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PHILIPS

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 I) 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 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

from this newspaper, even asking the reporters to "come and see what happened to the four" who were let off.

The man who answered the phone on Friday night identified himself as Abul Hossain, a sub inspector. But Gulshan police said yesterday there was no one in that name.

The gang entered the house of Ruby Aziz at around 8.30 a.m. on Tuesday, saying they came to execute a warrant of attachment, police said.

Police had rushed to the spot after receiving information from a *darwan* of the house who saw the dacoits flee. Police picked up all involved in the alleged dacoity, witnesses said.

But Ruby Aziz accused the police of letting off four of the gang later, a charge police denied.

Ruby said three persons came to her house in the morning and pressed the calling bell. When the house guard Raju opened the door, the rest of the 15, some in uniform, entered the house.

They started beating Imran, driver of her car. Meanwhile, the guard escaped from the scene and informed police.

The gang struck her with a revolver and forced her to hand over keys of the lockers. They looted 35 documents of landed property, 110 tolas of gold in ornaments, US\$1000 in cash, Tk.150,000 in cash, one fax machine, four computers, two refrigerators and four sofa sets, Ruby Aziz claimed.

Police lodged a case of "burglary" saying it resulted from "old enmity on payment of rent", investigation officer of the case SI Ashraf said. The lady claimed she had not seen them before.

Ruby Aziz also alleged police tailored the FIR after keeping her waiting at the police station from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m.

The IO had threatened her to be detained if she said anything contrary to what they were saying, she alleged. Police denied the allegations.

Police also assured her that looted goods would be recovered by 6pm on Sunday. But she is yet to get back those, she alleged.

The gang also kidnapped Shova, a student of Barisal Aziz College, who came on Dec 13 on a vacation, she said.

3 outlaws held in Pabna

PABNA, Dec 19: Police arrested three members of outlawed Sarbahara Party 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 Berek, 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 said.

"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 *nishidh* 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 Ashoke (*amherstia nobilis*) tree in Balah Botanical Garden at Wari in the city.

Sen went round different parts of the garden and later attended a reception inside the garden. Minister for Environment and Forest Syed Sajeda Chowdhury, Mayor of Dhaka Mohammad Hanif, poet Belal Chowdhury, government officials, writers, journalists and distinguished citizens were present on the occasion. "Many of my sweet memories are intertwined with Dhaka city," Sen said in a brief speech. "I feel proud to be in Dhaka," he added.

Sajeda Chowdhury said Rabindranath Tagore was accorded a colourful reception in Balah Garden after he won the Nobel Prize. "But the country was under colonial rule then and the context was different..."

Poet Belal Chowdhury addressed Professor Sen as "Dhakatia chhele Amartya Sen" and offered him a *manpara*. The Nobel laureate was also given a crest on behalf of the Ministry of Forest and Environment.

APB says: After a three-day stay, Sen left Dhaka for Calcutta.

He was seen off, among others, by Chairman of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Rehman Sobhan, Military Secretary to the Prime Minister Brig Shafaet and Deputy Chief of Protocol of Foreign Office Mousad Mannan and BRAC's Fazle Hasan Abed.

During his stay here, Sen delivered his keynote speech at the International Conference on "Health Equity Initiative" at BRAC Centre for Development Management at Rajendrapur on Thursday where Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was present as chief guest.

This was his first public function after he received the Nobel prize in Sweden a week before.

His other programmes in the capital included a public lecture at National Museum auditorium, reception by President Shahabuddin Ahmed, luncheon with the Prime Minister and a dinner reception by the Finance Minister.

He also visited Mukti Joddah Jagdoh and his childhood home at Wari.

Sen was conferred honorary citizenship by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.



BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting at Paltan Maidan yesterday.

Khaleda

From Page 1

try and millions of people were passing their days without food due to the crises created by the 'ruling party's wrongdoing, corruption and theft'."

Bitterly criticising Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena, she urged him to quit immediately to pave the way for free, fair and neutral election in future.

"Otherwise none will participate any polls under the present CEC."

"You (CEC) are highly partisan. You are coward and have no courage to work independently. We cannot accept you any more as CEC. So you quit just now showing respect to the chair." The BNP chief alleged that the CEC violated his oath repeatedly by playing partisan role in all the past elections.

Referring to Dog Squad of police she said, "The government imported dogs from UK to suppress the opposition after all means failed. But this objective will not be fulfilled and they will be victims of attack of these dogs." Smuggling of drugs can not be stopped by the Dog Squad because "ruling party men are directly involved in this crimes," she added.

"The dogs are being given imported soup and high-protein food and kept in air conditioned rooms while millions of people are starving," she said.

