



A man searches the debris after a fire gutted around 47 book and crockery shops at Liakat Avenue Market in Bangla Bazar of Old Dhaka early yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

47 shops gutted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire gutted 47 book and crockery shops at Bangla Bazar in the city yesterday.

Fire brigade sources said the fire originated from an electric short circuit from the tin-shed market at about 12:20am and burnt down 32 book and 15 crockery shops.

Six firefighting units rushed to the spot and doused the flame around 2:00am.

Books and crockery worth over Tk 1 crore were gutted in the fire.

Demolish BGMEA bldg

Environmentalists urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government must immediately demolish the much talked-about BGMEA building that the High Court has declared illegal, said environment and development organisations at a demonstration yesterday.

It is not understandable why Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) is not knocking the building down despite all legal bars removed, they said during the demonstration in front of the building in the city, according to a press release.

Citizens Rights Movement along with a number of other organisations including Initiative for Peace, Unnyandhara Trust,

Combined Movement for Wetland Protection, Sheba, Green Belt Trust, and some community groups organised the demonstration.

The HC on April 3 ordered the authorities to vacate the 15-story building in Begunbari Canal area within three months.

Maj (ret'd) Mofizul Haque Sarkar, chairman of Citizens Rights Movement, said the HC directed the government to restore the Begunbari canal to its earlier state by removing the building.

The HC order was later stayed for six weeks by the Appellate Division, he said, adding that both the three-month and six-week deadlines have expired.

Bangladesh can follow US model

Engineer-under-spotlight Zahid tells The Daily Star on his project to combat natural disaster

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anwar Zahid, the Bangladeshi who works as principal engineer for ARCADIS-US, thinks many of the hydraulic and flood protection systems that he has been working on can be replicated to combat natural disasters in Bangladesh.

In an interview with The Daily Star yesterday, the engineer, who is now working as designer of record (DOR) and in some of the major projects of the Hurricane and Storm Drainage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) in Louisiana, said the concrete T-wall concept and flood gates for navigation and water control can be introduced here at a reasonable cost.

"Geographically, there is a similarity between Bangladesh and New Orleans both having to mitigate internal and external floods due to low altitude," said Zahid, adding, "We can also install drainage pumps to jet out internal flood water."

"Bangladesh with its mangrove forest along the coastal areas is already enjoying a natural protection from disasters to some extent. If we can use this protection system with some engineering interventions, risks from major calamities



Anwar Zahid

can be greatly reduced," he said.

"Permanent solutions to recurring cyclones and other disasters would also motivate coastal people and stop internal migration," he added.

Zahid, who has successfully worked with many renowned contractors on such projects and currently managing the Seabrook Sectorgate Complex, said other successful Bangladeshi engineers Badre Enam and Iftekhar Ahmad are also vital members of his team working to protect Louisiana from recurring natural disasters.

Zahid clarifies that the earlier report, which was filed by BSS on Friday and published in this newspaper yesterday, wrongly stated that the US Army selected him to do the job in Louisiana. "In fact, the US Army Corps of Engineers hired many companies including ARCADIS-US to protect the state from natural disasters," he said.

The mega-project involves many components and also a host of companies including ARCADIS-US, which are helping the army engineers to ensure a hundred-year flood protection for Louisiana where hurricane Katrina struck with full velocity in 2005, killing at least 1,836 people and making it the deadliest hurricane in US since 1928.

Housewife commits 'suicide'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A newly married housewife allegedly committed suicide over family feud at Madhubagh in the city yesterday.

The deceased is Aklima Begum, 24, wife of Abdur Rahim, of the city's Jhilpar of Madhubagh area.

Locals said Aklima got married with Rahim one and a half months ago and they used to quarrel.

Punish Porimol, remove Husne Ara

Demand rights groups

DU CORRESPONDENT

Different rights groups yesterday demanded exemplary punishment to sacked Porimol Joydhor for violating his female student.

They also demanded removal of Husne Ara Begum, principal of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College, for her failure to take proper steps against Porimol.

The right groups placed the demands at separate human chains in front of Jatiya Press Club in the city. Teachers, students, guardians, and representatives of different organisations joined the protests.

The speakers stressed formulation of committee at all educational institutions to prevent recurrences of sexual harassment.

DU teacher Mahbub Ullah, Chairman of Jatiya Paribesh Manobadhidkar Society Atique Aziz, Swadhinata Forum President Abu Naser Muhammad Rahamatullah, and President of Jatiya Nagorik Sangsad Khaleda Yeasmin, also spoke at their respective programme.

College student killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A college student was hacked to death at Siddhirganj of Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased is Nobin Hossain, 22, a HSC student of Tolaram College, son of Rupchan Miah, of the same upazila.

Police recovered the body of Nobin from his bedroom around 11:00am. Family sources said they saw Nobin was playing cards with his friends on Friday night.



Awami League lawmaker and Whip Shagufta Yasmin speaks at a meeting on "Countering gender discrimination and negative gender stereotypes: Effective policy responses" organised by United Nations Economic and Social Council at UN Office in Geneva of Switzerland on July 13.

PHOTO: COURTESY

To Whom It May Concern



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Viqarunnisa college classes resume today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Classes for college students at Viqarunnisa Noon School and College in the city will be held today as per schedule, says a press release.

Students of the institution boycotted classes on Wednesday and Thursday followed by two weekly holidays (Friday and Saturday) to protest sexual assault on one of their fellows and to demand removal of Principal Husne Ara Begum.

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