

The fire originated from an electrical short circuit and the loss of property was estimated at around Tk 7 lakh, sources said.

In another incident, eight semi-pucca shops were gutted when a fire broke out at Aman Bazar at around 1:15pm yesterday.

The fire, which originated from an oven, gutted properties worth around Tk 5 lakh.

Bangladeshi expat woman killed in NY

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Shahida Sultana Lovely

A Bangladeshi housewife was allegedly killed by her husband at New York City in the United States on Saturday, reports News World from New York.

The victim was identified as Shahida Sultana Lovely, 32.

Police recovered the body from her apartment at Queens' Jamaica in the morning and arrested her husband Mohammad Sulaiman, 49.

Police said Sulaiman stabbed Shahida to death when she was sleeping in the early hours of Saturday.

Their four-year-old daughter Tanzia Zenifar was sleeping beside Shahida.

Police, however, could not confirm the reason for the killing, but the neighbours said the killing resulted from conjugal conflict.

Shahida, who hailed from Rajshahi, was married to Sulaiman of Chittagong in 2002.

Ferdousi Begum, elder sister of



(Left) Awami League leaders and workers pray for detained party President Sheikh Hasina near the sub-jail in Sangsad Bhaban area on Eid day. (Right) BNP leaders and workers wait near the sub-jail in Sangsad Bhaban area as they brought various foods for detained party Chairperson Khaleda Zia on Eid day.



PHOTO: STAR

Family wants Chiang Kai-shek buried in China

AFP, Taipei

The family of Taiwan's late Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek want his body to be removed from a mausoleum in the island and to be buried in China, a relative said Sunday.

Fang Chih-yi made the comments while paying respects at Chiang Kai-shek's mausoleum in Taisi, northern Taoyuan county. She also said one of the leader's sons, Chiang Ching-kuo, should be buried in China, too.

"I think they have fully displayed their love to this land and this country. Now it's time for them to go home peacefully," said Fang, Chiang Ching-kuo's daughter-in-law and now the de facto family head.

Her remarks came hours before the independence-leaning government of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) planned to shut down Chiang Kai-shek's mausoleum and that of his son in a nearby village.

The defence ministry has said the mausoleums will shut Sunday evening and the remaining honour guards will be withdrawn, as it works to transfer supervision of the sites to the county government.

Whether the mausoleums, which have attracted hundreds of thousands of tourists each year, will reopen depends on the local government, the ministry has said.

President Chen Shui-bian defended the controversial site in an interview with a local television station a few days ago, citing budgetary and manpower shortages.

But the leading opposition Kuomintang (KMT), which the Chiangs had led, say the closure of the mausoleums was the latest effort by the government to downplay their legacy ahead of parliamentary and presidential votes next year.

Kamol Gomes re-elected Dhaka YMCA president

Kamol Gomes, a lecturer of Notre Dame College and a social worker, has been re-elected president of Dhaka Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) for the year 2007-2008, says a press release.

At the 41st Annual Business Meeting (ABM) of YMCA at Botomli Home Girls' High School auditorium at Farmgate in the city on November 30, Badal Camillus, Marcel A Gomes, Albert Joy Haider and Swapnon K Halder were elected members of the Board of Directors of Dhaka YMCA for the next three years.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of the ongoing academic and humanitarian projects of the association.

Later, in a joint meeting of the Board of Directors on December 21, Kamol Gomes was elected president. Other office bearers are Mina Philomena Costa and Anthony Gomes, vice president, Denis Ojha, treasurer and Tarsicius Palma, general secretary.



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during early morning and slight rise in night temperature is expected, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 27.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khepupara and Cox's Bazar and lowest 8.6 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:18pm today and rises at 6:39am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in percentage	
	in celsius		Morning	Evening
Dhaka	Max 24.3	Min 13.2	83	73
Chittagong	24.6	13.1	85	71
Rajshahi	21.9	10.2	97	90
Khulna	24.5	11.0	96	83
Barisal	25.8	12.6	95	76
Sylhet	25.4	12.5	78	73
Cox's Bazar	27.2	13.4	61	80

Nora Ali in city to stand by deprived children

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladeshi origin America's Junior Miss Nora Ali arrived in the city yesterday at the invitation of Kachi Kanther Asar to stand by the deprived children and help them educate.

Nora, who attended South St Paul High School in Mendonta Heights, is the daughter of Zaki and Mahfuza Ali.

Nora, 18, was awarded the title of America's Junior Miss 2007 at the 50th Annual America's Junior Miss National Finals on June 30 in Mobile, Ala.

She received a scholarship worth \$50000, in addition to the \$4000 in scholarships that she won in scholarships, talent, self-expression, and interview during the preliminary competition.

On her arrival, Nora visited the National Mausoleum in Savar to pay homage to the liberation war martyrs.

Although she was born in the USA, Nora feels Bangladesh is her home and she expressed her determination to work for the poor children in the country.

She plans to attend Harvard in the fall to prepare for a career in Business Management or Finance.

Biman starts return hajj flight today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines starts its return hajj flights in the early hours of today, Biman sources said.

A Biman aircraft carrying about 341 hajj pilgrims is supposed to arrive at Zia International Airport (ZIA) at about 3:45am, said a source at Biman.

Another hajj flight is supposed to arrive at 10:30am today, added the source.

This year Biman ferried about 45,407 intended hajj pilgrims, including 5,572 ballottee hajis, who performed the hajj under the supervision of the government.

About 20 Bangladeshi hajjis died while they were at Saudi Arabia to perform hajj.

Another hajj flight is supposed to arrive at 10:30am today, added the source.

So, even on the day before election, people could be enlisted in the voter list by contacting the election officials of the area concerned, Sakhawat said.

He informed that 1,66,00,617 voters have been enlisted in the list till December 17 across the country and 25 percent task of the photo voter list project would be completed by the first week of January 2008.

The current progress of voter-listing task is highly satisfactory... it will gather more speed and the task may be completed much earlier than the timeline mentioned in election roadmap," Sakhawat said.

He declined to mention any specific timeline when asked how earlier the task would be completed.

"Everyone will see when it will be completed... how much earlier the entire task will be finished depends on the completion of

voter list in Dhaka City Corporation. So, the Election Commission is stressing more on the task in Dhaka," he added.

About the progress of voter-listing in Dhaka, he said photograph and fingerprint of 12,38,627 voters have been taken and particulars of around 20 lakh others have been collected so far.

"Meanwhile, voter-listing has been fully completed in 14 out of 90 wards in Dhaka city. Moreover, the task is going on in 27 out of 28 metropolitan thanas," Sakhawat said, adding that the task would start in the remaining Gulshan thana in January next year.

The voter-listing task of DCC would resume on December 26 since the seasonal holidays for the officials involved in the task have been extended till December 25, he said, and expected the voter listing task to be completed by January 31 in Dhaka as announced earlier.

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