

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.

'Boycott polls under lajuddin'

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.

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.



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

In Uttara Sector-9, a group of three muggers robbed a trader of Tk five lakh when he was returning home by a rickshaw on Tuesday afternoon.

As the trader, Salim, raised an alarm, locals caught two muggers, Akhter and Masum, but the third one, Sazzad, managed to escape with the money.

The mob beat up the two muggers before handing them over to the police.

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.

Since BCL's inception, it initiated the language movement in 1952, the mass upsurge in 1969, the liberation war in 1971, the anti-autocracy movement in 1990 and other major movements of the country.

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



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 Dhanmondi office on Eid day, right.

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 Tk10,000, 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-Banglanagar, 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 Shajalal (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

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.

On the other hand, people from every nook and corner of the metropolis thronged there to have a glimpse of their leader and exchange traditional Eid greetings with her.

Slowly and happily, the visitors walk-passed Khaleda and intoned in the familiar way "Eid Mubarak" to her. On her part, the former prime minister smilingly stood for hours and reciprocated to them. She patted the children who had come to pay respect to her.

Political leaders, retired civil and military officers, teachers, doctors, journalists and other professionals also attended the function.

Speaker Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, BNP Secretary General and former LGRD and Cooperatives minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, BNP standing committee member and former health minister Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain, Dhaka City BNP President and Mayor Sadeq Hossain Khoka and BNP leader Mirza Abbas, Maj (Retd) Quamrul Islam and M Mosaddek Ali, among others, were present.

Khaleda also cut a cake on the occasion of the 28th founding anniversary of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of the BNP.

She conveyed her best wishes to all leaders and activists of the JCD present on the occasion.

Hasina exchanges Eid greetings

Bss, Dhaka

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina exchanged Eid-ul-Azha and New Year's greetings with a cross section of people and foreign dignitaries at the party's Dhanmondi office here.

Sheikh Hasina exchanged Eid pleasantries and New Year's greetings with the people from all walks of life, including party leaders, educationists, litterateurs, 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 Dhanmondi office.

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

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 Purbia Rampura Bank Colony Balur Math area at 9:00am on Sunday.

Muhin was the president of City Jatiyatabadi 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.

In this connection, a murder case was filed with Khilgaon Police Station and police arrested Golam Mustafa.

In another incident, police recovered the body of Saidur Rahman, 26, from a ditch in Kazirbagh in Hazaribagh in the city.

Saidur's body was found with hands and legs tied.

Family sources said some people called him out of his house on Saturday night and since then he has been missing.

Hazaribagh police suspect that Saidur might have been killed in the early hours of Sunday.

Police also recovered the body of a security guard in Badda GM Bari area.

On Sunday morning, police recovered Dudu's body with his hands and legs tied.

Police sources said he might have been killed on Saturday night.

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 Dhanmondi 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.