

TAZREEN FIRE
Punish
responsible
persons
Demand speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally in the capital yesterday demanded that the government brings the responsible persons including Tazreen Fashion's owner to book and punishes them for the deadly fire which killed 112 garment workers on November 24.

Their other demands include making of a proper list of the killed and injured persons; ensuring necessary treatment to the injured workers and compensation on the basis of "loss of earning"; and taking steps to ensure safe workplaces in the country's garment factories, said a press release.

The speakers were addressing the rally organised by National Garment Workers Federation (NGWF) in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

The probe committee, formed to investigate the blaze at the garment factory, released their report identifying some Tazreen's employees and its owner as responsible for the fire, they said.

Although the committee recommended taking legal action, none of them have been arrested yet, they added.

With NGWF President Amirul Haque Amin in the chair, NGWF General Secretary Safia Parvin and Workers' Party of Bangladesh General Secretary Anisur Rahman Mallik, among other, spoke.

BGB detains two Indians

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Latmonirhat*

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) yesterday detained two Indian nationals near Doikhowa border in Hatibanda of Latmonirhat when they entered Bangladesh illegally.

They are Nipin Chondro Bormon, 38, and Nikhil Chondro Roy, 36, of Cooch Behar of Paschimbanga.

Lt Col Mehedi Hasan, commanding officer of 31 BGB Battalion, said BGB would hand over the detainees if Indian Border Security Force returned the two Bangladeshi farmers whom they picked up near the border yesterday and on Tuesday.



National Garment Workers Federation brings out a red flag procession in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday, demanding punishment for those, including the owner of Tazreen Fashions Ltd, who were found responsible in the government investigation for the deadly fire at the garment factory on November 24 that killed 112 workers.

PHOTO: STAR

Mob beats 4 cohorts of robber Nizam

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Noakhali*

A mob beat up four suspected robbers and cohorts of robber ringleader Nizam at Kaladorap in Hatiya upazila of Noakhali last night after hearing his death in 'shootout'.

The suspected robbers were Joynal, 35, Md Seraj, 45, Fayej Akerani, 50, and Belal, 30.

Witnesses said following the death news of the robber ringleader, locals raided the area of 'Nizam Bahini' and beat them indiscriminately.

At one stage, the four got unconscious and the locals informed police of the matter. Later, police arrested the alleged robbers.

Swapan Kumar Bhowmik, in-charge of Naler Char Police Camp, said the four were sent to the court yesterday.

Nizam, 35, son of M Ruhul Amin, a resident of Shiba village in Ramgati upazila of Laxmipur, was killed in a 'shootout' with Rab at Charbata village in Subarnachar upazila of Noakhali early Thursday.

Three cars damaged in fire, explosion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The gas cylinder of a car kept in an open car park of EPI Bhaban in the capital's Mohakhali exploded after the car and an adjoining one caught fire yesterday.

The explosion could be heard in a half a kilometre radius, shattering glass windows and ripping off chunks of plaster from an adjacent building and damaging a third car in the car park, said witnesses.

However, no injury was reported.

Quoting locals, Fire Service and Civil Defence Director (operations) Maj Muhammad Mahboob suspected that a saloon car caught fire in the parking lot

around 6:00pm and the fire spread to an adjoining four-wheel drive.

The flames went up at least 40 feet into the air and, at one stage, one of the saloon car's two gas cylinders exploded. None was injured as the EPI Building was closed due to the day being a weekly holiday, he said.

Ten fire fighting units doused the fire around 6:30pm, he added.

Officer-in-Charge Bhuiyan Mahbub Hasan of Banani Police Station said they were investigating to confirm whether the fire on the government cars was an accident or intentionally lit.



Gonotantrik Bam Morcha, an alliance of some left-leaning political parties, forms a human chain near Jatiya Press Club yesterday, protesting what it said the government's evil attempt to protect the killers of Bishwajit Das, a tailor, who was hacked to death by some Bangladesh Chhatra League men in Old Dhaka on December 9.

Stop fair on playground Demand green activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a human chain yesterday demanded an end to the month-long fair held on the Banani Chairmanbari playground for the sake of psychological and physical growth of children.

They said while open spaces and playground from the cityscape are diminishing fast and the prime minister is asking for adequate playground, the fair occupying the Banani playground is being held right under the nose of the administration.

Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba), Architect Alumni Association of Buet, Banani Society, Banani Chairmanbari House Owners Association and Nabaran Shangha jointly organised the programme on the playground, said a press release.

