



Smoke billows from the Gulshan-1 DCC Market in the capital yesterday. The market partially collapsed in the blaze. More photos on page 3.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## City market ravaged by 16-hour blaze

More than 300 shops burnt, part of building collapses; mayor rules out sabotage claim by businessmen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A devastating fire reduced much of the DCC Market at Gulshan-1 to rubble yesterday.

No one was killed or hurt in the blaze that swept through the two-storey building for about 16 hours since around 2:00am. But over 300 shops were gutted and a portion of the market collapsed on impact, causing losses

worth several hundred of crores of taka. Businessmen claimed the fire was an act of sabotage, but fire service officials were yet to ascertain the cause.

Several security guards who were on duty at night said the fire originated from an explosion of a transformer, only a few feet from the building.

"Around 2:00am, I saw a fire at a transformer on the southeastern corner of the market," said Nur

Mohammad, a security guard. "I screamed and ran with my colleague Matiur Rahman to that place. Matiur tried to douse the fire using a fire extinguisher, but the blaze spread very fast."

The market housed 543 shops, including those of kitchen and household items, furniture, clothes, electronic appliances, shoes and bakery.

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Helpless, they watched it all go up in smoke

SOHEL PARVEZ and RAFIUL ISLAM

55-year-old Shamsul Alam Liton and his wife Amana Alam looked shell-shocked. They stood speechless and kept staring at the smoke billowing out from the market which housed their clothing store.

The shop -- Hasan Enterprise -- that they owned for over the last 32 years has now been reduced to a pile of rubble.

It was situated on the first floor of the two-storey kitchen market building of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Market at Gulshan-1. The building caved in after a devastating fire broke out there early yesterday.

"We could not bring anything out of our shop. The market had already collapsed like a house of cards before we could reach

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## BANGLADESH ON SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX

### A top performer in nutrition, basic medicare

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is one of the top performers in ensuring nutrition and basic medical care, and health and wellness, according to the Social Progress Index 2016 prepared on a study on 133 countries.

Still, Bangladesh was grouped "low social country" as it was ranked 101st because of its weak performance in nine out of 12 components in the ranking, said the Social Progress Imperative, a US-based non-profit behind the rankings.

The country's score is 52.73. Finland topped the list with a score of 90.09, followed by Canada, Denmark, Australia, and Switzerland.

The Index measures social progress in three broad areas: basic human needs, foundation of well-being and opportunity.

There were 12 components under the broad areas: nutrition and basic medical care; water and sanitation; shelter; personal safety; access to basic knowledge; access to information and communications; health and wellness; and environmental quality; personal rights; personal freedom and choice; tolerance and inclusion; and access to advanced education.

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- ➔ In South Asia, Bangladesh is ahead of India and Pakistan in nutrition & basic medical care, personal safety
- ➔ Bangladesh is an under-performer in components of personal rights, tolerance and inclusion
- ➔ Despite the success, Bangladesh ranked 101st among 133 countries because of weak performance in other components



## Williamson, Ferguson trump Tigers

AL-AMIN from Napier

There was no change in fortune as far as the Bangladesh cricket team was concerned. Whitewashed in the three-match ODI series, the Tigers started the New Year with a thumping six-wicket defeat at the hands of New Zealand in their opening T20I at McLean Park in Napier yesterday.

It was not a lost opportunity. They were beaten fair

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## 5.5 Tripura quake jolts Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale jolted Bangladesh yesterday afternoon following a shallow earthquake in Tripura state of India.

US Geological Survey pinpointed the 5.5 magnitude earthquake at 19

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## Heartiest Congratulations



Mr. Ziaur Rahman, Managing Director of Bay Footwear Ltd. is receiving "The National Export Trophy" for Export of Footwear in National Export in Financial Year 2013-2014" from the Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 1st January 2017. The Bay Family is delighted to congratulate him for this achievement.



We are proud to be the recipient of the gold export trophy in the textile fabric category of the year 2013-2014. We would like to dedicate this prestigious award to 3,850 members of the paramount family for their persistent and meticulous hard work, which made this incredible achievement possible.



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## National Export Trophy 'Gold'

Popular Jute Exchange Limited has been awarded with National Export Trophy 'Gold' for consecutive year 2011-12, 2012-13 & 2013-2014 for being the highest Raw Jute exporter of Bangladesh. Heartiest congratulations to our Director, Kabir Ahmed for being honoured with National Export Trophy 'Gold 2013-2014' on behalf of all the members of the company. Specially thanks to Ministry of Commerce, Bangladesh.

**Popular Jute Exchange Limited**  
1, Tolaram Road, Narayanganj, Bangladesh