

# NEWSCLIPPINGS

JANUARY TO JUNE 2020

## HUTS ON FIRE



## Urban Resource Centre

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### Three buildings catch fire in the city

A factory, an eatery and a warehouse caught fire in separate incidents in different parts of the city on Wednesday and Thursday. A cardboard factory caught fire on Wednesday in Labour Colony near Vita Chowrangi. Three fire tenders arrived at the spot after being informed about the blaze and took two hours to extinguish the blaze.

A fire department spokesperson said that cardboard worth thousands of rupees was burned to ashes, while the cause behind the eruption of the fire could not be ascertained yet.

Moreover, a fire broke out at an eatery in Binoria Town and soon spread to engulf the entire structure due to strong winds.

Two fire tenders reached the spot after the fire department was informed of the incident and soon extinguished the blaze.

However, the cooling process continued until late at night. According to fire department officials, the eatery was gutted in the fire but no casualties were reported. The fire reportedly erupted due to a short circuit.

Separately, a fire erupted in a scrap warehouse located at Anda Mor on Thursday. Two fire tenders reached the site after receiving the complaint and doused the flames within half an hour.

Eyewitnesses shared that some gas cylinders present inside the warehouse exploded as a result of fire, which drew area locals' attention towards the incident. There were pushcarts and other goods stored in the warehouse, which were completely destroyed by the fire.

The locals suspect that a man had lit a fire inside a drum outside the warehouse to keep himself warm in the cold weather, but that fire engulfed the whole warehouse.

Meanwhile, officials of the fire department expressed their grievances against authorities, saying that they have been paid a minimal amount in the name of allowances for the last year and a half but they are still performing their duties. (By Our Correspondent The Express Tribune, 05, 03/01/2020)

### Fire erupts in Baldia garment factory

A massive fire broke out in a garment factory in Baldia Town on Tuesday which took more than three hours to put out as firemen struggled to reach the point of its origin, officials said.

At 1.30pm, a fire official said, two fire tenders were rushed to the factory situated in Baldia Town No 2 but the central fire station received information that the fire had reached third-degree level within a few minutes.

"So the number of fire tenders and firefighters was enhanced and ultimately the job was done with eight tenders and a water tanker,"

said the official. "It was actually a godown of the industrial unit which produces readymade garments. A production unit is attached to the godown but it remained safe. The exact cause of the fire is not known yet. Such facilities where the use of wood is high always remain at risk of fires amid gusty winds and low humidity."

He said the fire officials with the assistance of area police and people in the neighbourhood also rescued labourers of the factory in time and no one was hurt. The assessment of the loss was not done yet, he said but added that the initial assessment suggested that the goods worth millions of rupees were burnt to ashes.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter Dawn, 16, 15/01/2020)

### Young man dies in Korangi factory fire

A young man died in a fire that broke out in an industrial unit in Korangi on Friday afternoon, officials said.

An Edhi Foundation spokesperson said that a man in his early 20s died in the incident.

Dr Seemin Jamali, the executive director of the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre where the body was brought, said he died from burns and his identity could not be ascertained. The name of the victim could not be ascertained till our going to press.

Korangi Industrial Area SHO Rana Haseeb Ahmed said that the blaze broke out in the Vohra Enterprise Pvt Ltd near Chamra Chowrangi at around 1.45pm during lunchtime and prayer break when not many employees were present.

He said that the chemicals and foams in the factory caused a sudden spread of the fire that engulfed the ground and first floors of the industrial unit.

*North Karachi van fire toll rises to 10*

The SHO said that it could not be ascertained immediately as to whether the person that died in the fire was an employee or not.

A fire official said that they received information about the blaze at about 2.15pm and three fire tenders were sent to extinguish it.

He said only three vehicles were sent because the KMC's fire department was facing shortage of fuel because funds were not being provided to them.

However, realising the gravity of the fire, more fire tenders were despatched from the Karachi Port Trust, Bin Qasim, Defence Housing Authority and Pakistan Navy. Around one dozen fire tenders managed to control the blaze after several hours.

The police said that they had arranged four water tankers and also sought help from locals for provision of water to meet any eventuality.

The official said that the fire was controlled at around 6pm but the cooling process continued in the night.

The exact cause of the fire was not immediately known.

The area SHO said that the factory building was badly damaged in the fire.

#### **Death toll rises to 10 in van fire tragedy**

The death toll due to the recent fire in a Suzuki Hi-roof van in the city has increased to 10 as one more victim died on Friday.

