

None held yet in railway bungalow robbery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police have made no arrests till yesterday after six days into an armed robbery in the bungalow of Bangladesh Railway general manager in Chittagong city on May 18.

Sub-inspector Alamgir Hossain of Kotwali Police Station repeated that they were conducting drives at different places to arrest the robbers.

Abdullah AL Mahmud, assistant commissioner of Detective Branch (north) of police and investigation officer of the case, said they have identified the miscreants and trying to detain them.

A gang of 30-35 armed robbers entered the bungalow of Yusuf Ali Mridha, general manager of Bangladesh railway (east zone), located behind Central Railway Building, on May 18 and looted laptops, mobile phone sets, and Tk 2 lakh in cash.

Nine railway officers, without their families, used to stay in the bungalow. Seven officers, including Yusuf, were not present during the robbery.

The robbers tied up four security guards of the building around 3:30am and cut open the back door to gain entry into it.

Additional Chief Engineer (track) SM Liaquat Ali, who was present during the robbery, filed a case with Kotwali Police Station on May 18 accusing 35 unknown persons.



President Zillur Rahman speaks at a function at Darirampur High School in Trishal organised by the Ministry of Information and Cultural Affairs marking the 112th birth anniversary of poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.



PHOTO: PID

112TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF NAZRUL

Build prosperous country to respect Nazrul

President urges people

UNB, Trishal (Mymensingh)

President Zillur Rahman yesterday urged the people of all strata for extending sincere support in building a civilised society and a prosperous country to show respect in real sense to the memory of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.

"We can show respect to Nazrul in real sense through building a civilised society and a prosperous country. I urge the people from all walks of life for their sincere support to achieve the goal," he said.

The president was speaking at

a function at Darirampur High School here, organised by the Ministry of Information and Cultural Affairs marking the 112th birth anniversary of the national poet.

Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad presided over the function, also addressed by LGRD Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam, local MP Reza Ali and Cultural Affairs Secretary Suraiya Begum.

Poet Nurul Huda gave the 'Nazrul Memorial Lecture' at the function, where State Minister for Cultural Affairs Promod Mankin, and granddaughters of

poet Nazrul -- Khil Khil Kazi and Misti Kazi -- were present.

Terming Nazrul the symbol of non-communal spirit and a man of versatile talents, the president said he was not only editor of the Jugbani, Dhumketu, Langol and Gonobani newspapers but was also a noted dramatist, experienced actor and filmmaker as well as a social reformer.

"Nazrul was the first and last Bangalee in their thousand years of history who could holistically portray the Bangalee's spirit through his exceptional creative talents and for that he is called the poet of Bengal, the National

Poet of Bangladesh," he said.

Saying that poet Nazrul had highlighted the discriminations to women that prevailed in the society about a century before, Zillur questioned whether the women are having equal rights or status in an independent state in this era of immense development of science and knowledge.

He said serious hurdles are still to be faced in the country if the efforts are taken to uphold the rights of women. "But we're firmly committed to establishing the women's rights and status in Bangladesh whatever the obstacles."

Mentioning that poet Nazrul had held a position above everything communal, he said on one hand he wrote 'Hamd' and 'Naat' explaining Towhid (belief in monotheism) and singing the praise of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh), and on the other he also had written 'Shyama Sangeet', 'Kirtan' and 'Bhazan' for the Hindu community.

Zillur said Nazrul's literature, especially his poems and songs, had been a great source of inspiration for the people during the country's War of Liberation in 1971.

'Nazrul always fought for justice'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation observed the 112th birth anniversary of rebel poet Kazi Nazrul Islam yesterday with due regard and admiration.

On the occasion, teachers, students and employees of University of Dhaka (DU) placed wreaths at Nazrul's grave situated in the university campus.

DU Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof AAMS Arefin Siddiqui placed wreaths at the grave around 6:15am.

Later, Dhaka University Teachers Association (Duta) and students placed wreaths to pay tribute to the national poet.

A memorial meeting was also held at the grave premises.

Prof Arefin Siddiqui; Dr Harun Or Rashid; Bangla Academy Director General Shamsuzzaman Khan; Duta President Dr Mohammad Anwar Hossain; and the poet's granddaughter Khil Khil Kazi spoke at the meeting.

Centre for Inter Religious and Inter Cultural Dialogue organised the seminar titled "Kazi Nazrul Islam and Inter Religious Harmony" at DU, presided over by the centre's Director Dr Kazi Nurul Islam.

