

20 shops, pry school building gutted

STAR NATIONAL DESK
At least 20 shops and 24 houses were gutted in three districts on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Twenty shops and a primary school building were gutted in a fire which broke out at Harivasha bazaar in Sadar upazila of Panchagarh early yesterday.

Witnesses said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at a shop of Abdus Sattar of the bazaar and soon engulfed the adjoining shops and Harivasha Government Primary School building at around 12:45am.

On information, fire fighters from the district headquarters rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control after

two hours of frantic efforts with the help of the local people.

Affected shop owners claimed that the extent of loss from the fire could go up to Tk 50 lakh.

In Kishoreganj, at least 12 houses were destroyed in a fire at Kalatuli in Karimganj upazila Tuesday morning causing a loss of about Tk 30 lakh.

Affected Shahabuddin Mia said the fire originated from a cowshed of Siraj Mia and it quickly spread out to other houses. The fire service rushed to the spot and controlled the flame with the help of local people after one and a half hours.

He claimed that cash, gold ornaments and other valuables were gutted in

the blaze.

In Chandpur, at least 12 dwelling houses were gutted in a fire which broke out at Shihircho village in Haziganj upazila early Tuesday.

Fire service and local people said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at the house of Mohshin of the village at about 1:15 am and soon engulfed the adjacent 11 houses.

On information, fire fighters from the upazila headquarters rushed to the spot and doused the flame with the help of local people after an hour of frantic efforts.

The affected house owners claimed that cash and valuables worth Tk 60 lakh were gutted in the fire.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS



PHOTO: STAR

The prime minister's advisor for educational, social and political affairs, Dr Alauddin Ahmed and others pray after inaugurating Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall of Begum Rokeya University at Rangpur yesterday.

Abducted girl rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A 13-year-old schoolgirl, who was abducted from Kashipur village in Tala upazila on March 1, was rescued by police from Khulna on Wednesday. Police also arrested alleged abductor Mahiuddin Talukdar, 22, son of Asad Ali Talukdar of Arjunpur village in Sadar upazila of Bagerhat district. Mahiuddin was the imam of a mosque at Kashipur village. The victim is a daughter of Biswas Kabir Hossain of the village. Quoting the relatives of the girl police said, the class eight student of Kashipur High School was abducted by Mahiuddin and his accomplices while she was going to school at about 10:30am on March 1. They took her to Khulna and confined her to a room in Rupsa ghat area. Acting on a tip-off, police arrested the abductor from Baitul Sharaf Jam-e Mosque in Rupsa ghat area and upon his confession rescued the girl.

Teenage girl 'murdered'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Body of a 13-year-old girl was recovered by police from the River Kalindi at Bhetkhali point in Shyamnagar upazila yesterday morning. Victim Bilkis Begum was daughter of Monowara Khatun of Baishkhali village in the same upazila. Quoting local people police said Bilkis was missing since March 14 afternoon. Locals found the body floating in the river and informed the police in the morning. Police recovered the body with marks of torture on her person and sent it to Satkhira morgue for post mortem.

Youth held with pistol

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Police arrested a youth with a foreign-made pistol and six bullets in Mirzapur upazila on Wednesday. Acting on a tip-off, a team of Mirzapur police raided a Dhaka bound passenger bus from north on Dhaka-Tangail Road in Kadim Dhalla area in the morning and arrested the youth with the arms and ammunition. The arrestee was identified as Ramzan Ali, 30, son of Joynal Abedin of Bhabaniganj village under Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj district. Habibullah Sarkar, officer-in-charge (OC) of Mirzapur police station, said arrestee Ramzan is an arms peddler and he was going to Dhaka for selling the arms and ammunition.

Drug peddler jailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A drug peddler of Debhata upazila was sentenced to three months imprisonment yesterday. The convict is Mithun, 30, son of Md Amir Ali of Sakhipur village in the upazila. Acting on a tip-off, a police arrested Mithun and recovered two grams heroin from his possession in Kulia Bridge area at around 8:00 am. They took him to Kaliganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer's office where the trial held. After hearing, Debhata UNO Kala Chand Singh, also an executive magistrate, sentenced Mithun to three imprisonment in presence of local people.

