

25 shanties burnt to ashes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several houses, small factories and rickshaw garages were gutted in a fire at Kalunagar slum in the city's Hazaribagh yesterday.

Fire brigade sources said the fire originated from an electric short circuit around 3:40am and soon engulfed the adjacent makeshifts.

The sources said the fire gutted at least 25 shanties, four makeshift shops, three rickshaw garages and a small poultry feed factory.

The panicked slum dwellers who were asleep got out leaving all their belongings behind, the fire brigade sources said quoting locals.

A long queue in front of the OMS (open market sale) point in Pagla, Narayanganj. People start arriving there as soon as the day dawns. The photo was taken around 7:30am yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



Three strangled in Pabna village

UNB, Pabna

Three people, including a father and his son, were killed in separate incidents at Charghoshpur village in sadar upazila on Thursday.

Unidentified criminals strangled Dulal Hossain, 45, and his five-year-old son Atik in their house and hung Dulal's body on a pillar while Atik's body was left on bed.

In another incident, Nasima Khatun, 25, wife of Mukul Hossain of the village, was strangled to death and her body was hung from the pillar of her room.

Police suspected that dispute over property or previous enmity might be the reason behind the killing.

Police recovered the bodies and sent it to general hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed with police station.

Call to expedite trial of war crimes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Freedom fighters yesterday called upon the government to expedite the trial of war criminals and make the constitution of 1972 effective for establishing the spirit of the Liberation War.

They made the call at a rally of freedom fighters at Shilpakala Academy in the city. Special Guerilla Force of NAP-Communist Party and Chhatra Union, and Muktiyoddha Union organised it.

Hundreds of freedom fighters joined the function with their families and raised the demand for expediting the trial of war criminals of 1971.

Recalling the memories of battlefield, freedom fighters said they joined the liberation war for establishing a discrimination-free Bangladesh where freedom of all people

will be ensured.

They also said the constitution of 1972 was written focusing on the will of freedom fighters as well as the spirit of the war.

Describing the heroic contribution of guerilla force of NAP-Communist Party and Chhatra Union, the speakers expressed frustration that all members of that guerilla force were not included in the list of freedom fighters.

They demanded initiative to incorporate the names of missing freedom fighters of that guerilla force in the freedom fighters' list.

NAP President Mozaffar Ahmed graced the function as chief guest while freedom fighters Manzurul Ahsan Khan, Azizul Islam Khan, Amena Ahmed, Dr Sarwar Ali, Pankaj Bhattacharya and Mujahidul Islam Selim, also spoke. Convener of Muktiyoddha Union Morshed Ali presided over.

Cut use of ground water: Speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally yesterday demanded the government to take proper steps in reducing excessive use of ground water to save the city dwellers from severe water crisis in future.

The government must prepare a plan to use surface water and a guideline to reuse water, and implement the laws for protecting canals, rivers, and other water bodies, they said.

They also protested any kind of commercialisation of water while addressing the rally held in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday.

Nirapad Development Foundation organised the programme, chaired by Peace General Secretary Ifma Hossain, demanding a stop to pollution and earth filling of all water bodies.

The rally was addressed by Sheikh Muhammad Shohidullah, Iqbal Habib, organising secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolan (Bapa); Tushar Rehman, convener of Citizen Rights Movement; and Ibnul Sayed Rana, convener of Sammilito Joladhar Rokkha Andolan.

SHARE MARKET SCAM AL, BNP men slam culprits

UNB, Dhaka

Leaders of both ruling Awami League and opposition BNP yesterday slammed those who were involved in the share market scam and demanded their exemplary punishment.

Awami League presidium member Obaidul Quader said those who were involved in the share market scam are "cold blooded murderers" turning lakhs of small investors into paupers.

"They cannot be pardoned under any circumstances. They must be given exemplary punishment," he said at a discussion meeting at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday.

BNP standing committee member Brig Gen (retd) Hannan Shah at a discussion at the Jatiya Press Club ridiculed the government for not disclosing the names of the people involved in the scandal. "They must be the men of government. Otherwise, why those who had committed theft cannot be named?" he said.

Hannan said if the BNP-Jamaat people were involved in the scam, the government would have gleefully volunteered to disclose their names.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith on Thursday declined to disclose the names that appeared in the inquiry committee report, saying that they are influential people and needs further inquiry.



Green Voice, an environmental organisation, forms a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday demanding a halt to pollution and grabbing of rivers in the country.

PHOTO: STAR

'Save rivers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally yesterday demanded the government initiatives to save rivers of the country.

People of Bangladesh depend on the rivers for their livelihood, but the number of rivers has been reduced to only 230 now from 1,500, they said.

Environmentalists, politicians, and eminent citizens addressed the rally organised by Green Voice, an environmental organisation, in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city.

Sheikh Muhammad Shahidullah said we are now facing a big river disaster.

Architect Iqbal Habib said most rivers in the country have lost navigability, and water vessels can ply in only 100 rivers over a whole year.

Politician Ruhin Hossain Prince and Citizen Rights Movement Secretary General Tusher Rahman also spoke.

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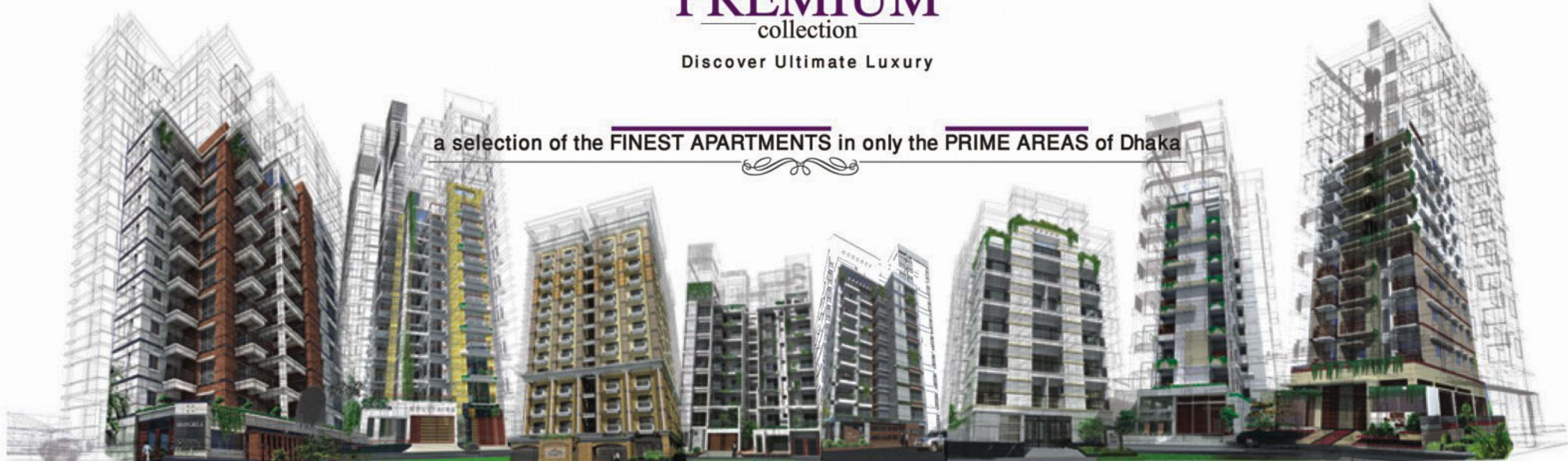
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