

**Burglary at Ctg Sonali Bank: 3 arrested with Tk 50,000**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Kotwali police caught three burglars red-handed and recovered Tk 50,000 from them when they were committing burglary at the Sonali Bank Corporate Branch at KC Dey Road here yesterday.

An accomplice of the gang, however, managed to flee with Tk 50,000, police said.

The arrestees were Abdul Motaleb, 65, Harun Meah, 35, and Babul, 23. Police said the incident occurred at around 2.30pm when Accountant Mihir Baran Chowdhury and Cashier Shamsul Alam of the Civil Surgeon Office came to the bank and withdrew Tk 1,34,511.

They first kept two bundles of Tk 500 notes worth Tk 1,00,000 inside a bag, and then began to count the rest amount (Tk 34,511). At this stage, there appeared the gang of four on board a CNG.

Three of them stood close to Mihir and Shamsul while the other one with a sharp blade cut the lower side of the bag and took away the money before some account-holders of the bank drew the attention of Mihir and Shamsul.

The on-duty cops acted promptly and detained the three on the spot. They also seized the CNG. A case was filed with Kotwali Police Station in this connection.



Hindu devotees take a holy dip in the river Brahmaputra at Langalbandh in Narayanganj yesterday.

PGOTO, STAR

**Shun politics of colonial era to increase investment: PM**

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday urged all concerned, including the Rotarians, to help break the cycle of poverty by accelerating the pace of economic development and increasing national resources.

Speaking as chief guest at the Centennial District Conference of Rotary International District 3280 Bangladesh, Khaleda underlined the need for working with firm commitment at the national level and maintaining social and political stability to make the nation's economic march unhindered.

She also called for shunning political culture of the colonial era to pave the way for increasing investment setting up more industries, boosting production and exports and generating employment to increase the national resources, ensure its fair distribution and eradicate poverty.

Khaleda stressed the need for developing a coordinated system at the regional and international levels side by side with increasing the capability at the national level to face natural disasters speedily and minimise possible losses.

In this regard, she called for maintaining coordination at the local level between the NGOs and voluntary organisations side by side with the government efforts.

She urged the Rotarians to involve themselves extensively in important activities like poverty alleviation, expansion of women education and expansion of health services for making meaningful contributions to the socioeconomic

development.

Held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship centre, the function was also addressed by District Governor AKM Shamsuddin, his spouse Inu Shamsuddin, Rotary International President's Personal Representative Rajendra M Doshi of India, District Governor-elect Salim Reza, chairperson of centennial district conference M Hafizur Rahman and co-chairperson Nazma Khan, and past district governor Hasan Maniruzzaman.

Referring to immense losses of lives and properties due to natural disasters like storms, cyclone, floods, tidal surges and earthquakes, Khaleda said Bangladesh has experience of facing natural calamities and developed capability to face disasters with its own initiatives and resources.

Referring to a recent rehearsal here on the measures to be taken during earthquake, she urged the voluntary organisations, including Rotary clubs and NGOs, to carry out

similar programmes.

Referring to huge losses of lives and properties due to recent tsunami in some countries of Asia and Africa, Khaleda said Bangladesh is also within the risk zone.

Describing the job of breaking the cycle of poverty as a challenging and complex one, she called for waging multi-dimensional and relentless war against poverty.

She lauded the role of Rotary clubs in poverty reduction, expansion of education, employment generation and healthcare services.

The Prime Minister also ago recalled the formation of the Rotary club one hundred years ago in Chicago, USA and also its objectives for rendering services to the mankind.

Khaleda also distributed project assistance among the Rotarians for carrying out social services to different segment of people.

**Astami Snan begins**

BSS, Narayanganj

Thousands of Hindu devotees -- male, female and children -- take their traditional holy dip in the river Brahmaputra at Langalbandh yesterday to pay respect to Parshuram in celebration of Astami Snan.

The two-day long holy dip began at 6:50 am yesterday and will continue till 8:52am today, organisers said.

Maha Tirtha Langalbandh Snan Utshab Udjapan Committee in cooperation with the Narayanganj district administration organised the traditional holy dip.

Fourteen ghats of Langalbandh, including Rajghat, Annapurna Ghat, Premtoli, Gandhighat, Hari Shava Ghat and Rakkha Kali Ghat, appeared as a carnival with the pilgrims thronged there from far flung areas of the country.

Different religious organisations, including Bangladesh Sonaton Dharma Mahamandal, Debota Shebayet Songa, Labo Chandra Ashram and Sri Guru, opened camps to receive the devotees.

Meanwhile, State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar said the government has taken measures to ensure security for people of all religions so that they can perform their religious rites in a festive manner.

"The government has taken sufficient security measures to perform religious activities by people of all religions in a safe, peaceful and festive atmosphere," he said while addressing as the chief guest the Astami Snan Utshab Celebration at Langalbandh in Narayanganj.