The opposition leader said that when BNP was in power, it had built Coast Guard and provided facilities to the BDR for curbing smuggling. But the present government, instead of strengthening the Coast Guard, police, BDR and army, imported dogs to curb crime and smuggling. Tk 5 to 6 crore, which will be spent for the Dog Squad, can be utilised for modernising the security forces, she observed.

Begum Zia alleged that all in the ruling party, from its chief to an worker, never speak the truth. "People can not trust this government as head of the Government herself tells lie frequently."

Presided over by city BNP convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka MP, the meeting was addressed by, among others, Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Mirza Abbas, Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, Amanullah Aman MP, Barkatullah Bhulu MP, Abdus Salam, Mahbubul Alam Tara, Redwan Ahmed, Rezaudowillah Chowdhury, Fazlul Haq Milon, Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu and Abdul Khair Bhuiyan.

The meeting over, leaders and activists of BNP led by Begum Zia brought out a big procession which terminated in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

Begum Zia briefly spoke there.

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Motive behind Soheli murder yet to be unearthed

By Staff Correspondent

Police could not unearth the motive behind the killing of film actor Soheli Chowdhury till yesterday.

Soheli was shot dead by some unidentified gunmen in front of Tramp Club at Banani in the early hours of Friday.

Police interrogated at least 20 people including the actor's relatives to find out the motive. One of the alleged killers, Adnan, caught by two employees at nearby Abedin Tower and handed over to police soon after the incident, was produced before the CMM's court yesterday. He was placed on a two-day remand, police sources said.

Police were also questioning the driver of Soheli's car, Selim, who is a witness to the incident. They are watching the movement of three leading businessmen suspecting their involvement in the killing.

The activities of Tramp Club are being investigated by police following the incident. Sources said that the Club was running illegal business for the last two years.

Police 'closed' the club after the killing of Soheli. A notice hung at the entrance of the club read: "The club has been closed by the law enforcement agencies due to unavoidable reasons. Soheli was member of the club but his access to it was recently restricted by its management. He was accused of undesirable behaviour and eve-teasing. Complaints against him were also made by some influential members of the club, sources said."

Ctg rally

From Page 1

now a hot topic in the modern world.

"We have taken the move to hold a rally as a sort of police-people cooperation meeting aiming at ensuring participation and consent of people to curb crimes in the city," the police commissioner said.

"Our motto is to implement the concept of community policing, desired by the government."

"Crime is not the problem of police. It is the problem of the society. So I have the right to hold a rally to involve people in controlling crimes," the commissioner added.

The ward commissioners who signed the statement included Jafar Alam, Liaquat Ali Khan, Nurul Islam, Alhajur Rahman Siddique, Monjurul Alam, Siddique Ahmed Chowdhury, Badrul Alam, Ali Fazel, Syed Golam Haider Mintu, Shahidul Alam, Peyar Mohammad, M A Naser, Md Sohel, Foyaz Ahmed, Md Idris, Md Jalal Uddin Ahmed, Md Nurul Islam, Abu Jafar, Tarek Solaiman, Anwar Hossain Mamun, Jahurul Alam Dobash, Jalal Uddin Iqbal, Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, Md Jakaria, Kamal Uddin, Shafiq Ahmed, Jobaida Nargis Khan, Hasina Jafar, Shafina Aktar, Nilufar Rahman, Sabiha Musa, Tapati Sengupta, Nur Nahar Begum and Hasina Mannan.

