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Locals join crackdown on chemical outlets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of locals yesterday took to the street and chanted slogans as a mobile court raided warehouses and factories of flammable materials in Nimtoli after the deadly inferno on June 3.

The local people helped the mobile court of the Fire Service and Civil Defence tipping off location of warehouses and factories with poor fire safety equipment and names of the owners.

"Actually we started this drive before the Nimtoli tragedy, which sped up our activities. Now it will continue till all chemicals godowns and factories are shifted elsewhere," said Abdur Rashid, deputy director of Fire Service department.

The locals gathered at the scene and chanted slogans

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Old Dhaka at chemical risk

15,000 industrial units accommodated in residential buildings; environmental laws blatantly flouted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thousands of Old Dhaka residents live close to grave danger as many warehouses store inflammable substances and industries use these in residential areas in violation of environmental rules.

For a lack of proper survey, popular estimation is over 15,000 small and big industrial units have been set up in residential buildings in Old Dhaka. Many of them use highly flammable substances. The residences are also used as a storehouse of the combustible materials.

Combustible materials Toluene and Methyl Chloride stored up in a building fed into the flames that cost 119 lives at Nimtoli in Old Dhaka on Thursday night and injured 40.

According to Bangladesh Environment Conservation Rules 1997, no industry can operate in and around a residential area using hazardous chemicals or goods.

Zahirul Amin Badsha, deputy director of the Fire Service and Civil Defence, said the factory owners were also supposed

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Jerrycans seized by a mobile court from a warehouse in Ali Neki Dewri in Old Dhaka yesterday. The cans contain flammable chemicals.

BURIGANGA PROTECTION 5 Dhaka OCs summoned for failure

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned officers-in-charge of five police stations in Dhaka for not complying with its order that asked them to deploy police forces along the bank of the Buriganga within a month.

The OCs were directed to appear in the court tomorrow.

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Brutal killing in Sutrapur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three criminals allegedly slit the throat of another Sunday night in the city's Sutrapur and then planted the severed head inside a restaurant to blackmail the restaurant owner.

They kept the head of their fellow gangster Rubel inside Meem Restora on Johnson Road and told restaurant

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Amar Desh shutdown challenged

Mahmudur shown held in another case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition was filed yesterday with the High Court challenging the government decision that cancelled the declaration of publications of the daily Amar Desh.

Meantime, Mahmudur Rahman, acting editor of the recently closed Amar Desh,

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Prayer Timing		
June 8		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-45	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Down in dumps

This elderly woman came from Sylhet to visit her two sons and two grandsons in Nimtoli yesterday. As she arrives in Old Dhaka, the 76-year-old learns the blaze claimed the four's lives Thursday night.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Snore, but score

INTERNET

Argentina's Juan Sebastian Veron has revealed Lionel Messi has already won one trophy -- that of the loudest snorer.

Veron is sharing a room with the Barcelona great at the team's training camp in Pretoria.

In comments reported by The Sun, Veron revealed: "He's a good room mate but a small problem is that he snores a lot."

Then he added: "That can be resolved with a pillow!"

"But let's hope he is in form on the pitch because he's an important component of the team. He's looking good generally."

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Jamaat accepts JS power of lawmaking

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami has finally agreed to accept the parliament's plenary power to make laws by omitting a phrase from its charter that said people must not accept anyone except Allah as the maker of laws.

It also agreed to include a provision in its charter to reserve 33 percent posts in all committees of the party for women, according to a letter it submitted to the Election Commission yesterday.

A delegation of Jamaat leaders had a meeting with the EC and they placed the letter explaining its stance on some provisions of the party charter the commission earlier asked to amend.

The commission had asked for the Jamaat constitution to be amended so that the party conforms to the criteria for registration with the EC.

The Jamaat-e-Islami, however, declined to delete another phrase from its constitution that urges all to establish the rule of Islam through organised efforts.

The EC had asked Jamaat to amend this provision to meet the registration criteria, as the country's constitution does not allow

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OnlinePoll

What action do you think the government should take against the drivers of the reckless buses that took the lives of a Buet student last month and a college girl on Saturday?

- Hunt down and try (54.92%)
- Nationwide licence check (37.39%)
- Take no action (7.69%)

Total votes: 936

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government will be able to prevent future disasters by demolishing faulty buildings?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

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