

# Fire guts electronics warehouse in Savar

It was used by Singer as temporary storage facility

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A fire broke out at a warehouse used by Singer Bangladesh in Savar yesterday morning where electronic appliances were stored. Though the cause and extent of damage is yet to be ascertained, eyewitnesses said the total damage could be hefty.

The fire originated at the tin-roofed warehouse in Raz Fulbari area around 8:20am, some 600-700m away from Singer's factory at Jorjup, Ershad Hossain, duty officer of Fire Service and Civil Defense control room, told The Daily Star.

On information, eight firefighting units rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control after two-and-a-half hours of effort, he added.

Md Manikuzzaman, assistant director of Fire Service and Civil Defence Headquarter in Dhaka, told the media that they brought the fire under control around 10:50am.

Cause and the extent of damage of the fire will be known after investigations, he added. No casualty was reported.

However, Nazrul Islam, security guard of a nearby factory, said the fire was started by an explosion in the electric transformer close to the 32,000-square feet warehouse. Once it got going, the fire spread rapidly, the eyewitness said.

The Daily Star talked to at least five more

locals and eyewitnesses who live adjacent to the warehouse. All of them echoed Nazrul's observations.

Ekramul Haque, Upazila Project Implementation officer, told The Daily Star that they came to know the warehouse was used to keep ACs, refrigerators, and televisions from Singer's factory. Singer authority occupied the warehouse on a rented basis, he said.

The Daily Star tried to contact Singer officials from the spot but they refused to make any comment and asked to take fire service officials' statements instead.

The Daily Star could not reach Mrinal Kanti, warehouse in-charge of Singer, despite multiple phone calls for comments.

Rakib Ahmed, owner of the warehouse, said to reporters his premise is equipped with proper fire safety measures and reiterated that the fire originated from the electric transformer explosion.

Meanwhile, as the warehouse is located next to the highway, traffic movement remained halted for three hours. Fire service also had to keep the road obstructed, as they needed to use water from the opposite side of the road.

Later in the day, Singer released an official statement where it said the warehouse was only used as a temporary storage facility and emphasised that it was not Singer-owned.



Crows feast on the garbage lying on a road near Dhaka University's Jagannath Hall. The waste is supposed to be transported to a designated dumping point, but, clearly, authorities have failed to do so. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Santosh Gupta's death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 17th death anniversary of Santosh Gupta, an eminent journalist and writer.

Santosh started his career as a journalist at the daily Azad in 1957. He was also senior assistant editor of the daily Sangbad where he worked for 35 years. His post editorial under the pseudonym "Aniruddha" made him one of the most popular journalists at home and abroad.

He was involved in leftist politics before starting journalism. In 1971, Santosh made significant contributions to the Liberation War.

Santosh wrote 18 books on arts, poetry, politics, literature and journalism and edited more than 15 books, said a press release.

For his contributions to journalism and literature, he was awarded Independence Award (posthumously). He was also given many other awards including Ekushey Padak and Sher-e-Bangla Padak.

Santosh Gupta was born in 1925 at Runshi village in Jhalakathi. He died on this day in 2004, aged 80.



## Barishal

FROM PAGE 3

District Civil Surgeon Dr Monwar Hossain said considering the situation, Barishal Mother and Child Welfare Center has been turned into a 20-bed Covid unit. In addition, Barishal General Hospital has been turned into a 100-bed Covid dedicated hospital. It has also been decided to turn the upazila health complex into a 20-bed hospital.

Barishal division has become the new hotspot, said Divisional Health Director Dr Basudeb Kumar Das. "Infections are really high (almost 40 percent). There is no way to resolve the situation without making everyone aware and vaccinating more people."

Barishal Deputy Commissioner Jasimuddin Haidersaid, "At the moment, we are trying to follow the Chapainawabganj model by forming a union and upazila committee to raise awareness. The initiative has been taken with grassroots representatives, imams and other influential people."

## Piyasha's

FROM PAGE 3

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Mamunur Rashid passed the orders after five investigators of the cases, submitted separate remand prayers.

In the prayers, the investigators said the arrestees used to organise events for narcotics consumption at flats in different posh areas including Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara.

They also arranged parties where different models participated and the accused used to take "compromised" photos of their clients, mostly from rich families. They later extorted money from them by blackmailing. So they need to be remanded to know about other participants, the IOs added.

The defence for the two accused, submitted separate petitions seeking bail and cancellation of the remand prayers, saying that their clients were implicated in those cases to harass them falsely.

After hearing both the sides, the magistrate rejected the defence pleas and placed them on remand.

Earlier on August 3, Rab arrested Mishu and Jisan from the city's Basundhara Residential area.

On August 1, detectives arrested Piyasha from her Baridhara residence. Later, she was placed on a three-remand in a narcotics case.

