NEWSIN

Robbers abduct baby in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of robbers abducted a seven-month-old baby girl and took away gold ornaments and money in cash from a house at Khilgaon in the capital last night.

The infant was identified as Maysha, daughter of one Shah Alam.

Police told this correspondent quoting Shah Alam that the robbers looted 20 tolas of gold ornaments and cash at gun point from his house at Block-C when it was raining.

Air chief goes to US

UNB, Dhaka

Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman left Dhaka for the United States on Friday night at the invitation of United States government and Department of Defence.

During his visit, the air chief will attend a seminar on "Management of natural disasters in South Asia" to be organised jointly by John F Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, Near East South Asia Strategic Studies and Asia Pacific Centre for Security Studies, said an ISPR release yesterday.

The release said the seminar will focus on cooperation in the management of natural disaster in South Asia, including planning, crisis action, decision making and building multi agency and regional capacity.

AUB VC severely ill

METRO DESK

Vice Chancellor of Asian University of Bangladesh, Prof Dr Abulhasan M Sadeq, has been seriously ill after he suffered a heart attack on April 4, says a press release.

Immediately after the attack, he was sent to United

Hospital in the capital's Gulshan. Doctors advised him to fly to Singapore for restoring his health.

Family and AUB teachers, students and staff requested all to pray for his quick recovery.

'Cultural activists play vital role'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Speakers at a get together of reciters yesterday said cultural activists always played vital role during any crucial period of the country.

They urged all activists involved in the art of recitation to come forward for creating a progressive society enriched in art and culture.

The programme was organised by 'Tarunnyer Uchhash,' an organisation working on recitation poetry, on Islamabadi Memorial Hall premises.

Famous reciter Shimul Mostafa was present as chief guest while reciter Ronjit Rokshit, Mir Borkat and other reciters of the organisation were also present on the occasion.

Two Wasa officials suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) yesterday suspended two engineers for allegedly taking bribes and their alleged involvement in corruption, says a Wasa press release.

The accused are Superintendent Engineer Md Saidul Islam and Executive Engineer Sheikh Md Ruhul Amin.

The suspension order came into effect yesterday. The authority had received allegations against the officials while they were working in drainage department of the organisation.

Moon sighting body meets today

UNB, Dhaka

The National Moon Sighting Committee will meet today to ascertain the sighting of moon of holy Jamadius Sani month in the Hijri year 1433.

State Minister for Religious Affairs and president of the committee Mohammad Shajahan Mia will chair the meeting to be held at Islamic Foundation Baitul Mukarram conference room at 7:00pm.

People have been requested to inform over the following phone and fax numbers if the moon is sighted anywhere in the country

Tel: 9559493, 9559643, 9555947, 9556407, 9558337. Fax: 9563397.



Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met office said.

Mild heat wave is sweeping over Khulna divisions and the regions of Rajshahi and Pabna divisions and it may continue.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital at 6:23pm today and rises at 5:31am

tomorrow. Country's highest temperature 38.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday

at Chuadanga and lowest 20.4 degrees Celsius at Comilla.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities

and towns yesterday were: City/Town Temperature in **Humidity** in Celsius percentage Evening Morning Max: 33.4 22.6 Dhaka Chittagong 30.1 22.5 Rajshahi 37.0 67 24.1 31.3 Rangpur 36.5 26.5 Khulna 34.0 Barisal 73 65 Sylhet 33.9 74 23.5



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina poses with global leaders and the award winners at the inaugural session of World Investment Forum in Doha of Qatar on April 20.

Missing of Ilias to cover up railwaygate scandal

Says Barrister Rafique-ul Huq

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

City

Eminent jurist Barrister Rafique-ul Huq yesterday said the election to the bifurcated Dhaka City Corporation would not be held until victory was sure for the ruling party candidate.

"The way the High Court and the Appellate Division are moving [on the DCC poll stay], it seems to me that the DCC election won't be held in near future and until the government becomes sure its candidate will be elected", he said.

