



HIMALAY BANGA BAZAR OF UTTARA

A treasure trove of AFFORDABLE STYLES

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In the vibrant heart of Sector 3, residents of Uttara have crafted their very own miniature Banga Bazar, named Himalay Banga Bazar.

This lively hub is a kaleidoscope of fashion and footwear, where styles collide and creativity thrives. It buzzes with the same eclectic charm found in Gulistan's Banga Bazar, offering a rich tapestry of variety, unbeatable pricing, and endless availability.

Supreme collection of quality clothing
As you step inside, you'll find the market bursting with women's clothes. Export-quality garments grace the racks — think blouses, t-shirts, tank tops,



palazzos, and skirts, all waiting to be discovered.

If you're on the lookout for something unique, you'll also find collections of washed or second-hand jeans, leggings, cosy cardigans, stylish denims, kurtis, sweatshirts, and joggers,



PHOTO: SHADAB SHAHROKH HAI

nested in those bustling stores. From undergarments to workout tops to yoga pants, all are offered at impressively low prices.

For the men, the options may seem limited, with only a few shops dedicated to gent's fashion, primarily showcasing denim pants and ready-made trousers.

Unlike the sprawling Gulistan Banga Bazar, this market does not have distinct sections for different styles. Instead, it features a majority of women's and children's clothing stores, interspersed with a few footwear and men's shops.

Besides, if you're hunting for adorable dresses for kids, Himalay Banga Bazar won't disappoint. From t-shirts to half-pants and even charming little denim options, this market boasts export-

quality fabrics, perfect for your little ones to wear as they take on the world.

Shopping at half the price

If affordable pricing and export-quality clothes define the essence of Gulistan's Banga Bazar, then Uttara's Himalay Banga Bazar truly embodies that spirit. Despite recent retail price hikes, this market still offers astonishingly low prices. You can snag a stylish t-shirt for under Tk 150, while a trendy tank top will range from Tk 200-300. A lovely pair of blue denim? You won't pay more than Tk 800 here.

Shahjalal, a 22-year-old local salesman, shares, "Nothing in my shop sells for more than Tk 500. That's why budget-conscious shoppers flock here. Most of our customers come

from Uttara and Tongi, but many bus passengers along the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway often stop in for a quick buy."

Another Uttara gem

Mohammad Nazim, 40, co-owner of a shop specialising in children's frocks, has witnessed the evolution of Himalay Banga Bazar over the past decade.

He explains the inspiration behind why it is called Banga Bazar, saying, "We wanted to create a space for local residents to purchase second-hand or rejected garments at discounted prices, especially since the original Gulistan Banga Bazar is quite far away. That's how we came to call it Himalay Banga Bazar."

Conveniently situated on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway, this establishment occupies the ground floor of Uttara Bhaban. For seasoned shoppers, the contrast between this market and the original Gulistan Banga Bazar is evident in its size — Himalay Banga Bazar is compact, with fewer than 20 stores. Yet, despite its smaller variety, customers flock here during peak hours for an enjoyable shopping experience.

Open every day (except Wednesday) from 10:00am to around 9:00pm, this market is hard to miss as you travel between Azampur bus stand and Rajlakkhi complex. So, if you're on the lookout for stylish bargains, Himalay Banga Bazar is ready to welcome you with open arms!

Senior Indian politician shot dead in Mumbai

Two suspects arrested

AFP, Mumbai

A senior politician in India's financial capital Mumbai was shot dead on Saturday, weeks ahead of key state elections, with police probing the role of a notorious crime gang.



Baba Siddique, 66, a local lawmaker and former minister in Maharashtra state, was shot multiple times in the chest outside his son's office in Mumbai, Indian media reported.

Maharashtra's deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar, from the same party as Siddique, said he was "shocked" by the "cowardly attack".

The Hindustan Times newspaper reported that two suspected attackers had been arrested, and police were searching for another.

Broadcaster NDTV said the two suspects claimed they were part of a gang run by Lawrence Bishnoi, who is in jail accused of running a crime gang that has carried out multiple killings.

The shooting comes just weeks after Siddique's security detail was upgraded after he received death threats, and ahead of elections slated for later this year.

"The incident will be thoroughly investigated and strict action will be taken against the attackers," Pawar said in a statement. "The mastermind behind the attack will also be traced."

Siddique was close to several Bollywood stars and was known for throwing grand parties.

Former NSI director Monirul sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent Commodore Monirul Islam, former director (border) of the National Security Intelligence (NSI), to jail in a case filed over the death of Bahadur Hossain Monir, 17, in the Gulshan area during quota reform protests on July 19.

