

Two siblings die in fire

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Two siblings were burnt to death early yesterday, after a fire broke out in their residence in Feni town.

The brothers, Maidul Islam Sahadat, 13, and Rahadul Islam Golap, 6, were from Birinchi Fakirbari area.

Locals said the fire started around 1:00am. Hearing the screams of the victims, locals rushed there and doused the fire after 30 minutes.

Afterwards, they recovered the burnt body of Sahadat. Golap also suffered serious injuries and died on the way to a hospital.

Victims' father Muhammad Rony alleged some of their neighbours set fire to their residence following a dispute. Police and fire service said they are looking into the allegations.

Two held with 1.21 lakh illegal painkiller pills

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Narcotics Control has arrested two people with 1.21 lakh Tapentadol tablets, a painkiller considered a narcotic in Bangladesh, in Dhaka.

Tamjid Patwari, 29, from Cumilla; and Mobinur Rahman, 30, from Shariatpur were arrested in Hazariabagh on Tuesday afternoon.

Mazibur Rahaman Patwary, additional director of DNC, said the drugs came from two companies in India through the Cumilla border.

'Address rise in temp with urgency'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Authorities should address the rising temperatures in Dhaka and other cities with urgency, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

Initiatives must also be taken to deal with local factors that contribute to overheating, such as tree felling, encroachment of waterbodies, and air pollution, they added.

The recommendations came at a meeting titled "Rising Temperature in Urban Areas: Causes and Solutions", jointly organised by Centre for Study on Atmospheric Pollution of Stamford University and Bangladesh Resources Centre for Indigenous Knowledge at the PIB auditorium in Dhaka.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina waves at people after landing at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 12:15pm yesterday. The premier returned home from London after wrapping up her 16-day official visit to the US and the UK.

PHOTO: PID

Women must unite to combat gender violence

Speakers tell Nijera Kori, Star roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women must unitedly confront and combat violence and sexual harassment at home and workplace, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

The event, "Beyond Freedom: The Unfinished War Against Patriarchy for Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights," was jointly organised by Nijera Kori and The Daily Star at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka.

Joining the programme virtually, Prof Zobaida Nasreen of Dhaka University said cases of violence against rural women rose during the pandemic amid lack of awareness.

Maheen Sultana of Centre for Gender and Social Transformation of BIGD said, "Younger women often face harassment in the workplace. Even though they knew that, they would face it like it's natural. So, we need to address this issue to create a safe work environment."

Nishath Sultana of Plan International recommended training teachers in gender sensitivity to incorporate and emphasise the importance of integrating these lessons into mainstream education.

Journalist Shishir Morol drew attention to an alarming 46 percent rise in unwanted pregnancies, citing government data. He said some 45 percent



Speakers at the roundtable -- "Beyond Freedom: The Unfinished War Against Patriarchy for Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights" -- at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

mothers still went through a C-section to give birth, which is concerning. He called for women to step up and make informed choices regarding childbirth.

Ayesha Akhter of BLAST said some women opt for C-sections against medical advice, while some doctors recommend them unnecessarily. She also highlighted the importance of promoting normal deliveries for the well-being of mothers and babies.

Trans rights activist Joya Sikder stressed the need for a culture of respect, mentioning the challenges faced by the

community members when seeking treatment in public hospitals.

Chandra Tripura, founder and director of Hills Resource Centre, said women in hilly areas face difficulties during menstruation due to water scarcity, often resorting to medication to manage their periods.

Md Shahnaz Khan Chandan, an assistant professor at the Institute of Education and Research of Jagannath University, called for sexual health education to be included in basic

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Prioritise women's participation in energy sector

Speakers tell event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Female employment in the country's energy sector is significantly lower than the global scenario, according to a study.

While the renewable energy sector employs over 32 percent of women globally, just 5.5 percent to 13.7 percent of female employees work in power-related companies in Bangladesh.

Furthermore, the number of working women in the renewable energy sector is scarce as it is relatively new here, according to the study conducted jointly by Inspira Advisory and Consulting Limited and Manusher Jonno Foundation.

Salman Rahman, director of Inspira, presented the findings at an event yesterday titled "Gender Impacts in Renewable Energy Sources and Technologies in Bangladesh" at MJF Tower in the capital's Mirpur. Promoting women's participation in the renewable energy sector can be a significant way to ensure gender equality, said the study.

We have a lack of female participation in STEM fields. We need to work together to ensure the participation of women in every sector, including renewable energy.

WASEQA AYESHA KHAN
Head of JS committee on power, energy

Women are not reaching decision-making positions in the renewable energy sector due to societal norms, lack of access to finances, and inadequate knowledge, training, and skills, along with gender biases, it added.

Addressing as chief guest, Waseqa Ayesha Khan, head of the parliamentary standing committee on power, energy, and mineral resources, said Bangladesh is being praised worldwide for women empowerment in the political and economic arena.

"We have a lack of female participation in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields. We need to work together to ensure the participation of women in every sector, including renewable energy," she added.

Khandaker Golam Moazzem, research director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue, urged the government to realistically fix the target of power generation capacity during the event.

Tania Haque, director of Centre for Gender and Development Studies at Dhaka University, said the entire sector is affected as the decision-making positions are primarily held by men.

Nahid Sharmin, gender specialist at Inspira (a2i), said if women have financial empowerment, it will be easier for them to take part in the decision-making process.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, said, "Women are typically the ones who are most involved in household energy management, yet very little discussion takes place regarding their participation in the energy sector."