Young man shot dead in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

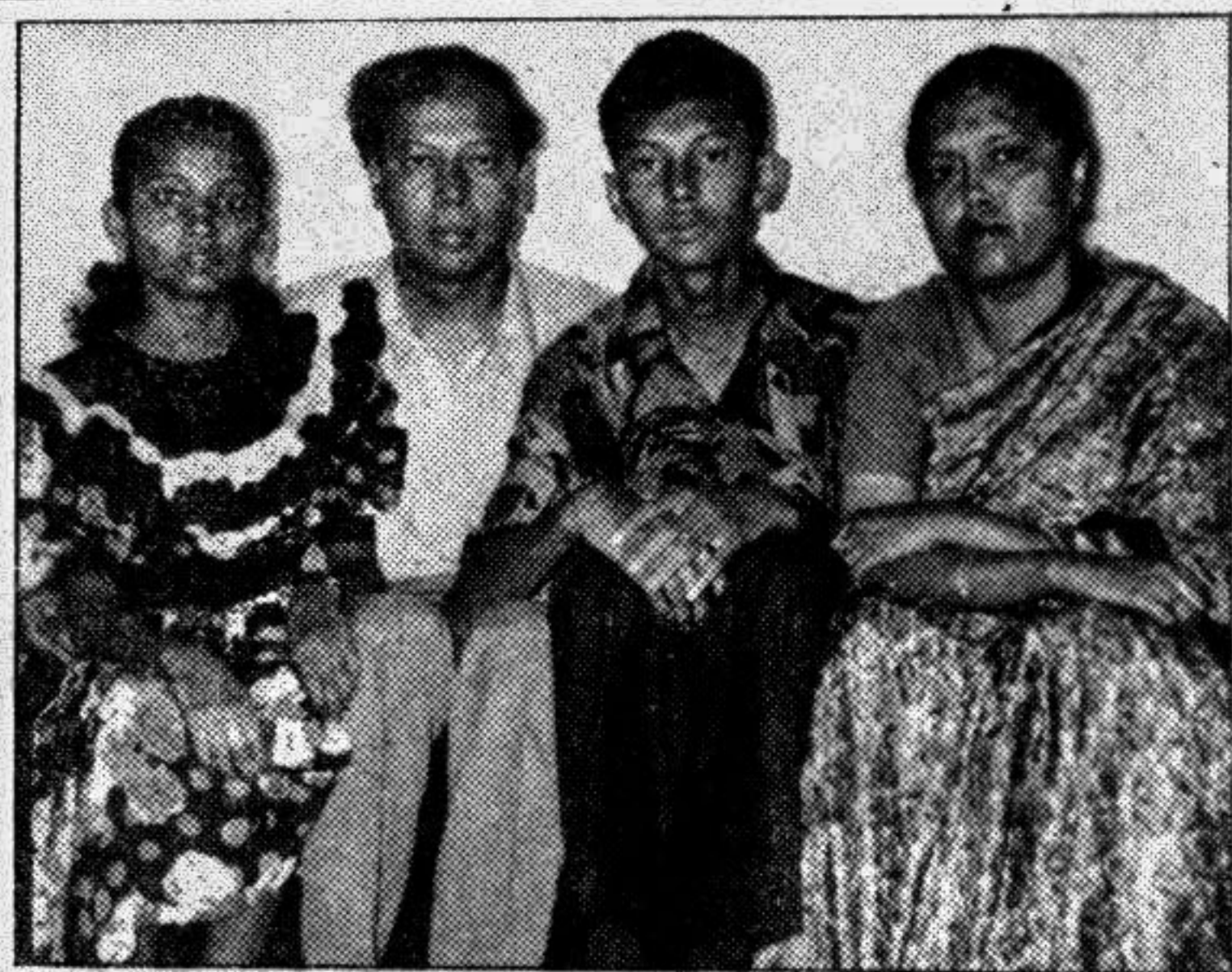
CHITTAGONG, Dec 19: Unidentified assailants shot dead a young man, 30, at Latif Lane in city's Sholakbarah area today, police said.

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.



Anik with his parents and only sister.

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 Kahu, 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 Kahu, who came to his village for celebrating Christmas, was a sequel to a land dispute.

'Try killers of my son'

A grief-stricken father yesterday demanded immediate arrest and trial of the killers of his only son.

Safayet Raihan Anik was brutally killed by some miscreants on November 28 at Chittagong city, reports BSS.

A brilliant student, Anik was called away from a cricket ground and slaughtered in broad daylight.

Addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club, Nazimuddin said that his son, an HSC candidate from Chittagong Government Commerce College this year, was innocent and was deeply engaged in studies, games and other creative pursuits.

On the fateful day, Anik was playing cricket in the field adjacent to their house when one of his friends called him away. A few moments later, he was slaughtered beside a wall, some 20 yards away, his father alleged.

Friends and neighbours rushed to the spot and found Anik groaning in a pool of blood. He succumbed to his injuries before he was rushed to a clinic, Nazimuddin said.

Anik's mother Fajlunnessa and his only sister Mithila, an SSC candidate, were also present at the press conference.

Nazimuddin alleged that police failed to arrest the culprits even in three weeks although their names were specifically mentioned in the FIR. He further alleged that the killers were now threatening him with death if he did not withdraw the case.

Nazimuddin appealed for intervention from the higher authorities so that the killers are arrested and punished. "I shall not get back my son but the criminals should not be spared to repeat the same crime," he said.

BIMSTEC

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Minister Sukumbhand Paribatra 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 meeting acknowledged the contribution of ESCAP and said it should play an active role in providing technical support and funding and participate in required areas.

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. Somkali Arya-puchya, Director General, Dept of Economic Affairs, Thai ministry of foreign affairs.

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

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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 procession.

Thousands of people responded positively. She advised them to proceed towards the Jatiya Press Club.

