

# 161 tolas of gold looted in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robbers looted 161 tolas of gold ornaments from a jewellery shop at a market in the city's Mirpur early yesterday.

The incident took place at around 3:30am at Mamata Taiba Jewellers housed in a tin-shed building at Janakalyan Samity Market at Mirpur 13.

Mamunur Rahman, owner of the shop, told The Daily Star that he left his shop at around 11:00pm on Tuesday and at around 4:00am the security guards of the market informed him of the burglary over phone.

The robbers entered the market by cutting its collapsible gate and looted the ornaments breaking open the shutter of the shop, he said quoting the guards.

"The robbers committed the robbery by tying up its three security guards-- Abdul Khaleq, Shah Ali and Abdul Latif and fled the scene by a truck," said Mamunur Rahman adding that the 161 tolas of gold were of various ornaments of the customers, including ring and necklace.

Asked, the shop owner said he could not suspect anybody to be involved in the burglary.

He filed a robbery case with Kafur Police Station accusing 12 to 15 unknown criminals.

Khaleq, one of the security guards, said the burglars first stopped their truck before the market and five to six of them first bent their hands, legs and mouths at gunpoint while the rest of the robbers broke the collapsible gate and shutter of the shop.

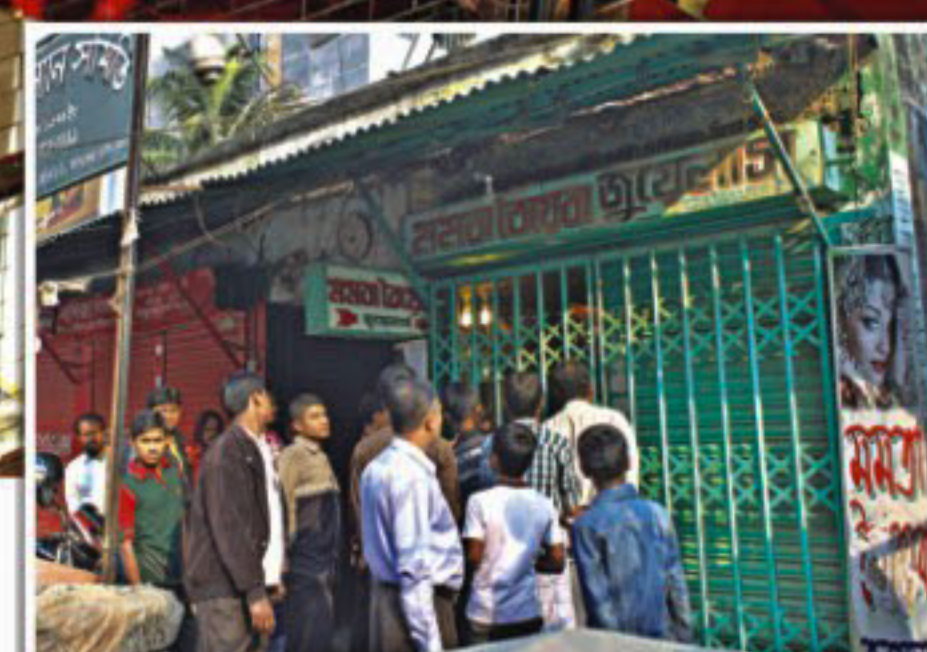
Abdul Latif, officer-in-charge of Kafur Police Station, said a drive is going on to nab the robbers.

None was arrested and no gold ornament was recovered till filing of this report last night.



The inside of the looted jewellery shop, Mamata Taiba Jewellers, at Janakalyan Samity Market in the city's Mirpur. Inset, people peeping through the shutter which was broken during the robbery yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



# \$53.33m Saudi loan for power plant

METRO DESK

The Saudi Fund for Development has approved a loan of US\$53.33 million to take part in the financing of Shikalbadha Power Plant project in Bangladesh.

The participation is an assistance of the development efforts of the government of Bangladesh, says a press release of the Saudi Embassy in Dhaka.

# MASS PROCESSION BNP seeks govt's cooperation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP has sought cooperation from the ruling Awami League government to make its anti-government mass procession, scheduled for Sunday (January 29), a success.

