

# Robbery, mugging on rise during Eid holidays

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The capital witnessed a rise in robbery, theft and mugging during Eid holidays.

A gang of robbers made off with Tk 50 lakh in a massive heist in the city's Karwan Bazar area in the early hours of Tuesday.

About seven or eight robbers stormed into Karwan Bazar kitchen market at around 3:00am breaking open the locks of collapsible gates after tying and beating up two security guards, police said.

The gang then broke into 13 wholesale shops on the second floor of the market and took away Tk 50 lakh, said Monwar Hossain Manu, general secretary of the market association.

Police arrested five security guards of the market, including Mustafa and Hedayet Ullah who were beaten up by the robbers.

The shop owner said they kept the money in shops as they could not deposit the money with banks.

On the same night, a gang of burglars stole cash and valuables worth Tk four lakh from a house at Dilu Road in Ramna.

The gang broke into the house of one Lata Begum when the family members were out of the house, police said.

In another incident on Sunday night, robbers stormed into the house of a businessman at Madhubazar in Dhamondi and looted cash, gold ornaments and other valuables worth Tk 2.30 lakh.

The gang entered the house of Ershad Ullah at around 8:30 pm and tied up his wife at gunpoint. They then took away the valuables.

On Eid day, thieves stole goods worth Tk 2.72 lakh from a stall at International Trade Fair that ended recently.

as chief adviser to the caretaker government and flawless voter list.

Jubo League, Dhaka City (South) earlier brought out a procession that paraded different city streets.

Dhaka City Jubo League (South) President Mohiuddin Ahmed Mohi and other leaders spoke on the occasion.

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To mark the occasion, BCL (Swapan-Tarun) has chalked out different programmes that include paying homage on the Central Shaheed Minar premises, organising rallies and holding discussions.

## BCL founding anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) will observe its 59th founding anniversary today.

BCL, known as East Pakistan Student League before 1971, was founded by a group of progressive students in January 4, 1948 with Khwaja Naimuddin as its founding convener.

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BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia exchanges Eid greetings with British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury in front of LGED Bhaban, left, while Awami League President Sheikh Hasina greets US Ambassador Patricia A Butenis at her Dhamondi office on Eid day, right.



PHOTO: STAR

# 'Boycott polls under Iajuddin'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Awami Jubo League held a rally yesterday in the city demanding boycott of the blueprint election under BNP partisan chief adviser Iajuddin, says a press release.

The leaders also demanded resignation of President Iajuddin

as chief adviser to the caretaker government and flawless voter list.

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## Khaleda visits mazar of Zia

Bss, Dhaka

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday visited the mazar of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman on the occasion of the holy Eid-ul-Azha.

Khaleda placed wreath on the mazar and offered Munajat seeking eternal peace of the departed soul of the great leader, and peace and progress of the country.

## CASE AGAINST ERSHAD Trial court gets copy of HC judgement

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The trial court yesterday received the High Court (HC) judgement copy imposed on former president and Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad in connection with the corruption case of purchasing Japanese boats.

Judge (In Charge) Kamrul Hossain Mollah of the First Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka did not pass any order about Ershad's surrender before it to serve out his conviction delivered by the HC on December 14 last year.

The judge asked the court staff to place it before the presiding officer (PO) Judge Amirul Islam today when the judgement copy was submitted yesterday for taking next steps.

Justice Faisal Mahmud Faizee of the single-member HC bench on December 14 handed two years' imprisonment to Ershad, rejecting his appeal against the trial court's verdict.

HM Ershad, who usurped power through a bloodless coup in March 1982 and was deposed in December 1990, was found guilty of misappropriating Tk 33 crore in a shady deal for purchasing 520 Japanese boats and 10 water-purifying machines for relief operation in 1989.

Judge Jinnatara of the trial court sentenced Ershad to three years' imprisonment on July 6, 1995. The court also fined him Tk 10,000, in default, to serve four months more in jail.

Ershad filed an appeal with the HC against the lower court verdict the same year.

## All political parties to participate in polls

Hopes Khaleda

Bss, Dhaka

BNP chairperson and immediate past prime minister Khaleda Zia exchanged greetings with a cross section of people and diplomats on the occasion of holy Eid-ul-Azha.

People from all walks of life thronged under a huge canopy in front of LD Hall of the Jatiya Sangsad at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, where Khaleda exchanged Eid greetings with all.

Khaleda extended her Eid greetings to the countrymen and wished peace, progress and prosperity of the nation and the Muslim Ummah.

