

7 hurt in fire at automobile workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least seven persons were burnt in a fire at an automobile workshop in Dhaka's Tejgaon-Gulshan Link Road area yesterday.

The injured were taken to Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery for treatment.

They are: Sakibul Islam Shimul, junior technician of the Maple Lead International Workshop; its three employees—Jewel, Rabiul Islam, Suman; and three private car drivers — Ali Akbar, Haider Ali and Rubel Hawlader.

The employees were working in the workshop while the drivers were standing nearby when a car caught fire around 1pm, said its servicing manager Habibur Rahman. The fire spread swiftly, burning the seven, he added.

Hospital sources said Akbar, Rabiul, Jewel and Rubel were admitted as they sustained 14 to 20 percent burns; the other three were released after treatment.

Shahidul Islam of Tejgaon Fire Station said on information, they rushed to the spot but the fire was doused by that time.



A number of rights groups, indigenous student organisations and activists yesterday held a candlelit vigil in front of the national parliament, in memory of and seeking justice for Lakingme Chakma, the 14-year-old who was abducted, forcibly married, tortured and was eventually killed.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Justice for Lakingme

Rights bodies, activists demand compensation for family, probe into law enforcers' negligence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The tragic incident of one Lakingme Chakma has come to the fore, but cruelty against "many Lakingmes" have been left in the dark, Dhaka University professor Robaet Ferdous said yesterday.

He was speaking at a candlelit vigil and rally in front of the national parliament at Manik Mia Avenue in the capital. Demanding justice for deceased Lakingme Chakma, five rights organisations held the event where dozens held candles, banners and placards in memory of the 14-year-old from Teknaf who was abducted, converted and married to one of her abductors, and eventually murdered.

The protest was jointly organised by Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha (BNPS), Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD), Manusher Jonno Foundation and Bangladesh Adivasi Forum.

A number of indigenous student organisations — Adivasi Chhatra Sangram Parishad, Pahari Chhatra Parishad, Adivasi Youth Forum, Jono-Udyog, Adivasi Women Network, Sammito Samajik Andolon also expressed solidarity with the protest.

Fourteen-year-old Lakingme was abducted from her Shilkhali Chakma Para home on January 5 last year. Later, she was kept at nearby villages until January 8. On January 9, she was taken to Shahpori Island in Teknaf, where she was detained at Kala Monu's home for the next two days, found a 10-member investigation team of rights activists, indigenous community leaders, journalists and teachers.

Prof Farha Tanjim Titil of Kushtia Islamic University,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

'Statesman of the Era'

Art exhibit on Bangabandhu begins in Khulna



A total of 27 artworks on Bangabandhu by 12 artistes adorn the walls of Khulna Divisional Museum as part of a three-day exhibition.

PHOTO: DIPANKAR ROY

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A three-day art exhibition titled "Bangabandhu: Statesman of the Era" began in Khulna on Friday.

The Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) and the High Commission of India in Bangladesh in collaboration with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy organised the event as part of the celebrations marking the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The exhibition is featuring 27 artworks in different mediums by 12 leading Bangladeshi painters. The exhibition is being held at Khulna Divisional Museum.

They are: Abdul Mannan, Md Muniruzzaman, Syeda Mahbuba Karim Mini, Quader Bhuiyan, Sanjib Das Apu, Kiriti Ranjan Biswas, Proshanta Karmakar Buddha, SM Mizanur Rahman, Md Zakir Hossain Pulok, Monjur Rashid, Sourav

Chowdhury and Manik Bonik.

At the exhibition, Bangabandhu has been depicted in different ways by the artists. Most of the painters have portrayed his contemplative face or jovial mood. Some have also painted his political, social and familial lives.

Painters have captured his intense eyes and introspective mood on their canvases. They have captured the spirit of Bangabandhu in his most outspoken moments as well, and have worked with different mediums and techniques like oil, acrylic, soft pastel, denim and mixed media.

Most of the paintings have been inspired by photographs of the iconic figure.

Talukdar Abdul Khaleque, mayor of Khulna City Corporation, was present as chief guest at the inauguration. He expressed his deep appreciation towards

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

PM to give National Film Awards today

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will distribute the prestigious National Film Awards among its recipients today in 26 categories for the year 2019.

She will hand over the award at a programme to be held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) in the capital. The premier will attend the event virtually from her official residence Gono Bhaban.

The Ministry of Information earlier announced names of the recipients of the awards.

The Lifetime Achievement Awards will be given to renowned actors Masud Parvez (Sohel Rana) and Kohinoor Akhter Suchanda for their contributions to the film industry. "No Dorai" and "Fagun Haway" will receive joint awards in the best film category.

Tariq Anam Khan will be given the award for Best Actor in the lead role (male) for the film "Abar Boshonto" while Sunerah Binte Kamal will receive the Best Actor in the lead role (female) for "No Dorai".

Zahid Hasan will get the award for his negative role in "Shap Ludu".

Tanim Rahman Angshu will receive the National Film Award in the Best Director category for "No Dorai", which has bagged a total of six awards.

The highest number of awards for 2019 has been secured by the Masud Pothik directorial "Maya: The Lost Mother". The film has won a total of eight awards in different categories.

The Impress Telefilm production "Fagun Haway" and Desh Bangla Multimedia production "Moner Moto Manush Pailamna" will be given three awards each.

"Nari o Jibon" will receive the Best Short Film Award, while "Ja Chilo Andokarea" will receive the Best Documentary Award.