Jamal alias Deedar, 45, died during treatment at the Burns Centre of Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi, said its in charge Dr Ehmer-al-Ibran.

He suffered 85 per cent burns. His younger brother, Nasir, 30, was also under treatment and his condition was improving, he added. Nine members of a family, including five children, were burnt to death when a fire erupted in a moving van in New Karachi on Jan 10. Investigators had blamed the presence of a fuel bottle inside the van as the probable cause of the fire.

#### **Stabbed to death**

A young man was found murdered in the SITE area on Friday.

The Edhi Foundation said that the victim was later identified as Qamar Gul, 30.

His body was recovered near Quba mosque in Block-5, Metroville. He was stabbed to death.  
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter Dawn, 15, 18/01/2020)

### **More than 150 huts destroyed in Teen Hatti fire in Teen Hatti fire**

At least 150 huts were destroyed when a huge fire erupted in the Teen Hatti area on Tuesday night that was put out early on Wednesday morning after hectic efforts lasting for several hours, officials said.



A fire brigade official said that the fire broke out in the huts located under the Teen Hatti bridge, adjacent to the Lyari Expressway, at around 10.38pm on Tuesday, which engulfed the huts numbering around 200.

Three fire tenders with the help of four water tankers provided by the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board put it out at 2.26am.

No casualty was reported.

The official said that the exact cause of the fire and estimate of losses could not be made immediately.

A Supermarket police officer said that around 150 huts were destroyed in the blaze.

*DC to head body formed to inquire into the incident*

The fire victims told the media that they had been living there for years. Some of them claimed that they were affectees of Lyari Expressway. Their homes were destroyed when the expressway was being built but they were not provided alternative residences.

Information Minister Saeed Ghani with Karachi Commissioner Iftikhar Shallwani visited the area and met the affected people.

The minister said that no human casualty occurred in the fire and promised that the government would help the affected persons.

The commissioner told Dawn that apparently some cooking material triggered the fire as per the initial probe. However, he added that he had ordered an inquiry into it.

A spokesperson for the chief minister said that blankets, tents and food would be provided to the victims.

Edhi Foundation's Faisal Edhi also gave food, warm clothes, blankets and other essential items to the women, men and children, said the spokesperson.

**Probe body**

An inquiry committee has been constituted to ascertain the facts of the fire, according to a notification issued by the Karachi commissioner.

The body would be led by deputy commissioner Central. Its members included the superintendent of police, Liaquatabad, chief fire officer of the KMC, municipal commissioner of the DMC-Central and a forensic expert from Karachi University.

The committee would determine the cause of the fire and ascertain the facts leading to its occurrence, propose measures to be taken to prevent such fire incidents in the future and fix responsibility under the Criminal Procedure Code for criminal negligence, if any.

The body has been directed to complete the report within two weeks.  
(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 15, 23/01/2020)

**Early morning fire in Malir destroys 13 shops**

More than a dozen shops, including businesses of electronic items, eateries and hardware, were burnt in a Malir locality on Tuesday, causing losses of millions of rupees.



Officials said that an early morning call was received at the Malir fire station about the blaze in two shops in the Malir Tanki area — a commercial neighbourhood of the town. Within a few minutes, they said, a fire tender was rushed to the site.

“But the fire was so huge and strong that we called for more tenders,” said chief fire officer Tehseen Siddiqui. “The number of fire tenders and firefighters was enhanced and ultimately the job was done with six tenders and a water bowser. It took almost three hours to complete the operation and the fire, which originated in an electronics shop, engulfed the adjoining shops.”

It’s a commercial area, said the city’s chief fireman, adding that there were dozens of shops in a line along the main road. The fire destroyed some 13 shops — completely or partially. However, he added, the firefighters had saved dozens of shops.

“Otherwise the speed and strength of the blaze was of the level that it could hit a number of other shops,” said the fire officer. “The exact cause of the fire is not known yet. We can’t blame it on short-circuit because it was an early morning incident and all shops were closed. We are gathering evidence for our final report.”

**13 suspects held**

The Pakistan Rangers on Tuesday claimed to have arrested some 13 suspect wanted in different cases, including armed robberies, street crimes and murders. They said the suspects were arrested in Landhi, Gulshan-i-Iqbal and Lyari.

In a statement they urged the people of Karachi and other parts of the province to come forward for their due contribution and contact the Rangers helpline 1101, or WhatsApp number 0347-9001111, to share tip-offs about any criminal and suspicious activities in their locality.

(By Newspaper’s Staff Reporter Dawn, 16, 05/02/2020)