Talking to newsmen, she hoped that the people would again vote her party to power in the January 22 general elections to continue the trend of development initiated by her government.

Khaleda also hoped that all political parties would participate in the polls and the people would turn up spontaneously to exercise their franchise.

Referring to the kick off of BNP's election campaign from Sylhet on Sunday through offering Fateha at the Mazar of Hazrat Shahjalal (R), she said the campaign would begin in full swing after the Eid.

Meanwhile, men, women and children of all strata converged in a long queue on the eastern side of the Sangsad Bhaban and exchanged Eid greetings with Khaleda one after another.

Earlier, the BNP Chairperson hosted an Eid reception for the members of the diplomatic corps and other invited dignitaries.

Heads of diplomatic missions in

## Hasina exchanges Eid greetings

Bss, Dhaka

Dhaka, other members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of UN bodies and development agencies attended the reception.

She exchanged Eid greetings with them and welcomed them on this auspicious occasion.

Sheikh Hasina exchanged Eid pleasantries and New Year's greetings with the people from all walks of life, including party leaders, educationists, literateurs, poets, writers and senior journalists.

Men, women and children of all strata standing on a long queue from the morning exchanged Eid greetings with their beloved leader Sheikh Hasina by saying "Eid Mubarak and Happy New Year". Sheikh Hasina with smiling face also greeted them.

Sheikh Rehana accompanied her elder sister Hasina on the occasion.

The foreign dignitaries, including ambassadors and high commissioners of different countries and chiefs of various international agencies based in Dhaka, exchanged Eid and New Year's greetings with Hasina at her Dhamondi office.

US Ambassador Patricia A Butenis, Australian High Commissioner Douglas Foskett, UK High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury, Canadian High Commissioner Barbara Richardson, Chinese Ambassador Choi Xi, Danish Ambassador Einer Hevogaard Jensen, France Ambassador Jacques Andre Costilhes, German Ambassador Frank Meyke, Indian Acting High Commissioner Sarbjit Chakrabarty, Japan Ambassador Masayuki Inosue, Pakistan High Commissioner Alamgir Bashir Khan Babar and World Bank Country Director Christine I Wallich attended the reception.



PHOTO: STAR

Motijheel is yet to be that busy after the Eid holidays. The picture was taken yesterday.

# 3 murdered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least three people were killed in three separate incidents in the last several days in the city.

Unidentified gunmen shot Kajol Ahmed Muhin, 30, dead in Purba Rampura Bank Colony Bazar Math area at 9:00am on Sunday.

Muhin was the president of City Jatiyatabdil Chhatra Dal (JCD), Ward no 98.

When locals took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), doctors declared him dead.

Muhin's relatives claimed that it was a political killing.

Locals, however, suspect that the killing might have occurred due to internal feud as they saw him gossiping with the alleged killers before the incident took place.

Khilgaon police said there are two murder cases and a couple of other cases against Muhin.

## City 14-party representatives' meeting today

A representatives' meeting of Mahanagar 14-party will be held at Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) central office today, says a press release.

Further strategies to resist the upcoming election on January 22 and to hold different programmes of 14-party successfully, including tomorrow's countrywide demonstration and blockade on January 7 and January 8, will be discussed in the meeting.

14-party Coordinator and Bangladesh Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil, JSD President Hasanul Haque Inu, Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon and 14-party leaders will attend the meeting.

Members and activists of the party's mahanagar committees and its different front organisations have been requested to join the meeting.

## More donation to cancer hospital

AQ Siddiqui, managing director, Management Consultants (Pvt) Ltd, donated Tk 5 lakh to Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH) Fund, says a press release.

He handed over a cheque for the amount to Ehsanur Rahman, deputy executive director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission at 10:00am yesterday at the Head Office of the Mission at Dhamondi in the city. Against this donation, one bed of the hospital will be dedicated in memory of his parents Abdul Quadir Siddiqui and Mahmuda Khatun Siddiqui.

There is still need for more money to meet the entire cost of construction of the hospital and to make it fully functional, the press release added.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission, as sponsor of the hospital, requests every one to come forward and donate generously for the hospital. It considers small donations also very important and valuable. However, those who want to dedicate bed, ward, wing of the hospital in memory of near and dear ones are specially requested to hurry up and join others at this important stage of construction of the hospital building.



Management Consultants (Pvt) Ltd Managing Director AQ Siddiqui hands over a cheque for Tk 5 lakh to Dhaka Ahsania Mission Deputy Executive Director Ehsanur Rahman for Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH) Fund at the DAM head office in the city yesterday.