"Kazi Nazrul Islam was not a poet only. He was a great philosopher. The main theme of his philosophy was welfare of the people.

"He struggled for justice and rights throughout his life and upheld non communalism," said Prof Arefin.

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote, Bishwa Kabitanantha Parishad, Jatiya Gonotantrik League and Bishwa Bangalee Sammelan also placed wreaths at the poet's grave.

Aila-hit people cry for rehabilitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some eminent citizens yesterday demanded proper rehabilitation of cyclone Aila-hit people in South Western region of the country.

Two years ago on May 25, cyclone Aila swooped on the country's coastal areas and South Western Khulna and Shatkhira districts, killing 193 people and destroying embankments and thousands of houses, says a press release.

Many more acres of land went under water and people there still suffer from a crisis of drinking water, they said at a rally organised by Nagorik Sanghati in front of National Museum in the city yesterday.

They said people there still suffer from a scarcity of food and employment and demanded the government to ensure their employment rather than aid.

The rally's participants held some items symbolising their demands -- for food they held Shanki (clay plate), for water they held Kalshi (clay water container) and for agricultural inputs they held paddy seeds and pesticide.

Columnist and researcher Syed Abul Maksud, Barrister Omar Faruque, former director general of Bangladesh Water Development Board Engr M Enamul

Two years ago on May 25, cyclone Aila swooped on the country's coastal areas and South Western Khulna and Shatkhira districts, killing 193 people and destroying embankments and thousands of houses

Haque and Ifma Hossain of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan also spoke.

They alleged of corruption in building embankments and in distribution of relief and demanded punishment to those involved.

They said the prime minister's declaration to provide house building assistance of Tk 20,000 for each of the affected 46,500 families on July 23 last year is yet to be implemented.



Human chain organised by Nagorik Sanghati in front of the National Museum in the city yesterday, marking two years of the devastating Aila, demanding rehabilitation of the cyclone-stricken people.

PHOTO: STAR



Gono Forum forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday demanding trial of those who are involved in share market scam as well as hike of bus fare and prices of essentials.

PHOTO: STAR

NAM MINISTERIAL MEETING

Hold on to Bandung principles: FM

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni yesterday called upon the Non-Aligned Movement (Nam) to retain, in ethos and practice, the Bandung Principles as the driving force and political voice of the developing world.

She was presenting the country statement at the 16th Ministerial Meeting of the Nam, being held in Bali, Indonesia. Dipu Moni also reaffirmed that the principles of non-alignment constitute an article of faith for Bangladesh.

Bandung principles include mutual respect for each other, territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, respect for mutual equality, and working for mutual

benefit and peaceful co-existence.

Twenty-nine Asian and African states at a conference, which was a precursor to the formation of Nam and held on April 18-24, 1955 in Bandung, Indonesia, unanimously adopted a 10-point declaration -- Bandung Principles.

The foreign minister also reiterated Bangladesh's principled position on Palestine, calling for an early realisation of an independent state of Palestine. She also welcomed Azerbaijan and Fiji, two recent member states of Nam.

On a shared vision for the Nam for the next 50 years, the Bangladesh foreign minister asserted that in a predominantly unipolar world marked by instabilities and tendencies of neo-colonisation, there is a need for a strong and effective Nam to estab-

lish a world order based on sovereign equality, mutual respect, and the rule of law.

Dipu Moni underlined that Nam represents 55 percent of the world's poorer population and majority of the LDCs and migrant sending countries. So it needs to strive harder to address the economic and development challenges of its member countries, she added.

The challenges include duty-and-quota-free market access for all LDCs, free movement of people under the Mode IV liberalisation of the GATs, financing for climate change mitigation and adaptation, and enhanced South-South cooperation.

The foreign minister is leading a four-member Bangladesh delegation to the 16th Ministerial

Meeting of the Nam being held on May 23-27.

The delegation includes Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quyaes, Permanent Representative to the UN Dr Abdul Momen, Bangladesh Ambassador to Indonesia Golam Mohammad, and Director General for UN of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Saida Muna Tasneem.

The ministerial meeting was preceded by a two-day Senior Officials' Meeting, to which Bangladesh delegation was led by the foreign secretary. A total of 118 countries are participating in the ministerial and senior level meeting.

The 16th Ministerial Meeting is also commemorating 50 years of the Movement through special programmes and deliberations.