

Man, son suffer severe burns in Sat Tola slum fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A father and son suffered severe burns in a fire that gutted at least 32 rooms in a slum, Sat Tala Bosti, in the capital's Mohakhali early yesterday.

Doctors at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) say Abu Bakar, 55, suffered 45 percent burns while Kawsar, aged 22, has 25 percent burns.

Inspector Mozammel Haque, in-charge of the DMCH police outpost, told The Daily Star that the two were asleep when the fire erupted.

Sparks from an overhead transformer which exploded around 5:00am fell on a two-storey tin and wood structure containing the 32 rooms, causing it to catch fire, said Nurul Haq, deputy director of Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence.

Seven firefighting units put it out in around one hour, saving a huge number of adjoining shanties, he said.

The victims took shelters at their relatives' shanties, said local sources.

Meanwhile, another fire broke out on the fourth floor of a multi-storey building in Paltan around 5:45pm. It was brought under control by 14 firefighting units within half an hour, fire officials said.

RMG worker found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

The body of a garment worker who went missing on Wednesday was recovered from a pond at Masdair area of Narayanganj town yesterday by police.

Ramin, 20, is the son of Nurul Islam of Bare Bhog area of Masdair.

His mother Aeinu Begum said Ramin was seeing a local married woman. "Her husband threatened to kill my son several times. I think they left my son's body in the pond after killing him," she alleged.



Residents search for usable belongings after a fire left a father and son severely burnt and gutted at least 32 rooms in a slum, Sat Tala Bosti, in the capital's Mohakhali early yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Climate change triggers disasters in Barind tract

Experts tell discussion

BSS, Rajshahi

Adverse impacts of climate change have triggered recurrence of natural calamities in the high Barind tract posing a serious threat to the overall farming system as well as the living conditions of people there, said speakers at a discussion.

As consequences of the climate change, various unusual circumstances, particularly drought, dust storms due to desertification, eroding landscapes, less crop growth due to lack of water for irrigation, and malnutrition, are being observed, they viewed.

Time-fitting measures need to be adopted urgently to boost agricultural productions for ensuring food security amid adverse impacts of climate changes.

The observations came at a daylong workshop styled "Impact of Climate Change in Bangladesh: Expectations

and Demands of affected Community from Paris Climate Conference" held at a hotel in Rajshahi city on Thursday. Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) organised the workshop in association with European Union and the French embassy in Bangladesh.

During his keynote presentation, Golam Rabbani, research fellow at BCAS, said Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change. "Our traditional transplanted Aman cultivation was completely reliant on rainfall. But the cultivation has become irrigation dependent at present because of rainfall scarcity," he added.

The developed countries should extend cooperation towards successful implementation of Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action

Plan, the keynote speaker added.

Prof Akhtar Hossain and Prof Redwanur Rahman from Rajshahi University, Executive Engineer of Water Development Board Harun-Or Rashid and development activist Alima Khatun addressed the programme, among others.

The discussants mentioned that a large number of water bodies and wetlands have become derelict in the region due to lack of adequate rainfall posing a serious threat to the biodiversity, especially the livelihood of the poor and marginal people, of the area.

The existing agricultural system has started facing a serious threat because of the climate change. So, there is no alternative to adopting a comprehensive measure to face climatic change and its adverse impacts, the speakers said.

Madrasa girl raped in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Police arrested a rapist hours after he raped a 12-year-old girl on Thursday evening at Kuthir para village in Kashiram Belpukur union of Nilphamari's Saidpur upazila.

The victim, a madrasa student, who is undergoing treatment in the Nilphamari hospital, yesterday said she was returning home from a market when Razzak forced her to a banana orchard and raped her, gagging her mouth and keeping his cohort Zahurul on guard.

A forensic exam was performed yesterday, said doctors. A case was filed.



Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, chairman of the Board of Trustees of Brac University; Syed Saad Andaleeb, vice chancellor; and Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman at "Brac University Faculty and Staff Award" ceremony in Brac Centre Inn of the capital on Thursday. Three faculty members and one administration employee were awarded on the occasion.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

N Korean arrested for illegal alcohol business in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs Intelligence arrested a North Korean national for running illegal alcohol business and anti-social activities in the name of her approved restaurant in the capital's Banani early yesterday, said officials.

Assisted by detectives, they also recovered 94 cans of Foster's beer, 10 bottles of whisky and 201 Viagra pills from Pyongyang Restaurant, owned by the arrestee, Ryag Sun Hwa, said Dr Moinul Khan, director general of Customs Intelligence.

Three cases were filed against her under the customs act, narcotics control act and special power act.

They were barred by an official of the embassy from conducting the drive starting around 8:00pm on Thursday, said Moinul, adding that they would inform the government high ups of it for action against the person.

The arrest and seizure came within two months into the recovery of 27kg of gold from North Korean First Secretary (Commercial and Economic Affairs) Son Young Nam at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

Woman dies after jumping into river

Son rescued alive

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Police recovered the body of a woman from the river Meghna in Munshiganj yesterday a day after she along with her three-year-old son jumped off the Meghna bridge.

Adian, son of Majeda Akter Keya, wife of Mahmudur Rahman Masum of Comilla, was rescued alive by some workers. But they could not save his mother.

