

Ctg family burnt

FROM PAGE 1
short circuit and spread fast as lots of candles were stockpiled inside the house.

They were burnt alive while asleep.

Bashar's other son Bipu, 10, is the only member of the family to survive as he stayed the night at nearby Hafizia Madrasa for study.

The family moved to Sitakunda from Musapur union at Sandwip one and a half years ago, said sources.

The fire also engulfed three other adjoining houses including one of Altaf Hossain.

On information, two fire-fighting units rushed to the spot immediately and extinguished the flame at around 2:40am.

They recovered the bodies that were buried later.

The loss in the fire was estimated at Tk 3 lakh, Fire Service sources said.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Abdur Rouf and Assistant Superintendent of Police Abdul Mamun visited the spot in the morning.

DHAKAFIRE

A fire broke out on the ground floor at 'Madina Traders', a chemical shop, at Yakub Super Market opposite the city's Gausia Market at around 12:00 noon, said witnesses.

Traders claimed that the extent of loss was at least worth Tk 10 crore as the fire turned 15 shops into ashes while 10 other shops were damaged partially.

On information, 21 units of fire service rushed to the spot and doused the fire at about 3:00pm. Fire brigade personnel, with the help of locals, rescued around one hundred people trapped on the rooftop of the building.

A fire brigade official quoting traders told The Daily Star,

JMB man

FROM PAGE 1
Faruq and Alam Chand of Tongi Police Station, Special Branch SI Mamun, SI Delwar Hossain, constables Sajib, Neyamat and Latif and news-men are Nasir Uddin of ntv, Fazlul Huq Moral of channel i and local journalist Dablu Rahman.

Witnesses said around one thousand garment workers working on the first to fifth floors got trapped inside the building as the blazing fire continued to spread with all its fury.

Garment workers had to struggle to come out of the market especially down the stairs as the billowing smoke engulfed the entire market, the local traders said.

Around 15 garment workers and some shop employees suffered injuries when the stampede broke out. Five others were also injured while jumping off the rooftop of the market, fire brigade source said.

Of the injured, 10 people were treated at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, on-duty doctors said.

Firemen Abul Khayer and Abdul Hai received injuries while dousing the fire.

Moniruzzaman, owner of the Rekha Paint of the Yakub Market told the Daily Star that the fire originated at the Madina Traders. "I heard a small bang and then saw a fireball and within three minutes, I think, it fanned out to other parts of the building," he said.

Lucky Begum, a garment worker whose legs got broken as she jumped off the rooftop of the affected building, said, "Panic seized me and I jumped as I saw smoke engulfing the entire area."

The panic soon spread out to Nilkhet, Newmarket and Elephant Road areas causing huge traffic gridlock.

From the same place, they recovered the ammunition and books on jihad.

Police took the arrestees and explosives to the SP office for the press briefing at around 4:00pm.

Eyewitnesses said the grenade exploded with a huge bang, throwing policemen, journalists and others at the SP office into the air.

Police said the at least 500 grenades could be made of the materials recovered.

Sources said a Rab team had been trying to nab the JMB men for over last 15 days. It even conducted a raid in the village on December 18.

The Rab personnel had given their phone numbers to the villagers and requested them to inform them if they see Mamun alias Zahid again.

Spotted Zahid in the village, a local called the Rab numbers yesterday morning. But as the elite crime busters did not respond, he informed the Tongi police.

Soon, a team led by SI Sirajul Islam went to the village. As they approached, Mamun, who was in front of a house then, tried to run off but in vain.

Later, police surrounded the house and arrested the three others and recovered the explosives.

SP Baten told The Daily Star that Mamun stands accused in at least five cases filed in Gaibandha for his connection to militancy.

Sources said he is originally from Raikona village of Gaibandha district. He, along with six others, had been living together. The JMB members rented the house owned by Yusuf Ali, a Bangladesh expatriate in Saudi Arabia, from February 1.

Earlier, they lived in another house in the same village.

