

## 32 shanties gutted in Ctg fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A fire gutted around 32 shanties at a slum in Agrabad Jamburi Field area of Chittagong city yesterday evening.

The fire might have originated from an electric short circuit, said fire service sources.

Valuables worth around Tk 12 lakh were gutted, they said adding that no casualty was reported.

Five fire fighting units from Bandar and Agrabad stations doused the blaze within an hour.

## Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra



Komol Kanti Shaha, elder brother of Bogra ATN news bureau

Chief Chapal Kanti Shaha, died from Cardiac disease at Shaheed Zaiur Rahman Medical College and Hospital on Monday. He was 65.

## HC refuses to

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for him and his wife Aysha Begum and mother Zakia Amjad through committing corruption and irregularities while he was the housing and public work secretary between 2010 and 2011.

Showkat submitted the petitions before the HC bench on June 8 seeking anticipatory bail in the cases.

## A true voice of Lalon songs

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His exact age is not known because he forgot the year of his birth but he was above 85 years.

Shah devoted a lifetime to Baul music tradition and was the first Baul to receive Ekushey Padak. He first visited the Lalon shrine in Kumarkhali upazila at the age of around 20, and accepted Baul cult. Since then, he had spent most of his life there.

During his long journey with folk music, Abdul Karim created a huge band of adherents. He was the direct guru of popular Lalon singers Farida Parveen and Bazlu Shah.

Shah did not receive institutional education like Lalon, the late 18th-19th century preceptor of Baul asceticism and composer, singer of the songs.

Shah was born at Anjangachi village in Kushtia's Mirpur upazila. He breathed his last around 8:00am at his residence at Chourhas Canalpara village, 4km north of Kushtia town.

The devout singer played an important role in spreading Baul music across the country. He was a trainer with Fakir Mahin Shah of the Lalon Mentor Fellowship Project that was initiated by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy for the years 1996-98.

Little was known about the bard's early life since no writings about him were pre-

served. It is said that he also sang Pala Gan, narrative folk ballad, following in the footsteps of his father.

The mystic singer often claimed to exponents and journalists that he had memorised 2,000 out of around 2,500 devotional songs composed by Lalon. Shah won Ekushey Padak for his outstanding contribution in the field of Baul music in 2011 in arts categories.

Suffering from various old-age complications, he was admitted to Kushtia Medical College Hospital on April 19. He was advised to move to Dhaka but he refused more treatment. "He often told us that he had run out of his days," his wife Rizia Khatun told The Daily Star.

He was then taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital at the initiative of the Social Welfare Department on May 3 and received Tk 2 lakh from the prime minister's fund. "We brought him home on June 4, as doctors told us he was beyond any treatment intervention," said Rizia.

As per his last wish, Shah was buried at the house of his disciple Akmol Shah at Kamarpra village in Mirpur upazila, 25km from his home, said Shah's wife.

Baul Abdul Karim Shah is not to be confused with Shah Abdul Karim, a folksinger from Sunamganj, who died in 2009.

## Kafala repeal

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countries to raise voice against Kafala. Sheeps said the alliance would submit separate proposals to the prime minister, the Bangladesh mission in the United Nations, all Bangladesh missions in the Gulf, and the FIFA to raise voice for Kafala's abolition.

Sumaiya Islam, director of Bangladesh Ovibashi Mahila Sramik Association, said

the female migrants, who mostly work within the households, suffer more than male migrants due to the sponsorship system.

Under the Kafala system, workers are often forced to work under hazardous working conditions for long hours at low or without wages, and cramped in unsanitary housing, say international rights bodies.

## Unapproved secretary

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In the scripted reply, the state minister also said 1,306 deputy secretaries were working at present, which was equal to the number of the approved posts.

Meanwhile, Law Minister Anisul Huq told parliament that the government was actively considering setting a specific period of time

for disposal of cases in lower courts. He, however, did not give detail while replying to lawmakers' queries.

