

Two muggers arrested with arms in Savar

UNB, Savar

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested two alleged muggers along with a foreign revolver from Dhaka-Aricha highway at Niribili road early yesterday.

The arrested were identified as Abul Bashar Khan and Swapan Gazi.

Acting on a tip off, a team of Rab-4 raided the area and caught them while they were preparing to commit mugging in the area.

Later, a foreign made revolver and one bullet were recovered from their possessions.

A case was filed with Ashulia police station.



Apollo Hospitals Dhaka organised a seminar on 'updates on advanced patient care management' in Rajshahi city recently. From left are Dr Mrinal Kumar Sarker, Dr Shagufa Anwar and Dr Md Quamrul Islam Talukder.

Dhaka urges donors to distribute aid rationally

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni on Saturday called for rationalisation of distribution of aid that many donors allocate based on political, economic and strategic interests.

She made the call while she was addressing as co-chair an interactive policy dialogue on quality and quantity of ODA for LDCs and their debt problem in Lisbon, said a press release.

She also called for improving quality of Official Development Assistance (ODA), and rectification of the huge imbalances in terms of ODA per capita among the least developed countries (LDCs).

Dipu Moni highlighted the concern of gradual decrease in grant in the ODA mix and underscored the need for minimising transaction cost of ODA

and making ODA disbursement and delivery flexible and predictable.

On external debt situation, she underlined that diversion of money from poverty alleviation initiatives and programmes to service debts has its own economic and social implications.

She stressed the need for full and comprehensive debt relief measures for highly indebted countries and for a case-by-case debt relief for countries like Bangladesh.

Dipu Moni asked for greater labour mobility so that LDCs can benefit from remittance sent by the migrants as an innovative source of finance.

She demanded that rights of migrant workers must be ensured and called for reduction in migration costs. She remarked that greater market access could be the best form of outside support

for LDCs.

The FM also asked for early conclusion of the Doha Round.

She underscored the need to secure agreements on free movement of service providers and extension of exemptions of the LDCs from the obligations of patenting pharmaceutical product under the Trade Related Aspect of Intellectual Property (TRIP) right agreement.

She attended a programme of the expatriate Bangladeshi community in Lisbon and exchanged views with them on their livelihoods, working conditions and concerns.

Dipu Moni goes to London today after attending the two-day ministerial meeting on mobilisation of financial resources for LDCs.

WB to help make new national ID cards

UNB, Dhaka

The World Bank is willing to assist in making new national ID card for the people apart from the existing voter ID card.

Planning Minister AK Khandker informed this after a 3-member delegation of the World Bank, headed by Junghun (Jung) Cho, senior governance specialist of South Asia Governance and Public Sector, called on him at his office yesterday.

The Planning Minister said the new national ID card would be prepared based on the information of the voter ID card and on the upcoming Housing and Population Census to be held in March next. The World Bank would provide both financial and technical assistance.

"The voter ID card prepared under the supervision of the Election Commission (EC)

is not a complete national ID card. The new card will have more details, which would not be easy to duplicate," he added.

He said the World Bank, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and the EC would coordinate the making process of the new ID card to avert any duplication.

Asked whether the proposed national ID card could replace the existing voter ID card, he said decision would be taken in this regard in future.

He informed there would be further discussion over the issue with the World Bank. After assessing the proposal, it would be forwarded to the cabinet.

Senior governance specialist of South Asia Governance and Public Sector of World Bank Charles Undeland and Operations Adviser Tahseen Sayed were on the delegation.

Rajuk leases out Waqf land at Baridhara

Claims madrasa secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajdhani Unnyan Kartripakhha (Rajuk) unjustly leased out a big plot to an association by taking the Waqf land of Naimuddin Madrasa at Baridhara in the city, claimed the secretary of madrasa at a press conference yesterday.

Md Shahidur Rahman, secretary (Motowalli) of Moulavi Md Naimuddin Mia Waqf Estate in Block-J of Baridhara, said his father Naimuddin Mia set up a Qawmi madrasa, a mosque, an orphanage and a graveyard in 1972 on the 104 decimal of land, now identified as plot-1/A.

Naimuddin signed a Waqf deed for the property and the establishment in 1986 and registered it with the Waqf administrator, said Shahidur. Naimuddin died in 1996 and was buried at the site.

Shahidur said he filed a case against Rajuk with the district judge of Dhaka in 2006 as Rajuk built a service road by the madrasa complex. The court issued an injunction on

the property, he added.

"Rajuk leased out a 32-katha (40 decimals) plot to Madani Society taking the land from the Waqf estate, violating the court injunction," said Shahidur.

None of the 15-member Shura Committee of the Waqf estate was present with the secretary at the press conference. He brought two locals -- Abdus Sattar and Ali Akbar -- along with him.

Nurul Islam, executive engineer of Rajuk (Gulshan - Baridhara), told The Daily Star that the said property is a part of the land acquired during Pakistan period in 1961 and it has not been derequisitioned yet.

The documents in favour of Waqf estate were created much later in 1986, he said.

According to a High Court verdict, the land is a property of Rajuk, said Islam. "We will conduct further eviction drive against illegal structures on the government land," he added.

About the leasing of a plot from the disputed property, Islam said he is not sure of it.

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3 killed in road crash

A CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

At least three people were killed and another was injured when a truck hit a rickshaw on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Belabo upazila of Narsingdi yesterday.

The rickshaw puller and its two passengers died on the spot. The identities of the victims could not be known immediately.

Saidur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Belabo Police Station, said the accident took place at about 8:30am when a Bhairab-bound iron rod-laden truck hit a rickshaw from behind near bridge No. 6 in Baroicha of the upazila.

The bodies were sent to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital.

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