

6 guards of Basundhara held on robbery charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six security guards of Basundhara Group were arrested at Khilkhet in the city in the early hours of yesterday on charges of committing robberies.

The six are Sohel Rana alias Rubel, 18, Shafiqul Islam, 23, Tarajul Islam, 29, Kamruzzaman Mollah, 30, Aminur Islam, 21, and Abul Kalam Azad, 29.

The Khilkhet Police Station officer-in-charge (OC) SM Badiuzzaman said, "All the six are security guards of Basundhara Group and they commit robberies at different houses in the area, as they are robbers by profession."

The police arrested the six guards from the Basundhara Residential Area at around 12:30am on specific charges of looting 10 tolas of gold ornaments, two cell phones and Tk 60,000 from the house of one Ali Mansur at Beparipara on April 27, he said.

During preliminary interrogation, all the security guards confessed to the robbery, the OC said, adding that officials of the Basundhara Group also recognised the arrestees as their security guards.

Sub-Inspector Mahbubur Rahman of Khilkhet Police Station said they arrested the six by tracking the cell phones looted from the house of Mansur Ali.

"Jaffer Ali, a former member of Ansar, who led the six security guards of Basundhara Group in committing the robbery is still at large," he said, adding: "We are trying to arrest

Jaffer and recover the booties."

He also said the six security guards were appointed two months ago and they were staying on a piece of land of Basundhara Group at Talerkek Kalabagan in Khilkhet, which is around 500 yards away from Mansur Ali's residence from where they looted the gold ornaments.

When contacted, Basundhara Group spokesman Abu Taib declined to make any comments, saying that he is not aware of such incident.

Assistant General Manager (Admin) of Basundhara M Masud Parvez told The Daily Star, "The arrested persons are not the employees of Basundhara Group."

However, Sub-Inspector Mahbubur Rahman, who led the drive to arrest the robbers and also the investigation officer of the case, said, "We have evidence that the detained persons are employees of Basundhara Group, as they were carrying their identity cards."

4 FAKE DB MEN ARRESTED

Meanwhile, Khilkhet police arrested four more people yesterday morning on charges of committing robbery and taking away valuables from the people after posing as detective branch (DB) personnel.

The police also recovered a pair of handcuffs from their possession.

Khilkhet OC Badiuzzaman said the arrested persons had been committing such crimes for a long time.



PHOTO: STAR

Lalon Charcha Kendra, Kendriya Parishad takes out a procession from Shahbagh in the city yesterday protesting attacks on Lalon Charcha Kendra and Lalon Kuri Shishu Biddypath in Bogra.

Hizb ut leaflets to BCL men

DU CORRESPONDENT

Over a dozen leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League of a Dhaka University hall yesterday received leaflets by mail from banned Islamist outfit Hizb ut-Tahrir Bangladesh that made a call upon them to join the organisation.

The leaflets, sent over the government run mailing service, reached the Bagabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall at around 2:00pm and an employee of the hall distributed them among the addressing Chhatra League men.

Hall unit Chhatra League President Shaheen Ahmed and General Secretary Nabiruzzaman Babu also received the same leaflets.

Babu said over a dozen activists of the hall received the same leaflets that also called them to 'forge a united political movement against the imperialistic forces.'

The leaflets also made an appeal to foil all conspiracies by the imperialistic forces against the country, Babu added.

There was no address of sender on any of the envelopes or leaflets.

Babu said they are little bit apprehended as the leaflets were sent to the most active activists of BCL. It seems the sender is close to them, he added.

The government banned all activities of Hizb ut-Tahrir in the country on October 22, 2009.

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India donates Tagore's bust to Kushtia municipality

BSS, Dhaka

India has donated a gift of a bust of Rabindranath Tagore to Kushtia municipality as Dhaka and New Delhi are set to celebrate jointly his 150th birth anniversary under a month long programme next year, officials said here yesterday.

Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad unveiled the bust on Saturday at a ceremony, also joined by Indian High Commissioner Rajesh Mitter, at Tagore Lodge in Kushtia.

"The Government of India has donated a bust of Tagore, made by famous Indian sculptor Gautam Pal, to Kushtia Municipality," an Indian High Commission statement said in the city yesterday.

It said the Indian envoy also gifted over 50 books on life and works of Tagore to the mayor of Kushtia for the library at Tagore Lodge alongside a set of musical instruments, including Tabla, Violin and Santoor for teaching of Rabindra Sangeet and music at the Lodge.

Call to speed up trial of war criminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Delay in the process of war crimes trial is making the people feel frustrated and giving a chance to the war criminals to hatch conspiracies to foil the trial, eminent citizens said at a discussion yesterday.

They urged the government to speed up the trial.

They also called on the BNP to help carry out the trial instead of creating obstacles to it.

Oikyabaddha Nagorik Samaj organised the discussion on 'Trial of war crimes and crimes against humanity in the international context and the context of Bangladesh' at the National Museum auditorium in the city, with Justice Gholam Rabbani in the chair.

Prof Muntasir Mamun said, "We thank the government as they have started the trial process as per their election pledges. But we are not satisfied because the trial process is slow. The government should make it faster."

Lawyer Dr M Zahir urged the BNP and the family members of Ziaur Rahman not to support the

war criminals.

Former army chief Lt Gen (retd) Harun-or-Rashid warned that the war criminals and their accomplices are trying to hatch conspiracy to foil the trial.

"The trial process faced a hurdle in the beginning due to a fault in the recruitment process. The government should speed up the trial by allocating enough funds and ensuring all facilities for the trial," he added.

Prof Muhammad Zafar Iqbal said, "We have got a chance to try the war criminals after 38 years. We must not fail this time."

Justice Gholam Rabbani said the people of Bangladesh want to see the trial and it will certainly be held on the soil of Bangladesh.

Prof Anisuzzaman, War Crimes Facts Finding Committee convener Dr MA Hasan and former adviser to a caretaker government Sultana Kamal also spoke at the discussion.

At the programme, a documentary on the killing of Bangalees by the Pakistani occupation forces and their local collaborators in 1971 was screened.

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