"Renewable energy is the future. We should prioritise women's participation while formulating any policy related to this sector," she added.

Dreams go up in flames

Fire leaves 50 families of a Ctg slum with nothing

MOHAMMAD SUMAN

With dreams of a new beginning, Mohammad Hasan and his family were eagerly waiting for his wedding, which was supposed to take place today.

The family did as much shopping as they could, getting gold ornaments, panjabis, and sarees for the bride and others.

Despite working at a private water supply company for a modest income, the young man didn't spare any effort in planning his big day, but all the excitement turned to ashes just the day before the wedding.

Flames devoured everything within his home, leaving his five-member family with nothing but the clothes they were wearing when tragedy struck.

Like Hasan's, 50 other families living in a slum near Amin Colony in Chattogram city shared the same fate following a devastating fire yesterday morning.

While the families managed to escape the inferno with their loved ones, their possessions were consumed by fire, leaving them with an uncertain future.

"I had purchased items worth Tk 40,000 from the market the previous night, meant to be sent to the bride's house today (yesterday). But everything was reduced to ashes. Now, there's no choice but to postpone the wedding," Hasan said.



Burnt furniture and charred clothes -- all that remain of their hopes and dreams, shattered by yesterday's blaze at the slum near port city's Amin colony. This photo of a woman trying to salvage her belongings was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Abdul Halim, deputy director of Agrabad fire service headquarters, said, "The fire started around 6:00am but we were informed at 6:45am. Besides, we had to struggle to enter the slum as access roads were narrow. We brought the fire under control after an hour's effort by eight units."

Evacuation became critical as the slum's surrounded by fences and sidewalks, with the only entry and exit points being two warehouses nearby.

The warehouses also became engulfed in flames, forcing residents to break through by cutting the fences and climbing the walls.

Sumi Akhter, her husband and two children were among

them. "When the fire broke out, my two children were sleeping. The only escape route from the slum was near the warehouses, so we got trapped. My four-year-old daughter's hair caught fire. Then my husband broke through a fence and brought us out," she said.

A school named "Rabeya Digital KG & High School" inside the slum was also damaged, and all the books and educational equipment were gutted by the fire, said Amena Khatun, a teacher at the school.

Shamim Hossain, the owner of 25 houses in the slum, said, "Everyone here uses cylinder gas and a shared electric line. But we're still unsure what caused the fire."

Sultana Kamal elected TIB chairperson

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent human rights activist advocate Sultana Kamal has been elected as the chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Transparency International Bangladesh.

She takes over the position from Prof Perween Hasan, the Bangladesh chapter of Berlin-based global anti-graft watchdog said in a press release yesterday.

The decision was announced during TIB's 117th board meeting at its Dhanmondi office in the capital yesterday.

Kamal has previously served as TIB's chairperson and as a board member.

During her illustrious career, Kamal has served as an adviser to the caretaker government in 2006. She also served as the executive director of rights group Ain O Salish Kendra from 2001 to 2016, and a legal counsel for the United Nations, it added. She is the founding president of Manabdhikar Shongskriti Foundation.

Sultana is an alumna of Dhaka University and was one of the founders of the Bangladesh Field Hospital in Tripura, India, during the Liberation War.

The board of trustees serves as TIB's highest policymaking body, playing a pivotal role in shaping the organisation's strategic direction.

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প্ৰতি-প্ৰতিযোগিতামূলক

Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited
(A State Owned Organization)
116 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1205
www.bscl.gov.bd

Invitation for Tenders

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH				
01	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology		
02	Agency	Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited		
03	Procuring Entity Name	Dr. Shahjahan Mahmood, Chairman and CEO		
04	Procuring Entity Code	Not used at present		
05	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka		
06	Invitation Ref No	14.39.0000.012.07.003.22-581		
07	Date	25/09/2023		
KEY INFORMATION				
08	Procurement Method	Open Tender		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
09	Budget and Source of Funds	Company's Own Fund		
10	Tender Package No.	BSCL/2023-24/PS-04		
11	Tender Package Name	Procurement of POC (Proof of Concept) for VSAT Services & PM Video Conferencing Service' in different location of Bangladesh		
12	Tender Publication Date	05/10/2023		
13	Tender Last Selling Date	22/10/2023 Time: 04:00 pm		
14	Tender Closing Date and Time	23/10/2023	12:05 pm	
15	Tender Opening Date and Time	23/10/2023	12:20 pm	
16	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address Chairman and CEO Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited SEL Rose-N-Dale, Level-07, 116 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1000.		
- Selling Tender Document (Principal) - Selling Tender Document (Others) - Receiving Tender Document - Opening Tender Document				
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
17	Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	As stated in the tender document		
18	Brief Description of Service	POC (Proof of Concept) for VSAT Services & PM Video Conferencing Service' in different location of Bangladesh		
19	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	TK. 1,000/- (One Thousand Taka only)		
Lot No	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk)	Completion Time in Days
20	01	POC (Proof of Concept) for VSAT Services & PM Video Conferencing Service' in different location of Bangladesh	50,000.00 (Fifty Thousand Only)	As Per the tender document
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
21	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Dr. Shahjahan Mahmood		
22	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Chairman and CEO		
23	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited SEL Rose-N-Dale, Level-07, 116 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1000.		
24	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	0241030091-93	<Fax No.>	procurement@bscl.com.bd
The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the Tender proceedings				

(Signed)
Rehnuma Tarannum
Manager, Procurement (Additional Charge)
Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited

GD- 1526