

FIRE AT SCHOOL BUILDING
Students panic, fall sick

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire broke out at a room on the 9th floor of a 12-storey building of a school in the capital's Malibagh yesterday, creating panic among students, teachers and guardians.

At least 10 students of South Point School and College fell sick while rushing downstairs from the different floors after the school authorities switched off the power supply following the fire around 8:50am.

Black fumes were seen billowing out of a room on the 9th floor, said witnesses.

"While sitting for an examination at the top floor of the building, we heard fire screams and saw black fumes emitting from the 9th floor," said a student.

"As we started coming out of the room, within a few minutes the power went off and we started climbing down through the stairs amid darkness," she told The Daily Star.

Fire service and civil defence officials said the school authorities put off the blaze before they reached the spot. The reason behind the fire could not be ascertained.

Visiting the spot, Rampura Police Station Officer-in-Charge Delwar Hossain said the fire damaged a drape of window and two electric bulbs.

A number of students fell sick while climbing downstairs amid panic, he told The Daily Star. Guardians of the students staged a demonstration in front of the school.



A guardian takes her daughter out of the building of South Point School and College in the capital's Malibagh while, inset, a student is left panic-stricken after a fire broke out on the school's 9th floor yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Muggers hack worker to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of snatchers stabbed a transport worker to death in Chawk Bazar area of old Dhaka yesterday.

The deceased Khalilur Rahman, 35, was a supervisor of Falgun Paribahan. Police recovered his bloodstained body from Harinath Ghosh Road.

Chawk Bazar police suspected that the snatchers stabbed Khalilur as he scuffled with them when he was asked to give his cellphone and wallet to the criminals.

The police said they found a cellphone and Tk 2,600 in the victim's pocket.

Nargis Begum, wife of Khalilur, told police that her husband had got out of home in the morning to go to Sayedabad Bus Terminal.

DANDY DYEING CASE
Tarique, Koko to face court by Feb 26

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again summoned BNP Senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman and eight other directors of Dandy Dyeing Ltd, and two others to it by February 26 in a case filed for defaulting on a loan payment of Tk 45.49 crore.

The court also asked the court authorities to publish an advertisement in the daily Prothom Alo and the daily Inqilab asking them to appear before it.

Judge Md Rabiuzzaman of the Artharin Adalat-1 passed the order after all the earlier notices upon the defendants could not be served as none at their respective addresses received those. Earlier on October 23 last year, the same court issued the summons.

The ten other defendants are Arafat Rahman Koko; Giasuddin Al-Mamun and his wife Shahina Yasmine; Nasrin Iskander, wife of late Sayeed Iskander; Shams Iskander; Shafin Iskander; Sumaiya Iskander; Kazi Galib Abdus Sattar; Shamsunnahar, wife of another director late Mozaffar Ahmed; and their son Masud Hassan.

On October 2 last year, Sonali Bank Ltd filed the case against the eleven, including Tarique, Koko, after their company failed to pay off the principal loan plus interest, accumulated over the last 11 years, totalling Tk 45.49 crore.

The company had borrowed Tk 12.16 crore from the bank's principal office in the capital on October 16, 2001, said the case statement.

Reshuffle in admin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a major civil administration reshuffle yesterday, the government transferred and posted 31 senior officers, including two secretaries and eight additional secretaries, according to circulars of the public administration ministry.

The offices of Secretary Mohammad Mezbahuddin of the Energy and Mineral Resources Division and Secretary Mozammel Haque Khan of Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Division have been interchanged.

Of the additional secretaries, officer-on-special duty (OSD) Md Golam Mostafa of the public administration ministry was transferred to the energy ministry, Mohammad Nurul Kabir of National Disabled Development Foundation was transferred to the food ministry, Syed Mostafizur Rahman of the agriculture ministry was made OSD to the public administration ministry, OSD Md Anwarul Islam Sikder of the public administration ministry was transferred to the agriculture ministry, Tea Board (Chittagong) member Md Riaz Ahmed was attached to the appointment, posting and deputy (APD) wing, Bangladesh Computer Council executive director Gayanandra Nath Biswas was transferred to the APD wing, Md Zahirul Haq of APD wing was transferred to the Prime Minister Office, and OSD Sarder Abul Kalam was made National Disabled Development Foundation managing director.

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BID TO ENROL IN MADRASAS

Six Adivasi children rescued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of indigenous students of Dhaka University on Sunday rescued six Adivasi children, thought to be sent to different madrasas in Dhaka city and its outskirts, from a residential hotel of the capital's Fakirapool area.

The rescuers captured one Binoy Tripura, who brought the kids of Tripura community aged 5-12 from Chimbuk Hills in Bandarban.

Binoy took 19 children from Bandarban promising their parents that they would be sent to Christian Missionaries for education. He started for Dhaka on Saturday, left 13 kids at Chakaria en route, and reached Dhaka with the six, said Mukul Tripura, a rescuer.

