



Only ashes and charred remnants remain in place of at least 200 shops after a catastrophic blaze gutted Mohammadpur Krishi Market early Thursday. The scene raises questions about the relevant authorities' role to avoid such recurrent disasters. Goods worth crores were reduced to ruins after the fire.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



Stay vigilant to protect spirit of Liberation War: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the people to remain vigilant so that no one can distort the spirit of the Liberation War anymore in the future.

"The spirit of the great liberation war is very important for us. The people should be awakened with the spirit and the country should be developed following the ideals of the Liberation War. I would like to make a call to stay vigilant so that none can distort it (the spirit), which had been earned through the victory of this liberation war, anymore in the future," she said.

The premier was addressing the inauguration of a special arts exhibition titled "A Retrospective 1973-2023" with the selected paintings of Independence Award-winning and internationally acclaimed

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

NINE RISKY DNCC MARKETS

'ABANDONED' but still in use

After another fire tragedy, experts question govt bodies' role, fear more may follow

DIPAN NANDY

The fire that gutted Mohammadpur Krishi Market early Thursday was categorised as a risky establishment by the fire service department.

The fire department said they repeatedly sent notices to around 200 shopkeepers in the market to enhance their fire safety measures.

But Thursday's fire showed that nothing had changed. The shop owners didn't comply with the notices and the fire department did nothing to avert risks.

Urban planners have questioned the purpose of such notices if they are not complied with.

Contacted, Lt Col Md Tajul Islam, Director (Operation) of the Fire Service & Civil Defence, said, "We gave them (shopkeepers) several notices to take fire safety measures, but they didn't comply."

A probe body has been formed to find out the cause of the fire. It will be known after the probe report comes out, he said.

The fire service official, however, couldn't rule out more fire incidents like that of the Krishi market in the future.

"Not only this market, but most of the markets in Dhaka city are at risk of fire," he added.

Interestingly, the Krishi Market was not among the nine risky kitchen markets in a list published by Dhaka North City Corporation in 2020.

When asked, a DNCC source requesting anonymity said that the DNCC list was about whether the market buildings' structures were vulnerable, not about fire threats.



"It's the Fire Service that lists and monitors potential fire accidents," he explained.

Despite three years since the list was made, the nine risky kitchen market buildings remain unchanged, still vulnerable and awaiting a disaster.

Urban planners said the incident at Krishi Market underscores the pressing need for improved oversight and disaster prevention measures by both the DNCC and the Fire Service.

With disasters in Bangabazar and New Super Market earlier this year, they have questioned the effectiveness of these agencies in safeguarding such public places.

Buildings Identified, Yet Neglected The Local Government Division formed a committee on 13 May 2013, to make a list of DNCC resources which are either lying useless or in a dilapidated state.

In a 2018 meeting, the committee proposed DNCC to declare nine of its kitchen market buildings 'abandoned' citing potential accident risks as they were in a dilapidated state.

Then in 2020, Mohammadpur Town Hall Pucca Market, Mohammadpur Kitchen Market, Gulshan North Kitchen Market, Gulshan South Pucca Market and Rayerbazar Market, Kawran Bazar Kitchen Market, Kawran Bazar Number-1 Bhaban Market, Kawran Bazar Number-2 Bhaban Market and Kawran Bazar Wholesale Godown Market were declared abandoned.

Most of the markets are far from 'abandoned' and currently operational with thousands frequent those daily, raising questions about DNCC's relocation and monitoring efforts.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Discussion on Abul Mansur Ahmad today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A discussion will be held today to honour the milestone of 100 years since eminent litterateur, journalist, and politician Abul Mansur Ahmad's initiation into journalism.

The discussion titled "Relevance of Abul Mansur Ahmad's Journalism in 100 years" will be held at the Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium (Faculty of Social Sciences) on the Dhaka University campus at 4:00pm.

The event will be presided over by Dhaka University Emeritus Professor Serajul Islam Choudhury.

Speakers at the programme include journalist and litterateur Abul Momen, New Age Editor Nurul Kabir, Chittagong University teacher Khandaker Ali AR Raji, researcher and journalist Kajal Rashid Shaheen, and Planning Editor of Daily Samakal Faruk Wasil, among others.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

PRAYER TIMING

SEPTEMBER 16

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
4:35	12:45	4:30	6:09	7:45
JAMAAT 5:10	1:15	4:45	6:12	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Dhaka-Guangzhou Biman flight resumes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines resumed direct flights on the Dhaka-Guangzhou-Dhaka route from Thursday night, six months after it was suspended on March 16.

Carrying 146 passengers on board, the Biman flight BG-366 departed Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka at 10:20 pm on Thursday and arrived in Guangzhou of China at 4:00 am (local time) on Friday, said Md Siddiqur Rahman, director (admin) of Biman.

There will be six round-trip flights weekly on this popular route from now on, with a capacity over 900 passengers, he added.

Biman flights will depart from Dhaka every Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday at 10:20 pm for Guangzhou and take off every Monday, Wednesday

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

10 DU students get Sitara Parvin Award

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of Dhaka University awarded 10 students of the department with the "Professor Sitara Parvin Award" for their outstanding results in BSS (Hons) final examination held in 2021.

DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Md Akhtuzzaman conferred the awards among the recipients as chief guest at a programme at the Prof Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium on the DU campus on Thursday.

The recipients of the award are: Md Nasimul Huda, SM Shams Rahman, Sumaia Sanjana Nimmi, Nawshin Bithy, Aurthery Noboneeta, Maria Anis Chowdhury, Md Mahfuzul Islam, Neeti Chakma, Sujana Sen Gupta, and Syed Mohammad Rahatul Islam.

Speaking at the programme, DU VC paid

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Govt failed to control commodity prices

Says GM Quader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader yesterday said the Ministry of Commerce has failed to control commodity prices in the country.

Quader, also a former commerce minister, made this comment in Rangpur while talking to local journalists.

The JP chairman said, "When I was the commerce minister, if the prices of daily necessities increased, people knew why it happened and would accept it. At that time, people had a faith."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



(Left) Leaders and activists of Awami League participate in a 'peace rally' in front of its Bangabandhu Avenue party office in Dhaka yesterday. (Right) BNP stages a rally in front of its Naya Paltan headquarters to press home their one-point demand of the government's resignation and election under a caretaker government.



PHOTOS: STAR