Storm damages houses

UNB, Noakhali

Over a hundred thatched houses were damaged and several hundred trees uprooted as a severe hailstorm lashed different areas of Subornachar upazila early Wednesday. The affected areas are Char Zia, Char Bagga, Char Noman, Char Mojid, Idris Bazar, Selim Bazar and Sultannagar. Subornachar Upazila Parishad Chairman Khairul Anam Selim said over 100 kutcha houses were extensively damaged as the hailstorm swept over the areas. A makeshift police camp at Char Zia Bazar was also damaged by the storm while some eight dwelling houses at Idris Bazar and five houses in Sultannagar area were gutted in fire which broke out from the kitchen of a house due to blowing of strong wind.

UNIT FOR SALE

Available for Sale a running unit manufacturing polybags and hangers. The unit is now operating in Dhaka and has currently turnover of 50 lacs Taka per month with an excellent customer base in the Garment Industry. The unit has imported extruders, Bag making machines, Injection Molding Machines in good operating condition with all accessories and utilities like 215 KVA Power, chiller, generator etc and a bounded warehouse. Interested parties may please contact following persons.
Mr. Nitin Sawant- Mob: +8801743605827,
Mr. Mahfuz, Mob: +8801711585356,
Mr. Mukesh Mehta Mob: +919363005791
Email: bangladeshsale@gmail.com

Office Space for Sale

Newly constructed & completely ready for use office space, Mezzanine Floor (4600 sft) and Second Floor (3450sft) Total 8050 sft is ready for sale at Kawran Bazar Commercial Area. Preference will be given to Banks, Insurance & Industrial Enterprises. Interested Buyers are requested to send formal proposal at

The Daily Star Box No. A-21
64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue
Dhaka-1215.

Outlaws threaten to bomb police station in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Outlaws yesterday threatened to bomb Ataikula Police Station after law enforcers arrest of one of their accomplices earlier on the day.

Ataikula Police Station officer-in-charge (OC) Md Habibur Islam confirmed the same and said the criminals also threatened to kill him.

Police arrested outlaw Md Azam Ali, 30, of Nandanpur in Santhia upazila and seized a shutter gun from his possession, the OC said. The arrestee is an accused in several cases including murder, he informed. Since Azam's arrest, his accomplices belonging to so-called Sarbohara Bahini started threatening police, the OC further said.

Later, police filed a general diary (GD).



Career with Research and Evaluation Division (RED)

The Research and Evaluation Division (RED, <http://www.brac.net/research/>) of BRAC was established in 1975 as an in-house but independent facility to support BRAC's development programmes with rigorous process and impact evaluation and to provide forward looking analysis of emerging development issues as inputs to new innovations. RED has become a leading center of primary data based socio-economic, education, health, nutrition and environmental studies for which it actively partners with many national and international research institutions. RED is seeking applications from competent and self-motivated scholars to fill in the following positions:

Senior Research Fellow

Responsible for leading a research team in a specialized field; will conduct independent research; assist senior colleagues in implementing studies; and mentor / support junior colleagues through peer reviews of their reports. Experience in conducting impact assessment of development projects will be an advantage.

Educational Qualification & Experience: The successful candidate must have a PhD in Social Sciences (Economics / Development Economics / Agricultural Economics / Education / Population Studies); at least eight years' research experiences; and at least five first authored articles in reputed international journals.

Remuneration: Tk. 80,000/- (consolidated) per month.

Research Fellow

Conducts research independently with minimum supervision, develops research proposals under guidance of senior colleagues, formulates questionnaires for generation of primary data and ensures quality control during implementation of the surveys; and mentor junior colleagues.

Educational Qualification & Experience: The successful candidate have a PhD from a reputed university in any field of Social Sciences (Development Economics / Agricultural Economics / Population Studies / Sociology / Anthropology) or Health Sciences / Nutrition / Education / Educational Psychology with five years' research experiences and a proven record of publication in reputed international journals (at least three first authored). Applicants with MS degree having excellent publication record may also apply.

