

ROBBERY AT MONEY EXCHANGE OFFICE Stern action to be taken against culprits: IGP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday said stern action would be taken against the two Rab men caught by the police and locals on charges of looting foreign currencies and valuables from a money exchange office in the city's Paltan area on Wednesday night.

Meanwhile, the Rab-3 authorities have already suspended the Rab men -- Faruq Hossain and Kamal Hossain -- for their alleged involvement in the criminal activities.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Nur Mohammad said a criminal case was lodged against the arrestees and punitive measures would be taken against them.

The IGP said, "It is not impossible to exist one or two such criminals among hundreds of forces. But it should be noticed whether we take measures in this regard."

Rab Director General

Hasan Mahmood Khandakar said, "We never say that our cent percent members are good. There might be some bad character people and the ratio is too low which is under our consideration."

Meanwhile, Rab-3 Director Lt Col Md Zakir Hossain Bhuian told The Daily Star that they have already suspended the two members and are also trying to confirm the identities of six others who were accompanying them.

He said apart from the police inquiry, Rab is also carrying out an administrative investigation.

Besides, the arrestees were sent to the jail after they were produced before the court. A case was filed with Paltan Police Station by businessman Raisuddin, accusing the arrestees and six others.

Officer-in-Charge of Sabujbagh Police Station Syed Abdur Rouf said the Rab men were caught by the police and several hundred locals. They

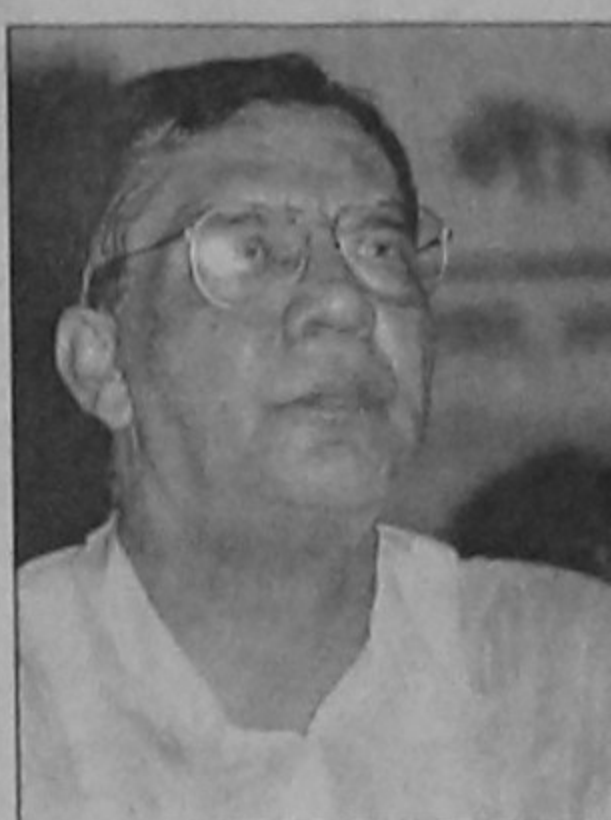
were handed over to the police station yesterday morning.

Sub-Inspector of the police station Sardar Yunus Ali, who is the investigation officer, said the arrestees were produced before the court after a preliminary investigation.

Sources said police and locals of Sabujbagh area caught them as they were fleeing with the currencies and valuables from the money exchange office. Six others managed to escape.

The looters picked Ali Imam, owner of the money exchange point, and businessman Raisuddin blindfolded and forced them to get on the microbus. But as they cried for help, Sabujbagh police and the local people chased the law enforcers and caught them.

Police also recovered a huge amount of US dollars, Saudi riyals, Bangladeshi taka, mobile phones and Rab uniforms from the vehicle.



Hanif's death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the second death anniversary of Mohammad Hanif, the first elected mayor of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and an Awami League (AL) leader.

Two years back on this day, Hanif passed away at the city's Apollo Hospitals due to a prolonged illness and multiple organ failures.

Hanif, who saved detained AL President Sheikh Hasina during a grenade attack on an AL rally on August 21, 2004 through forming a human wall, was badly injured by the splinters of the grenade. He served as the DCC mayor for eight years from March 12, 1994 to April 4, 2002.

He was also a close aide to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and contributed to every democratic movement.

Hanif was elected a member of the parliament from Dhaka-12 constituency in 1973 and served as Whip of the national parliament, says a press release of Mohammad Hanif Memorial Foundation.

Meanwhile, Dhaka city unit of AL has organised a milad mahfil at its central office at Bangabandhu Avenue after Asr prayers today.

Hanif's family has urged all to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Abu Bakar Siddique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the second death anniversary of Abu Bakar Siddique, former superintendent engineer of Bangladesh Power Development Board, says a press release.

