



Fire at mega mall again

No casualties; extent of damage at Bashundhara City unclear

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Firefighters were struggling till early hours today to fully douse the flames at the capital's Bashundhara City Shopping Complex, even some 14 hours after the fire broke out.

Plumes of smoke continued to spiral out of the eight-storey shopping mall at Panthapath around 1:30am today. The cause of the blaze, which started on level-6 around 11:00am, remains unknown.

This is the fifth fire incident at the market and the adjacent 20-storey building which is used as Bashundhara's office since 2009, according to shop owners and employees.

Yesterday's fire had initially threatened to cause heavy damage to life and property in the busy marketplace, though only two people suffered suffocation and several shops were gutted in the end. Some 100 more may have been partially damaged.

The toxic smoke virtually shrouded the adjacent areas up until late night, making it difficult for the people living

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Smoke billowing out of the capital's Bashundhara City Shopping Complex after a fire broke out there yesterday. The photo was taken around 3:45pm.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



Traders in for hard times

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was about 3:00pm when the young man was talking to someone over the phone and sharing his fear and uncertainty, as he looked tense in front of the Bashundhara City Shopping Complex.

It was after more than three hours had passed since the fire broke out on level-6 in one of the most popular shopping destinations in the capital.

"Since then, we are waiting outside and the fire is yet to be brought under control. Don't know what is going to be our fate," the 25-year-old man told the person on the

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BNP-Jamaat govt behind Aug 21 attack

Says Hasina

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has once again accused the then BNP-Jamaat government of perpetrating the grisly grenade attack on an Awami League rally on August 21, 2004.

She said the incident jolted the world's conscience but the conscience of the BNP leader or the party was not stirred.

"We were not allowed to utter a single word or discuss the matter in parliament. We were even barred from bringing any motion in Jatiya Sangsad to condemn the attack."

The PM said it is clear who were involved in that incident and that there is no need to prove it.

In this connection, Hasina, who narrowly escaped the attack, referred to some remarks of Khaleda Zia, her son Tarique

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Pain they still bear

Victims narrate life 12 years after the blasts



Awami League men and relatives of the August 21, 2004, grenade attack victims gather to place wreaths at a makeshift memorial on Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Mahbuba Parvin is living with around 1,800 splinters in her body, two in her brain.

Her photo appeared in newspapers after the August 21 grenade attack. In blood-stained sari, she was seen lying among the dead on Bangabandhu Avenue.

She had a lifeless look and people took her to be dead. After three days in coma, she started to move her limbs, and she regained full consciousness after 25 days.

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Huji men used as mercenaries

SHAKHAWAT LITON and SHARIFUL ISLAM

It was a mercenary job for them.

After completion of the job, they would be provided safety and allowed to continue their activities unhindered. On such assurance they had agreed to carry out the horrific mission: assassinating Sheikh Hasina and other top leaders of her party.

They had finalised the plot in collusion with some influential leaders of past BNP-led government. Accordingly, Huji-B militants carried out the grenade attack on

Hasina's rally on August 21, 2004, reveals the supplementary charge sheet of the grenade attack case.

Awami League chief Hasina narrowly escaped with her life from the attack that day that claimed the lives of 24 leaders and workers of her party.

It was the biggest ever attack Huji carried out in Bangladesh since it was officially launched in 1992. The militant outfit carried out at least 13 bomb and grenade attacks including that of August 21 killing

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Thick smoke shrouds nearby areas

Locals find it difficult to breathe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Air in the neighbouring areas of Bashundhara City Shopping Complex, especially on its western and northern sides, became thick with black smoke from the fire that broke out on the complex's fifth floor yesterday morning.

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Gymnast Margarita Mamun's gold medal in the rhythmic gymnastics event of the Rio Olympics brought great honour to her homeland of Russia. However, in paying homage to Bangladesh -- the birthplace of her father -- she honoured two nations at the same time.

PHOTO: REUTERS

'A win for two countries'

ANISUR RAHMAN

Her first name is Margarita, and she hailed her gold medal in all-around rhythmic gymnastics in the Rio Olympics on Saturday as a 'victory for two countries'. She is representing the Russian Federation but the other country celebrating her triumph is Bangladesh.

Margarita Mamun was born in Moscow to a Bangladeshi father and a Russian mother --



Anna -- a former rhythmic gymnast herself. Her father Abdullah Al Mamun, a Bangladeshi engineer, settled in Moscow where the gold medallist grew up.

"I'm really happy knowing that I have a lot of fans in Bangladesh who have been supporting me," Mamun said in Russian after her victory.

As far as the Olympic Games are concerned, Bangladesh has the unfortunate

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আপনার স্বপ্নটি কি নিরাপদ?
আপনার স্বপ্নটি থেকে কি আপনি কাল্পনিক মুনাফা পাচ্ছেন?

বাংলাদেশ সরকার, ব্র্যাক, আগাখান ফান্ড ফর ইকোনমিক ডেভেলপমেন্ট, আরএসএ ক্যাপিটাল ও সাধারণ শেয়ারহোল্ডারদের যৌথ অংশীদারিত্বে পরিচালিত দেশের সবচেয়ে ঐতিহ্যবাহী আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠান আইপিডিসি দিচ্ছে আপনার স্বপ্নের সর্বোচ্চ নিরাপত্তা ও আকর্ষণীয় মুনাফার নিশ্চয়তা।

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