

Robbery in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robbers looted Tk 40,000, fifty tolas of gold ornaments and other valuables worth about Tk 7.5 lakh from a residence at West Rajabazar in the city early yesterday.

A gang of robbers sneaked into the house of Doctor MA Khaleq after cutting the grills at around 3 am and looted the valuables after confining the doctor and his wife in a room at gunpoint.

In another incident, a gang of armed robbers looted 60 tolas of gold ornaments worth about Tk 4 lakh from a jewellery shop at Purobi Super Market in the city's Pallabi on Monday night.

The armed gang stormed into the shop and took away 60 tolas of gold ornaments at about 8:30 pm.

Bachhu Miah, owner of the shop, filed a case with Pallabi police. Police arrested one Anwar Hossain, 24, in this connection.

On the same night, another gang of robbers looted money, gold ornaments and other valuables worth about Tk 2 lakh from a residence at Uttar Kafur.

The gang entered the house of Rashid-uz-Zaman at 576/2 Uttar Kafur at about 8:45 pm and looted the valuables.

DUJ demands sixth wage board

BSS, Dhaka

The Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) demanded of the government to announce the sixth wage board for journalists and newspaper employees immediately.

DUJ leaders made the demand at their executive committee meeting held at the union office at Jatuya Press Club on Monday with DUJ President Altaf Mahmud in the chair.

They urged the owners of the dailies to pay bonus and regular salaries of journalists before the holy Eid.

Among others, DUJ general secretary Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, vice-president Ashraf Ali, joint secretary Mollah Jalal, treasurer Tarun Tapan Chakraborty, organising secretary Omar Faruque, and publicity secretary Jawahar Chandra Das addressed the meeting.



Hena Das, president of the Bangladesh Mohila Parishad, speaking at a meeting in memory of poet Sufia Kamal at its central office in the city yesterday. The parishad organised the meeting to mark the 2nd death anniversary of the poet.

'Poet Sufia Kamal wanted to build a secular country'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a memorial meeting of the Bangladesh Mohila Parishad on poet Sufia Kamal yesterday condemned the recent attacks on the minorities and 'demanded immediate punishment to the attackers.'

'We are concerned about the recent violence against the minorities. The poet always stood against communal terrorism. We pledge to build a secular country as envisaged by the poet and demand punishment to the assailants,' said Ayesha Khanam, general secretary of the Parishad at the meeting at its central office of Sufia Kamal, also its founder president.

Presided over by Parishad's President Hena Das, the meeting was also attended by its Assistant General Secretary Dr Maleka Banu, Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam, Dhaka University, and President of Chhayanaut Dr Sanjida Khatun.

Dr Maleka Banu, who has recently visited the minority people in the rural area of the country, described the situation as horrendous.

She urged all political and social organisations and the civil society to rise against attacks and tortures on the minorities.

Prof Manzoorul Islam highlighted the literary works of the poet.

Dr Sanjida Khatun dwelt on the poet's participation in the democratic culture of Bangladesh.

New trust fund at DU

UNB, Dhaka

A new fund named Professor Mohammad Ali Nawab Trust Fund has been established in the Dhaka University to award a gold medal for meritorious students of the chemistry department.

To set up the fund, Rabeya Khondkar, wife of late Prof Ali Nawab, handed over a cheque for Tk one lakh to Vice Chancellor Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury at his office yesterday.

Date extended

UNB, Savar

Jahangirnagar University authorities extended the deadline for distribution and submission of admission forms for first-year honours courses till November 26.

The forms will be available at Agrani Bank branches of Farmgate, National Museum and Jahangirnagar University, said a press release yesterday.

CPD seminar on fertility behaviour Fertility rate remains unchanged since 1993

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the rate of contraceptive prevalence has increased substantially in the country, the fertility rate remains unchanged since 1993.

The total fertility rate declined from 5.12 per cent in 1989 to 3.44 per cent in 1993-94. On the other hand, the contraceptive prevalence rate went up from 44.6 per cent to 53.8 per cent during 1993-2000 period.