On the occasion, foods will be distributed among the destitute at his residence at North Road in the city today. Relatives and admirers are requested to pray for the departed soul.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shamsul Haque Mandal, a researcher and social activist, passed away due to stomach cancer at Ayesha Memorial Hospital in the city on Tuesday at the age of 50, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two daughters and a host of relatives and well wishers to mourn his death.

He was working as the programme development officer at Islamic Relief Worldwide, a British charity organisation.

Sirajuddowla

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sirajuddowla, a social worker and owner of transport distributing newspapers across the country, passed away on Wednesday at the age of 58, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two daughters, one son and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was buried at his family graveyard at Sadar upazila in Feni.

Members of Bangladesh Newspapers Circulation Managers' Association and owners of transports that distribute newspapers consoled his death, conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.



A battalion commander-level flag meeting between Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Myanmar's border security force, Nasaka, was held at Mongdu in Myanmar yesterday.

Truckload of Indian cloths seized

UNB, Comilla

BDR members recovered huge Indian cloths worth about Tk 1.5 crore from a truck on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Padua Bazar crossing early yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a patrol team of 33-rifle battalion, led by Commander Lieutenant Colonel Abdul Mukim Sarker, raided the area at about 3:30am and recovered the cloths from an abandoned truck.

The cloths include 1700 pieces of saree, 2500 three-pieces and fabrics.

ACC files case against ex-BNP MP Abu Abbas

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has filed a case against former BNP lawmaker Abu Abbas with Netrakona Sadar Police Station for concealing information about his wealth in the wealth statement submitted to the commission.

Mirza Zahidul Alam, assistant director of Mymensingh ACC, filed the case on Wednesday.

In the case, Zahidul Alam said the former lawmaker from Netrakona-2 constituency in his wealth statement estimated his wealth at about Tk 1.09 crore.

But during the investigation, ACC found that Abu Abbas has concealed information about wealth worth Tk 5 lakh.

Include 'sign language' in school curriculum

Speakers urge govt

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday said the government should immediately include 'sign language' in the school curriculum to recognise the speech in the country.

They said this at the roundtable on 'Bangla sign language: Perspective, present situation and our duty' at the auditorium of Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed in the city yesterday.

Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) and the Shaptahik 2000 jointly organised the programme in cooperation with Manusher Jonno Foundation.

Director General of Primary Education Directorate Nazrul Islam Khan unwrapped the fifth part of the DVD of 'Bangla sign language'.

The speakers said there are 3.5 million of hearing impaired people in the country what is as much as 19 percent of the total handicapped population.

The government has ratified the UN convention on protecting rights of handicapped people. The 21 section of the convention clearly stated sign language as their right to communication, they added.

The speakers further said that the government should implement it immediately.

CDD Executive Director AHM Noman Khan delivered his welcome speech at the programme where National Forum for Handicaps Director Dr Nafisur Rahman, Acting Country Director of ADD Mozammel Haque, DU Prof Gulshan Ara and Programme Manager of Manusher Jonno Foundation Nazrana Yesmin Hira also spoke.

2 killed, 25 hurt as villagers clash in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Two people were killed and 25 others injured in separate clashes in the district yesterday.

Police said one person was killed and 15 others injured in a clash over land dispute between the villagers of Anantapur and Nawgaw.

The dead was identified as Mahbulul Haque, 35, of village Anantapur.

Serious injured Abdur Rashed, 35, Abdur Khaleque, 27, Mostafa Mia, 23, and Waras Ali, 60, were sent to Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital in critical condition.

A murder case was filed with Durgapur Police Station in this connection. None was arrested.

Another person was killed and 10 others injured in a clash between the villagers of Kumri and Langajura under Purbadhala upazila over the fishing in Nanka beel.

The dead was identified as Khalilur Rahman, 50, of village Kumri.

BDR-Nasaka flag meeting held

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A battalion commander-level flag meeting between Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Myanmar's border security force, Nasaka, was held at Mongdu in Myanmar yesterday.

The two sides discussed the issue of Myanmar's oil and gas exploration in Bangladesh waters and subsequent reinforcement of troops along the Myanmar border, sources said.

Both the sides also agreed to maintain peace and order on their respective borders and build congenial relations.

Acting Commander of 8 Rifles Battalion in Cox's Bazar Major Md Sajjadul Kabir led the Bangladesh team and No. 3 Nasaka Sector Commander Major Su Yung led the Myanmar team.

Battalion Operation officer Major Md Tanim Hossain, who was present at the meeting, said they also discussed other issues such as trans-border crimes, release of Bangladeshis detained in Myanmar jails and illegal intrusion.

Both the sides also agreed to hold such meetings regularly.

ACC okays six charge sheets against 12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on Wednesday approved submission of six charge sheets against 12 people on charges of bribery, power abuse and money embezzlement in different cases.

The accused included Manikganj Poursava Chairman Ramzan Ali, Executive Engineer of Education Engineering Department Hanur Rashid, ex-general manager of Jamuna Complex Wahidul Islam and police sergeant Harun-ar-Rashid.

