

One shot dead at Shanir Akhara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was shot dead at his house at Shanir Akhara in the city's Shyampur area on Sunday night.

Police said a gang of criminals stormed the house of Kamruzzaman Hashem, 36, an employee of Reaz and Habil Satellite Centre, and shot him dead at around 11:00pm when he was having his dinner.

Owner of the house and the Satellite Centre Helal Uddin said he heard the sound of seven gunshots and then saw three people running away.

Robbery at city house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of robbers looted cash and valuables worth about Tk 4.45 lakh from a house at Malibagh in the city on Sunday night.

Police said the gang of seven robbers looted cash, gold ornaments and mobile phone set from the house of Rafiqul Islam at 10:30 pm at gunpoint.

A case was filed at Motijheel Police Station, but the police could not arrest anybody as of last night.



Economist Dr Atiur Rahman speaks at a discussion on 'Upcoming budget and aspirations of elderly people' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

ALCWC meets on June 9

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) will hold a meeting at the party's Dhanmondi office in the city on June 9.

AL President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting to be held at 10:00am.

Ruling alliance will use 'black money' against AL in polls Says Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has alleged that the alliance government has amassed crores of taka in black money and would use those against her party in the upcoming general election.

"The BNP-Jamaat alliance government amassed crores of taka through syndication using the 'Hawa Bhaban'. And they will use this money against Awami League in the next election," she said in her opening remarks at the party's advisory council meeting yesterday.

Hasina, also the leader of the Opposition in Parliament, presided over the meeting held at the party's Dhanmondi office.

Hasina further alleged that the alliance government is planning to snatch people's right to vote through 'election engineering' in order to continue its misrule. "But the people want to get rid of this alliance government," she said.

Terming the behaviour of Chief Election Commissioner Justice MA

Aziz as brazen, she said: "It is not possible under him to update the voter list as per the court directives."

Referring to the president's illness, Hasina asked: "What game the government wants to play creating a vacancy to the post of the presidency?"

The opposition leader also criticised the alliance government, saying that it has totally failed to ensure security of factories, owners and workers as well as public life and property.

She also criticised the police and Rapid Action Battalion for their "inaction amid massive violence" in the garment factories.

The government is behind the price hike of essentials as it is indifferent to the people's suffering, Hasina said, adding that a famine-like situation is prevailing in the country.

She also accused the government of conspiring against the country and democracy.

UPCOMING BUDGET

Increase allocation for elderly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called for increasing the allocation for elderly people in the upcoming national budget.

The discussion titled 'Upcoming budget (2006-2007) and aspirations of elderly people' was organised jointly by Resource Integration Centre (RIC), Samonnoy and daily Sangbad at the National Press Club in the city.

During the pre-budget discussion, the speakers said in spite of increased allocation in current fiscal year (FY), the per capita allocation did not rise if compared to price hike of essentials.

They said although the total allocation was increased to Tk 324 crore in

FY 2005-2006, an amount of Tk 180 per month per person is very negligible.

They said total allocation in FY 2004-2005 was Tk 180 crore and in FY 2003-2004 it was Tk 75 crore.

The speakers urged the government to increase the allocation for elderly people in the next budget to Tk 500 crore.

In a written speech, Samonnoy Chairperson Dr Atiur Rahman said with the modernisation of life, problems of elderly people are getting acute and it is time to address them.

He placed a 22-point proposal for consideration in the upcoming budget to meet the needs of the elderly.

He said the endowment should be reached to the beneficiaries by post

and a 'senior citizen card' should be issued for them to get free health care and soft loan for older able-bodied people.

The issue of elderly people should be included in development agenda as their number would be double by 2020, Dr Sharifa, a researcher, said, adding that the elderly people spent their lives to contribute to the development of the society and they should be cared properly in their old age.

She also urged the government to allocate at least one percent of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) for their welfare.

Editor of the Sangbad Bazlur Rahman said a social movement should be launched for the aged and mass

awareness should be created to address their problems.

The government and non-government organisations including the civil society should come forward in this regard, he added.

Speaking as chief guest, former vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Amirul Islam Chowdhury said political leaders do not think of the poor.

He said a fair monitoring system should be developed to monitor the governmental allocation for elderly people.

RIC Director Abul Hasib Khan and Dr SM Keramat Ali of Dhaka University also spoke.