

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.

#### 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.

Geneva of Switzerland on July 13.

do so at his/her own risk.

## Demolish BGMEA bldg

PHOTO: COURTESY

Viqarunnisa

college classes

resume today

Classes for college students

at Viqarunnisa Noon School

and College in the city will be

held today as per schedule,

Students of the institution

boycotted classes on

Wednesday and Thursday

followed by two weekly holi-

days (Friday and Saturday) to

protest sexual assault on one

of their fellows and to

demand removal of Principal

Husne Ara Begum.

says a press release.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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 Kartripakkha (Rajuk) is not knocking the building down despite all legal bars

number of other organisations including Initiative for Peace, Unnyandhara Trust,

Awami League lawmaker and Whip Shagufta Yasmin speaks at a meeting on "Counter-

ing gender discrimination and negative gender stereotypes: Effective policy

responses" organised by United Nations Economic and Social Council at UN Office in

Mr. Asif Sultan, Catering Sales

Manager, is no longer employed

at the Radisson Blu Water

The Radisson Blu Water Garden

Hotel Dhaka and its owning

company Sena Hotel Developments

Limited, shall not be responsible

for any commitments/ deals

made by him on their behalf.

Anyone dealing with him shall

Garden Hotel Dhaka.

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 (retd) 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 intro-

duced here at a reasonable cost. "Geographically, there is a similarity between Bangladesh and New Orleans both having to mitigate internal and exter-

nal 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 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 recur-

ring 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

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 some engineering interventions, risks from major calamities deadliest hurricane in US since 1928.



**Anwar Zahid** 

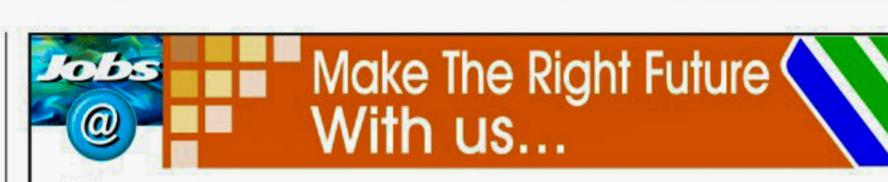
#### Housewife commits 'suicide'

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.



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state from natural disasters," he said.

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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

> 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.



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