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MIRPUR SLUM FIRE

Victims to be rehabilitated: Quader

DHAKA

Bss, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said victims of Friday night's fire at Chalantika in Mirpur that rendered thousands of people homeless will be rehabilitated.

"The government will rehabilitate all the victims," Quader said while distributing relief materials among people at nearby Bangabandhu Bidyaniketan School, where some of the victims have taken shelter for the time being.

The government will give all sorts of support along with relief materials until they are rehabilitated, he said.

"The government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina always remains beside the helpless." Mentioning the remarks

of BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam about Mirpur slum fire, Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, said Fakhrul criticised Awami League and the government when he came to visit the fire victims but did not distribute any relief among SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

capital's Hatirjheel area.

1997, according to Rab.

yesterday.

Rapid Action Battalion yesterday arrested

four men, who are allegedly members

of militant outfit "Allah'r Dol", from the

A team of Rab-3 arrested Ibrahim

Ahmed Hiro, 46, acting "ameer" of Allah'r

Dol; Abdul Aziz, 50; Shafiqul Islam Suruj,

38, and Rashidul Islam, 28, in a drive

late on Sunday, said Rab-3 Commanding

Officer Lt Col Emranul Hasan at a briefing

Acting chief Hiro joined the outfit in

1997. A motor parts trader by profession,

Hiro hails from Pabna. Abdul Aziz,

hailing from Gaibandha, is the second-

in-command. He also joined the outfit in

Mobile phones, pen drives, hard disks, a

'No reason to give away our land'

BNP says on reports of India seeking land for Agartala airport

UNB, Dhaka

BNP yesterday said there is no reason for Bangladesh to provide its land to India in Brahmanbaria to expand Agartala airport.

"There have been media reports about it (India's desire to use Bangladeshi land in Brahmanbaria). We're closely observing the matter," said BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, while talking to reporters after placing wreaths at BNP founder Ziaur Rahman's grave along with leaders and activists of Jatiyatabadi Swechchasebak Dal, marking its 39th founding anniversary.

He further said, "Bangladesh government hasn't agreed yet, and there's no question of providing any land. There's no reason to give our land to any other country."

Media reports say India wants a piece of Bangladesh's land in Brahmanbaria to expand the Agartala airport, but the country is yet to make any proposal in this regard.

Fakhrul said their party is "not optimistic" about getting any positive outcome to resolve the outstanding problems with India from the visit of its External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

"We've been hearing for 10 to 12 years that the Awami League government's relation with India has reached the highest level, but we still didn't get the fair share of water from the Teesta River. Border killing could not be stopped as no step has been taken to remove the trade deficit with India," he said.

The BNP leader said no pending issue of Bangladesh with India has so far been resolved. But India has always ensured its interests. "That is why we cannot be optimistic and we also don't expect much from this visit," he added. S Jaishankar was scheduled to arrive in Dhaka last

night, to discuss bilateral issues and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's upcoming visit to India. Fakhrul also protested Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's

remark involving Zia with the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15, 1975 -- saying the SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

from the arrestees.

Allah'r Dol.

credit card, and a cheque book were seized

formed in 1995 under the leadership

of Matin Mehedi alias Mominul Islam.

In late 2004, the outfit merged with

banned militant organisation Jama'atul

arrest of its top leaders following the 2005

countrywide bomb blasts, Matin left JMB

with his followers and tried to reorganise

still the ameer, said a Rab press release.

renamed Allah'r Sarkar in 2014, it added.

the aim of the organisation is to remove

He was arrested in 2007 when he was

Due to strategic reason, Allah'r Dol was

"The arrested members admitted that

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

As JMB faced a serious blow after the

Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

The Rab official said Allah'r Dol was

Rab arrests four suspected

militants from Hatirjheel

NO LESSON LEARNT

Fire hazard in Old Dhaka remains unchanged 6 months after Chawkbazar blaze; victims yet to receive financial help



This once-bustling intersection in Churihatta has become uncharacteristically deserted for Old Dhaka, as locals live with the trauma of the horrific fire, and in fear that the charred remains of Wahed Mansion may crumble on them. The photo was taken yesterday.

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MUNTAKIM SAAD

It seems the lessons have not learnt been yet. Six months have passed since the devastating Chawkbazar fire, and Old Dhaka is still sitting on a ticking time bomb as chemical warehouses continue to operate -- mostly in residential buildings -- due to lack of action by the authorities concerned.

