

BLAZE AT JAPAN GARDEN CITY

Developer ignored hazard alarm

Finds *The Daily Star* investigation; the fire-fighting still not functional months after 7 of a family killed; govt yet to take action

TAWFIQUE ALI
A year before a February fire killed seven family members at Japan Garden City, residents warned the developer that none of the fire hoses worked and the fire extinguishers
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০৪. ৪ নং, আশোরা স্ট্রীট বিল্ডিং-৩ বুইং গুরুত্বপূর্ণ এক ভবন। অগ্নি নিয়ন্ত্রন একটি অত্যন্ত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ বিষয়। এ ক্ষেত্রে অগ্নি নির্বাপকের জন্য যে সমস্ত সরঞ্জামাদি ইতিমধ্যে প্রতিটি বিল্ডিং-এ সংরক্ষিত করা হয়েছে মেনে - ব্যাকরে ফাইটিং হোস পাউশ এক, ব্যাকরে এক্সটিংগুইশার। এ গুলিকে অবহিতিক্রমে কার্যক্ষমতা পরীক্ষা করা প্রয়োজন। একই সাথে এর সঠিক ব্যবহার সম্পর্কে বসবাসকারী ও কর্তব্যরত কর্মচারীদের অবগত করা এবং এই ব্যতে প্রয়োজনীয় অর্থ ব্যয় করা প্রয়োজন।

Amal
(সেই ক্ষেত্রে অগ্নি নির্বাপন করণের)
সহকারী, সার্ভিস এজেন্সি/ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং
পরিচালক, জাপান গার্ডেন সিটি সি।

This point from a February 2009 meeting of service advisory committee urges that all the fire fighting equipment fitted at each building should be made effective immediately. A fire took seven lives exactly a year later.



The Japan Garden City housing complex on Mohammadpur Ring Road in the Capital.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

MAJOR PROBE FINDINGS

- None of the 90 fire hoses inspected in 6 buildings were connected to water reservoirs.
- No pump and dedicated generator to draw water from the tanks.
- Emergency exits 11 inches narrower than the width required by law.
- Fire doors made of wood instead of mandated fire-resistant materials.
- Date-expired fire extinguishers.

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Life chokes in concrete jungle

TAWFIQUE ALI
The Japan Garden City housing complex lacks residential amenities like greenery, playground, school and amusement facilities, as promised by the realtor while selling flats, said the residents. The complex, where around eight thousand people live in 19 buildings, has always been neglected and ill-maintained, they said. According to the plan, it will house at least ten thousand people in 26 buildings. "The company has set up electric sub-station and water pump at the site of playground," said Md Abdus Salam, general secretary of the Japan Garden City apartment owners' association. "It built a multi-storey shopping centre -- the Tokyo Square -- at the site where mosque, electric sub-station and water pump were supposed to be." Prof Sarwar Jahan, president of Bangladesh Institute of Planners, said such concentrated residential project on a ten-acre land is not compatible with the basic urban planning principles. Private Housing Project Land Development Rules, 2004 allow 350 residents per acre, but in Japan Garden City it is around 1,000, he said. Overall neighbourhood and traffic impacts, and load of such dense settlement on the existing utility services will be unmanageable, he said. ASM Ismail, chief architect of the Department of Architecture, said, as a mass-scale housing, it should have greenery, community space, children's playground and other common facilities. Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) that approved 26 sixteen-storey blocks and a multi-purpose shopping mall within the complex, is playing a dubious role with poor monitoring, said urban experts.
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158 killed in South India plane crash

REUTERS, Mangalore
An Air India Express passenger plane from Dubai crashed outside an airport in southern India yesterday, killing 158 people when it burst into flames after overshooting a tabletop runway and plunging into forest below. There were only eight survivors after the Boeing 737-800, with 166 people on board including crew, appeared to have skidded off the runway in rain at Mangalore airport in Karnataka state, Air India director Anup Srivastava said. Local television showed a fireman carrying what seemed to be the remains of a child from the smoking wreckage. Charred bodies lay in the forested terrain. All the passengers were Indian nationals, an Air India official in Dubai said. Many were likely Indian migrant workers in Dubai. The flight's black box has been recovered, the United Arab Emirates' state news agency, WAM, said. Indications are that the crash was an accident, Indian
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Hasina, Khaleda shocked

Express sympathy in letters to Manmohan UNB, Dhaka
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed deep shock at the loss of lives in Air India plane crash yesterday. An Air India Express passenger plane from Dubai crashed outside an airport in southern India, killing 158 people when it burst into flames after overshooting the runway. Almost all the passengers were Indian nationals.
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Miracle survival for Bangladeshi girl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A young Bangladeshi intern is one of the eight lucky ones who have survived the deadly plane crash that killed 158 people in the Indian city Mangalore yesterday. Sabrina Nasrin Huq, 23, was undergoing treatment at AJ Shetty Hospital in Mangalore, her father Mahbulul Huq, a general physician in Al-Ain city of United Arab Emirates, told The Daily Star over phone at around 1:35am. "She [Nasrin] was returning from Dubai to complete the last three months of her internship at Mangalore Kasturba Medical College," he said. Dr Bharat, a classmate of her, called the family at 7:45am (Bangladesh time) and said Sabrina was critically injured in the plane crash. While being rushed out of the site, Sabrina gave Bharat's number to on-site doctors and asked them to tell him about her
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Hold regular polls to student unions