Mrinal Kanti Das Will get the Best Singer (male) award while Momtaz Begum and Fatima Tuz Zahra Oyshee will be given joint awards for Best Singer (female).

Awards in the category for Best Music Composer will be jointly given to Tanvir Tareq and Abdul Kadir.

The Best Lyricist Award will be given to Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury and Nirmalendu Goon, while Emon Chowdhury will get the award for Best Music Direction.

The Best Child Artiste award will be given to Afreen Akhter and Naimur Rahman.

Fazlur Rahman Babu will receive the award for Best Supporting Actor (male) and Nargis Akter for Best Supporting Actor (female).

CCC MAYORAL RACE

5 underdogs not going down without a fight

MAYORAL CANDIDATES FOR CHATTOGRAM CITY CORPORATION	CANDIDATE	PARTY	SYMBOL
	Rezaul Karim Chowdhury	Awami League	Boat
	Shahadat Hossain	BNP	Sheaf of paddy
	MA Matin	Bangladesh Islamic Front	Candle
	Wahed Murad	Islamic Front Bangladesh	Chair
	Jannatul Islam	Islami Andolan Bangladesh	Hand-fan
	Abul Manjur	National People's Party	Mango
	Khokan Chowdhury	Independent	Elephant

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

With Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) election day coming closer, candidates are leaving no stone unturned to win over voters. Although Awami League (AL) and BNP nominated mayoral candidates are clearly ahead, as can be visibly seen during their campaigns, the other candidates are not sitting idle. They are also campaigning at different areas every day.

Apart from the AL and BNP candidates, five more are vying for the mayoral post in CCC polls, scheduled to be held on January 27. They are Bangladesh Islamic Front nominated candidate MA Matin, Islamic Front Bangladesh candidate Wahed Murad, Islami Andolan Bangladesh candidate Jannatul Islam, National People's Party candidate Abul Manjur, and independent candidate Khokan Chowdhury.

The candidates were seen busy with their campaigns in different areas yesterday.

MA Matin, who is competing with "candle" symbol, went to Sher Shah, Bayezid Bostami and Jalalabad areas for campaigning.

He was seen shaking hands with voters, urging them to vote for him. He said he would try to address the city's long-standing problems by formulating a master plan.

Talking to The Daily Star, Matin said, "None of the previous mayors took initiative to address basic problems of city dwellers. They deceived voters with false pledges."

"The AL and BNP candidates are now seen pledging to voters that they would make the city a mega city, one like Singapore," he said. "I am not giving false hope to voters in my campaign. I want to be practical and concentrate on addressing basic problems."

"Waterlogging, the main issue in the city, could not be resolved in the last 25 years, but I think, it can be addressed in a year through proper planning and goodwill," he added.

Jannatul Islam, who is vying with "hand-fan" symbol, went to Anderkilla, Teribazar, Khatunganj and Bakalia areas. He was seen distributing leaflets among voters.

He pledged that he would reduce holding tax by 30 percent and establish a "corruption free" CCC.

Talking to The Daily Star, Jannatul said, "I would take initiative to address waterlogging in the city, if elected," adding, "I would take steps to stop corruption in CCC."

"Besides, I would take steps to improve

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

DMP bans arms, explosives, rallies around parliament

Steps taken to ensure security during 11th JS session

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has imposed a ban on organising rallies and moving with explosives in and around the parliament, which begins its new session tomorrow.

The DMP restrictions will be effective from 12am on Sunday night, ahead of the 11th session of the 11th parliament.

DMP has banned carrying of arms, explosives and other harmful materials, as well as rallies, processions and agitation in and around Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The restrictions have been imposed to maintain law and order in and around the parliament area during the coming session, said DMP Commissioner Md Shafiqul Islam yesterday.

The ban will be in force till the end of the session.

The restricted areas are Mohakhali crossing of Mymensingh Road to Bangla Motor crossing via Old Airport Road, the western part of Bangla Motor Link Road to Saarc Fountain at Sonargaon crossing, the eastern part of Panthapath to Farmgate via Green Road Link Road, Shyamoli crossing to Dhanmondi 16 (old 27) Link Road on Mirpur Road, Rokeya Sarani Link Road to Bijoy Sarani Parjatan crossing via old 9th division (airplane) crossing, the eastern part of Indira Road to Manik Mia Avenue's western part, and restricted parts of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban and all the roads and lanes in the area.



To tackle the significant level of dust pollution at Gabtoli, Dhaka North City Corporation sprays water on the roads. The city's already poor air quality worsens when the dry winter takes over. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

'Make movies on Rohingyas' plight

Foreign minister Momen urges filmmakers at DIFF opening

Bss, Dhaka

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen yesterday urged filmmakers to make films on the plight of Rohingyas to further illuminate to the global community the unimaginable atrocities committed against the ethnic group.

Rohingyas are victims of hatred and enmity in a land of Buddhism (Myanmar), which believes in Nirvana and self-purification, where hatred and killing is unthinkable and against Buddha's teachings, he said.

Dr Momen made the remark while inaugurating 19th Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF), organised by Rainbow Film Society at the capital's National Museum.

Bangladesh is hosting over 1.1 million forcibly displaced Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar, and most of them arrived there from August 25, 2017, after a military crackdown by Myanmar, which the UN called a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing", and was termed as genocide by other rights groups.

Indian High Commissioner Vikram K Doraiswami spoke as special guest at the inaugural ceremony of the festival, which will screen 226 films from 73 countries.

The foreign minister said films are one of the most poignant and invasive instruments accessible to the mankind for venturing into realms of the mind, memory and imagination, which define the "human story".

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2