The minister added that the government was considering increasing the retirement age of judges at lower courts to 62 as per the instructions of the Supreme Court.

## Ctg ASI sued over torturing wife for dowry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An assistant sub inspector of Sadarghat Police Station in Chittagong was sued yesterday over torturing his wife for dowry.

Ishrat Sultana, wife of ASI Musa Miya, filed the case against him with Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-1, said Additional Deputy Commissioner (Prosecution) Rezaul Masud.

The other accused are Musa's brother Siraj Miya, Diraj Miya and Siraj's wife Dil Afroz.

According to case statement, Musa and the others tortured Ishrat at different times for dowry money worth Tk 2 lakh.

## APS of ex-state

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The IO said Soilen amassed the amount of money through illegal means and he needed to be remanded for gathering more information about the illegal wealth.

The ACC filed the case against Soilen with Ramna Police Station on June 2.

## HC summons

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and a deputy director. The petitioners yesterday submitted three petitions praying to the HC to summon the Rajuk officials, petitioners' lawyer Md Asrarul Hoque told The Daily Star.

## Suspects freed after

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At one stage of cross-examination yesterday, defence lawyer Mizanul Islam asked Fazlur whether he had felt any necessity to bring the people, who had committed crimes in collaboration with the Pakistani army, to book immediately after the war. "I didn't file any complaint personally," Fazlur replied.

"However, Khoda Baks Kha, Ismail Moulana, Hariuddin, Akmal, advocate Mojaheed, Abdul Quader, Siddique were behind the bars after independence on charges of different crimes during the liberation war [in Pabna]," he continued.

"But, they came out of jail after the then government repealed the Collaborators Act on December 31, 1975. As they [collaborators] were in jail, I didn't lodge any complaint [against them]," he said.

Khoda Baks controlled a torture cell in Iswardi while Harisuddin accompanied Subhan in committing crimes, Fazlur said.

According to historical documents, the government formed special tribunals under the 1972 act for trying the collaborators of the Pakistan army during the nine-month war.

On November 30, 1973, the Mujib government announced a general amnesty and around 26,000 people, who were in jail on the charge of collaboration, were freed.

But individuals punished for or accused of rape, murder, arson and looting did not come under the purview of the amnesty and around 11,000 were behind bars.

The collaborators got freed when the martial law government headed by president ASM Sayem and practically dominated by Gen Ziaur Rahman, who was one of the three deputy chief martial law administrators, repealed the Collaborators Act on December 31, 1975.

In response to a query of the court, Fazlur said Subhan returned to Bangladesh after the killing of Bangabandhu on August 15, 1975. The court, however, did not record this answer.

Later, Mizanul completed cross-examining Fazlur with a suggestion that the witness gave "false testimony" implicating Subhan after being tutored, which Fazlur denied.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan adjourned the proceeding until today.

## Raushan differs with

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In her reaction, Raushan said, "We want to advance the country by cooperating with the government. None played this role in the past. And that's why some quarters are criticising us."

She said implementation of the budget needed good governance. "And to ensure good governance, political stability is a must at first. A dialogue among all the political parties can be held to this end. But I don't know for now how the dialogue will take place."

## Law to make

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archives and research at the Prothom Alo, said record management and archiving had emerged as a business in many countries.

The discussion was moderated by Abdul Quaiyum, Prothom Alo's associate editor.

Khandakar Mahbubul Karim, former director of the Archives and Library Department; Abdul Bari Chowdhury, director of the Archives and Library Department; Md Mahbubur Rahman, history professor at Rajshahi University; and Mohammad Mesbahul-Islam, professor of library management at Dhaka University, also spoke at the event.

## Remove

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same time request them to obey the existing flag rule."

Earlier on Monday, the deputy commissioner of Jessore ordered removal of foreign flags from the district within 24 hours.

Accordingly, most of the flags were seen removed in Jessore yesterday, reported BBC Bangla.

## 2 City College

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Accused Towhidul Islam, 18, and Injamul Islam Zishan, 20, are second year students of business studies.

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