Rab recovered a firearm, 1,600 yaba pills, a luxury Ferrari car, fake Indian currency and some porno CDs from their possession.

Rab filed five cases - four with Bhatara and one with Khilkhet police stations.

## Sheikh

FROM PAGE 3

Sheikh Kamal was martyred on August 15, 1975 at the age of 26.

'INSPIRATION FOR YOUTH' Marking the day, AL general secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said Sheikh Kamal will live forever in the hearts of the young population of the country as a flame of inspiration.

He made the remark while talking to reporters after paying homage to Sheikh Kamal at Banani graveyard.

Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, placed wreaths on the grave of Sheikh Kamal on behalf of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Awami League.

AL presidium members Abdur Razzaque, Jahangir Kabir Nanak and Abdur Rahman; its joint general secretary and Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud; joint general secretaries Mahbul Alam Hanif and AFM Bahauddin Nasim, among others, were present on the occasion.

## Declare

FROM PAGE 3

Sudip Chaudhuri, former professor, Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata, said the rise and growth of the pharmaceutical industry in Bangladesh is a great achievement. Continuation of the product patent exemption in pharmaceuticals will help not only Bangladesh but other countries as well.

Ziaul Haque Mukta, member secretary of the Center for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods, said TRIPS waiver for Bangladesh doesn't give benefit only for Bangladesh, it is directly benefiting also the developed countries along with other LDCs and developing countries as these countries can import low-cost medicines from Bangladesh.

Zakir Hossain of People's Health said in terms of amount, allocation for the health sector is increasing but it is still 0.95 percent of the total GDP, which is very low.

"We need to invest more with ensuring proper utilisation. We have seen 24 percent of the allocation is unutilised. To fight Covid-19 pandemic, we need to equip the upazila level hospitals and arrange mass awareness at village level."

Rezaul Karim Chowdhury of EquityBD said the role of private sector in the health sector is well recognised in Bangladesh, but it is important to ensure public investment and management in this sector. "Medical goods for Covid-19 pandemic must be declared as global goods."

## He seems like

FROM PAGE 3

Sharif, who had reportedly been conducting investigations into corruption allegations in different offices and hospitals and against influential people in the district, has been transferred on June 16.

The HC bench of Justice Enayetur and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman on June 30 summarily rejected a petition that sought stay on his transfer.

But a lawyer named Md Mazharul Haque has issued an "advocate-certificate" saying that the HC bench of Justice Enayetur on July 29 stayed the transfer [of Sharif] and directed the authorities concerned to allow him in the office for the next two weeks.

Based on that, a few newspapers published reports on this issue.

On Tuesday, the HC bench of Justice Enayetur expressed discontent as false reports were published by the newspapers.

Yesterday, ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told the HC bench that the newspapers have published rejoinders with apology for publishing false reports based on a lawyer-certificate.

No lawyer named Md Mazharul Haque could be found in the members' list of the Supreme Court Bar Association.

Deputy attorney generals Samarendranath Biswas and Bipul Bagmar represented the state at the proceedings.

Contacted, the lawyers and deputy attorney generals said they didn't know Mazharul Haque as a lawyer of the Supreme Court.

খানমন্ডিতে বাড়ি বিক্রয়  
সড়ক ৪/৫ (নতুন), ১৩/২ (পুরাতন),  
বাড়ি-৫১ (নতুন), ১৫১ (পুরাতন) যা  
এক বিঘা জমির উপর অবস্থিত ভিতরতলা  
বিশিষ্ট ১১,১০০ বর্গফুটের। (পূর্বে  
ভবনটিতে খানমন্ডি থানা ছিল)। প্রকৃত  
ক্রয়পত্র বোগাযোগ করুন।  
স্বাধীনতা ০১৯১৩-০১২৫০০

**Factory for Rent**  
Accord certified compliance factory for rent with 385  
machineries, 430 KVA substation, 350 KVA generator  
at Zirani Bazar, Savar beside BKS. Total space  
38000sqft. Contact No. 01731402705, 01913629723,  
01552710512. D-94

## Musleha

FROM PAGE 3

Musleha Islam was a freedom fighter in her own right and made her house at Dhanmondi road-4 a hub of the famous Freedom Fighters' group, "Crack Platoon".

She collected clothes, money, and medicine for the Mukti Bahini and sent them to the camps across the border. On occasion, arms and ammunition were stored in dug-out storage in her garden.

Her eldest son Wasif Islam, now ameer of Tabligh Jamaat, joined the War and along with his companions closely worked with sector commander Khaled Musharraf.

Her only daughter Shaheen Anam -- now executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation -- was also a freedom fighter, helping Crack Platoon and freedom fighters in every way.

