

# Robbery at city factory, house

Criminals flee with Tk 29 lakh, valuables, claims injured owner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of criminals allegedly robbed cash and valuables worth around Tk 4 crore from a factory and a house after beating the factory owner in the city's Badda area on Thursday evening.

Quamrul Ullah, 49, owner of a cosmetic company Enjoy, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital early yesterday.

Quamrul, who was alone at home during the robbery, said 15 to 20 men entered the house around 5:00pm and forcibly took him to a field, around one kilometre away.

They confined him to a room for four hours and again beat him. They also forced him to sign on a blank paper, he added.

When they let him go, he returned home to find all the furniture and valuables of the house and his factory, adjacent to the house, missing, including Tk 29 lakh in cash, he said.

He said the factory was closed that day.

Officer-in-Charge Mahabubur Rahman of Badda Police Station said three people were arrested after Quamrul filed a case in this connection.

Quamrul sold the house to an Australia expatriate Mizanur Rahman for Tk 75 lakh in 2006 and was living as a tenant. He wanted to buy it back for Tk one crore but Mizanur was not agreeing, creating tension between the two, he added.

Quamrul claimed that he paid Quamrul Tk 19 lakh in advance to buy the house last year and alleged that Mizanur's associates were involved with the robbery.

# 3 commit suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A female garment worker committed suicide by hanging herself at her house at Kalyanpur in the city yesterday.

The deceased is Nazma Akhter, 20, a divorced garment worker.

Police said they recovered her body from the house after she committed suicide by hanging from ceiling with her scarf.

Police arrested garment worker Rassel from Tolarbagh of the area on allegation of provocation following the incident.

Quoting family sources, police said Nazma had a love affair with Rassel and he was forcing her to marry him.

Meanwhile, in Jamalpur, two people, including a college girl, committed suicide in separate incidents in Sadar upazila.

Noushin Yeasmin Rimi, 24, daughter of Samsul Haque, of village Kutamony, committed suicide under the wheels of a Dhaka-bound Jamuna train at Tarakandi Rail Station yesterday morning. She was a degree student of Govt Ashek Mahmud College and also a Kindergarten teacher.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Jamalpur Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

In another incident, Sabuj, 26, a pesticide trader, of municipality area, committed suicide by taking poison on Thursday night.

Sources said he committed suicide over a family feud.

# Rabindranath's works as luminous as his name

Says Justice Habibur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The multidimensional works of Rabindranath Tagore are as luminous as his name, said Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman, former chief adviser to a caretaker government, here yesterday.

He expressed his creativity, mentality to think openly and logic through his works which continue to inspire the young generation even today, he said.

Justice Habibur was speaking as the chief guest after inaugurating a debate competition "Mutual Trust Bank-Prothom Alo-Dristy Rabindra Bitorko Utshob" at Shilpakala Academy with Dristy President Masud Bakul in the chair.

Chittagong University marketing department Chairman Sayed Ahsanul Alam Parvez, Prothom Alo Assistant Editor Biswajit Chowdhury, Mutual Trust Bank Executive Vice President Mohammad Ali Chowdhury and Dristy Chittagong General Secretary Saif Chowdhury also spoke.

# TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR

## Rainy Day Snippets

As I step closer to the pedestrian overbridge on my way to Sadarghat, I see the morning sky darkening. Within minutes it is pouring. Running, I take shelter on the stairs of a store which has yet to open.

I wait - with many others - for the rain to stop. As I watch the street, memories of other rainy days flood my mind.

The saddest-looking vendor stall I ever saw was in the rain in Khilkhet. Empty and desolate, it announced the services of a watch repairman to an indifferent world. But the stall next door was buzzing with customers braving the rain. What was he offering? Umbrella repairs, of course.

Another day, as the rain just started, I took shelter in the porch of a cinema hall. The papaya vendor, his trolley in the porch, was looking pleased. "I love this weather," he announced.

"Why", I asked. He mumbled unintelligibly, leaving me puzzled.