Urge educationists, political leaders for qualitative change in student politics
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Political parties must cut off relations with student bodies to restore student politics to its former glory, noted educationists and political leaders yesterday said. They also stressed the need for regular elections to the student unions at public universities and colleges, and councils of student organisations and their units. Speaking at a roundtable discussion organised by The Daily Star, they said elections in time will bring in regular students in leadership, paving the way for a qualitative change in student politics. However, chiefs of the two major parties--Awami League and BNP--must reach a consensus for that to happen, observed the speakers. Mahfuz Anam, publisher and editor of The Daily Star, was the moderator at the discussion attended among others by Dhaka University Vice-chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Rajshahi University VC Dr M Abdus Sobhan, Jahangirnagar University VC Dr Shariff Enamul Kabir, Dhaka College Principal Prof Siraj Uddin Ahmed, DU professors Syed Anwar Hossain, Dr Anwar Hossain, MM Akash and Asif Nazrul. The discussants also included political leaders Rashed Khan Menon, Mujahidul Islam Selim, Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Akhtaruzzaman and Rahana Akter Ranu, student leaders Mahmud Hassan Ripon, Manabendra Deb, Bappaditya Basu and Sonika Sharmin Swarna, and DU students Kaniz Fatema Chowdhury, Ohidujjaman Moin, Kajal Abdullah and Shanta Tawhida. "Cut all relations with student bodies. It is the only way to bring back the glory days of student politics," said RUVV.
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Rescue personnel are seen near the smouldering wreckage of an Air India Boeing 737-800 aircraft, which crashed in Mangalore yesterday.
PHOTO: AFP

BNP asks Qamrul to prove Zia 'Pak spy' allegation

UNB, Dhaka
Mainstream opposition BNP yesterday challenged the State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam to prove that late president Ziaur Rahman, the founder of BNP, was a spy of Pakistan during the Liberation War in 1971. BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir threw the challenge when the reporters at a press briefing wanted his comment over the allegation made by state minister for Law on Friday that Ziaur Rahman had worked as spy of Pakistan during the Liberation War. "This comment by a state
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5 stolen cars recovered

8 carjackers held
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Detective Branch of police recovered five stolen cars and arrested eight carjackers at Dhaka, Kishoreganj, Jamalpur and Comilla during the last two days. The arrestees Nadim, 30, Iqbal, 28, Reaz, 26, Mostofa, 40, Latif, 40, Harun, 35, Ilias, 38 and Abdur Rob hail from Madaripur, the DB said. Senior Assistant Commissioner Mohammad Ashiqur Rahman of DB said they recovered two cars from the capital and one each from Kishoreganj, Jamalpur and Comilla. He said they arrested Iqbal, Nadim and Mostafa at Uttara, Dhaka, on May 21 and
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সাতার শাখা
স্থানান্তর
অধিকতর গ্রাহক সেবা প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে এবং উন্নততর সকল ধরণের ব্যাংকিং সুবিধাসহ মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধের শহীদদের স্মৃতিস্বত্ব সাতারে **উত্তরা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড** "সাতার শাখা" পুরাতন অবস্থান হতে নতুন ঠিকানায় স্থানান্তরিত হয়ে আজ ২৩ মে ২০১০ (রবিবার) ব্যাংকিং কার্যক্রম শুরু করছে।
উদ্বোধন করবেন
জনাব শামসুদ্দিন আহাম্মদ
মাননীয় ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক ও প্রধান নির্বাহী
নতুন ঠিকানা
উত্তরা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
সাতার শাখা
সাতার নিউমার্কেট (দ্বিতীয় তলা)
হোল্ডিং নং ৩, সাতার পৌরসভা
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আবহমান বাংলার ঐতিহ্যে লালিত
Phone: PABX - 9551162 www.uttarabank-bd.com

PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

Record Date for
Change in the denomination of share value and lot Size of the Bank
This is for kind information of all concerned that pursuant to the approval of Securities and Exchange Commission vide letter No. SEC/SRMIC/2004-14/1122/318 dated 19.05.2010, the Board of Directors of The Premier Bank Limited in its 78th Meeting held on May 20, 2010 at 4.00 p.m. at the Board Room of Head Office, Dhaka has fixed **June 03, 2010 as the Record Date** to give effect of change in share value (face value) from Tk. 100.00 (Taka one hundred) to Tk. 10.00 (Taka ten) each as well as market lot from 50 (fifty) to 250 (two hundred fifty) shares.

Dated: May 20, 2010
Dhaka

Syed Ahsan Habib, FCMA
Company Secretary

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service first

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