Dhaka Additional Metropolitan Md Mosharraf Hossain passed the order after police produced him on completion of a three-day remand, seeking confinement in jail in the case, said a court staffer.

On September 30, Abu Jafar, father of the victim, filed the murder case with Gulshan Police Station against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 102 others.

On October 9, Monirul was arrested from the city's Kotwali area.

The next day, he was placed on remand in the murder case.

86 doctors, 136 students punished

FROM PAGE 1

At Sir Salimullah Medical College, 13 doctors have been declared "persona non grata" on the campus while four female students have been expelled from the hall, according to an office order dated August 22, signed by hospital Director Brig Gen Md Majharul Islam Khan.

Sher-e-Bangla Medical College has declared six physicians "persona non grata" for lifetime, banning them from the campus on several charges. The authorities also suspended six interns for two years.

Osmani Medical College authorities have punished 55 physicians and medical students. Of them, 10 are doctors, 11 teachers, 15 interns and 19 students.

Six of the 11 teachers have been suspended from all administrative and academic activities. Of the 15 interns, 11 have been suspended for six months to two years.

Asked about the justification of the decision, Osmani Medical College Principal Prof Dr Shishir Ranjan Chakraborty said, "These students and medical professionals took a stance against the anti-discrimination student movement. Disciplinary actions were taken against them following recommendations by the academic council and investigations into the complaints filed by general students."

Those who have been punished can appeal the decisions, he added.

At Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical College in Faridpur, where eight doctors and 10 students have been penalised, the authorities recommended cancellation of the

medical certificates of two doctors. Eight of the 10 students have been expelled from their hall. They also cannot take part in academic activities for six months to two years, according to an office order issued on September 2.

"I have been suspended for attending a Chhatra League rally on July 15. That day, no fighting or violence took place. I have been targeted because I supported the Awami League government. Many like me are being victimised for political reasons on flimsy accusations," said Rakibul Hasan, a student of Mymensingh Medical College.

Rakibul is one of the 28 students suspended by the college authorities. Another 13 interns have been expelled from the dormitories, while 11 of them face suspension of their internship for six months to two years.

Speaking on the condition of anonymity out of fear of reprisal, an intern doctor of the medical college said he was suspended for two years and declared persona non grata on the campus for his involvement in Awami League politics.

Asked about the developments, Prof Nazmul Hossain, director general of Health Education, said Bangladesh's health sector experienced bad governance for over 15 years, and many medical teachers and doctors were complicit. This led to a growing anger among the general students at the medical colleges.

"While the streets of Dhaka were stained with the blood of hundreds of young people, some of our teachers and doctors participated in [Awami League] rallies, which sparked serious

anger among the students," said Prof Nazmul.

There are clear boundaries in government jobs, but these are sometimes crossed due to pressure, temptation, fear, or impulse — none of which is desirable, he said.

"We are trying to solve the issue rationally. In some cases, we've been successful; in other cases, we haven't. But our efforts will continue to restore discipline in medical colleges," he said.

He added that things have returned to normal in most medical colleges, although some teachers and students who played questionable roles in the past are still on the campuses.

"Those who have committed major wrongs will be punished swiftly, but we should forgive those who have made minor ones."

Public health expert Prof Dr Rashid-E-Mahbub stressed the need for a proper investigation into the allegations against the medical professionals and students.

"We have seen supporters of the previous government being victimised based on old allegations. The allegations that have been raised in this case appear to be political, not academic. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the college authorities to verify whether these allegations are valid within the college context," said Prof Rashid, also chairman of the National Committee on Health Rights Movement.

"What is the benefit of expelling a student? Instead, they should be given a chance for correction. If there are serious allegations against anyone, the college authorities should file a case," he said.

2 tankers catch fire during LPG transfer in Bay

FROM PAGE 1

extinguish the blaze because the gas had not burned out.

The CPA formed a nine-member probe committee led by CPA Member (harbour and marine) Commodore M Fazlar Rahman to find the cause of the fire.

The committee was asked to submit its report in five work days.

The Panama-flagged B LPG Sophia, which is chartered by Bashundhara Group, was engaged in ship-to-ship transfer of LPG from the Captain Nikolas when the fire broke out.

The 18 crew members of the 117-metre B LPG Sophia, two mooring men, three watchmen, and eight guards from the Captain Nikolas who jumped into the sea were rescued by Toofan Express, a tugboat owned by Bashundhara.

Of the crew members, nine are from Bangladesh, eight from Indonesia, and one from India.

The Toofan Express was half a nautical mile away around 12:25am when its captain Nazrul Islam was notified about the fire.