This was revealed in a recent study conducted by a group of

experts assigned by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). The paper was presented at a seminar at CIRDP auditorium yesterday.

Addressing the seminar as chief guest, former advisor to the caretaker government Brigadier (ret'd) M A Malek underscored the need for political commitment and strong motivational work to reduce fertility rates and achieve family planning goals.

He also stressed the need for social and economic development to keep the birth rate under control.

Organised by CPD, the seminar was also addressed by former state minister for health Dr. Amanullah, CPD chairman Prof. Rehman Sobhan, executive director Dr. Devapriya Bhattacharya, former vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Dr. Saleh Ahmed, Dr. Abdur Rob, Nashid Kamal, Dr. Ahmed Alamgir, Dr. Mahbub, Mohammad Hamidul Huq Bhuiyan and Dr. Kabir.

M. Ataharul Islam, M. Mazha-

ru'l Islam and Nital Chakraborty jointly prepared the study paper on 'Exploring Recent Fertility Behaviour in Bangladesh'.

Stressing the need for raising awareness among the people, Malek said that many people still do not know what family planning is.

He suggested providing adequate assistance for the non-governmental organisations to help reduce infant mortality rate.

Presenting the study paper, Ataharul Islam said that Bangladesh had been passing through a critical phase of fertility transition. But since 1993, the rate has remained unchanged, he said.

To reduce infant mortality rate, immunisation programmes need to be extended effectively in order to increase the coverage of essential vaccines to an optimal level, according to the paper.

Prof. Rehman Sobhan observed that there should be a policy debate on demographic changes in the country.

IA resumes Dhaka-Kolkata flights

BSS, Dhaka

Indian Airlines (IA) will resume its Dhaka-Kolkata flights today, the Airlines said yesterday.

The flights remained suspended from early this month for some operational difficulties, it is learnt.

The Airlines will operate the flights on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and the arrival time in Dhaka is 2:50 pm while the departure time is 3:40 pm.

The Indian Airlines will use Airbus A-320 aircraft and the passengers from Dhaka will be able to avail forward flights of the airlines to several Indian cities including Delhi and Mumbai on their arrival in Kolkata. The flight timings have been adjusted for connecting flights.

Police seized 12 firearms, five other weapons and 13 bullets during the countryside operation in last 24 hours ending at 6 am yesterday, official sources said.

They also arrested 1,249 people, including six listed terrorists, during the operation.

Of the arrested, 659 were wanted by police.

WEATHER TODAY Temperature may fall

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry over the country during the next 12 hours till 6:00 pm today with light fog over the coastal regions and the river basins in the morning.

Night temperature may fall by 1-3 degree Celsius over the country, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 31.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Chittagong and the lowest of 16.4 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:11 pm today and rises at 6:18 am tomorrow.

Temperature and humidity recorded in major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with columns: City/Town, Temperature (Max, Min), Humidity (Morning, Evening)

DHAKA TODAY

Fashion parade
Kumudini Handicrafts is going to organise a fashion parade to display its Eid Collection 2001. Venue: Kumudini Handicrafts Showroom, 74, Gulshan Avenue. Time: 4:00 pm.

DRU workshop

A three-day workshop on crime reporting, organised by Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU), will begin. State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar will inaugurate the workshop. Venue: DRU office. Time: 10:00 am.



Obituary

Former Inspector General of Police Kazi Anwarul Haque died of old-age complications in the city yesterday. He was 93.

Haque also a former cabinet minister, is survived by his wife and four sons.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at 11 am today at the Fiddah mosque at Satmasjid Road.

Death anniversary

The 4th death anniversary of Asfia Nigar, daughter of Principal Hamida Ali and Md. Ali, will be observed tomorrow, says a press release.

On the occasion, a mitad majlis will be held at the official residence of the Principal of Viqarunnisa Noon School & College at I/A, New Bailey Road after Zohr prayers tomorrow.

All relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the da'aa majlis.

STOCK

TODAY'S TRADED ISSUES. NOVEMBER 20, 2001

Large table containing stock market data, including DSE, CSE, Financial Performance, and various market indices.