Party Chairperson Khaleda Zia will lead the procession, which will start from in front of the party's central office at Nayapaltan in the city at 02:00pm. But the route of the protest march will be fixed today or tomorrow.

"Our procession will be peaceful. We have sent letters to the home minister, home secretary, and police commissioner for providing necessary assistance to make the programme successful", Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said at a press briefing last evening at the Nayapaltan office.

# KERANIGANJ INCIDENT Arrest of killers demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The traders of Aganagar Mamta market in South Keraniganj yesterday demanded the arrest and trial of killers of a minor boy on January 19.

The boy was killed by a stray bullet during a clash between two factions of ruling Awami League (AL). The clash erupted between the two groups--one led local AL leader Mujibur Rahman and another by Suvadda union parishad Chairman Mohammad Iqbal-- over establishing supremacy there.

They made the demand at a press conference held at the Bangladesh Crime Reporters Association office in the city.

Hafez Miah, the father of the boy Mohammad Sohel who was a class-I student, filed a case accusing Mujibur Rahman and 200 others on January 20 in connection with the death.

General Secretary of the market Faruk Hossain at the press event alleged that police are yet to arrest the accused though they are threatening the traders to vacate the market.

Refuting the blame, Officer-in-Charge of South Keraniganj Police Station Sakhawat Hossain said they are trying to arrest the accused.

# Ensure fundamental rights: Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the actual definition of human rights is to ensure all the fundamental rights of the people as well as establishment of peace in society and the present government is relentlessly working to this end.

She made the remark when a delegation of Bangladesh Manobadhikar Council met her at her office yesterday.

Briefing journalists after the meeting, the PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad said the PM has called upon the members of the delegation to help the poor and distressed people in getting legal assistance from the government.

Hasina advised the council members to help get release for the hapless, poor prisoners especially the female prisoners, who are passing their days in jail without any specific charges.

Thanking the army for foiling the recent bid to topple the elected government, she said the armed forces' members and their families usually become the worst victims of any such incidents.

Hasina put emphasis on presenting the real history of liberation war and war criminals to the youths.

She appreciated the role of the council members in resolving family conflicts and land disputes.

The council Chairman Abdur Rahim Khan, Secretary General Dr Farid, former MP Shahidul Islam Khan and Kazi Mozammel Haq were present among others.

# Work for extradition deal with Delhi

## Inter-ministerial meet asks officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Officers of the ministries concerned at a meeting here yesterday were asked to prepare a working paper on an Indian proposal to sign a bilateral treaty on extradition between Bangladesh and India.

The Indian government made the proposal of signing the treaty between the two countries at the Indo-Bangla home secretary level meeting held at Delhi last November.

At yesterday's meeting, both the countries demanded extradition of some important accused, including Ulfa leader Anup Chetia and Risaldar Moslehuddin, an absconding killer of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Different points of the Indian proposal were discussed at the inter-ministerial meeting, presided over by Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes. The officials, who attended from home, foreign and law ministries, were

asked to prepare the working paper.

A source in the meeting held at the foreign ministry said as many top listed criminals and others, including Risaldar Moslehuddin, remain absconding in India and Indian jails. Bangladesh needs to sign the treaty to get the persons back.

The source added that similarly India has given stress on signing the treaty as its separatists and other restive elements persons often try to cross the border to hide in Bangladesh.

Due to the absence of the treaty, both the countries fail to bring back their wanted persons, the source said declining to elaborate the content of the Indian proposal.

High officials from the police headquarters, the department of prison and the national security intelligence were also present at the meeting.

The source said a series of meetings will be held later in this regard but it did not mention the date of the next meeting.

# BIJOYNAGAR VIOLENCE 161 Jamaat men charged

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against 161 Jamaat-e-Islami men including its acting ameer Maqbul Ahmad and acting secretary general ATM Azharul Islam in connection with violence in the capital's Bijoy Nagar on September 19.

Metropolitan Magistrate Asaduzzaman Nur of the Speedy Trial Court-6 passed the order after rejecting petitions of the accused for clearing them of the charges.

Meanwhile, trial of another case filed with Ramna Police Station against Maqbul, ATM Azharul and 118 others began yesterday.

