



3 YEARS OF CHURIHATTA BLAZE

Back in trade stained with blood

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and ZYMA ISLAM

On this day three years ago, 71 people lost their lives in a devastating explosion originating from chemicals illegally stored in Wahed Mansion in Old Dhaka.

But the tragedy doesn't seem to have weighed enough on the consciences of the owners of the building in Chawkbazar's Churihatta; they have recently rented out the basement parking lot as a plastic toy warehouse -- also a fire hazard.

One of these correspondents visited the building area on three consecutive days last week and found labourers hauling cartons of recycled plastic toys into the parking lot, which was filled to the brim with boxes.

The building staff and locals told the correspondent on condition of anonymity that the space was rented out this month to a toy-making factory from Kamrangirchar.

When the staff were asked if they knew there was a massive fire three years ago, they said they did, and pointed to four fire extinguishers hooked to the wall for "fire safety".

The basement is essentially meant to be used as a parking lot of a residential building, not a warehouse, and thus contains no fire exit. But in a place like Chawkbazar where free real estate is scanty, this practice is quite common.

According to Bangladesh Environment Conservation Rules-1997, no industrial units using hazardous chemicals or goods can operate in and around a residential area.

This latest discovery -- that the owners of the very building where a deadly fire spread from a warehouse have now rented space to another warehouse -- comes at a time when police have pressed charges against the two owners of Wahed Mansion for negligence, causing the deaths of 71 people and injuries to many others.

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Farmer Jaynal Mia has no bullocks to pull the plough. He has to pull it himself while his daughters Jonabi, 12, and Jannati, 10, try to put some weight on it. The farmer of Kalmati area in Lalmonirhat said he used to own large pieces of arable land but lost everything to erosion by the Teesta.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

A slogan ever in sync with a nation

Joy Bangla set to be nat'l slogan

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

"Joy Bangla", the strongest slogan during the Liberation War and also during the struggle for the country's independence, is set to become the national slogan of Bangladesh.

The slogan, which translates as "Victory to Bengal", was not merely a political one, but a sign of commitment to the motherland and a symbol of national spirit and patriotism.

It became a rallying cry of the people of all classes and ages irrespective of political identities during

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Search panel may not disclose final 10

20 shortlisted for EC posts

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The search committee is not likely to disclose whom it will recommend to the president for the posts of the chief election commissioner and other commissioners.

"So far, our decision is that we won't reveal the names. We will recommend the names to the president, and it will be up to him to decide whether the names will be disclosed or not," a member of the panel told The Daily Star yesterday, wishing not to be named.

Revealing the names before sending them to the president will be "discourteous", and some quarters may also create a controversy over it, added the member.

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Did nothing to undermine ACC image

Ex-ACC official Sharif tells Star

GOLAM MORTOZA

Sharif Uddin, who was sacked by the Anti-Corruption Commission last week, said he had always tried to unmask the corrupt and confiscate illegal wealth during his time at the commission.

"If this means I undermined the image of ACC, then I have nothing to say," he told The Daily Star. "I don't think I have done anything that undermines the image of the

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Praised until he stepped on toes

Sharif had outstanding evaluations

MOSTAFA YOUSUF

A skilled and judicious officer, who is well experienced in investigation. He is worthy of promotion.

This is how Sharif Uddin, the recently sacked deputy assistant director

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Aseptic technology at a glance

A growing demand for natural products has become a key driver behind the rise of high-tech systems in juice producing and packaging in Bangladesh. Akij Food and Beverage Ltd, a concern of Akij Group, is using an aseptic juice packaging and filling system to meet this growing demand for preservative- and germ-free juice. The company is the first in Bangladesh and the second in Asia to bring this technology from Germany. In aseptic processing, a germ-free product is packaged in sterile containers in a way that maintains high quality. The objective of Aseptic Technology is to maintain the sterility of food

ingredients, bottles, environment and product through each step from fruit pulp processing to the bottling process. This process used in Akij Food & Beverage Factory requires the close coordination and complex interaction between personnel, sterilized product, the equipment system, filling components, and support facilities. In this process, the production environment, product and bottles are safe from harmful microbes, bacteria and virus of outer environment. As a result, there is neither risk of germ-contamination, nor any need of adding preservatives. In most

cases, the processed fruit pulps are put inside the bottle by "warm-filling" technology. This technology leaves a potentiality of bacterial and other germ contamination in different production steps while a risk of decreasing nutrition quality remains. To avoid this type of

adulteration, precise quality control methods are followed in every step of 'Frutika's production in the most modern aseptic technology. So that you get fruit drink that is free from any harmful elements. The process starts at Akij Agro Processing Factory in Chapainawabganj. Mangoes are handpicked from orchards that have been grown with care. After that they are naturally ripen and

properly cleaned, they are sent to Aseptic pulp processing factory where pulps are processed using aseptic technology, so that there is no need to add preservatives. The company gives high

priority to how it collects mango and pulp. Pulping is done at the Chapainawabganj factory where mangoes are collected from the best mango gardens of the Rajshahi region. Mango pulps brought into aseptic pulp processing factory are processed using the most advanced aseptic technology to make aseptically processed pulp. Since aseptic process is

followed, there is no need to add preservatives. After conducting mandatory microbiological tests in an ultramodern lab, selected pulps matched with the Frutika standard are mixed with other

ingredients at a certain ratio to make the primary mixing of the fruit drink. Fruit drink mixing is then pasteurized to make it germ-free. Then the pulps are cooled off in 20°-25° Celsius temperature and are sent to sterile tank. Next destination from there is the Aseptic Filling Chamber. During the time the fruit drink reaches the sterile tank, Frutika bottles are made in aseptic sterile blow-molder in a controlled environment. While

the bottles are sterilized in several steps, bottle caps are also disinfected separately. Made bottles reach the Aseptic Filling Chamber for fruit drink filling. Fruit drink filling in Frutika's bottle is done by aseptically cold filling process. Afterwards, sterilized caps are put on the filled bottles' openings one by one. The bottles are then labeled and transferred to the conveyer belt for main packaging. When the wrapping at first step is done,

they are sent to Frutika's central warehouse through automated conveyer. After palletizing, your most favorite Frutika is all set to reach different regions of the country. And for all these efforts to keep the taste and quality of fruits intact, Frutika has successfully earned the trust of numerous consumers across the country.



Only fruit drink of Bangladesh made by aseptic technology and is absolutely preservative free