What's more frustrating is that families of the victims who lost their lives in the chemical blaze, have not received any financial assistance till date, despite promises made by authorities.

Once a crowded place, Chawkbazar's Churihatta has become quiet, as the fire changed the landscape of the neighbourhood with Haji Wahed Mansion [from where the fire started still being considered hazardous. Locals fear it may collapse anytime.

A three-storeyed building, opposite to Haji Wahed Mansion, was also damaged in the incident, .

Out of around 30 businesses ravaged by the fire, only five could restart operations. One of them is Rajmohol Restaurant, situated in a building adjacent to Wahed Mansion. "We opened two months after club.

the fire. But business here is not good as before. People are still fearful," Asif Uddin, manager of the restaurant, told these correspondents during a visit to the spot on Sunday.

the fire on February 20, while many were injured. Several business establishments were gutted, with everything turning to ashes.

Locals said the owners of Wahed Mansion -- siblings Hasan and Sohel, who are now in prison -- can't avoid their responsibility.

"Greedy house owners like them didn't learn any lesson from the Nimtoli tragedy. They mindlessly rented out floors and rooms for storing chemicals and flammable products, just for money," he said.

Mayor of Dhaka North City

Corporation (DNCC) Md Atiqul Islam

yesterday announced that a "combing

operation" will be launched in the city

today, to eliminate Aedes mosquitoes.

reporters after inspecting an anti-

mosquito drive at Mohakhali bus

surrounding areas and found some

abandoned tires. Aedes mosquitoes

usually lay eggs in stagnant water.

So, I asked the magistrate to fine the

terminal authorities Tk 5 lakh," he

houses in each area during the

combing operation. Action will be

taken if Aedes larvae are found. We'll

also conduct drives at all bus terminals,

hospitals and police outpost areas,

sites where Aedes larvae will be

detected, and first-time offenders will

be given warning. Action will be taken

Atiqul said DNCC staff will mark

"City corporation staff will visit

He said this while talking to

"Today, we visited the bus terminal's

are still dotting the area but authorities seem to have turned a blind eye," said Ashraf Uddin Shadhin, president of Churihatta Ekota Sangha, a local voluntary The warehouses store flammable

substances, potent enough to cause disasters similar to the ones that devastated Chawkbazar and Nimtoli, they said, referring to the latest fire that broke out on August At least 70 people were killed in 14 at a plastic factory in Postar Dhal area of Islambagh.

Locals said they want to help the authorities identify the warehouses in residential buildings. They, however, alleged that the authorities are not cooperative.

After the fire at Wahed Mansion, its owners along with some others tried to establish that the fire originated from gas cylinders or transformer blast, they said.

"But CCTV footage dispelled that propaganda. It was chemicals, stored in Wahed Mansion, that

DNCC to launch 'combing operation'

"We've brought 200 new fogger

terminate mosquitoes. We'll inform drive led by Mayor Sayeed Khokon

Replying to a question over the unit tomorrow, the official added.

machines and 150 spray machines to

media of our latest activities," he

effectiveness of pesticides, DNCC

entomologist Kabirul Bashar said

new pesticides have been brought in

last week, and these are 97-98 percent

DSCC FINES 9 BUILDING OWNERS

Meanwhile, mobile courts yesterday

fined owners of nine buildings Tk

2.28 lakh after Aedes mosquito larvae

The mobile courts led by Dhaka

South City Corporation (DSCC)

executive magistrates conducted the

drives in the capital's Nayapaltan,

Dhanmondi and Jatrabari areas and

found Aedes breeding grounds at the

Later, the courts fined the owners of

The buildings where Aedes larvae

were found included Eastern View in

buildings, said a DSCC official.

the buildings, the official said.

Topkhana,

were found at the premises.

found there again.

added.

effective.

Segunbagicha,

"Hundreds such warehouses caused the massive explosion," Ashraf said.

> He added that the owners threatened owners of adjacent buildings for providing the footage. Later, he filed a general diary in this connection.

> Wahed Mansion owner's family wanted to reopen the building and started reconstruction some months back, but facing locals' protests they stopped the work, he said.

> Now, the building remains locked.