During primary interrogation, Marzia said his husband Al-Amin, Noor Jahan's husband Asif Suman and her parents had also been living with them. But they managed to flee the house sensing the police presence.

RAB DRIVE
A team from Rab headquarters arrested JMB's chief coordinator Motasim alias Basir alias Nasir at Konabari of Tongi and ehsar Moyej and associate coordinator Mizan at Uttarkhan at around 4:45pm.

It Col Majid, director of Rab intelligence wing, told The Daily Star, "Motasim's father Zillur is now in jail. He too was arrested for JMB connection."

Sources said Motasim, who is also commander of JMB Dhaka zone, hails from Mollarhat of Bagerhat. Moyej from Bhola and Mizan from Noakhali.

Motasim, also a Majlis-e-Sura member of the militant group, deals with the outfit's finances and leads the legal efforts to free their members behind bars.

Boi Mela will remain

open from 8:00 am to 9:00 pm today on the occasion of the 21st February, the International Mother Language Day.

Language martyrs

FROM PAGE 1
Khatun, who died in 1989, waited till death to see their son's grave.

Ohullah was killed on February 22, 1952 by the Pakistan police on Nawabpur Road when he was watching a procession. His grave was not found as the police hid his body, but records suggest a boy was buried in Azimpur during the Language Movement.

According to different books and writings including "Bhasha Andolan Shaheedera" (martyrs of the Language Movement) published by Bangla Academy, and Bangla Ki Kore Rashtra Bhasha Holo (Bangla becoming the state language) written by MR Mahbub and published by Bhasha Andolan Museum, Ohiullah is known as the son of a mason, Habibur Rahman, but none of the family has ever been identified.

Preservation of the graves of Barkat, who was a student of political science at Dhaka University, Sufiur Rahman, who was an employee of Dhaka High Court, and Jabbar, who ran a shop in his village market, was possible thanks to the initiatives by their families and relatives.

Shafiqur Rahman, son of Sufiur Rahman, said they could reserve the grave as his uncle late Dr Ashzadur Rahman hid the bodies of his father and Barkat in the operating theatre of Dhaka Medical College Hospital with the help of his friends. Ashzadur was a medical student during the movement.

"My grandfather Mahbubur Rahman received the body after giving a bond to the government that they would not do any procession with the body," said Shafiqur quoting his mother Akila Khatun.

"My uncle buried the body in the night and reserved the grave by giving the authorities Tk 101," he added.

Ayenuddin Barkat Totu, nephew of Barkat, said their family took the body after signing a bond to the government and reserved the grave with the help of Barkat's maternal uncle late Abdul Malek, sister late Nurjan and sister-in-law late ASM Mahmudul Hossain.

During an investigation by The Daily Star, names of five martyrs -- Salam, Rafiq, Jabbar, Barkat and Sufiur Rahman -- were found in the burial records of Azimpur Cemetery.

During a burial of an unidentified boy aged between five and 10 was found in the record book. The record, registered on February 24, 1952, says the boy died on February 22, 1952 at DMCH. It matches with reports of different newspapers published that time.

Record Keeper of Dhaka City Corporation Abu Zafar Md Elias said names of five

Language Movement martyrs including the unknown boy were recorded in the book-2 of 1952. The name of Salam who succumbed to his injury on April 7, 1952 and was buried the next day was recorded in the book-3 of 1952, he added.

On the other hand, all the three identified graves were found on the list of reserved graves of Azimpur Cemetery. Among those, the grave of Jabbar was identified in 2002.

According to the list, the serial numbers of Barkat's grave is 3917, Jabbar's 3918 and Sufiur's 3941.

Barkat and Sufiur's graves were reserved by their families but reservation of Jabbar's grave is a mystery, as his family did not do it and no official records are available about it.

AHM Asad Nayan, Jabbar's cousin, who identified the grave, said he took help from Dr Sirazul Islam, who was a surgeon of Rajarbagh Police Hospital and took part in the namaz-e-janaza of Jabbar.

