



59 shops razed, 1 charred to death



October 26: (Fire Update) In one of the worst major fire disasters in the country, almost half the Chamkhar town in Bumthang has been completely razed to the ground by a fire at around 1.45 am today. The fire is said to have started from a mobile shop.

According to the latest figures from the Dzongkhag officials 59 shops including hotels in the Chamkhar town were burnt to ashes by the fire.

A 25-year-old man has been killed in the mishap and one is still missing.

The Bumthang Dzongda, Sangay

Thinley, said the cause of the fire was due to the short circuit of an electric cable. The Dzongkhag officials, Gyalpoi Zimpon officials, students, monks and public and fire fighters battled the fire for almost four hours. It was brought under control at around 5 am.

Some of the eye witnessess said the fire started from nowhere and within a short period of time, it spread to other nearby shops.



Most of the occupants have lost all their belongings.

The Officiating Chamkhar town Thuemi told BBS that only few occupants could save some of their belongings.

Other than shops and houses, one DCM truck, an Alto car and one scooter were burnt by the fire.

The Gyalpoi Zimpon office in Bumthang and dzongkhag office have provided temporary shelter at Ugyen Wangchuck stadium. Meals are also being provided.

As of now, the insurance officials have come up with close to Nu. 2 million in compensation under the fire insurance. Reports on damages and casualties are still being compiled.

This is the second major fire disaster in Bumthang in recent times. The first one was in 2005.

On the command of His Majesty the King, the office for the Gyalpoi Zimpoen in Bumthang has delivered immediate relief materials to the victims of fire in Chamkhar Town in Bumthang today.

His Majesty the King, who is currently in India, also issued the royal command to deploy the Royal Bhutan Army to assist in the immediate relief and recovery works.

Meanwhile His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo has reached Bumthang.



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