

Primary edu office fire: Cleaner ‘set fire’ to storeroom for Tk 5 lakh deal, claim police

Three people, including the cleaner, arrested over the incident

11 HOUR(S) AGO UPDATED 11 HOUR(S) AGO CRIME & JUSTICE

SHARE 

Star Online Report



Photo: Collected

A cleaner at the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) in Mirpur-2, Dhaka, allegedly set fire to the office storeroom early Friday in exchange for Tk 5 lakh, police said on Saturday.

Police made the claim after arresting three people, including the cleaner, the store in-charge, and a storekeeper.



[For all latest news, follow The Daily Star's Google News channel.](#)

Mostak Sarkar, deputy commissioner (Mirpur division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, shared the information at a press briefing at the DMP media centre in the evening.

The arrestees are Asmaul Islam, 30, a master-roll cleaner at DPE; Jinnat Ali Biswas, 55, store in-charge; and Humayun Kabir Khan, 59, a master-roll storekeeper.

According to police, the fire was set in the second-floor storeroom of the DPE between 2:00am and 4:30am on Friday. The storeroom contained 735 laptops meant for distribution to field-level offices.

After the fire, police found 450 laptops intact, 33 partially damaged, 29 badly damaged, and 140 completely burned. Another 83 laptops could not be traced. Some laptop bags and accessories were also damaged. The government incurred losses of around Tk 2 crore to Tk 3 crore following the incident, said police.

Mostak Sarkar also said a case was filed under the Special Powers Act following a written complaint from the directorate.

Police arrested Asmaul from Mirpur-2 around 3:30pm on Saturday. During primary interrogation, he admitted to setting the fire.

“He was given financial inducement. There was a deal for Tk 5 lakh. He received Tk 80,000 in cash,” the DMP DC said.

Based on his statement, police raided the directorate around 4:30pm and arrested Jinnat and Humayun, said Mostak Sarkar.

Police are investigating why the laptops were set on fire whether others were involved in the planning, and what the motive was, Mostak said.

He added that another suspect has been identified and efforts are being made to arrest him.

The three arrestees will be produced before a court with a remand prayer, police added.