

Six held on charges of stealing Tk 12 lakh from bank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) of Police has arrested six people in connection with the theft of Tk 12.24 lakh of Madrasa Education Board from Agrani Bank National Press Club branch in the city on March 4.

At a press conference at the DB public relations cell yesterday, the DB officials said they recovered Tk 5 lakh from the accused. Four of the six arrestees were produced before the journalists.

The arrestees are Robin alias Hannan, 39, Tusher alias Raju, 21, Ibrahim, 38, Abul Kashem, 44, Makbul Hossain, 45, and Shahidul Islam Shahid, 50.

DB officials said they arrested Hannan, Raju and Ibrahim from Narayanganj and placed them on remand last week. They confessed to their involvement with the theft and said the money was kept at Hannan's residence at Sutrapur in the city.

DB launched an operation early yesterday at Rupsha in Khulna and arrested three others.

**Dr Laila new provost of Rokeya Hall**

BSS, Dhaka

Prof Dr Laila Nur Islam of Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology of Dhaka University (DU) has been appointed provost of Rokeya Hall.

Prof Laila took the charge from the acting provost Asst Prof Asma Jahan on Thursday, a DU press release said yesterday.

## Govt to promote Bangladeshi art, culture across world: CA

### Book on life, works of artist Kibria launched

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday said the government is interested to promote the country's art and culture throughout the world, as Bangladesh takes pride in its thousand-year-old rich and vibrant culture.

"The culture of a nation could be considered as the soul of its social fabric," he said while launching a book titled 'Kibria', based on the life and works of eminent artist Mohammad Kibria, regarded as the pioneer of modernism in Bangladesh art.

This is the first major book on Kibria providing a retrospective of his works since his early days till date.

Published by Society for Promotion of Bangladesh Art (SPBA), the 242-page book was sponsored by Grameenphone and Khairul Kabir Foundation.

The SPBA was formed in 2002 with an aim to promote Bangladeshi arts across the world and allocate resources for the development of promising artists who have little scope to promote their artworks.

Mohammad Kibria, 79, another eminent artist Quayyum Chowdhury, SPBA Chairman Elthem Kabir and Chief Executive Officer of Grameenphone Anders

Jensen also spoke at the launching ceremony at Hotel Sheraton.

Chief adviser's wife Neena Ahmed, late great artist Zainul Abedin's wife Jahanara Abedin, artists, diplomats and distinguished personalities were present at the function.

The chief adviser said Kibria's world of art is fabulously diverse. "I've always been fascinated by his subtle paintings on canvas, his intricate collages, etchings, mixed media and his simple yet refined drawings," he told the function.

Fakhruddin said that very rarely an artist does demonstrate such mastery and skill in all these mediums. "Despite the broadness of his interest, the core of his efforts has remained focused on abstract expressionism."

He reminded that the art historians, journals and critics rely heavily on books and illustrations of paintings to evaluate and comment on art trends of a particular time. "Although it's the age of electronic media, printed books are still invaluable and will remain so in the foreseeable future," he observed.

He said the book titled 'Kibria' will provide a wonderful introduction to Kibria's work for art connoisseurs all-over the world.

The CA said artworks and books

on Bangladeshi art should be given as gifts when government officials undertake overseas trips or when foreign dignitaries visit Bangladesh.

Responding to a demand, the head of the caretaker government said he has instructed the ministry concerned to revive the stalled project for construction of National Art Gallery at Shilpakala Academy for its implementation at the shortest possible time.

Expressing his feelings, septuagenarian Kibria said publication of the book at this late stage of his life has inspired him to start painting again.

"Now it seems to me that still I've many things to do," Kibria said and thanked the publisher for bringing out the work.

In his speech on the life and works of Kibria, Quayyum Chowdhury said people cannot see the artworks of great artists, as there is no national art gallery in the country.

He urged the chief adviser to take steps to complete the unfinished works of the gallery at the National Shilpakala Academy.

He said the country creates good artists, but cannot give them the opportunity to expose.

He hoped that the government would look into the matter.



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed and noted artist Mohammad Kibria hold a copy of the book titled 'Kibria', based on the life and works of the artist, at a launching ceremony at Hotel Sheraton in the city yesterday.

## 25 workers fall sick after inhaling toxic gas in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Twenty-five workers of a shrimp processing plant in Khulna's Rupsha upazila fell sick after inhaling ammonia gas yesterday.

Nineteen of the workers were undergoing treatment at Khulna General Hospital. Doctors said two patients were in a critical condition.

Proprietor of the plant, Star Sea Food Industries Limited, said more than 150 workers were at work when the pungent gas started leaking into the packaging and freezing rooms through leaks in the gas pipes.

A factory official said work at the plant would remain suspended for 72 hours.

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PHOTO: STAR

Women and girls throng Moghbazar Wireless Gate water pump station to collect drinking water yesterday as water crisis has gripped many areas of the city.

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