

# Jute mill, poultry and food farms, 45 houses gutted

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A jute mill was gutted in Chittagong yesterday while a food factory and a poultry farm were damaged by fire in Kishoreganj and Lalmonirhat the day before.

Besides, 45 houses were also gutted in Nilphamari and Pabna on Friday and Thursday.

A devastating fire broke out at a jute mill at Uttar Katoli in Chittagong city's Pahartoli area yesterday.

Local fire service sources said the fire originated from electric short circuit at AK Khan Jute Mill, owned by AK Khan Group, at about 5:45am.

The workers at first tried to extinguish the blaze with their own efforts. On information, fire fighters from Agrabad and Dock Fire Station rushed in, joined the drive and doused the flame after three hours of hectic efforts.

Huge amount of raw jute, jute products and machineries were gutted in the fire.

Financial losses caused by the fire were estimated at about Tk 16 lakh.

In Kishoreganj, a food farm was gutted by a devastating fire in Char Sholaka area early Monday, reports our correspondent.

According to fire service and locals, the fire originated from a house in the compound of Tanni Manni (TM) Food

Products at around 4:30am. It spread to the factory destroying goods, machines and other valuables worth Tk 1 crore, claimed the factory authorities.

On information, Kishoreganj fire service personnel rushed to the spot and doused the flame with the help of locals after 4 hours of struggle.

In Lalmonirhat, a one hundred feet-long tin shed house with 3,000 birds of a poultry farm was gutted by fire at Khorarpur village early Monday.

Fire fighters and locals said, the fire originated from an electricity short circuit and damaged goods and valuables worth Tk 8 lakh.

However, the owner of the poultry farm, Rofiqul Islam Golap, claimed that his farm was set on fire at dawn by some local extortionists.

The farm owner lodged a case in this regard with Lalmonirhat Sadar police station.

Besides, fire gutted 45 houses in Nilphamari and Pabna districts on Friday and the day before.

In Nilphamari, a devastating fire gutted at least 35 houses of nine families at Kacharipara village in Sadar upazila Friday night, reports UNB

Local people said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at the kitchen of Khajamuddin's house at about 11pm and soon engulfed the nearby 34 houses.

At least six cows, 10 goats and over a hundred poultry birds burned to death in the blaze.

On information, two firefighting units from Sadar and Syedpur fire stations rushed to the spot and doused the fire with the help of local people after two and half hours of frantic efforts.

The affected house owners claimed that the extent of loss from the fire could go up to Tk 25 lakh.

In Pabna, ten houses were gutted at Afuria-Patkiabari village under municipality area early Thursday, reports our correspondent.

Fire fighters and the victims claimed that the fire broke out from one Islam's kitchen at about 2:30am when all the members of the family were in deep sleep. The fire spread rapidly due to heavy wind, the victims said.

At least nine houses adjacent to Islam's were gutted. The houses belonged to Md. Islam, Md. Abdul Malek, Jahirul Islam, Malina Khatun, Md. Aslam and Robbel.

Being informed, fire fighters from Pabna fire station rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control in an hour-long struggle, said Md. Anwar Hossain, a fire officer. The cost of fire damage is yet to be estimated, he said.

The victims, however, claimed that the fire damaged property worth about Tk 20 lakh.



PHOTO: STAR

Dr Kamal Hossain, chairman of 1972 constitution formation committee, along with other speakers attends a discussion styled 'Promises of the Liberation War: Full implementation of the 1972 Constitution' on the premises of Manikganj Government High School on the occasion of a 15-day Victory Fair yesterday.

## Victory concert, discussion held

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Thousands of boys and girls and also elderly people enjoyed the day-long Robi Bijoyer Concert at Niaz Muhammad Stadium in Brahmanbaria yesterday, reports our correspondent.

To mark the victory month this year, Brahmanbaria Gunijon Sanbardhana Parishad organised the concert.

Deputy commissioner Md Abdul Manna inaugurated the

concert at 8:00am as chief guest while police super Md Mukhlesur Rahman was the special guest.

LRB group of Aiyub Bachchu and other singers Nirjor, Apu, Mila and Keya Leheri Moon from Dhaka performed patriotic and romantic songs at the concert.

Dramatist and artist Al Amin Shaheen conducted the sessions.

Meanwhile, the seminar sub-committee of

Muktijuddher Bijoy Mela Udjapon Parishad-2010 in Manikganj arranged a discussion on "Promises of Liberation War and Full Implementation of the Constitution of '72" at the fair ground at Manikganj Government High School playground on Monday night, reports our correspondent.

Dr Kamal Hossain, chairman of Bangladesh's constitution making committee and president of Gono Forum, was present at

the discussion as chief guest.

Dr Kamal Hossain said nobody can amend the fundamental issues of the constitution. The nation is happy that the '72 Constitution is now being re-established through the verdict of the court.

A cultural function including a theatre was also held on the day.

Muktijuddher Bijoy Mela Udjapon Parishad-2010 has organised the 15 day-long victory fair which will conclude on December 27.



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PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Roads and Highways Department Workers' Union brings out a procession in Chittagong city yesterday demanding regularisation of job of 7,206 work charged employees. Similar programmes were also held in other districts.

## Girl rescued, three kidnappers held

A CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Police rescued an abducted girl and arrested three alleged kidnappers in Moreganj upazila of the district on Wednesday last.

The arrestees are Abdul Khaleq, 45, son of Afil Uddin, Dulal Sheikh, 35, son of Motaleb Sheikh and Nasima Akter, 35, daughter of Makhles Howlader, hailing from different villages of the same upazila.

Rescued Sumaiya Akhter, 13, is daughter of Shukur Ali and a student of class seven. She was sent to Bagerhat Judicial Magistrate Court the next day to record her statement.

Officer-in-charge Mohammad Abdul Khaleq of Moreganj police station said on December 13 morning, a gang led by Munir Howlader picked up Sumaiya forcibly on his motorbike while she was going to her teacher's house.

The kidnappers also tried to kidnap Surma, a friend of Sumaiya by calling her over the cell phone of Sumaiya, he said. On information, police

conducted several drives in the area from evening to midnight and arrested the kidnappers and later rescued abducted Sumaiya from a house in an unconscious state, the OC said. The arrestees are active members of a criminal gang involved in kidnapping and human trafficking, police said.

## 2 'outlaws' arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police arrested two alleged outlaws on Sunday from Bahirbunia village under Paikgachha upazila of the district.

The arrestees are Masudur Rahman Litu, 28, son of Gazi Nawab Ali of satellite town under Jessore Sadar police station and Babul Howlader, 30, son of late Hazi Abdus Sobhan Howlader of Bahirbunia village under the same upazila.

Police recovered from their possession a 9mm pistol loaded with two bullets.

According to police, the outlaws were planning for a criminal operation in their hideout along with other associates. They, however, did not disclose the name of the party they belonged to. Their associates have managed to escape sensing police presence.

OC of Paikgachha police station said that the arrested outlaws also deal in illegal arms brought from across the country.

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Interested firms or individuals are requested to visit the "Opportunities with IFC Bangladesh" section of [www.ifc.org/bangladesh](http://www.ifc.org/bangladesh) for detailed program description. Qualified individuals are requested to email a cover letter and updated CV (shall not exceed 3 pages) to [sedf@ifc.org](mailto:sedf@ifc.org) with "Energy Auditor Training" in the subject line.

The deadline for application submission is "January 05, 2011".



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