On September 19 last year, several hundred Jamaat activists fought pitched battles with the police in the capital after law enforcers foiled their rally, leaving at least 100 injured.

The party men set fire to at least 28 vehicles, broke around 200 others and vandalised dozens of roadsideshops, police said.

Two cases were filed-- one with Paltan Police Station while another with Ramna Police Station-- on charges of assaulting police, disrupting traffic movement and creating anarchy.

Azharul and 154 accused present at the court yesterday pleaded not guilty after the charges were read out to them. Of them, 149 are now on bail while six are in jail.

The court also framed charges against Maqbul Ahmad and five others, in their absence, as they are absconding.

The court fixed February 6 for starting the trial of the case.



Bangladesh Awami Muktijoddha League forms a human chain before Jatiya Press Club yesterday protesting the recent plot in army to topple the government.

PHOTO: STAR

# MUTUAL COOPERATION WITH OTHER STATES Law enacted to fight crimes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To deal with crime better, Bangladesh has enacted a law to set up a central authority for mutual cooperation between Bangladesh and foreign countries.

The legislation made through promulgation of an ordinance by President Zillur Rahman on January 17, provides detailed procedure for inter-country cooperation in carrying out enquiries, prosecutions and trial of criminal activities.

It also empowers the Bangladesh government to freeze or attach properties of criminals and their equipment used in criminal activities in line with the request of a foreign country. The Bangladesh authorities may also take necessary steps to enforce a court verdict of a foreign country to freeze and attach properties if the existing laws in Bangladesh allow.

Regardless of having a treaty with Bangladesh, a foreign country seeking cooperation will have to certify that it will also

provide Bangladesh the required assistance in return.

Under the new legislation, foreign countries will have access to the Bangladesh government's preserved documents, if existing laws do not prevent those from being disclosed.

The provisions of the law will be applicable for international tribunals seeking cooperation.

An advisory board headed by an additional attorney general will provide the central authority with legal opinions on various issues related to giving and seeking cooperation.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday placed five ordinances promulgated by the president before parliament.

They are: the mutual assistance of crime related issue ordinance, public servants (retirement) (amendment) ordinance, anti-human trafficking ordinance, money laundering prevention ordinance and anti-terrorism act (amendment) ordinance.

# Corporate bodies urged to help prevent HIV/AIDS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Corporate bodies should come forward to help prevent HIV/AIDS through raising mass awareness among people more vulnerable to the deadly infectious disease, business leaders and health experts said yesterday.

Garment workers were among many other groups vulnerable to the disease and they required special attention, they said at a national seminar titled "Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Preventing HIV/AIDS".

Marie Stopes and Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) organised the seminar at a city hotel, says a press release.

BGMEA President Shafiqul Islam Mohiuddin urged the local initiatives to team up with foreign organisations

to help prevent HIV/AIDS.

Appreciating the initiative of the BGMEA, Global Fund and Save the Children for implementing a project on prevention of HIV/AIDS through workplace interventions, Marie Stopes Country Management Consultant Anil P Tamby said BGMEA should continue its effort to prevent the disease in garment factories that contribute to the national economy through earning foreign currency.

Save the Children Country Director Michael McGrath said the private sector is extending its support in this regard, and it should strengthen their efforts.

Local stakeholders should take over charge of every donor-based programme at one stage through partnership among corporate bodies,

local entrepreneurs and stakeholders under CSR, said McGrath.

Under the CSR, the BGMEA has been working with Marie Stopes since 2008 and provided life skills education to 313,354 garment workers of 147 garment factories in Dhaka, Gazipur and Narayanganj.

It also trained 168 master trainers, 700 peer educators and 564,580 garment workers, and raised awareness about HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases through video show among the people of different communities.

Dr Abul Kalam Azad, additional director general of the Directorate General of Health Services, BGMEA Vice President Faruque Hassan, second Vice President Siddiqur Rahman, former vice president Harun-Ar-Rashid also spoke at the seminar.



Bangladesh Diploma Bekar (unemployed) Nurses Association starts fast-unto-death programme at Central Shaheed Minar yesterday to get appointment immediately.

PHOTO: STAR