Remuneration: Tk. 62,370/- per month.

Job Location: BRAC Head Office, Dhaka.

Others benefits included: Insurance, Festival bonus, Contributory Provident Fund, Gratuity and others.

Please send your detailed CV and a cover letter justifying your qualification for the position and photocopies of all academic certificates, National ID Card and two recent passport size colour photographs to **Director, BRAC-HRD, RDA section, BRAC Center (5th floor), 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212** no later than March 31, 2011. Please mention the name of the position and AD#27/11 on top of the cover letter and envelope. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

BRAC is an equal opportunity employer

SANDEE

Call for Research Pre-Proposals - Economics of Conservation
SANDEE Research Competition - Autumn 2011
Deadline: 7th April 2011

The South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE) is a regional network that brings together and strengthens South Asian researchers and institutions interested in the inter-connections between development and the environment. In this call for research proposals, SANDEE will focus on the economics of conservation. About 13% of the world's surface area is "protected" for conservation of natural habitat. Anthropogenic pressures are constantly in contest with conservation and there is an urgent need to understand the trade-offs involved in policy options.

We invite inter-disciplinary teams of economists and ecologists/field biologists/geographers, etc., to propose research on issues relating to conservation and protected areas. The research could be geographically focused on any one site or be a multi-site study in one or more countries in South Asia. Multi-country proposals should preferably come from a coalition of research partners, but SANDEE may also help shortlisted researchers find partners in other countries. The deadline for submission of pre-proposals is April 7th, 2011. If accepted, this will lead to an invitation to submit a full research proposal.

The proposed research should focus on issues and questions (but not limited to) the following:

- Conservation strategies: What has been the impact of protected area management strategies on biodiversity and eco-systems? What instruments have worked well? Where and how have "buffers" and "corridors" been successful?
- Distributional impacts: Who are the beneficiaries of protected areas and who bears the costs? Have protected area policies oriented toward local communities worked well? What are some examples of well managed re-location or conflict reduction strategies? Which policies and economic instruments have been welfare-enhancing for local peoples?
- Cross country protection: How do we better manage multi-country protected areas? What policies or coordination strategies are required? What are some successful implementation and financing strategies?

d) Financing and governance of protected areas: Are protected areas adequately funded? Can these resources be more efficiently utilized in conservation? What role can the private sector play? Has eco-tourism contributed to better financing of protected areas? How can state institutions be better organized to respond to conservation challenges?

Proposals should ideally have a strong inter-disciplinary focus. Pre-proposals will be evaluated on their academic merit and policy significance. The average grant size is expected to be about 25,000 USD. Institutional affiliation is required for receiving support.

The pre-proposal format is available on SANDEE's website at http://www.sandeeonline.com/research_workshop_application_form.php. Please upload pre-proposals online and contact us at info@sandeeonline.org if you have additional queries.

UP FOR AN AIR CAREER?

GMG Airlines is the largest private airline of Bangladesh having nine international routes. We are going through an ambitious expansion scheme by connecting new destinations in major countries around the world. If you think that you can make a difference for GMG Airlines, come and join us.

Cabin Crew (Male/Female)

- ✈ Academic : Graduate in any discipline.
- ✈ Age : 22 to 27 years
- ✈ Height (minimum) : 5' 3" (For female), 5' 6" (For male)
- ✈ Weight : Proportionate to height.
- ✈ Language proficiency : Fluent in English.
- ✈ Smart and well groomed candidates having cabin service experience in B767 will get preference.

