



Cellphones, valuables worth Tk 13 lakh looted in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Cellular phone sets and cash worth around Tk 6 lakh were stolen in a daring burglary at a Nokia showroom in the port city while robbers looted valuables worth Tk 7 lakh at Rangunia yesterday.

Witnesses and sources said four burglars wearing mask broke into the showroom Nokia Priority Dealer on the first floor of Yesin Centre at Agrabad Chowmohali area at around 4:00am.

The burglars who entered the showroom cutting the grills on the back side stole 150 cellular phone sets worth over Tk 4.5 lakh and cash worth Tk 1.32 lakh, said the sources.

As Daud, the security guard of the market, appeared at the scene the criminals stabbed him and ran away with the stolen goods, said Murtaza Khan Shibu, owner of the showroom.

However, when contacted the concerned Double Mooring Police Station expressed ignorance about the burglary.

Murtaza claimed that he had informed police duly of the matter and wanted to lodge a case.

But police refused to record it, he alleged.

He further said a similar burglary took place at the showroom on December 20 last year when goods worth Tk 17 lakh were stolen.

He filed a case but none was arrested.

Murtaza said police have expressed doubt over the repeated occurrence of burglary at the showroom.

It is also our question why we are becoming the victim of similar incident repeatedly, he resented.

Away at Rangunia, robbers looted valuables including gold ornaments worth Tk 7 lakh and injured three people, one of them critically, in the early hours.

Sources said a gang of nine armed robbers forcibly entered the house of one Hazi Yusuf at Chandraghona at around 2:00am.

They looted Tk 1 lakh in cash, 20 bangles of gold ornaments and other valuables worth around Tk 7 lakh keeping the inmates hostage at gunpoint.

The robbers also chopped and injured three of the inmates who tried to resist them.

Among the injured two are brothers identified as Hashem, 40, and Kashem, 35, both are expatriates in a Middle East country, and their cousin Kalam, 38.

All the injured were admitted into Chittagong Medical College and Hospital.

Of them, the condition of Hashem was stated to be critical.

Like many streets in Chittagong, Chwakbazar area goes under knee-deep water due to the torrential rain, left, while a pushcart driver uses a polythene sheet to protect himself from intermittent rains in Dhaka yesterday, right.

Non-govt teachers give ultimatum

Demand 100 pc salary from govt exchequer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Giving an ultimatum to the government, teachers of non-government high schools, colleges and madrasas yesterday said that they will enforce tougher

agitations if the government circular of cent per cent basic salary from the government exchequer, declared by the education minister on August 5, is not issued by Monday.

Teachers under the banner of National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE) yesterday held a rally and brought out a procession at Muktangan in the city protesting the dilly-dallying of the government to implement the declaration.

They urged the government to take effective measures so that they can receive festival allowance before Eid-ul-Fitr.

'Education minister has been compelled to announce cent per cent basic salary after a month long strike but teachers are now disappointed because government did not take effective measures to implement the pledge' said Prof Quazi Faruque Ahmed, chief coordinator and convener of NFTE, a platform of 11 teachers and employees' organisations, while addressing the rally.

He also said that they will send formal letter to the Director General of Education Directorate (Shikkha Bhaban) on September 28 and bring out processions with back flags across the country on the last working day before Eid-ul-Fitr.

He added that they will continue their agitation demanding standard perquisites including house rent, medical allowance, annual increment and dearness allowance.

Following the rally, they brought out a procession that marched Zero-point, Banga-bandhu Avenue and Purana Paltan before ending at Muktangan.

'Increase budget to modernise defence force'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday stressed the need for doubling the budget for modernising the defence force.

Though it seems a large amount of money is allocated for the defence, the reality is that only 1.3 percent of the national budget is used for modernisation of the force, they added.

The roundtable titled 'Importance of Modernisation of Bangladesh Defence Force' was organised by the National Observers' Council at the National Press Club in the city.

In a keynote paper Executive Editor of the daily Deshbangla Rezaul Karim Talukder said 63 percent of the defence budget is spent as salary of the members of the force and 26 percent for ser-

vice, supply and maintenance.

"We should pay more attention to modernisation of the force and double the allocation for modernisation of the force which has already achieved admiration for its role in UN Peace Keeping Mission," he added.

Lt General (Retd) Mahbubur Rahman MP suggested that after recovering money from black money holders and loan defaulters this should be utilised for the defence force.

"This will help government overcome budget deficit and invest more for modernisation of the defence sector," he said, adding that if the country cannot

strengthen its naval force, it will not be possible to safeguard natural as well as mineral resources in the Bay of Bengal.

As the imperialist forces want to

control the geo-political resource of the country our defence force must be strengthened, said the speakers.

Brigadier General (Retd) Shakawat Hossain, a defence expert, said a vested quarter tends to slander the defence force with an ulterior motive.

While presiding over the roundtable Editor of the daily Deshbangla Ferdaus Ahmad Quarishi said modernisation of the defence force is needed for the sake of the country and its people.

Executive Director of the National Observers' Council Rehana Salam delivered the welcome speech.

City Editor of the daily Deshbangla Kazi Rafiq, former vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Kazi Saleh Ahmed, Dr Anisuzzaman of Dhaka University

and Mohammad Harun-ur Rashid of North South University also spoke on the occasion.



National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE) stages a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding 100 per cent salary from the government exchequer.

KMP launches drive to arrest listed bombers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) has launched a combing operation to arrest listed bombers of underground parties.

Assistant Police Commissioner of Detective Branch of KMP Zahurul Islam Chowdhury said that there are over 100 listed bombers who are still

at large.

According to AC Zahur Chowdhury, 18 policemen were killed and many others injured both in bombings and armed attacks in Khulna city and Khulna division in the last four years.

Police said all these bombings and armed attacks were carried out by cadres of Janajuddho and PBCP.



Dhaka University Tourist Society organised an art competition for children at the TSC yesterday to mark the Tourism Day.