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 hartal 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 Zahurul 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 Zahurul Huq Hall. Babu group was ousted from the hall by the attackers.

Babu and his followers were also the members of Shamim 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.

Sen at his sweet, old home

It was a great day for Tazneen Aman Lucy and her family as they received Nobel laureate Professor Amartya Sen as a special guest in their house, "Mousumi", at 14, Larmint Street, Wari, in the city yesterday.

The house belonged to the grandfather of Amartya Sen, the district judge Sharadaprasad Sen. But in 1951, father of Dr Sen sold the house.

After the transaction, the ownership changed twice and now the spacious house belongs to Mohammad Amanullah, a businessman and the spouse of Tazneen.

"We baked and cooked other foods for Professor Amartya Sen but the Nobel laureate picked only 'Kebab' of hilsha fish and 'puli pitha', the smiling landlady told BSS.

She said despite his busy schedule Professor Sen was very kind to visit his grandfather's house.

Referring to Sen's fascination for sweet childhood memories, she said, "Professor Sen always maintains contact with our family. He arranged dinners for my sons when they visited Harvard University in the USA."

"Today, Professor Sen visited our house with wonderful gifts which include two beautiful pens," she said.

President suggests HR courses for political parties

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday stressed the need for introduction of human rights education at all levels of political parties, reports UNB.

"As country's all policies are decided in the political process, so the matter of incorporating the human rights education in National Education Policy may be considered," the President said.

He was addressing the inaugural function of the 6th national conference of Bangladesh Society for Human Rights Enforcement at LGED Bhawan in the city yesterday morning.

Shahabuddin said the principal reason of human rights violation lies on the ignorance of people about human rights and lack of will force and resources to implement it.

He said wide publicity is needed to create mass awareness about human rights. "If we could give wide publicity of international charters of human rights, people would definitely be made aware of their rights," President said.

He expressed his belief that the preservation and development of human rights would largely be successful through coordinating the human rights education at government, private, formal, and informal levels.

There were instances of more or less violation of human rights across the world, including Bangladesh, the President said adding that discrimination on women, child repression and kidnapping, and incidents of torture and death in custody are the stigma of civilisation.

The President said socio-economic progress of a country is directly related to its human rights condition and political and democratic values are the weapons to preserve and consolidate the human rights.

Impeachment

From Page 1

Lawmakers pressed on with the impeachment debate after the stunning announcement, many visibly shaken. Rep Tom Campbell, a California Republican, whispered his arguments, nearly in tears. "Bob Livingston has led by example," Campbell said before explaining why he thought Clinton should be impeached.

Earlier, Hillary Rodham Clinton made a rare visit to Capitol Hill to privately rally Democrats. She told them she did not believe her husband had received a fair shake in the Republican-controlled House.

Democrats planned to make one last effort to demand a vote on the lesser penalty of censure before Republicans brought four articles of impeachment against Clinton to a history-making vote. Democrats planned to walk out of the chamber in protest if denied the censure option.

An Associated Press telephone survey showed a majority of lawmakers supported at least one article of impeachment. The final debate displayed the partisan bitterness that divides the Congress and the country as whole on the issue of removing Clinton from office.

8 expelled

From Page 1

Nurunnabi (1st year Accounting), Ashrafur Islam Sarkar (1st year Political Science) and Nazrul Islam (2nd year Political Science).

The students whose seats in residential halls cancelled are: Mia Mohammad Towfik (3rd year English), Kabir Hossain (LLM), Mohammad Nurul Haq (3rd year Arabic) and Abu Sayed (3rd year Political Science).

Vice-chancellor Prof Abdul Mannan told the news agency that the University Syndicate approved the punitive measures against the students in its 12 hour-long meeting on Friday. The meeting discussed the report of Disciplinary Committee that recommended various punishments after a thorough inquiry.

He noted with regret that no action was taken against the offenders during the last six years despite allegations of about two hundred serious crimes on the campus.

Prof Mannan expressed the hope that the action against unruly boys would help check offence on the campus and restore discipline among the students.

The university went on a month-long Ramadan vacation from today.

US attack

From Page 1

sion" had also been heard in these regions throughout Friday night.

In Baghdad, Iraq held a mass funeral today for 68 civilians killed in US and British bombing raids.

"All 68 are civilians and they all died in the savage bombardment," said Sultan Ashwai, a member of parliament.

On Friday, in an address to the nation broadcast on television, President Saddam Hussein vowed that Iraq "will not compromise or kneel in the face of injustice."

"We will not let evil triumph over virtue," he said.

State-run newspapers today echoed Saddam's theme. A banner headline in the Al-Jumhuriya daily read: "We shall resist and fight in the name of God."