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Old Dhaka exposed to chemical hazards

Without safety measures, 360 shops, warehouses, factories still there with highly flammable chemicals

TAWFIQUE ALI

Seven years after the deadly chemical fire claiming 124 lives in Nimtoli, parts of densely-populated Old Dhaka still have extremely hazardous stocks of flammable chemicals without any safety measures whatsoever.

"The highly flammable chemicals are stocked and handled in such an unsafe way that any of them may erupt like a volcano anytime, leading to huge fire and devastation," said Major AKM Shakil Newaz, director of Fire Service and Civil Defence.

All of the surveyed 360 stores, warehouses, factories and shops with the chemicals were found highly hazardous in terms of fire safety, handling of the chemicals and explosion management, according to the findings of a recent fire inspection.

- All 360 chemical shops, warehouses extremely hazardous
- All of them in Old Dhaka residential areas
- 22 among 62 surveyed store chemicals highly flammable

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PHOTO: RASHED SHUJON



NO LESSON LEARNT ... Flammable liquids are still stored, bought, and sold casually along the street in congested Old Dhaka. The photo was taken in front of the Mitford Hospital. The Nimtoli inferno was caused by such flammable chemicals.

Rehabilitation for ex-militants

PM offers legal assistance if they quit militancy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in parliament yesterday offered rehabilitation and legal assistance to those willing to shun the path of militancy.

Replying to lawmakers' queries, she also said a time-befitting standard operating procedure to promptly combat terrorist and militant acts was being prepared.

"Terrorism and militancy are a threat to the country's development and security," said Hasina, also the Leader of

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'Youth, who stabbed 2 cops, belongs to JMB'

He was involved with a group working to regroup militants, says DIG of Rajshahi police

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

The youth who stabbed two cops in Godagari upazila Tuesday night is a member of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and is skilled in martial arts, police said yesterday.

Ajimul Islam was arrested in Kella Baroipara village by a team of the counterterrorism unit of the Bogra Detective Branch of police.

Villagers said the 24-year-old was known for his extremist views on religion. He told them that he was an honours student at Rajshahi Government College.

Khurshid Alam, deputy inspector general (Rajshahi range) of police, said they were sure that Ajimul was a JMB operative.

"According to the information gathered so far by law enforcers, he [Ajimul] is a member of a JMB group which is trying to regroup

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Stolen baby rescued

Three detained

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Rapid Action Battalion rescued an eight-month-old girl, who was recently stolen from the capital's Mirpur area, and detained three people in connection with the stealing from Bandar upazila of Narayanganj on Tuesday night.

After raiding Farazkanda area around 11:45pm, a team of Rab-11 rescued Marium and held Minara alias Tania, 30, Masum, 30, and Mousumi, 21, said Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police

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PRAYER TIMING MARCH 2

| | | | | |
|-------------|-------|------|---------|------|
| Fazr | Zohr | Asr | Maghrib | Esha |
| AZAN 5-15 | 12-45 | 4-30 | 6-05 | 7-30 |
| JAMAAT 5-50 | 1-15 | 4-45 | 6-10 | 8-00 |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Barack, Michelle sign bumper book deal

AFP, New York

Barack and Michelle Obama have signed a deal to publish their memoirs with New York-based Penguin Random House, in a coveted contract reportedly worth tens of millions of dollars.

America's first African American president is already the author of two memoirs and a children's book.

He has frequently declared himself to have a "writer's sensibility" and has said he does not want to write a conventional blow-by-blow account of his time in the White House.

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Man dies of heart attack seeing assault on his son

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A man died of heart attack he suffered when his son was being "assaulted" by a local union parishad member in Ishwarganj upazila of Mymensingh yesterday, police said.

The dead is Khorshed Ali, 70, of Sreefaltola in Atharabari union.

Quoting locals and the victim's family members, Khandaker Abdullah Al Mamun, sub-inspector of Rayerbazar Police Investigation Centre in Atharabari, said there had been a longstanding feud between UP member Shamsu Miah and Khorshed's son Ariful Islam Raju over the construction

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Trump softens tone on immigration

In his first speech to Congress, the US president vows to work with Nato partners, allies in the Muslim world

REUTERS, Washington

President Donald Trump told Congress on Tuesday he was open to immigration reform, shifting from his harsh rhetoric on illegal immigration in a speech that offered a more restrained tone than his election campaign and first month in the White House.

Trump, in a prime-time address to a country that remains divided over his leadership, set aside disputes with Democrats and the news media to deliver his most presidential performance to date, seeking to regain the confidence of Americans rattled by his leadership thus far.

The president's speech was long on promises but short on specifics on how to achieve a challenging legislative agenda that could add dramatically to budget deficits. He wants a healthcare overhaul, broad tax cuts and a \$1 trillion public-private initiative to rebuild degraded roads and bridges.

Trump built a base of support behind his presidential campaign by vowing to fight illegal immigration. In his speech, he took a more moderate tone, appealing to Republicans and Democrats to work together on immigration reform.

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HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS

Md. Lutfar Rahman, Managing Director of **Muazuddin Knit Fashion Ltd.** is receiving **CIP (Commercially Important Person) card for the year-2013** from the Honorable Minister of Commerce Mr. Tofail Ahmed MP.

We, the officers, staffs and workers of **Muazuddin Textile Ltd.** express our cordial wishes and greetings on this achievement and pray for his sound health and long life.

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Courtesy by: Muazuddin Textile Ltd. Muazuddin Knit Fashion Ltd. Life Textile (Pvt.) Ltd. & LR Industries (Pvt.) Ltd.

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS.

Mr. Md. Ismail Hossain
Managing Director of Sharmin Group

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Officers & Employees of Sharmin Group

80-year-old beaten up for 'theft'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

An elderly female beggar has been beaten up twice on suspicion of stealing a mobile phone in Garobazar of Tangail's Madhupur.

Eighty-year-old Achhiron Nessa, of Hatilate Dighalchala in Mymensingh's Phulbaria upazila, is now undergoing treatment at the upazila health complex.

Achhiron, a mother of two, went to Garobazar in Madhupur on Sunday. She asked for food at the house of Harun-or-Rashid, a fertiliser and pesticides dealer. She left the house after having lunch.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Achhiron said, "After my departure, people of the house alleged that a

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Congratulations

Mr. Hasan Ahmed
Managing Director, Popular Jute Exchange Limited has received **Commercially Important Person (CIP), Export** card for the year-2013 from Honourable Minister of Commerce Mr. Tofail Ahmed (MP). All Directors, Officers & Employees of Popular Jute Exchange Limited convey our congratulations to him.

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