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The World on Time

Robbery at Banani remains shrouded in mystery

By Staff Correspondent

Police are yet to make any headway in the dacoity at a house in Banani last week where armed men presenting themselves as magistrate and detective police executing a 'property attachment warrant' allegedly looted valuables worth about Tk 16 lakh and kidnapped a young guest.

After newspaper reports, senior police officials visited the house (at road no 1, block 1) yesterday and advised the complainant Ruby Aziz to file a fresh case.

Police initially tried to cover up the incident, filing a case of burglary and allegedly letting off four of the 15-member gang and asked the her not to make much noise about it, Ruby Aziz alleged.

They even asked for money from the lady in return for accepting the case after keeping her waiting at the police station at Gulshan for eight hours and also threatened her to lock up at their custody, she alleged.

Attempts by The Daily Star to obtain information about the case were repeatedly thwarted by the duty officer at Gulshan thana, who slammed down the telephone every time calls went

Young man shot dead in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Dec 19: Unidentified assailants shot dead a young man, 30, at Latif Lane in city's Sholakbar area today, police said.

The victim was identified as Saber Ahmed.

Police said the assailants fired on Saber following an altercation at 11 am today. He died on the spot.

His body was recovered at 2:30 pm.

Police said Saber was already implicated in six criminal cases. However, none was arrested in this connection till filing of this report.

NGO man murdered in Khulna

KHULNA, Dec 19: An NGO worker was killed by armed assailants at village Goja in Koira thana of the district early today, reports UNB.

Police said, the assailants dragged out Philip Mondol alias Kalu, 32, an employee of an NGO in Dhaka, from his house at dead of night and stabbed him indiscriminately. They left him dead on the spot.

They suspected that the murder of Kalu, who came to his village for celebrating Christmas, was a sequel to a land dispute.

BIMSTEC

From Page 1
Minister Sukumbhand Patrika were present at the press conference.

The one-day ministerial conference was inaugurated in the morning at Sonargaon Hotel by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad. He said the new grouping has great economic potential and Bangladesh's geographical location enables it to be a bridge between South Asia and South East Asia.

The new grouping also decided to establish a BIMSTEC Economic Forum to give greater thrust on private sector initiatives and economic partnership among member-countries. Bangladesh as current Chairman of the organisation would take initial steps to establish the Economic Forum. The ministerial meet also reiterated the plan to give importance to six thrust sectors for immediate cooperation.

The six thrust areas and the countries assigned to formulate working plans through sectoral committees are: Trade and Investment-Bangladesh, Technology-India, Transport and Communications-Thailand, Energy-Myanmar, Tourism and Fisheries-Sri Lanka.

The Dhaka meeting also welcomed Nepal as an Observer.

BIMSTEC decided to forge stronger links with development partners and international organisations, including the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the UNDP.

The ministerial conference was preceded by a two-day meeting of senior officials of the member countries. T Ali, an additional foreign secretary of Bangladesh, assumed chairmanship of BIMSTEC working group from Dr. Somkaiti Aryapucha, Director General, Dept. of Economic Affairs, Thai ministry of foreign affairs.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Pakistan, India expel each other's diplomat

ISLAMABAD, Dec 19: Pakistan and India have expelled a diplomat each for alleged espionage, the third tit-for-tat expulsion by arch-foes this year, the NNI news agency said today. reports Reuters.

Rally held

Earlier, at the end of her speech at BNP's public meeting at Paltan Maidan at 5:23 pm, she asked the audience whether they were ready to bring out a press conference.

A huge procession started moving towards the Press Club. Begum Zia's slow-moving jeep reached there at 5:55 pm.

Speaking over microphone from inside her jeep, she reiterated that her party would call hajat even in the month of Holy Ramadan if the government failed to reduce prices of essentials.

Huge contingents of helmeted police on riot gear, who were deployed earlier at the meeting venue and adjoining areas, were silent. Additional police force rushed to the Press Club when the processionists started the march. A number of plainclothes policemen were seen around the venue with sticks and weapons in hand.

3 hurt as BCL factions clash on DU campus

Three activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) were injured in a clash between two rival groups of the organisation at Zahirul Huq Hall of the Dhaka University yesterday afternoon, reports UNB.

The injured were identified as Masud, Milon and Jewel. Campus sources said they were injured when a group of young men from SM Hall attacked them in a bid to capture their hall.

The attackers reportedly belong to "Tokai Mizan" group of BCL while the victims are the members of Babu group, which dominated Zahirul Huq Hall. Babu group was ousted from the hall by the attackers.

Babu and his followers were also the members of Shamim group of BCL, but they formed a separate group about a month ago following internal feud.

Meanwhile, Babu, who is the President of BCL Zahirul Huq Hall unit, blamed outsiders and terrorists of Lalbagh area led by Tokai Mizan for the attack. He urged the Vice Chancellor for immediate action against the attackers.

Osmani Airport

From Page 1
Tk 17 crore. But it was revised several times raising the cost to Tk 27 crore, said an official.

The runway has been extended to 8500 feet, the Conference Hall and the Customs Lounge had also been rebuilt. However, the ILS (Instrument Landing System) which is a must for safe landing in inclement weather is yet to be installed. It is being brought from France and is unlikely to be installed before June next, the official said.

3 outlaws held in Pabna

PABNA, Dec 19: Police arrested three members of outlaws from Gayeshpur in sadar thana today, reports APB.

The three were arrested when they had been preparing for an 'operation' in the neighbouring village, police said.

The arrested were Abdul Barel, 30, Hossain Ali, 40, and Sabad Ali, 42. They all hailed from village Arambaria under Gayeshpur union.

Gregorian

From Page 1
said a smiling Sen, sounding humble. "I hope I will have more opportunities to visit the school as a Gregorian."

Sen said the school where he studied some 56 years ago helped instill in him the enthusiasm and vigour for learning. He was admitted to the school in 1943 in the third grade and studied there until his family's migration to Calcutta.

Earlier, the Boy Scouts of the school gave him a guard of honour when he arrived at the school premises at 9:55 a.m.

He placed floral wreaths at the memorial for the martyred teachers and students of the school who died during the Liberation War in 1971.

The youngest student of the school, Ripson Anthony Rozario, delivered the address of welcome while Florence De Cruz, a teacher, read out the letter of felicitation.

Father Peixotto, the acting headmaster, handed him a certificate of appreciation and a school certificate. "We wish we could give him a honorary doctorate degree but this school cannot do that."

"In my 36 years of stay here, I have hardly seen such a noble reception. You are our people working on behalf of our people," the elderly teacher said. "It is of great importance that St Gregory's School contributed to the formation and intellectual development of Prof. Sen," he added.

"Your compassion, care and sensitivity for the neglected, the poor and the oppressed across the world is a remarkable endeavour," he added.

He was also presented with a crest, a "naksh" kantha, a year book and an annual magazine of the school while the Gregorians Association offered him life membership, a Gregorians' cap and a crest.

The school's art teacher, Nani Gopal Halder, presented Sen a portrait he did. Sen gave autograph on another copy of the portrait which will be preserved in the school.

Arch Bishop Michael Rozario, who also spoke, said: "We feel proud of him as he belongs to this land."

President of Gregorians' Association Shamsul Alam said every student of St Gregory's School should cherish the dream to be an Amartya Sen.

Prof Sen later laid the foundation stone of a new building of the school.

BSS adds: Sen yesterday planted a sapling of Raj Ashoka (*amherstia nobilis*) tree in Baldah Botanical Garden at Wari.

Baldah Botanical Garden at Wari

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