

Fire guts 13 shops, warehouses in Mirpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A fire gutted around 13 shops and warehouses of scraps of fabrics of garment factories in Dhaka's Mirpur-10 early today. Twelve fire fighting units doused the blaze at 1:45am, said fire service. Pallabi police said the reason behind the fire could not be ascertained immediately. No casualties were reported till filing of the report.

Laila, Monirul new envoys to Morocco, Ethiopia

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
The government has decided to appoint Sultana Laila Hossain as the next ambassador of Bangladesh to the Kingdom of Morocco. Laila is currently serving as the consul general in Bangladesh Consulate General, Los Angeles. She will replace Ambassador Md Monirul Islam, who has been appointed as the inaugural ambassador to Ethiopia, said a foreign ministry press release.



Discussants at a seminar, "Second International Conference on Nutrition-Follow Up", organised by www.healthprior21.com, a healthcare portal funded by Children's Investment Fund Foundation, and Save the Children, at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

WHO THRESHOLDS FOR CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM UNDERNUTRITION Challenges still remain: Experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Though the number of children suffering from undernutrition has been dropping in Bangladesh since 1996, challenges still remain to keep levels below World Health Organization's (WHO) "critical thresholds", experts told a seminar in the capital yesterday. Ensuring accountability, developing multisectoral coordination among stakeholders including ministries, non-government organisations, the media, civil society and strong leadership are needed to face the challenges and sustain the achievements, they added.

The seminar, "Second International Conference on Nutrition-Follow Up", was organised by www.healthprior21.com, a healthcare portal funded by Children's Investment Fund Foundation and Save the Children, at The Daily Star Centre. A presentation of the health and family welfare ministry showed that between 1996 and 2014, the percentage of underweight children aged below five dropped from 52 to 33 while the Million Development Goal (MDG) target was 31 and WHO threshold 30. The presentation, based on Bangladesh Demographic and Health

Survey reports from 1997 to 2014, added that despite the commendable progress in achieving MDG 1 targets, 36 percent of children aged below five suffered from stunting while the WHO threshold was 30 percent. Additional Secretary to the ministry Roxana Quader said the government has taken different initiatives to bring undernutrition to a permissible level. The portal's chairman, Dr Rubaiul Murshed, and Food and Agriculture Organization Representative in Bangladesh Naoki Minamiguchi also spoke at the event moderated by the portal's chief adviser Sultana Khanom.

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40TH ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH OF MOHAMMAD SIRAJUDDIN
Today the 8th January is the 40th death anniversary of Late **Mohammad Sirajuddin** founder Chairman & Managing Director of **Modhumita Group, Sirco Soap & Chemical Industries, Kohinoor Jute Mills Ltd.** and Director of **Standard Bank of Pakistan.** Though he is not in this world, he lives in our hearts, in our minds, in our memory. All friends, relatives and well wishers are requested to Pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

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Maushumi reaches Lisbon

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
Maushumi Rahman, counsellor (political) at Bangladesh High Commission in Islamabad, reached Portugal yesterday to take up her new diplomatic assignment at the Bangladesh mission in Lisbon. "She reached Lisbon this afternoon and will join [work] next week," Imtiaz Ahmed, Bangladesh ambassador to Portugal told The Daily Star by phone. The Pakistan Foreign Ministry on Tuesday summoned the Bangladesh High Commissioner in Islamabad and requested to "withdraw" Maushumi Rahman, who was also head of chancery in Islamabad, within 48-hours, without citing any reason. The Bangladesh foreign ministry, which foresaw "some sort of retaliation" following withdrawal of the Pakistani diplomat Farina Arshad from Dhaka on December 23, prepared for Maushumi's fresh posting in Lisbon. "We were prepared and that helped us make the quick decision to send her on a fresh diplomatic assignment," said State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam.

Court ends recording

FROM PAGE 3
appear before the court due to her personal affairs, said Taherul Islam Tauhid, one of her counsels. Anti-Corruption Commission Deputy Director Harunur Rashid, also the investigation officer of the case, gave his deposition. Judge Abu Ahmed Jomadar of the Special Judge Court-3 recorded the statement and fixed January 14 for the defence to cross-examine the IO, the 32nd and the last witness of the case following a time petition by Khaleda's lawyer. In the statement, the IO said following the case he took over the charge of investigation into the case after being directed by his office. During the investigation, he seized important documents from different banks and offices which were related to the case. He also recorded statements of witnesses who knew about the fact of the case. After an investigation, Harun pressed charge against Khaleda and three others on January 16, 2012. The ACC on August 8, 2011 filed the case against the four of abusing power to raise fund in the name of Zia Charitable Trust.

DPHE info official

FROM PAGE 3
The Daily Star correspondent of Savar had complained to the commission as the official did not give information to the journalist in time after an application was filed on September 16, 2015. Chief Information Commissioner Mohammed Farooq and Information Commissioner Prof Khurshida Begum Sayeed were present during the hearing. The official said he would provide the information.

ICT accepts 6 charges

FROM PAGE 3
warrant against the duo. **BRAHMANBARIA WAR CRIMES** The tribunal also sent a war crimes accused, Emdadul Haque, 78, from Brahmanbaria to jail after police produced him. Police arrested Emdadul hours after the tribunal issued a warrant yesterday over his alleged involvement in crimes committed in Brahmanbaria during the Liberation War. Prosecutors say Emdadul was the chief of the Peace Committee of Chunta union during the Liberation War.

World Health Organization
Country Office for Bangladesh
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