

## Over Hundred Shanties Guttled in City Fire



A devastating fire broke out at a two-storied tin-shed boarding house in the city's Madhya Badda area on Monday afternoon (July 20, 2015) and engulfed a nearby slum, burning down everything near it. However, there was no report of casualties. The fire broke out at 'Bhai-Bhai Boarding' in an alley next to a bank located at the opposite side of Pragati Sarani at Madhya Badda area at around 12:55 pm.

Locals were panicked as flames leapt up and thick smoke billowed out of the boarding house engulfed by the fire. The fire also gutted six two-storied tin-shed houses, nearly 100 shanties, six to seven grocery shops, hotels and saloon and mobile phone flexi load shop.

Eleven units of fire service teams rushed to the spot covering narrow roads in the area and brought the fire under control at around 3:00 pm. Two children were still missing, according to local people. The fire-fighters said they struggled to control the people who were crowding the area to help or watch, which caused a delay in dousing the fire. Police and RAB personnel were deployed in the nearby areas of the fire incident spot and made efforts to control the rush of onlookers.

The tin-shed boarding, established on 13 bighas of land, belongs to the local ward councilor of the ruling party. "The fire might have originated from a kerosene stove of a chatpati shop," according to local people. However, the fire service officials said they were investigating the cause of fire. The residents of a multi-storey building, Venus Complex, had to be evacuated. One side of Pragati Sarani was temporarily closed to traffic.

"We are working. We are investigating the cause of fire and extent of damage caused by it," Director General of Fire Service and Civil Defence Brigadier General Mohammad Ali told at the place of fire incident. Meanwhile, local member of parliament (MP) Rahmat Ullah visited the spot and assured the victims of all sorts of assistance. He said if necessary, the victims will be provided bank loans. If required, the adjacent roads in the area will be widened, he said.

### **Landslide, wall collapse, kills 6 in Bangladesh's port city**

Six people including five children were killed in separate incidents of landslide and wall collapse at Bayezid and Lalkhan areas of the country's port city early Sunday (July 19, 2015) due to heavy rain.

Three children of a family died at the landslide at Amin Colony in Bayezid area of the city. On the other hand, two of a family and one of another family were killed at Lalkhan area due to wall collapse after heavy rainfall, a local police official confirmed. The authorities have already asked people of neighbourhood to move to safer places to ensure the safety.

More than two hundred people were killed in landslides in Chittagong in the last eight years. The devastating landslide in Chittagong on June 11, 2007 claimed 127 people lives.