

SITAKUNDA FIRE

'Depot lacked safety gears'

Flame doused after over 25 hours, no casualties reported

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Unitax Group's cotton warehouse in Chattogram's Sitakunda upazila, where a fire broke out on Saturday, had no fire safety equipment to douse the blaze, said the fire service.

The warehouse contained 2,700 tonnes of imported cotton for the Unitex Group, causing the fire to spread quickly and last for over 25 hours.

The Chattogram District Administration reported that there were no fire fighting tools or fire extinguishers inside the warehouse, and no fire hydrant for any emergency situation.



Abdul Hamid, deputy assistant director of fire service, Chattogram, said the factory administration was indifferent to fire safety. 'Firefighters had to make three separate entry points since there was no emergency entry or exit. They faced difficulties due to water shortage, having to bring water from nearby ponds and reserves,' he added.

Sitakunda UNO Shahadat Hossain said the fire originated from welding work that

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Water crisis in Kurigram char

Over 100 families resort to river-water for cooking due to high iron content in tube wells



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

On the banks of Brahmaputra river, Lalvanu Bewa and Mariom Begum start their day by collecting water in pitchers for cooking. It's something they have been doing since childhood, just like women in over 100 families in Char Parbati area of Kurigram Sadar upazila.

It's a challenging and exhausting process to fetch water every day, but they have no other choice. As they return home with the heavy pitchers, one can't help but feel their pain and struggle. But for them, it's a matter of survival. The tube well water in the area, under Jatrapur union, is contaminated with iron, making it unsuitable for cooking.

All the other char women The Daily Star talked to shared similar sentiments. Their food becomes black when cooked with the tube well

water, and it has no flavour. Besides, there's always a risk of getting various waterborne-diseases, they added.

Contacted, Executive Engineer of Department of Public Health Engineering in Kurigram Harunur Rashid said it's a heartbreaking situation. The shallow layer tube-wells installed in the char areas contain high levels of iron, making the water unfit for consumption. Although deep layer tube-wells could provide pure water, it's a luxury that most char people can't afford.

The thought of families struggling to access clean water for their basic needs is distressing. The lack of government action and support only adds to the despair. But there's hope. Harunur said that a report on the water crisis will be conveyed to the higher authorities, and action will be taken in this regard.

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HARUNUR RASHID Executive Engineer

ARSON CASE

Charges against Rizvi, 12 others accepted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka tribunal yesterday took cognizance of charges against BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi and 12 others in an arson case filed with Pallabi Police Station in February 2020.

Judge Md Asaduzzaman of Dhaka's Special Tribunal-1 passed the order. It also rejected a bail petition of Rizvi after his lawyer Zaynal Abedin Meshbah moved it on medical grounds.

According to the case statement, a group of leaders and activists of BNP and its front organisations, including Rizvi, brought a procession shouting anti-government slogans at Pallabi on February 22, 2020.

At one stage, they assaulted policemen, prevented them from discharging duties and threw crude bombs at them that injured several law enforcers.

Following the incident, police filed the case.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Office of the Line Director, Upazila Health Care (UHC), DGHS, Satho Bhaban (6th Floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. e-Tender Notice. This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh. Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Sundarban East Forest Division, Bagerhat. e-Tender Notice. This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

49,194 pass MBBS entry test

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 49,194 students (35.34 percent) passed the MBBS/BDS admission test held on Friday across the country.

Of those who passed, 20,813 are male and 28,381 female (42.31 percent and 57.69 percent respectively).

Health Minister Zahid Maleque announced the results at a press conference at the old building of the health directorate in Dhaka's Mohakhali yesterday.

This year, around 1.39 lakh applicants sat for the entry test for 11,122 seats in the medical college admission test. The pass mark was 40 out of 100 in the MCQ test.

There are 4,350 seats in 37 public medical colleges and 6,772 in 72 private medical colleges, according to the health ministry.

'Stop harassing us' Members of indigenous community tell Dinajpur human chain



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The indigenous people of different upazilas of Dinajpur formed a human chain yesterday, protesting rampant land grabbing, forceful eviction and intimidation by settlers.

They demanded that the government protect the minorities. Dinajpur unit of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad organised the programme. A press conference was also held at Dinajpur Press Club.

Rabindranath Soren, president of the parishad, said the indigenous community had played significant roles during the Liberation War, but the government still doesn't recognise their effort.

Shital Mardi, president of Dinajpur unit of the parishad, echoed him.



An illegal structure by the Bongshi river in Savar being demolished by an excavator of Dhaka District Administration. The mobile court yesterday knocked down 91 such structures.

PHOTO: STAR

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Office of the Jail Superintendent, Chandpur District Jail, www.prison.gov.bd. e-Tender Notice. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

নোয়াখালী বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়. পুন: দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি. ১. মাস্তুল/বিজ্ঞানের নাম: বিশ্ব মাস্তুল / বাংলাদেশ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন। ২. সঙ্কেতের নাম: নোয়াখালী বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, নোয়াখালী-৩৮১৪।

PRAYER TIMING MAR 13. Azan: 5:05, Zohr: 12:45, Asr: 4:30, Maghrib: 6:12, Esha: 7:30. Jumaat: 5:40, 1-15, 4:45, 6:15, 8:00. SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION.

জাতীয় কবি কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়. প্রকল্প পরিচালকের কার্যালয়. জাতীয় কবি কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ভৌত অবকাঠামো উন্নয়ন (১ম সংশোধিত) শীর্ষক প্রকল্প ত্রিশাল, ময়মনসিংহ. e-Tender Notice. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.