The fair is hampering children's sports and is depriving the elderly from their exercise space, the speakers said.

They added that it has become imperative to ensure adequate playgrounds and open-spaces in every locality to help flourish children's physical and mental health and entertainment of the elderly people.

Mentioning the high frequency of earthquakes in Dhaka, they said there should be enough open-space in the city so that people can stay safe during earthquakes.

They urged authorities concerned not to give permission to hold any programmes like jatras or fairs on playgrounds.

Abdus Salam, vice president of Banani Society, and architect Sajjadur Rashid, president of Architect Alumni Association of Buet, spoke among others.

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LINKING YOUNG MINDS

This week's Star Campus, a weekly publication of The Daily Star, has some interesting articles for the readers. The Spotlight will tell you how to stay chic and beat the winter blues without burning a hole in your pocket! The Post Campus this week is about Tim Berners-Lee: Father of the World Wide Web. There will be articles on how to best spend your winter holidays by enjoying delicacies like Pitha and playing badminton. The Star Chat this week is with Creative Designer Iftakhar Husein as he shares his memory on campus and future aspirations. Do not forget to grab this week's Star Campus as it hits the country tomorrow. And, as always, have a great read!

Adwaita Malla Burman depicted society *Discussion told*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Novelist Adwaita Malla Burman penned down the surrounding realities of society through his literary works, which depicted the lifestyle of marginal communities, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

His "Titash Ekti Nadir Naam" is one of the most amazing literary pieces in Bangla literature, they added.

They were speaking at the launching ceremony of a book written on the novelist titled "Adwaita Malla Burman: Brataj Jiboner Brataj Kathakar" held at Liberation War Museum in the capital.

The biography of Adwaita Malla Burman was written by poet Bimal Chakrabarty of Tripura province of India.

Professor Emeritus of Dhaka University Dr Anisuzzaman said there are some points of argument with the author (Bimal Chakrabarty) regarding the facts and realities of Adwaita Malla Burman's life but he tried his best to represent the contributions of the acclaimed novelist in his book.

Professor Hayat Mahmud said the novel Titash Ekti Nadir Naam was the identity of the novelist because Adwaita Malla Burman delicately observed the lifestyle of a marginal community centring the rivers of Bangladesh.

Subhabrata Deb, proprietor of Akshar Publication in Tripura, published the book written by poet Bimal Chakrabarty ahead of Adwaita Malla Burman's 100th birth anniversary in 2014.

Eminent writer Prof Shantonu Kaiser and poet Khaled Hossain, among others, addressed the programme.

Construct embankments in haor area by January *Say environmentalists*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists yesterday demanded that the authorities concerned complete construction and renovation of embankments in Haor areas by January to save Boro paddy from inundation, says a press release.

Even though December-February is the best time for building and renovating the embankments, but these works are not done in proper time which causes damage to the crops, they claimed at a rally organised by Nagorik Sanghati in front of Bangladesh National Museum in the capital's Shahbagh.

The construction work is often done in a hurry by the end of February due to the delay in formulating projects, forming the implementation committees and allocating budgets, they said.

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IEB poll Monday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The biennial election to the Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) will be held on Monday, with around 18,500 engineers from across the country expected to cast their ballots to elect a 10-member executive committee for the next two years.

The voting will take place at 45 centres and sub-centres across the country from 9:00am to 5:00pm. It will elect a president, a general secretary, four vice presidents, and four assistant secretaries of the IEB.

Candidates from two unofficial panels-Bangabandhu Prokaushali Parishad backed by the Awami League and Association of Engineers Bangladesh (AEB) backed by the opposition BNP and Jamaat-will contest in the poll.

The pro-AL president candidate is Shamim Z Bashunia. No-one will vie for the post from the rival panel as Bashunia, who was primarily an AEB candidate, has joined the AL-backed panel in a last moment drama. An independent candidate, Dr MA Kasem, will contest against Bashunia.

On the other hand, three candidates will vie for the general secretary post. The AL backs Nuruzzaman, while the opposition panel's candidate is Miah Muhammad Quayum. The third general secretary candidate, Sirajul Alam Swapan, will contest independently.

Meanwhile, AEB President ANH Akhtar Hossain complained that incumbent IEB President Nurul Huda had violated the IEB constitution by introducing the pro-AL candidates at a programme at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) on December 2. Nurul Huda however denied the allegation.

Chairman of Central Election Commission Md Khizir Khan said they received the complaint but it was not possible for them to take action against it due to time constraint.