ACC Director General (admin) Col Hanif Iqbal said this during a routine press briefing at the ACC headquarters.

The anti-graft watchdog has approved issuance of a notice to former CBA leader of Bakhrabad Gas Systems Ltd Hasan Sharif asking him to submit his wealth statement to the commission, he added.

7 killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

Seven people were killed and 12 others injured in separate road accidents in Gaibandha, Barisal and Brahmanbaria yesterday.

Our correspondent in Gaibandha reports: Three people were killed and six others injured when a speeding truck hit a human hauler on Rangpur-Bogra highway at Kamarpur in the district.

The dead were identified as Hasan Ali Pradhan, 28, Ruhul Amin Sarker, 28, and Habibur Rahman, 20.

The injured were rushed to Palashbari Health Complex.

Our correspondent in Barisal reports: Three people were killed in separate road accidents on Barisal-Dhaka highway yesterday.

Albert Siddik Tota, 22, a first year honours student of mathematics department at Barisal BM College, was hit by a Dhaka-bound bus and later succumbed to his injuries at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH).

In another accident, Koitori, 7, was run over by a Dhaka-bound bus in front of her residence.

Abdul Halim, 34, fell off the roof of a bus after being hit by a tree.

He was rushed to Gouranadi Upazila Health Complex but succumbed to his injuries immediately after his admission.

Our correspondent in Brahmanbaria adds: A teenager was killed and six others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Malihata village in the district yesterday.

The dead was identified as Md Helal Uddin, 16.

The accident occurred when a pickup van lost control and hit him while he was walking beside the road.

The injured van passengers were rushed to Brahmanbaria Sadar hospital.

'Work together to establish rule of law'

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Law Adviser AF Hassan Arif yesterday said bench and bar would have to work together for establishing the rule of law in the country.

He said this at the foundation laying ceremony of a 12-storey extension building of Dhaka Bar Association (DBA) for the accommodation of lawyers.

The adviser said if both the bodies comprising judges and lawyers are united, the rule of law would be established.

Dhaka District Judge MA Gafur and Metropolitan Sessions Judge ANM Basir Ullah were present at the programme where DBA President Khondaker Abdul Mannan and General Secretary Abdur Rahman Howlader placed a number of demands.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwani of Mosharrif Hussain Chowdhury, a freedom fighter and acting president of Bangladesh Human Rights Commission, will be held at his residence at 135/8 in Ahmadabagh in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the programme and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Chehlum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chehlum of Dr Shafi Ahmed Sultan, an expatriate Bangladeshi living in the United States, will be held today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at Park Panorama, Apartment A/5, House-41, Road No-5, at Dhanmondi in the city after Asr prayers today.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the milad and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

AL reject gets BNP ticket in Chittagong



STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An industrialist, who was refused nomination by the Awami League (AL) to contest parliamentary election, has bagged BNP's nomination in a vital city seat.

Managing Director of Messrs Elias Brothers Group Shamsul Alam bagged BNP nomination for Chittagong-8 constituency (Kotwali) after failing to win AL ticket for the same seat.

BNP Joint Secretary General and former minister Abdullah Al Noman has sacrificed his nomination for this constituency.

BNP nominated Noman in Chittagong-9 constituency (Double Mooring-Pahartali), while former minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury was nominated in Chittagong-10 constituency (Bandar-Patenga).

BNP's nomination to Shamsul in Noman's old constituency has surprised and disappointed acting mayor of

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Manjur Alam Manju who wanted to contest in Chittagong-9 constituency with BNP ticket, said the party insiders.

Sources said Manjur, also an industrialist and social worker who was elected ward commissioner from Kattoli Ward as an AL supported candidate for consecutive three terms, started thinking of BNP ticket following an evident opposition from CCC Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury.

Local leaders in both BNP and Awami League believe that Mohiuddin had a role in helping Shamsul get BNP nomination for Chittagong-8 constituency.

Mohiuddin became aggrieved when his strong lobbying for Shamsul for AL nomination went in vain and Chittagong City AL Vice-president Nurul Islam (BSC) won the party (AL) ticket for Chittagong-8.

As such Mohiuddin wanted to see Shamsul in Chittagong-8 constituency even with BNP ticket and ensure Nurul Islam's debacle even at the cost of his party interest, said the sources.

Mohiuddin has reportedly reached an understanding with the local BNP ensuring his support for Shamsul to win the seat for BNP, said party sources.

Another motive behind the understanding was to prevent acting mayor Manjur from contesting in Chittagong-9, they added.



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 31.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 12.2 degrees Celsius at Srimangol.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:10pm today and rises at 6:23am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	30.0	17.2	63	66
Chittagong	30.0	17.9	75	77
Rajshahi	29.0	14.6	88	80
Khulna	28.6	17.0	77	73
Barisal	30.0	15.4	77	86
Sylhet	29.6	17.3	54	63
Cox's Bazar	31.8	17.7	67	80

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