The explanation came soon. The porch filled with hundreds of rain-soaked people. Presently they grew tired of watching the rain and looked for diversions. The papayas tempted many and soon the vendor had sold everything.

Rickshawallahs get no break in the rain because they live hand to mouth and must earn every day. But on rainy days they can exact a premium from passengers. Those with a good panikapor-waterproof wrap to protect the passenger - can charge the highest fares. I once observed a savvy rickshaw passenger negotiating in Siddiq Bazar. When quoted the fare, she immediately asked to see the panikapor. "Eesh! Your panikapor has holes! No way will I pay twenty Taka to Gulistan!"

Rain has always been a good excuse for the tardy. I recall overhearing a man issue this monologue when his mobile phone rang:

"Sir! Assalamu-alaikum Sir! I am caught in the rain in Sutrapur for half an hour and will be late for work, Sir! Yes, heavy rain Sir! Sorry Sir, all the busses are full. Not a single rickshaw, Sir!" His boss, in far off Banani, does not know that the rain in Sutrapur started only five minutes ago, or that several empty rickshaws are waiting on the street. Mr. Tardy had just bought himself another hour before starting work!



Rainy Day in old Dhaka.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

I have never seen a child not enjoy the rain. But parents become anxious for their infants. They frantically protect their child, lest it catch a cold. Often, mothers bundle their child into their sari for protection. I once spied one such child peeking out of mom's blue sari. The twinkle in her eyes told me she was thoroughly enjoying the rainy ride.

"Sir, could you please move to the side?" My daydream of rainy days is interrupted by the store owner who wants to reopen his store. The rain has stopped and people have left the shelter. And so, shaking myself out of dreaming, I too resume towards Sadarghat. Ahhh! The air smells fresh and clean indeed!

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# PM for more ties in S Asia



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks to Commonwealth Secretary General Kamalesh Sharma during a call on at her hotel suite in New York yesterday.

UNB, New York

Vice-President of the Maldives Dr Mohamed Waheed and Commonwealth Secretary General Kamalesh Sharma separately met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday morning.

During the meetings, they exchanged views on various issues of democracy and development, said PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad.

Dr Waheed praised Sheikh Hasina's campaign to protect the planet from the wrath of climate change and her role in accelerating people's empower-

ment and establishing the rights of people, including autistic kids and other physically and mentally challenged people in society.

On Saarc, the two leaders focused on future action plans of the association.

The prime minister described poverty as the main enemy of the South Asian nations and called for concerted efforts for its alleviation. She also laid emphasis on increasing connectivity in South Asian region for socioeconomic prosperity.

During the meeting with Kamalesh Sharma, the prime minister mentioned her government's role in strengthening the foundation of democracy in the country.

Hasina said opposition party MPs have been made the chairmen of various parliamentary standing committees. The opposition MPs are attending the meetings and going abroad on tours, but unfortunately, she said, they do not attend the parliament sessions.

The secretary general hoped Bangladesh would be able to become a modern, developed country under the able leadership of Sheikh Hasina.

## ASK OBSERVES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

# Vow to resist rights violations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some eminent personalities and several hundred human rights activists yesterday vowed to work together to resist human rights violations especially extra-judicial killings and torture by law enforcers.

They also urged all to launch a social movement to end social injustice and all forms of discrimination.

They made the call at a discussion organised by Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), a human rights organisation, marking its 25th founding anniversary in the city's Chhayanaut Bhaban.

Delivering the welcome speech, ASK Executive Director Sultana Kamal said everyone should nurture the spirit of establishing a country free from social injustice and discrimination within themselves.

"We should take courage from our War of Liberation and national anthem to fight against injustice," she said.

Addressing the function as the key speaker, internationally renowned human rights campaigner Sunila Abeysekera emphasised on collaborative efforts to draw the attention of South Asian political leaders to initiative more effective measures to uphold human rights.

"We have a shared objective to establish social justice and peace. We should work together to meet the goal,"



Ain O Salish Kendra brings out a procession from Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban area in the city yesterday celebrating its 25th anniversary.

said Sunila, hailing from Sri Lanka.