"It took almost three hours to find all the men. Some of them had minor injuries ...," Nazrul said, adding that the men reached Chattogram around 6:00am.

Samidul Hoque, proprietor of Seawave Marine Services which is the Bangladesh agent of the Captain

Nikolas, said around 3,325 tonnes of LPG were to be transferred from the Captain Nikolas to the B LPG Sophia.

Jashim Uddin, chief operating officer (marketing) at Bashundhara Group, said between 2,600 to 2,700 tonnes of LPG was transferred to the B LPG Sophia when the fire broke out. Captain Jahirul Hoque, commander (east zone) of Bangladesh Coast Guard, said the fire on the B LPG Sophia was mostly under control by daybreak, but the rear side of the tanker kept reigniting, possibly due to gas coming off the tank.

Bangladesh Navy's BNS Shapla, Bangladesh Coast Guard's Promotto, and CPA's Kandari-3, Kandari-4 and Kandari-10, were continuously spraying water on the B LPG Sophia, officials said.

The Captain Nikolas arrived at the anchorage off Kutubida on October 6 with 42,925 tonnes of LPG. The lightering operations began four days later.

Thanks to the prompt response by its crew, it still has around 36,000 tonnes of LPG, Samidul said.

Interport Ship Agents Ltd is the local agent of the B LPG Sophia. Abu Faisal, its general manager, said the insurer would be engaged soon to assess the damage of the cargo and vessel.

Last week, the LPG Operators

Association of Bangladesh (LOAB) wrote to the CPA, alleging that the Captain Nikolas and another LPG-carrying tanker titled the Gaz GMS misreported the country of origin of the gas.

The GMS arrived on October 3 with 33,000 tonnes of LPG.

LOAB wrote that the LPG could be from Iran, which faces numerous sanctions, and urged CPA to look into the matter.

On October 9, the authorities formed a committee with officials from the CPA, Bangladesh Customs, Coast Guard and Mercantile Marine Office to investigate the matter.

The committee members visited the ships on Wednesday to examine the documents and interrogate the crew.

According to the papers, the Captain Nikolas brought the cargo from Oman and Gaz GMS from the UAE, said a member of the committee.

The committee will identify the vessels' track and contact the authorities of the Oman and UAE ports.

September 30 and October 5, two other oil tankers, the Banglar Jyoti and Banglar Shourabh, caught fire and got damaged. Four people were injured in the incidents.

Three committees are still investigating what caused the fires.

BNP waits with cautious optimism

FROM PAGE 1

transition to democracy as to the expectations of the people," said a standing committee member of the party wishing not to be named.

The leader also said if the interim government failed to deliver, another chaotic situation would emerge, and that would be dangerous not only for them but for the whole nation.

Army chief General Waker-uz-Zaman said the transition to democracy should occur between one and one and a half years.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, however, said the date for the next general election would be announced once a consensus on reforms was reached with political parties and the voter list prepared.

BNP leaders believe if the government is sincere in its efforts to ensure the transition of power, it is possible to hold the next polls within 18 months.

Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, standing committee member of the party, said they hope the government, after completing the

necessary reforms quickly, would go for elections to uphold the aspirations of the people.

If there were issues the parties could not agree on, those should be left for the next elected government to resolve, he told The Daily Star, adding that reforms are ongoing processes that would continue.

BNP leaders said it would not take much time to carry out reforms to institutions, but constitutional reforms could be complicated.

About reforms to the constitution, they said it depended on which areas the government wanted to make changes.

The reform commissions have been asked to submit their reports within December, and the BNP leaders say the time given is reasonable and logical. But it would be problematic if the time is exceeded.

Abdul Moyeen Khan, another standing committee member of the party, said the people of the country have given the interim government the mandate to transform the country from an autocracy to a democracy.

"The prime mandate of this interim government is to restore democracy. But if they think they were given the mandate to reform everything under the sun, that would require them to stay in power for 100 years, and it would be wrong for them. Students and mass people did not give them such a mandate."

BNP leaders have reiterated on several occasions that it would continue its support for the interim government but wants a clear roadmap to the election. They said the government must make it clear, or else there could be confusion complicating the situation further.

Salahuddin Ahmed, another standing committee member, said the reform committees were given three months to come up with recommendations, and it seems logical. "So, we are supporting it now."

BNP leaders think the party would suffer if elections are delayed, but they cannot put the government under pressure to hold polls as the people want the reforms.



A civil defence member stands amid debris in the aftermath of what security sources said was an Israeli strike on a market in Nabatieh, southern Lebanon yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS