

Gamblers beat up cops, snatch revolver

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Gamblers beat up a four-member police team led by a sub-inspector (SI) and snatched a loaded revolver from the SI as the cops allegedly tried to extort from them Tk 10,000.

The incident occurred at Amtali under Lohagara Police Station in the early hours of yesterday.

Sources said SI Dilip Sarker along with three constables went to the gamblers' den to extort money. The gamblers offered Tk 5,000 but the police team refused to take less than Tk 10,000. This led to an alter-

cation between the two sides and at one stage the gang beat up the policemen and took away the revolver with five bullets.

The police team then fled the spot and returned to the police station.

A big police team yesterday raided Amtali area to recover the revolver and nab the gamblers but failed. But they picked up six innocent people including an elderly woman, locals said.

A case was filed with Lohagara police.

SHRINE BLAST

3 more arrested, cop withdrawn

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police on Wednesday night arrested three people in connection with the shrine blast of May 21 while yet another police official from Sylhet was withdrawn in a reshuffle that saw three police officials released from duty in last one week.

The arrested were identified as Tarek Mahmud, son of Late Nur Miah, Salam Ali, son of Abdur Rashid and Shamsuddin Ahmed Saju, son of Main Uddin, all hailing from city's Munshipara area, an official said. Of the three, one was arrested from Dhaka.

Police yesterday produced the arrestees before a magistrate's court that placed each on a nine-day remand.

The Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Kotwali Police Station SA Newazi, who was withdrawn Wednesday night handed over to the OC of South Surma Police Station Shafiqur Rahman Mukul the same night.

Newazi was asked to join Saroda Police Academy.

The grenade blast that killed three people and wounded 70 including the British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Anwar Choudhury on May 21 at the shrine of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) prompted the law enforcing authorities to opt for reshuffling.

Superintendent of Police (SP) of Sylhet Shahadat Hossain was suspended and withdrawn on May 24 for his neglect in arranging security for the Bangladeshi born British envoy. Shahadat handed over charge to the Additional SP Rezaul Karim on May 25. Besides,

the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Sylhet Sadar (North) Siddiqui Tanjilur Rahman was also transferred to Bheramara, Kushtia on May 31.

Apprehending more changes in the pipeline the police officials here are gripped by transfer scare, said an official.

Earlier an intelligence agency had reported fatal flaws in the security measures taken by the local police during the British high commissioner's May 21 visit to Sylhet. It also suggested the police officers in the district headquarters who did not attend duty on that day be withdrawn immediately, sources said.

High officials including the inspector general of police who visited Sylhet after the blast also detected a number of defects in the security arrangements for the British envoy, sources added.

Minor girl raped in Narayanganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Even a two-and-a-half-year-old girl was not spared from the lust of a young man in Narayanganj.

She was allured by a 26-year-old rickshawpuller Mosharraf Hossain who raped her in a nearby bush during a wedding party at Rupganj in the district on Wednesday, said the witnesses while talking to newsmen.

The rapist was caught red-handed from the scene right after he violated the child and handed over to police after a good beating.

Her relatives rushed her to a local clinic from where she was later shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) at 10:30pm.

She is undergoing treatment at the hospital where doctors operated her yesterday.

According to her grandmother, the child was wandering alone and others were anxiously waiting for the groom of her aunt when Mosharraf allured her.

A case was filed under the Prevention of Women and Children Repression Act with



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Christian Association stages a demonstration at the Central Shahid Minar in the city yesterday to mark the three years of the bomb attack on Baniarchar Church in Gopalganj in 2001.

BOMB ATTACK ON BANIARCHAR CHURCH

'Bring attackers to book'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different socio-cultural organisations gathered at a rally yesterday demanding that persons involved in bomb attacks across the country be brought to book immediately.

A number of bomb attacks took place across the country so far but the criminals are still moving freely, the speakers said at the rally at Central Shaheed Minar in the city.

Bangladesh Christian Association organised the rally to mark the three years of bomb attack at Baniarchar church in Gopalganj. Ten people were killed and 30 others injured in the bomb blast on June 3, 2001.

The speakers said three years have elapsed after the bomb attack at Baniarchar church, but the culprits are still escaping justice.

The government has miserably failed to nab the real culprits

through proper investigation, they said, adding that the government's failure has encouraged other attackers.

The speakers also condemned the bomb attack at Hazrat Shahjalal Shrine in Sylhet and demanded exemplary punishment to the criminals.

Presided over by Promod Mankin MP, the rally was addressed by Prof. Kabir Chowdhury, General Secretary of Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad Dr. Nim Chandra Bhowmik, General Secretary of Sammilita Sangskritik Jote Golam Kuddus and General Secretary of Bangladesh Adibashi Forum Sanjib Drong.

Later, the Sammilita Nagarik Samaj held another rally at the same venue demanding arrest of and punishment to those involved in bomb attacks and in the killing of Awami League lawmaker Ahsanullah Master.

The Nagarik Samaj leaders also demanded immediate arrest of Bangla Bhai, dreaded operation commander of Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh, and urged the people to unite to resist the growing fundamentalism.

Speaking at the rally, Prof. Kabir Chowdhury said the country is now passing through a critical period because of alarming law and order downslide.

The religious fanatics have spread their activities across the country with the patronisation of the ruling alliance, tarnishing the image of the country abroad, he added.

"We do not want to see Bangladesh as a 'moderate Muslim country' but as a secular country," he said.

President of Dhaka University Teachers' Association Dr. AAMS Arefin Siddique, journalist Kamal Lohani and justice KM Sobhan also spoke.

8 killed in road accidents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On Wednesday night, two farm workers were killed and 16 others injured when a truck crashed into a tree on the Dhaka-Aricha Highway at Tepra-falsatia in Shibhalaya upazila.

The dead were identified as Abdus Salam, 25, and Helal, 25, of Char Kalyanpur village in Daulatpur upazila of the district.

The farm workers were on way to Aricha by the truck with some 70 sacks of paddy.

Eleven of the injured -- Anwar, 20, Samad, 50, Nurul Islam, 60, Yunus Ali, 45, Ishak, 25, Abdul Hakim, 40, Laskar, 35, Mojibur, 22, Kalam, 35, Fazlul Haque, 25, and Rowshan, 45, -- were admitted to sadar hospital.

Later, two of them -- Nurul Islam, Esahak and Samad -- were shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Eight people were killed and 41 others injured in road accidents in Kishoreganj and Manikganj districts yesterday and on Wednesday night


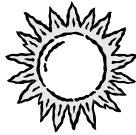
Of them, four were killed in Kishoreganj and the rest in Manikganj.

In Kishoreganj, a bus veered off the Bhairab-Mymensingh Highway and fell into a ditch at Shambhupur in Bhairab upazila, killing six people and injuring 25, according to the UNB

The dead are Pavel, 9, Hashem, 36, Rashid, 40, Altu Mia, 38, and Saleq, 27, of Netrakona, and Sujau, 25, of Mymensingh.

Police said the accident occurred at around 4:00pm when the driver of a Bhairab bound bus from Mymensingh was trying to give passage to another bus.

The injured were admitted to Bhairab Hospital.



WEATHER

T O D A Y

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna and Barisal divisions till 6.00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 35.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and the lowest 22.0 degree Celsius at Comilla.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:43pm today and rises at 5:11 am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.6	23.4	95	93
Chittagong	31.6	26.2	85	92
Rajshahi	35.0	26.6	90	78
Khulna	34.0	27.5	81	97



PHOTO: STAR

A team of Desa, Postogola Zone, led by Executive Engineer Mohammad Ali, seals electricity meters at a house in Faridabad to prevent tampering on Wednesday. Electricity meters of all houses in the area will be sealed to check system loss of power.

ICCS at CMCH SOON

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Initiative is underway to establish Invasive Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery (ICCS) in Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) soon.

This was stated at a press briefing at the CMCH conference room following a workshop that ended here yesterday.

Chittagong unit of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) organised the workshop in collaboration with World Health Organisation to make recommendation for developing the facilities required for establishing the ICCS.

The speakers regretted that the coronary angiogram machine, procured at Tk 5 crore some six months back, remained yet to be operational due to lack of only two technicians.

Renowned cardiologist Prof Nabi Alam Khan, Dr Suman Nazmul Hossain of National Institute for Cardio-Vascular Diseases (NICVD) BMA, Chittagong President Dr Golam Martuza Harun, General Secretary Dr Khurshid Jamil Chowdhury, Dr Imran C Bin Yunus and Dr Tamij Uddin Ahmad were present at the press briefing.

The workshop recommended for recruiting two technicians to put the newly installed coronary angiogram machine at the hospital into operation.

It also suggested that some 14 personnel including one associate professor, two assistant professor, two assistant registrars, two perfusion technicians and four trained up nurses are enough to start cardiac surgery at the hospital.

Speakers at the briefing said immediate introduction of coronary angiogram will not involve any significant financial involvement while starting of different cardiac surgeries including open-heart ones will cost not more than Tk 2 crore.

If facilities are developed, one hundred cardiac surgeries could be done at the CMCH that might save foreign exchange to the tune of Tk 3.5 crore annually, they claimed.

CityCell selects winners of SMS Quiz Contest

CityCell, a leading cell phone service provider, has selected the winners of its SMS Quiz Contest during the Bangladesh-West Indies ODI, says a press release.

The winner of the Grand Prize of a CityCell handset with connection is Nurul Abedin.

The winners of the grand prize and special prizes were drawn from all correct answers to the question "How many runs is Bangladesh going to score against the West Indies?" They will be notified

Obituary

Rafiqul Haque Chowdhury, former deputy director of public relations directorate of Power Development Board, died on May 30 at the age of 68, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons and two daughters to mourn his death.

Abul Hossain

Abul Hossain, freedom fighter and vice president of Kumerkhali upazila JSD, died of brain cancer at the Kushtia Sadar Hospital yesterday at the age of 70, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife, two sons and three daughters.

Abul was buried in state honour at his family graveyard after Asr prayers yesterday.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Nur Alam Ziku and acting General Secretary Ataul Karim Faruque expressed deep shock at the death of Abul and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Babu SK Sarker



Babu S K Sarker Khokan, owner of the Omi Car Centre, died after prolonged illness at his Arambagh residence in the city yesterday, says a press release.


Bangladesh Reconditioned Vehicles Importers and Dealers Association President Abdul Mannan Chowdhury (Khosru) expressed deep shock at the death of Sarker and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Death anniversary



Today is the first death anniversary of Comrade AKM Bazlur Rahman, a freedom fighter and former leader of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his residence at Gandaria in the city after Asr prayers today.



Film show

Bishwasahitya Kendra will screen a film titled 'The Hidden Half' directed by Tahminch Milani. Venue: Bishwasahitya Kendra Auditorium, Bangla Motor. Time: 5.00pm.

Art & Craft exhibition


ERA International School organises an art and craft exhibition with artist Prof Rafiqun Nabi as chief guest. Venue: 60, Chamelbagh. Time: 9.00am.

Print exhibition

The opening ceremony of a solo print exhibition by Md Muslim Mia will be held. Venue: Alliance Francaise Gallery, Mirpur Road. Time: 6.00pm. The exhibition will remain open till June 18 from 9.00am to 12.00noon and from 5.00pm to 8.00pm daily.

Blood donation

Quantum Foundation organises a voluntary blood donation camp. Venue: 163/1, Crescent Road. Time: 10.00am to 5.00pm.



Academy film show

Academy Film Society will screen a British film titled 'Lolita' (1961). Venue: Society auditorium, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Discussion

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, in association with Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies and Directorate of Environment, organises a discussion titled 'Sea Pollution and its remedies' to mark the World Environment Day. Venue: Osmani Memorial Auditorium. Time: 4.45pm.

Drawing competition

Haji Sahab Uddin Social Welfare Foundation organises a drawing competition for children and a discussion to mark the World Environment Day. Venue: Shishu Academy. Time: 3.50pm.