Nayan and Md Nurul Islam Badal, son of Jabbar, said they did not know whether the grave was reserved or not as their family could not do it.

The families of Salam and Rafiq, on the other hand, blame the previous governments for not identifying the graves and demand proper steps in this regard.

They say the government should take initiatives either to find out the graves or keep all the graves in a particular place like the seven war heroes (Bir Shresthas).

"It's almost impossible for me to identify the grave now as the graveyard has entirely changed in course of time. But I heard from my brother that it was located under a mango tree," said Abdul Karim, Salam's brother.

Sculptor Rasha who drew the picture of Salam based on his family members' narratives in 2000 said he met Sobahan in 1998. Sobahan told him that they received a letter from the municipality in 1954 to reserve the grave giving Tk 101 but they could not afford that, Rasha added.

Echoing the demand of Karim, Rafiq's younger brother Khurshid Alam said they had applied to the municipality many times to identify the grave in vain.

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18th anniversary

FROM PAGE 16
ministers, former advisers to caretaker government, members of the diplomatic corps and incumbent and former bureaucrats, made the celebration a remarkable one.

The newspaper that began its journey back in 1991 with a firm commitment to uphold "people's right to know" also launched its e-paper eDailyStar.com, the digital edition of The Daily Star, at the function.

Speaking on the occasion, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam said overall Bangladesh is moving forward despite odds since the country's independence.

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Zimbabwe may cost five billion dollars to fix: PM

AFP, Cape Town

officially soared to 231 million percent by last July.

Most essential civil servants, including teachers, nurses and doctors, have been on strike since last year over poor pay.

Sheer neglect

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"We have made a mistake," said a sub-inspector of Tongi Police Station, who was involved in the process of recovery of the grenades, a huge quantity of explosive substances and arrest of the JMB activist. He however preferred anonymity.

Meanwhile, sources said a four-member Rab bomb squad reached Ghotoil village at 12:30 pm, where the explosives were seized.

On hearing that the explosives and the arrestee were taken to the SP office, they returned there at 1:30pm. It is astonishing that they visited the SP office but left it without defusing the grenades.

Rab sources claimed that they did not neutralise the grenades as police did not ask for it.

"Usually, if a seized explosive poses a threat it is neutralised instantly without taking permission from court. In case the risk is not that much evident, seized explosives are neutralised with permission from court," said a Rab source.

"Had police assessed the risk and asked for neutralising the grenades, the Rab experts would have done so," he added.

The Rab bomb squad again rushed to the SP office immediately after the grenade attack.

In reply to a question, the SP, Abdul Baten, said, "The explosives were supposed to be defused later."

Replies to another question, he said, "Actually our experts took some time to arrive."

The explosives were recovered around 10:30am and the press briefing was held at 4:00pm.

When his attention was drawn to this, Baten however said, "The explosives could be crushed by technical people and finance ministers to be meeting on these issues."

Tsvangirai, who was, said his government would first concentrate on the short-term priorities.

Zimbabwe is buckling under economic meltdown, characterised by the world's highest inflation, which had

2,500 languages

FROM PAGE 16

only destroyed the SIM card

but also papers and documents in their bags so that police can get little evidence.

SI Sirajul said the three women's response to police questions during interrogation is very much identical to those of male JMB members. They all remained firm during quizzing.

If the police claim is found to be true, this would be the first ever arrest of trained female JMB operatives.

"We did not have any information to suspect that JMB has any female members. But activities of the three women do not have any plan in this regard.

The last four speakers of Lengili talk among themselves in Indonesia.

Prospects are a bit brighter for some 178 other languages, spoken by between 10 and 150 people.

More than 200 languages have become extinct over the last three generations such as Ubykh that fell silent in 1992 when Tefic Esenc passed on, Asasax in Tanzania, which disappeared in 1976, and Manx in 1974.

Besides Noor Jahan, police also arrested Marzia,