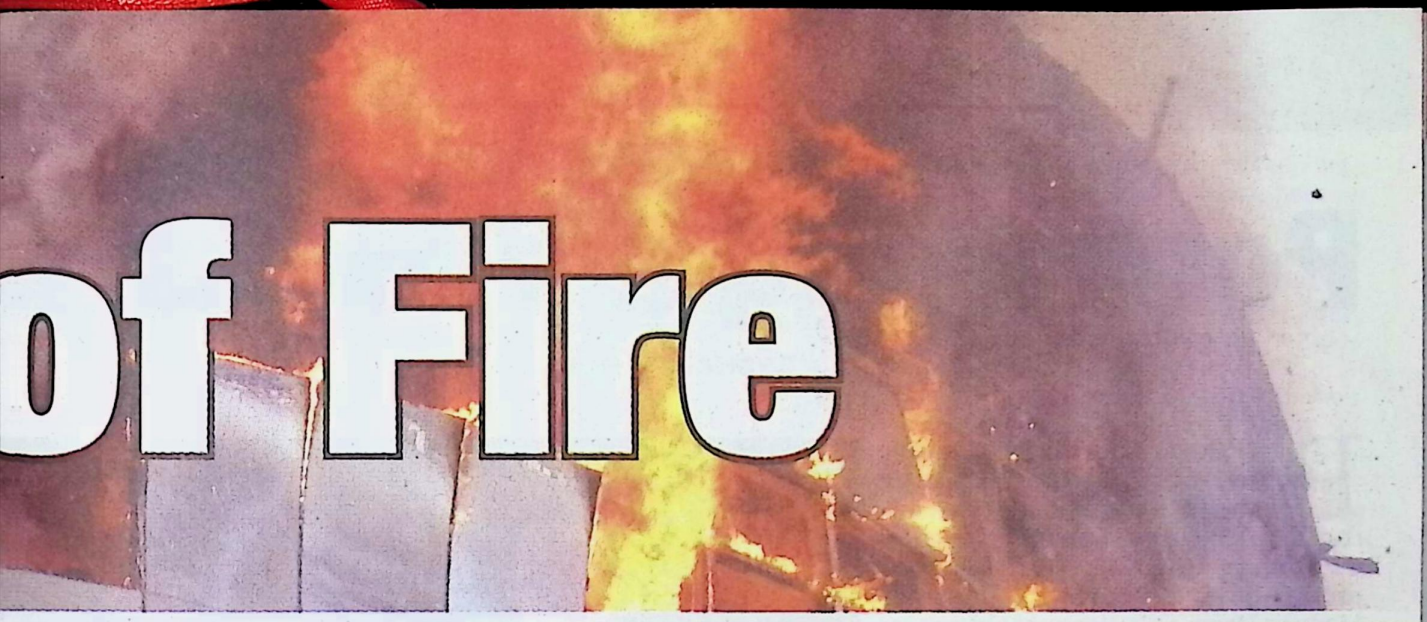
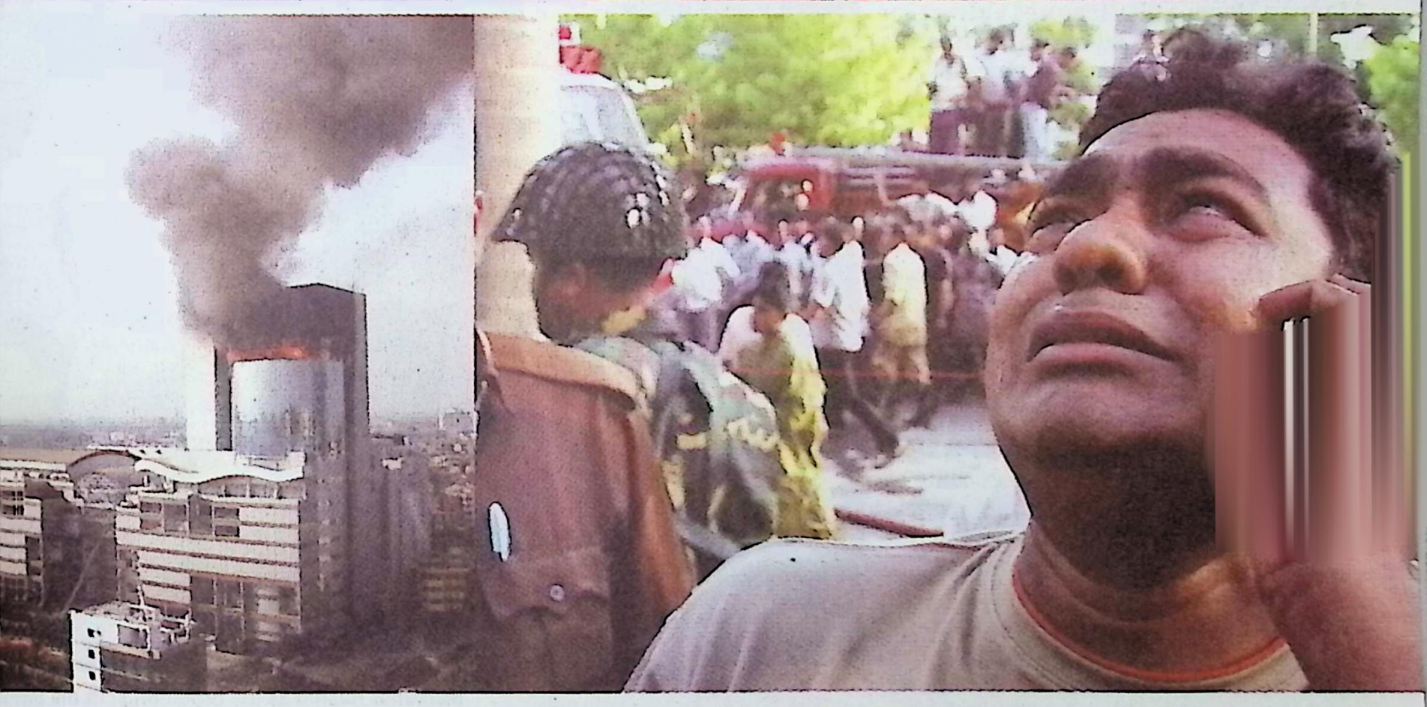
# of Fire