This is first time the High Court stayed an election and the Appellate Division upheld the postponement order, Haq said, maintaining that the views were of his own.

Addressing a meeting at Jatiya Press Club, the jurist also claimed that the disappearance of BNP leader Ilias Ali was to cover up former railways minister's Tk 70 lakh scan-

Mentioning that two cases were filed against Ilias on the basis of 10-year-old allegations on the night of his disappearance, Haq said, "It sufficiently indicates that somebody is behind the disappearance. Otherwise, how police record FIR on allegations, which emerged 10 years ago".

Haq also said, "Tk 70 lakh is not a big amount for politicians. But no one questions, from where the directors will get Tk 400 crore for the new six banks, which were recently approved by the Bangladesh Bank".

Awami League leader and DCC mayoral aspirant Mahmudur Rahman Manna presided over the programme.

Worker dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A construction worker died

after falling from an under-

construction building at

Taltola in Patiya upazila

The deceased was iden-

tified as Saiful Islam, 18

son of Monir Ahmed of

Rashidabad village in the

Sub-Inspector (SI)

Salauddin of Patiya Police

Station said Saiful suddenly

fell down from the third floor

of the four-storey building

while he was fitting grill

around a balcony on the

floor and was injured criti-

He was rushed to Patiya

Upazila Health Complex

where on-duty doctors

declared him dead.

in fall

yesterday.

upazila.

cally.



Common people form a human chain before Jatiya Press Club in the capital demanding safe roads yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

EDN POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Say educationists

economist Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad.

ing at a views exchange meeting.

implement the policy.

Kholiquzzaman disagreed.

added.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political will needed

Educationists yesterday laid emphasis on specific budgetary

allocation, dedicated manpower, and political will for the

cation policy--administrative and economic", said noted

unless dedicated people are appointed for it", he said, speak-

implement the policy," said Kholiquzzaman, also co-chairman

Formulation Committee, said political will was a necessity to

not bring any good for education", he said. "Concerted

efforts of the government, NGOs, teachers, guardians and

proper enforcement of related laws is imperative, said

might be changed with the change of government,

new government, as it is the first one accepted by all but a small

education law and permanent education commission. But it

section of people, irrespective of their political identities".

The government's will apart, sufficient allocation and

While a number of speakers expressed fear that the policy

"I hope the education policy would not be changed with the

He also said work was underway for the enactment of an

The Jatiya Sangsad unanimously adopted the National

Government employees, teachers' association leaders, and

Amar Odhikar Campaign, a network of some organisa-

Education Policy-2010 in December 2010 for the betterment

NGO activists spoke at the programme, while Sabbir Bin Shams,

tions working on education, organised the meeting on

"Translating National Education Policy 2010 into Realities:

Anticipation and Challenges" at the capital's Cirdap with its

an education researcher, presented the concept paper.

of the country's overall education sector.

Chairperson Nilufar Banu in the chair.

media are needed to implement the policy", he added.

Ekramul Kabir, member secretary of the committee.

of National Education Policy Formulation Committee.

"There are two main problems in implementing the edu-

"The policy's implementation would not advance much

"The government has to give specific budgetary allocation to

Kazi Farruque Ahmed, member of the Education Policy

"If we can not keep education away from politics, it would

proper implementation of the national education policy.

DOWRY-RELATED VIOLENCE

539 women die in 2 years

Reveals Odhikar report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 539 women were killed in dowryrelated violence in the country during the past two years, the annual human rights report of Odhikar, a rights body, revealed at an advocacy meeting yesterday.

The figure appearing in the report is a mere fraction of the entire scenario, as most of the incidents go unreported.

