

Extortionists
hack two
hotel staff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Extortionists hacked two staff of residential hotel with sharp weapons at Mohakhali in the city yesterday.

Injured Selim, 27, and Sadi, 20, staffs of Hotel Britannia International, were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Witness Mamun, another staff, told reporters at DMCH that the gang of 10 men came to the manager's room on the second floor of the seven-storied hotel around 1:30pm.

They shouted for the manager and attacked the two as they asked the criminals why they were looking for the manager, he said.

Some local criminals were threatening the manager for money over the last few days.

Five held,
auto-rickshaw
recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested three muggers and recovered a snatched CNG-run auto-rickshaw in separate drives in the city on Wednesday and yesterday.

The arrestees are Mamun Sikder alias CNG Sikder, Mamun Sardar, and Alamgir. Police said Mamun Sikder led the gang.

Police held Mamun Sardar from Beribadh Company Ghat area around 3:00am on Wednesday while his gang was trying to snatch a three-wheeler.

Another mugger managed to flee the scene with the snatched vehicle. Following his confessional statement, police recovered the snatched three-wheeler from Bosila of Mohammadpur around 3:00am yesterday.

Police in another drive arrested two other members of the gang Mamun Sikder and Alamgir from Rayerbazar around 1:00pm.

Snatchers on Wednesday night board on a CNG-run three-wheeler in guise of passengers and snatched the vehicle from the city's Tejgaon beating up driver Raful Alam. Later, Raful informed petrol police of the matter.

A case has been filed in this connection.

In another drive, Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested two alleged extortionists from the city's Kadomtoli early yesterday.

Police said the youths-- Russel Khandokar, 22, and Sohel Munshi, 25, from Donia--are extortionists.

They used to introduce themselves as the cohorts of criminals--Shahdat, Zesan and Dakat Shahid, police said.

But Sohel claimed himself as a student of Nazimuddin College.



PHOTO: STAR

Lumberjacks take down this huge raintree adjacent to Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Segunbagicha in the city yesterday as it died.

Influential people
behind Yaba trade

Say intelligence, Rab sources

UNB, Dhaka

Despite close vigilance of Border Guard Bangladesh and other law enforcement agencies, several lakhs of stimulating Yaba tablet are entering the country everyday from Myanmar border.

Intelligence sources told the news agency that some powerful international criminal and financial networks are controlling drugs supply-chain within Bangladesh. Yaba is a combination of methamphetamine (a powerful and addictive stimulant) and caffeine. Yaba tablets typically are consumed orally.

Yaba drugs are coming to Teknaf of Cox's Bazaar from Myanmar through the Naf River mainly by small boats, fishing boats, cattle carrying trawlers and small cargo ships. The drugs traffickers have been using a 14 km route between Teknaf and Shahpuri Deep.

Sabrang Union, located in the southern part of Teknaf upazila, near Maungdaw township of Arakan State in Myanmar, is one of the main points used by the traffickers.

The sources said nearly 100 drug peddlers are involved in supplying Yaba tablets across the country specially capital Dhaka from Teknaf.

Each dealer supply 10,000 to 20,000 Yaba tablets in each consignment, said an intelligence officer, adding that each drug dealer sends five to six consignments every months depending on demands.

On Thursday, Rab and the Narcotics Control Department raided a Chinese restaurant in the city's Uttara and arrested drug dealer Abdus Sakur Mahmud, 44.

The law enforcers searched the bag kept on his lap and found around 18,000 pieces of Yaba tablets. This was the second biggest Yaba recovery in terms of quantity as earlier the elite force recovered around 1.20 lakh pieces Yaba tablets from Gulshan in 2007.

Rab headquarters at a press briefing yesterday morning said Mahmud revealed that demand of Yaba tablets are increasing as a section of physicians, judges, army majors and officials have been taking Yaba along side young generation.

Director (Media) of Rab Headquarters Commander Sohail said a section of influential people are involved in Yaba trading in the country.

"We have got names of a number influential people and information about their bank account numbers," Sohail said, adding "We are checking with their bank accounts."

The influential people send money to Singapore through hundi and the money then is re-transferred to Myanmar as payment for Yaba consignment, he said.

BELTA CONFERENCE BEGINS

English accelerates human development

Say speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

English no longer remains merely a language, it is a technology that helps accelerate and sustain the human development process, said speakers at an inauguration ceremony of 5th Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (BELTA) International Conference 2011.

English has become the international lingua franca of global business, they said, stressing on the need to put everyone's concerted efforts in improving knowledge on English language and its application to face global challenges.

BELTA and English in Action (EIA) jointly organised the three-day conference at city's BIAM Foundation. The theme of this year's

conference is "English in a changing world: Global perspective and local context".

Funded by UKaid, the programme's event partners are British Council and The Daily Star while Channel i and Radio Aamar are media partners.

Around 550 teachers, researchers and experts from 10 countries attended the conference to share experiences, research findings and opinions on ways to improve learning and teaching English. An array of papers and workshops by national experts and professionals will be presented at the conference.

Speaking as the chief guest, Dr Mohammed Farashuddin, former governor of Bangladesh Bank, said proficiency in English is a necessity

for the nation to acquire to achieve the goal of a society without poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy and indignity.

"In Bangladesh, we are in a process of realising the long cherished dream of building a peaceful, prosperous, democratic, non-communal, equitable and sustainable digitally sonar Bangladesh... "...and English language is amongst the most critically important ingredients in ensuring that the dream comes true," he said.

Farashuddin, also founder vice chancellor of East West University, called upon the government and development partners to intensify efforts in improving English language proficiency of the country's students.

Rasheda K Choudhury, executive director of Campaign for Popular Education, stressed on the need to connect with the hard to reach population, particularly the underprivileged groups of society.

Most of the programmes and initiatives are apparently meant for formal institutions, she said, urging all to focus more on those who could not make it to schools.

David Graddol, managing director of The English Company (UK) Ltd and visiting professor in English Department of City University, gave a keynote lecture.

BELTA President Dr Rubina Khan, EIA Team Leader Marc van der Stouwer, Senior Programme Manager of DFID Bangladesh Daniel Davis, and British Council Director Charles Nuttal OBE also spoke.



Dr Mohammed Farashuddin, former governor of Bangladesh Bank, speaks at an inauguration ceremony of 5th Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (BELTA) International Conference 2011 at city's BIAM Foundation yesterday, jointly organised by BELTA and English in Action.

PHOTO: STAR



Pedestrians take away an injured as a Mohammedpur-bound Taranga Paribahan bus rammed three rickshaws and a private car in front of Dhanmondi Eidgah Mosque in the city yesterday morning.

PHOTO: STAR

Class lectures
airing on BTV
deferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The broadcast of class lectures of some reputed schools of Dhaka city through Bangladesh Television (BTV) has been deferred by 20 days due to summer vacation.

The broadcast would begin from June 12, said an official handout. Earlier, the ministry announced that the class would be aired from tomorrow.

On May 15, the government announced that they would broadcast class lectures of city's reputed schools through BTV for rural students in a bid to ensure quality education to the rural schools.

The handout said English class of Viqarunnisa Noon School would be telecast on June 12 while Mathematics class of Government Laboratory School on June 13 and Chemistry class of Rajuk Uttara Model High School on June 14.

The Daily Star

Coming out tomorrow - Star Campus
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