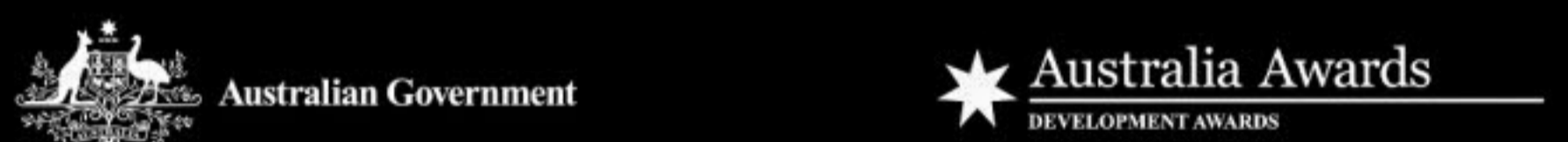
Executive Sales or Executive Ground Service

- ✈ Academic : Graduate in any discipline.
- ✈ Computer Knowledge : MS Word, Excel.
- ✈ Language proficiency : Must have good command on English.
- ✈ Age : Not more than 30 years.

Interested candidates are requested to mail their resume along with one pass port size colored photograph to the following address

Director-HR, GMG Airlines Limited, Plot-1&3, road-21 Nikunja-2, Dhaka-1229, Please mention the post you are applying on top of envelope

Last date of submission of application is 01 April 2011



Development Awards: Announcement for the 2012 intake

The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) is pleased to invite applications for the 2012 intake of Development Awards for study at Masters and PhD levels in Australia.

The overarching goals of Australia's Development Awards are: to develop capacity and leadership skills so that individuals can contribute to development in their home country and to build people-to-people linkages at the individual, institutional and country levels.

The program is a bilateral development cooperation activity between Australia and Bangladesh. The program aims to meet human resource development needs in Bangladesh and to contribute to its long-term development.

For Intake 2012, Development Awards are available to:

- Employees of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB)*
- Employees of ICDDR,B
- Employees of BRAC
- Ethnic minority communities across Bangladesh

*Please note: Preference will be given to candidates from departments aligned with AusAID country priorities. Public university employees are not eligible.

Priority areas

For GoB employees: Finance/Economic Policy, Development Economics, Public Policy/Administration, Law/Governance Studies, Public Financial Management, Public Diplomacy/ International Affairs.

For ICDDR,B employees: Public Health, Biostatistics, Medical Anthropology, HIV/AIDS, Health Economics, Clinical Immunology and Vaccine Sciences, Health System Management, Finance and Climate change (as it relates to health).

For BRAC employees: Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E).

For applicants from ethnic minority communities: Disability, Disaster Management, Inclusive Education, Climate change, Agriculture/Forestry, Community Development, Food Security, Gender Equality, Human Rights, Water and Sanitation.

To ensure equity and broad participation, AusAID encourages women, people with disability, ethnic minorities, people living in rural areas and members of socio-economically disadvantaged groups to apply.

Eligibility requirements

- Applicants must:
- be a citizen of Bangladesh
 - have an IELTS score (or TOEFL equivalent) of at least 6.5, with no individual band less than 6 with the results no longer than two years prior to the date of application. Female, disabled and ethnic minority communities with IELTS score of 6.0 with no individual band less than 5.5 will be considered.
 - not have held a foreign scholarship in the 24 months prior to application
 - not be a permanent resident or have applied for permanent residency in Australia
 - not be married, or engaged to be married to a person who holds or who is eligible to hold Australian or New Zealand citizenship or permanent residence status.

Recipients are required to return to their home country for two years after they have completed their studies. The recipients should also be willing to actively participate in the Australia Awards alumni program.

To apply

Applications are now open for commencement at an Australian institution from January 2012. Online applications are available until 31 May 2011.

Applicants are encouraged to first read the country profile and handbooks including information on eligibility at <http://www.southasiascholarship.org> or <http://www.usaid.gov.au/scholar/eligiblecountries.cfm>

Hard copy applications need to be submitted to: South Asia Scholarships Program (SASP), 5th Floor, Plot # 4, Road # 12 Block-J, Baridhara, Dhaka-1212 Bangladesh by 31 May 2011.

Further information

For more information or to access a hard copy application form, please visit the above websites or email info@southasiascholarship.org or call at 8824416, 8826154, Mobile 01730338495.