"Binoy has confessed to us that he was about to send the children to different

madrasas in Dhaka and its outskirts." He did it for money, Mukul told The Daily Star.

The rescued children have been sent to a Christian Missionary in Bandarban. They will be handed over to their parents. The 13 other children have also been taken to Bandarban from Chakaria, said Mukul.

"We have kept Binoy in our supervision in Dhaka...his parents will come to Dhaka tomorrow (today). Then we will decide further action against him," he said.

Earlier police rescued 16 indigenous children from a madrasa, mosque and non-government Islamic organisation on January 2 and 11 others from different madrasas in Dhaka in August last year. They were allegedly converted to Muslims and given Islamic education.

RMG worker held for arson attempt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Police arrested a worker of an export-oriented garment factory for allegedly trying to set fire to his workplace at sadar upazila of Narayanganj district yesterday.

The arrestee, Habibur Rahman, 22, was employed at the factory, Navy Hosiery Pvt Ltd, in Panchabati BISIC Industrial Area only two days ago. He is a resident of Muslim Nagar area under Fatullah and hails from Patuakhali district.

The factory's Manager Malek Hazi Mohammad said Habibur set fire to clothes on the seventh floor of the factory after the afternoon lunch break.

However, other workers saw the fire and quickly doused it with fire extinguishers while Habibur made a quick getaway, he said.

Later, the factory authority, with assistance from other workers, caught Habibur from a Patuakhali-bound launch at Fatullah Launch terminal and handed him over to police.

Acting Officer-in-Charge Akther Hossain of Fatullah Model Police Station said, "We are investigating the incident."

The factory's owner is the elder brother of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association Vice-President Mohammad Hatem.

ARMED AL CADRES BEFORE LAWMAKER

Police yet to take action

Wadud denies involvement of his men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police is yet to take legal action against alleged Awami League cadres who brandished lethal weapons in Rajshahi's Puthia upazila on Sunday while escorting the local lawmaker following an intra-party clash.

"Police were not there so the men could not be identified. Whether they were Awami League cadres can not be said for sure but they were not locals," said Officer-in-Charge Abdus Salam of Puthia Police Station.

No complaint was filed after the clash, he added.

Photographs published in Prothom Alo yesterday showed the men escorting the vehicle of lawmaker Quazi Abdul Wadud Dara of Rajshahi-5 (Puthia-Durgapur) constituency in Puthia Bazar.

Earlier that day, 10 people were injured in an "attack" by the men on a group led by a former president of Rajshahi unit

Bangladesh Chhatra League, GM Hira Bachchu.

Hira said a council at Biralaha College in the morning to form two AL committees of Puthia municipality and union units was postponed at noon following a dispute.

However, Wadud unilaterally announced the committees, leading to protests and the attack, he said.

"Filing a case over the attack requires for me to accuse the lawmaker. Why will I do so when we are from the same party," said Hira, adding that he did not recognise the armed men.

Wadud said, "Nothing big occurred. It was just a misunderstanding among us...none of my party men showed arms before me. If I had seen so, I would have expelled him."

Hira and Wadud's groups sat together at the college yesterday but the former's group left soon protesting Wadud's unilateral decisions, said party insiders.



Armed Awami League cadres escort local lawmaker Abdul Wadud following an intra-party clash in Puthia upazila of Rajshahi on Sunday. The photo was taken at Puthia Bazar.

PHOTO: STAR

Bharatia Oikya Parishad brings out a procession in the capital yesterday demanding that the government realise tax from rent paid to landlords.



PHOTO: BANGLA CHOKH

SEXUAL ORIENTATION
No discrimination

Says NHRC chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Human Rights Commission Chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman yesterday said no person will be discriminated on the basis of their sexual orientation.

He told a dissemination session on draft findings of a study titled "Early Debut of Same Sexual Activities among Males in Bangladesh" at IDB Bhaban in the capital's Agargaon.

In this regard, Mizanur Rahman said, "drafting of an anti-discrimination law, in collaboration with the National Law Commission drafting, is in progress."

Bandhu Social Welfare Society (BSWS), with support from UNAIDS and Manusher Jonno Foundation, arranged the programme.

The study was conducted by Nielsen Company, Bangladesh, Limited, in coordination with Bandhu Social Welfare Society.



OBITUARY

Mr. M. A. Jabbar passed away on 4th Feb 2013 at 4.00 a.m at his old D.O.H.S residence (Inna Lillahe Oa Inna Ilaihe Razeun)

He left behind his wife Lazima Jabbar, daughters, son, grandchildren and many well wishers.

He was laid to rest at the Banani Graveyard. Doa Mahfil for Late M. A. Jabbar will be held after Asr Prayers on 9th Feb 2013 at Rd # 1, Hs # 37, old D.O.H.S. All relatives, Friends and well wishers are requested to attend the Doa Mahfil and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.