Keya left her in-law's house around a year ago as they tortured her for dowry, police said. On the day of the incident, Keya was going to Dhaka from Comilla to inquire about a case filed against her in-laws, police said.

DCC contractor grabs

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Development project.

Special attention will be given to grabbing, which is going on, and action will be taken, he told The Daily Star.

The project consists of a 20 feet wide circular driveway, a bridge, culverts, dredging, and closing the outlets discharging sewerage and solid waste into the lake, said the project director of Uttara Lake Development, Monowar Hossain.

The PD said already some bricks were removed from the grabbed portion, and excavation would be done in that place during implementation of the project.

Rajuk sources said initially there was a plan to beautify the lake but it was dropped due to a shortage of fund, with the government approving Tk 35 crore instead of the proposed Tk 85 crore.

Rangpur litchi farmers

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including greater Rangpur and Dinajpur districts. Experts, farmers and businessmen expect a record business of around Tk 4,000 crore for this season.

Hundreds of farmers have achieved self-reliance through cultivating the delicious seasonal fruit in recent years in northern Bangladesh.

According to the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) officials, litchi farming is consistently becoming popular across the country with excellent marketing facilities. Horticulture Specialist of the DAE Khondker Md Mesbahul Islam said over 85 percent of the litchi trees are in about 9,000 small, medium and big orchards and homesteads.

4 held with firearms in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-7 members held four persons with firearms in Bandar area of Chittagong city on Thursday night.

The arrestees are Mahmudur Rahman, of Noakhali, Atiqur Rahman, of Comilla, Mostak Uddin, of Chittagong, and Mahbub Alam, of Naogaon.

Rab conducted a drive on information that a gang gathered in East Colony area for committing robbery and made the arrest. A foreign pistol, a light gun, a magazine, one bullet, and two cartridges were recovered from their possession, said a press release.



Bigyan Andolon Mancha forms a human chain in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday demanding immediate arrest of the killers of Ananta Bijoy Das and the highest punishment. The 32-year-old blogger known for advocating science and secularism was hacked to death by a group of masked men in Sylhet city on May 12 in a continuation of attacks on freethinkers.

PHOTO: STAR

Lighter vessel sinks in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A lighter vessel with around 1,200 tonnes of limestone sank in the outer anchorage of the Chittagong Port near Patenga beach early yesterday.

Cracks developed in the hull of MV Hazi Abul Kashem due to strong waves, said Ataul Kabir, deputy secretary of Water Transport Cell, a private organisation that coordinates lighter vessels. All the 13 crews managed to board another lighter vessel.

A letter was sent to the owner to recover the vessel.

'Cattle thief' killed by mob beating

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Villagers of Kushna beat a youth to death, suspecting him as a cattle thief on Friday morning in Jhenidah's Moheshpur upazila.

Amirul Islam, 32, son of Nabij Uddin of Sarutia village, was wandering in the area around 4:00am when locals noticed him and beat him severely. After that they tied him to a bamboo and left him to die around 10:00am.

On information, police recovered and sent the body to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Amirul was accused in several theft and mugging cases, said police.

IJC offers photojournalism course

UNB, Dhaka

Institute of Journalism and Communication (IJC), a media think tank, is going to launch a six-month professional photojournalism programme in Dhaka on June 30 for those interested in press photography.

There will be 48 classes in the programme, said a press release yesterday.

The course also includes field works and internship at different media outlets on its completion.

The IJC requested the interested people to call 01767882288, or visit www.ijcbd.com

Govt absorbs 1,233 DTE employees

BSS, Dhaka

The government has absorbed 1,233 employees working in 64 technical school and colleges (TSCs) under the Directorate of Technical Education (DTE) over a decade even after completion of their project period, officials said.

They said the government had appointed these employees in the TSCs under a project "Establishing 13 New Vocational Training Institute (VTI) and Renovation -- Modernization of 51 Existing VTI" to improve the quality of technical education and they were continuing to do so after the end of the project period on June 30 in 2004.

Hijackers hack driver in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Two hijackers masquerading as passengers hacked a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver before making away with his vehicle from the Dhaka-Aricha highway at Jamshing in Savar, outside the capital, yesterday.

Badsha Miah, 30, a resident of Savar municipality, was admitted to Enam Medical College and Hospital.

2 held with firearms in Noakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Police arrested two persons with firearms and sharp weapons at Padipara Bazar in Sonaimuri upazila of Noakhali early yesterday.

On information, police arrested Md Delwar Hossain, of Begumganj upazila, organising secretary of Jubo League's Amanullahpur union's ward no-3 unit, and Tajul Islam, of Sonaimuri upazila, and recovered a revolver, three light guns, a pipe gun and nine machetes.

The two are accused in many cases including robbery. A case was filed.

Truck owner missing for two days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A truck owner of Jhenidah was abducted from the capital's Motijheel on Thursday night.

According to the truck helper, Ashaduzzaman Asad, 43, son of Abdul Wadud of Kanchan Nagar village, did not return after some five people took him aside for talking while he was unloading the truck in Motijheel.

The victim's family filed a general diary with Sadar Police Station yesterday.

Asad drove to Dhaka on Wednesday night and the helper informed about the incident on Thursday.