> Residents of old town say more than 500 chemical warehouses, factories and outlets are still being run in the overpopulated residential areas, although Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) has stopped providing new licences as well as renewal of old ones since last year.

> warehouses The chemical and stores are mostly located in Mitford, Armanitola, Kayettuli,

Nayapaltan and an under-construction site of S Farm in Dhanmondi, he said.

at Dhaka Medical College Hospital

premises, including its emergency

conducting drives across the city to

destroy breeding grounds of Aedes

mosquito, which is the carrier of the

225 buildings were inspected by

DSCC mobile courts in the five areas

areas were inspected so far and the

owners and residents were asked

to stay alert and ensure cleanliness

to prevent Aedes mosquitoes from

breeding on the premises of their

have visited 1,11,000 houses to destroy

awareness building campaign by DSCC

and scouts, and the drives by DSCC

mobile courts will continue, he added.

Aedes larvae and breeding grounds.

Also, members of Bangladesh Scouts

ongoing cleaning and

establishments.

As part of the drive, a total of

A total of 58,748 buildings in the

virus that causes dengue fever.

yesterday, the official also said.

The city corporation has been

DSCC will also conduct cleaning

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

RASHED SHUMON A LINGERING EID VACATION ... Although Dhaka streets seem to be returning to their full chaotic glory following

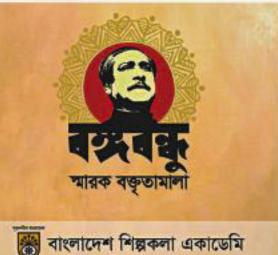
a week-long Eid holiday, this long queue of locked-up rickshaws on the roadside in Tejgaon hints that not all rickshaw-pullers have come back to the megacity. The photo was taken yesterday morning.

against them after 15 days, if larvae are

DISCUSSION

Bangabandhu Organiser: Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh Venue: Tropical Mollah Tower, Madhya Badda Time: 4:30pm

SEMINAR



Venue: Columbia Super Market, Mohakhali Time: 4pm LECTURE Remembering Bangabandhu

Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala

Time: 4pm শারক বক্তা বিশিষ্ট কথাসাহিত্যিক

Academy

জনাব শিয়াকত আলী লাকী পরিচালক , বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমি

২০ আগস্ট ২০১৯ , বিকাল ৪টা সমিনার কন্দু, জাতীয় নাট্যশূলা

In loving Memories of...

Mashroor Sharar Azam 08/06/1993-20/08/2013



Today in this sixth death anniversary of our beloved son Mashroor Sharar Azam - families, relatives, friends & well-wishers are requested to pray for his departed soul May Almighty Allah grant him jannah.

> on Behalf of his Family-Md. Moshiul Azam Shajal

9TH WAGE BOARD FOR JOURNOS SC order on gazette today

The Supreme Court will pass an order today on a petition filed by the government seeking a stay on the High Court order that issued status quo on publication of gazette notification on implementing the recommendation of ninth wage board for journalists.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain fixed the date after concluding hearing on the government petition yesterday.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam, who appeared for the government, told the SC that the writ petition which challenged legality of the ninth wage board and its recommendation is premature as the government is yet to issue any gazette notification on the recommendation.

The Newspaper Owners' Association (Noab) can place their objection in 14 days after the gazette is issued, he said.

Meanwhile, Noab's lawyer Advocate AF Hasan Arif opposed the government petition saying that the labour ministry is responsible for the formation of the wage board as per the rules of business, issued by the president. But the ninth wage board has been formed by the information ministry in violation of the rules of business, he argued.

On August 6, the HC issued the status quo for two months. The court also issued a rule asking the respondents to explain why the unilateral finalisation of the award by the ninth wage board without giving the stakeholders opportunity to raise objections to the recommendations should not be declared illegal.

At yesterday's hearing, terming the initial writ petition against publishing the gazette notification premature, the attorney general said the petitioner filed it as they do not want to pay salary to journalists properly, reports BSS.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

DHAKA TODAY

UNB, Dhaka

terminal.

said.

the mayor said.

WORKSHOP **Graphics Design** Marking death anniversary of Organiser: UY Lab

On Global Entrepreneurship Venue: China Bangla Business Club Time: 11am

জনাব সেলিনা হোসেন অধ্যাপক ড, মীজানুর রহমান পাচার্য, জগরাথ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়