Rule of law, independence of the judiciary and press freedom, the major components of democracy, should be established to uphold human rights, she said.

Noted academician Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Chowdhury opined that village arbitration is one of the major causes of human rights violations, which is increasing day by day.

Transparency International Bangladesh Executive Director Dr Iftekharruzzaman said incidents of

torture on Limon and Kadar by law enforcers and mob killing of six students are clear examples of the vulnerable condition of human rights in Bangladesh.

Presiding over the function, noted lawyer Barrister Amir-ul Islam said after 40 years of independence, the country is far behind in establishing good governance.

A number of cultural personalities and non-government organisation activists also attended the function. Earlier, they brought out a procession marking the day.

# NEWS IN brief

## President admitted to CMH

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman was admitted to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in the city yesterday evening.

President's press secretary AKM Nesaruddin Bhuiyan told the agency that the president has been suffering from indigestion.

He was taken to the CMH at 7:30pm.

## Four DU students held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four resident students of Sergeant Zahurul Haq Hall at Dhaka University were arrested with rods and sticks in a police raid in the hall last night.

The arrested are first year honours students -- Imran Hossain of Bengali department, Kamal Hossain of social science faculty and Shariful Islam and Morshed Alam of history department.

Hall sources said they are followers of Reaz Uddin Chowdhury Sumon, president of the hall unit Bangladesh Chhatra League.

Proctor Prof KM Saiful Islam, accompanying police during the raid, said the students were arrested as police found 25 rods and sticks from their room, number 2005 on the first floor, around 11:30pm.

## BGB recovers 4 rifles, 10 bullets

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) recovered four rifles with 10 bullets from Naraichhari area under Dighinala upazila of Khagrachhari district yesterday.

Acting on a tip off, BGB personnel from Logang camp led by Captain Fahim raided the area around 07:00am, recovered the arms and handed them over to Dighinala Police Station, said Panchhari BGB Commanding Officer Lt Col Tauhidul Islam.

## Two youths held with arms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Police arrested two youths with four 9mm pistols and 32 bullets from Signboard area of Daulatdia in Rajbari yesterday.

They are Shahjahan Hossain and Biplob Hossain. Police arrested the two from a Dhaka-bound bus around 3:00am.

## Woman's body found

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police recovered the decomposed body of an unidentified young woman from the bank of Halda river of Uttar Madarsa in the port city on Thursday night.

The woman was wearing a kameez of turquoise and salwar of brown colour, police added.

## Idols damaged in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah.

A group of miscreants vandalised the idols of a puja mandap at Banuria village in Kaliganj upazila early Friday.

Puja Ujjapan Committee member Parimol Kumar said the idols of Ganesh and Laxmi were found damaged in the morning.

Kaliganj UNO Anjumanara Begum and police visited the spot.

## Beheaded body recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

The beheaded body of an unidentified man was found floating in the Baka Beel of Atrai upazila in Naogaon yesterday.

Police recovered the body from the beel around 12:30pm after local people informed of the matter.

The identity of the deceased could not be known immediately.

## Moderately heavy falls likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in 24 hours till 6.00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places over the country, said Met Office. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:54pm and rises tomorrow at 5:49am.

Country's highest temperature 33.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Tangail and lowest 24.6 degrees at Sylhet and Cox's bazaar.

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	32.0	27.2	77	64
Chittagong	31.2	25.8	83	83
Rajshahi	30.6	26.0	91	92
Rangpur	30.5	26.5	90	82
Khulna	31.2	25.5	93	82
Barisal	32.5	26.5	87	87
Sylhet	32.1	24.6	91	85
Cox's Bazar	30.6	24.6	91	85

পবিত্র হজ্জপালনকালে সম্মানিত হাজীদের জন্য সৌদি আরবের আবহাওয়া উপযোগী ও শরীয়া সম্মতভাবে বিশেষ প্রক্রিয়ায় তৈরী...  
**লুটে সামগ্রী**  
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