Ulla Anttiila, executive director of the KIOS, a Finnish NGO Foundation for Human Rights, told the meeting that violence against women at any level in any form was violation of human rights. The violence encompasses coercion and

arbitrary denial of personal liberty of women and physical, psychological and sexual harassment, said Swedish Ambassador Anneli Lindahl Kenny, citing the UN definition. The Odhikar report shows 1,255 women

were raped, 761 of them below 18 years, while 924 others were sexually harassed with 13 of them killed. About 54 women allegedly committed

suicide, and 167 others suffered acid vio-

lence, it adds. The speakers said violence against

women persisted due to defective criminal justice system, among others. While criminal justice system in

Bangladesh is patriarchal, weak and discriminatory to women, corruption of the law enforcers and court officials foil the chances of justice to repressed women, Saira Rahman Khan, a founder member of Odhikar, said in her keynote presentation. Moreover, inaction of the related govern-

ment agencies virtually facilitates the violation, as victims are often denied justice due to social discrimination although various laws are in place, she added. Prof Mizanur Rahman, chairman of

National Human Rights Commission, said the victims were denied justice in Bangladesh due to faulty criminal justice

"The criminal justice administration is in deep crisis," he said, and it was wellmanifested when prosecution declared at the higher judiciary that they had failed to deliver their duty.

Referring to the "disappearance" of opposition leader Ilias Ali, he demanded the government investigate the incident and make it public in shortest possible time.

It is the duty of the state to ensure security of any citizen, he said. Replying to a question, Prof Mizanur said

the commission had found involvement of law enforcement agency men in some cases, as they investigated some of such incidents. The Swedish ambassador said unequal

patriarchal power structure that threatens women's security was a root cause of the violence. A concerted effort by the state along with

NGO, media and civil society is a must to

combat the violence as a development policy, she said. Though Sweden is recognised to have the highest level of gender-equality, she said,

incidents of men's violence against women were there in Swedish society too. Sweden is the first country to have a law in 1965 that recognised marital rape, she said, adding that Swedish laws recognised vio-

lence against women as a criminal offence and awarded offenders up to six years of imprisonment. Still, she said, 27,000 counts of violence

against women were reported in Sweden in Equal rights and empowerment of

women, democracy and environment conservation feature as policy priority in Swedish international aid for Bangladesh, she said. Farida Akhtar, treasurer of Odhikar,

chaired the inaugural session of the meeting organised jointly by Odhikar and KIOS at the capital's Brac Centre Inn.

Six eminent citizens get Nawab Ali Chy award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six renowned personalities and two organisations were awarded Nawab Ali Chowdhury National Award 2012 yesterday for outstanding contributions in their respective fields.

The fields are freedom struggle, banking of Dhaka University. and finance, Information and tion and poverty alleviation.

The awardees are Lutful Hai Sacchu (post- University was established. humously in the freedom struggle), ActionAid Bangladesh Country Director developing the Muslim society were immense. Farah Kabir (women empowerment), Publisher Mahfuz Anam (journalism).

The organisations are Notre Dame College (education) and Palli Karma-Sahayak

Nawab Ali Hasan Ali Srmiti Sangsad organised the awarding programme at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban

Foundation (poverty alleviation).

The programme marked the 83rd death Communication Technology (ICT), women anniversary of Nabab Bahadur Syed Nawab empowerment, sports, journalism, educa- Ali Chowdhury, a member of Nathan Commission through which Dhaka

Addressing the programme, Prof Dr Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Atiur Rahman Anisuzzaman of philosophy department of (banking and finance), Bangladesh Dhaka University said Nawab Ali Chowdhury Association of Software and Information was a non-communal person whose contri-Service President Mahboob Zaman (ICT), butions to promoting women in society and

Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Bangladesh cricket team member Shakib Al Siddique addressed as the chief guest at the Hasan (sports) and The Daily Star Editor and programme, chaired by the sangsad Chairman Prof Akbar Uddin Ahmed.



(From left) Shitangshu Kumar Sur Chowdhury, Prof Akbar Uddin Ahmed, Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Prof Dr Anisuzzaman and Abrar Uddin Ahmed pose for a photo at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban of Dhaka University yesterday at the presentation programme of Nawab Ali Chowdhury National Award 2012, organised by Nawab Ali Hasan Ali Srmiti Sangsad. PHOTO: STAR