Aquarius-Water carrier
Siponarius- Pump supervisor.
Fire centurion- Battalion chief.
Praefectus Vigilum- Fire Chief.

Nocturnes-Fire sentinels, who wee stationed on towers and on sighting a fire blew trumpets to alert the nearest fire station or Castra

The Quarstionarius-Fire Marshal, responsible for determining the cause of the fire and punishing the responsible party.

Even further back in history and closer home, between 3221 BC to 297 BC in India, Kautilya or Chanakya, the minister of Chandragupta Maurya wrote a book, the 'Arthashastra.' In this treatise, while covering various aspects of governance and management, he also covered fire safety and fire prevention. The fire related matters are dealt in parts, first, second and fourth, containing details on Fire Hazards-safety and prevention, Fire Retardant Treatment, Town Planning for Fire Safety, Law Enforcement and Punishment.

What has a book on Economics got to do with fire? Apparently, Kautilya wisely stated that since fire destroys a nation's economy, fire prevention is essential to economic progress. Might our modern day governments, our urban planners, law makers and enforcers take note of ancient words of wisdom and, if not for their citizens' safety at least for economic reasons adopt minimum fire safety standards wherever there is a roof, including the ones on top of national income earning garment workers?

And while we are at it, may we request all whom it may concern that any responsible and humane government owes its citizens not just a safe environment but a sanitary one as well. As devastating as fire is to man, so is polluted water. Are we waiting for another disaster?