Her two other sons, Sheraz Bin Faruk and Rizwan Bin Farouq, both established professionals, were too young to join the war, but helped their mother and sister in serving freedom fighters.

Her son-in-law Mahfuz Anam is the editor and publisher of The Daily Star. Her eldest granddaughter Tahmima Anam is an internationally-famed novelist.

Musleha is survived by her three sons, daughter, eight grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held today after Juma prayers at the Dhanmondi road-7 Baitul Aman Mosque.

## Train

FROM PAGE 3

By Supreme Court lawyer Shishir Manir, challenging the legality of a mobile court run by Sultana Razia, executive magistrate of Netrokona's Atpara upazila, which sentenced two minors to one month's imprisonment for getting married before legal age.

The HC bench asked authorities to submit a copy of Sultana's explanation about the action to this court.

Lawyer Shishir Manir told the HC he talked to Netrokona's deputy commissioner on Wednesday, and the DC informed that the two minors were released from law enforcers' custody.

Attorney General Amin Uddin told the HC he will communicate with the cabinet division secretary about training of executive magistrates running mobile courts.

On Sunday, Sultana, also assistant commissioner (land), conducted a mobile court and sentenced two

15-year-olds at Atpara's Douj union to one month's imprisonment for getting married, according to a report published in Daily Prothom Alo.

The executive magistrate conducted the mobile court at her office and ordered police to send the minors to the Child Development Centre in Gazipur, according to the report.

On Wednesday, Shishir Manir sent a letter to the HC bench of Justice Enayetur for a directive to release the children immediately.

Following the letter, Justice Enayetur that day verbally ordered authorities concerned to immediately release the two minors, who were sentenced under the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017.

SM Rezaul Karim, legal advisor for Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, took part in the hearing and told the HC that the executive magistrate's action is illegal, and departmental action needs to be taken against her.

## Iftexkar Haider reappointed IUB treasurer

CITY DESK

Khandker Md Iftexkar Haider has been reappointed as the treasurer of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB).

Following provisions of the Private University Act 2010, President Abdul Hamid, chancellor of the university, appointed him for a four year term. His first term expired on 15th May 2021, a press release said.

Haider is a former secretary to the government of Bangladesh. Before his retirement, he worked as secretary to the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment and chairperson of Probashi Kallyan Bank (PKB). He was also the Rector of Bangladesh Public Administration Training Center (BPATC).



## Revoke

FROM PAGE 3

On July 29, Italy extended its entry ban for nationals from some countries including Bangladesh till August 30.

At the meeting, both the ambassador and the deputy foreign minister discussed the whole gamut of the existing cordial bilateral relations and about signing of some agreements or MoU in the near future.

Ambassador Ahsan is expecting to meet the Italian health minister soon, the post adds.

In another Facebook post, the Bangladesh embassy said Ambassador Ahsan held a meeting with Cecilia Piccioni, deputy director general and central director for promotion of Italian language and culture, Directorate General of Country System Division at the Italian Foreign Ministry, on Wednesday.

At the meeting, Cecilia assured that Bangladesh will be in their list for the beneficiary countries for scholarship programme for students in 2022.

The programme remained inoperative since 2018 due to funding and some technical reasons, she added.

Besides, they discussed about strengthening bilateral relations, especially in the field of cultural cooperation.

## HC clears

FROM PAGE 3

The current "strict lockdown" has been extended for next five days and therefore, the EC can hold the by-polls between its end and September 7, said the HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim.

The bench passed the order following the writ petition filed on July 26 seeking its directive on the EC to halt the by-election because of the ongoing surge in Covid-19 cases.

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin told the court that he will communicate the HC order to the EC.

Shishir Manir appeared for the writ petitioners during virtual

hearing of the petition. Following the same petition, the HC bench on July 26 stayed the process for holding the by-election, scheduled for July 28, till August 5 -- due to the ongoing "strict lockdown".

On July 26, six lawyers of the Supreme Court and seven voters of Sylhet-3 constituency submitted the petition to the HC, saying that holding the by-election on July 28 is contradictory to the ongoing lockdown.

In the petition, they said there is no constitutional obligation for the EC to hold the by-polls on July 28.

The bench that day said it will make further decision about holding

the by-polls on August 5, after and observing the circumstances.

Shishir Manir said holding the Sylhet-3 by-election for 3.52 lakh voters is against the government's lockdown policy.

The Sylhet-3 constituency fell vacant after parliamentarian Mahmud Us Samad Chowdhury died of coronavirus on March 11.

Habibur Rahman Habib of ruling Awami League, Mohammad Atiqur Rahman of Jatiya Party, Junayed Mohammad Miah of Bangladesh Congress and Shafi Ahmed Chowdhury, a BNP rebel candidate, are contesting the by-polls to Sylhet-3 constituency.