

Muggers shoot man, take away money

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers shot and injured a private firm employee before snatching Tk 1.15 lakh from him at Motijheel in the capital yesterday.

The victim Khorshed Alam, 30, is a payment collector at Planet Corporation, a company that supplies garment accessories.

The victim said he was carrying the money in a small bag and was walking from his Fakirapuj residence to his Motijheel office around 10:00am.

"As soon as I neared Navana CNG Station," said Khorshed, "three men appeared on a motorcycle and started pulling at my bag. They also punched and kicked me to snatch the bag that I was holding tight."

They fired a blank shot but "I was determined not to give in", said Khorshed. "Then one of them shot at my left thigh."

The three snatched the bag and drove off towards Motijheel Shapla Chattar, he added.

Khorshed staggered to Motijheel Police Station a little distance away. Police took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he underwent an operation.

He is now receiving treatment at Islami Bank Central Hospital in Kakrail.

He collected the amount from a client in Baitul Mokarram area on Friday and kept the amount in his house.

None had been arrested in this connection. Hayatuzzaman Mollah, officer-in-charge of the police station, told The Daily Star.

Khaleda

FROM PAGE 20

China had told his party chief that it would continue to assist Bangladesh in its socio-economic development.

He said Khaleda had meetings with Chinese Vice-President Xi Jinping, Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi and Vice-Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Chen Fengxiang.

She sought Chinese support in building the bridge, the seaport and various other development programmes in Bangladesh.

Mosharraf said Khaleda also requested the Chinese leadership for establishing direct road and rail links between Chittagong and Kunming to further cement bilateral ties, enhance trade and commerce as well as increase people-to-people contact.

China assured her of looking into it with due importance, he added.

Issues like Chinese assistance in socio-economic development of Bangladesh and various other projects also figured prominently during the talks with the Chinese leadership, the BNP leader claimed.

He said BNP and Communist Party of China agreed on enhanced contact and cooperation between the two friendly parties and laid emphasis on exchange of visits of leaders of different levels.

BNP standing committee member and former army chief Mahubur Rahman said China showed interest in assisting Bangladesh to modernise its armed forces.

At the press conference, BNP chairperson's Press Secretary Maruf Kamal Khan said Khaleda would leave for New Delhi on October 28 for a week-long visit to India at the invitation of the Indian government.

He told reporters that during the visit, the former prime minister was expected to call on Indian President Pranab Mukherjee and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

She would also pay a visit to Ajmer Sharif, he added.

BNP leaders Nazrul Islam Khan, Selima Rahman, Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury, Sabihuddin Ahmed and Shamsur Rahman Shimul Biswas were present at the press conference.

Grateful to you all

FROM PAGE 1

"Friends of Liberation War Honour", went to 61 recipients -- 50 from India, three from the UK, two from the USA, two from Sweden and one each from Nepal, Italy, Australia and Vietnam.

Two heads of government - former Indian prime minister I K Gujral and former prime minister of Nepal Late Girija Prasad Koirala -- were awarded the Bangladesh Liberation War Honour while the rest 59 Friends of Liberation War Honour.

Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Pankaj Saran and Sujata Koirala, daughter of Late Girija Prasad Koirala, received the awards on behalf of Gujral and Koirala respectively.

Renowned Indian actress Shabana Azmi received the award conferred posthumously on her father the noted Indian poet and lyricist Kaifi Azmi.

Recalling the recipients' roles in 1971, President Zillur Rahman said, "Today, I remember with great respect the outstanding contribution of our foreign friends, who rendered wholehearted support and cooperation to our War of Liberation from their respective positions."

"Your endless generosity will remain in our hearts forever. As our friends, I believe, you would continue your valuable support and cooperation in our development process in the years to come," said the president.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina started her speech by recalling the contributions of national leaders like wartime president Syed Nazrul Islam and prime minister Tajuddin Ahmad.

She said, "As we honour our heroes today, we reaffirm our faith in the principles we stood for."

"Your support reconfirmed that our cause was right and our struggle could not be trampled. You heard our yearning for justice, honour and dignity. You added to our voice and magnified it for the global community," she said expressing her sincere gratitude to the foreign friends.

Terming the trial process of war criminals transparent and fair, the prime minister

said it would open the path of national reconciliation by closing an unpleasant chapter of history, reports BSS.

"We are confident that the process would help us close an unpleasant chapter in our history and allow us to proceed with greater clarity on our respective roles and responsibilities. This would certainly help us all reconcile," she said.

The Cabinet Division, Ministry of Liberation War Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs jointly organised the colourful ceremony. This was the third phase of presenting awards to foreign nationals and organisations.

Sheikh Hasina announced in the function that the fourth phase of awarding the friends would take place in December this year.

In the first phase, the government on July 25, 2011 conferred Bangladesh Freedom Honour posthumously on former Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi.

The on March 27 this year, the state accolades titled "Bangladesh Liberation War Honour" and "Friends of Liberation War Honour", went to 82 -- 74 individuals, six organisations, Mitra Bahini (allied forces) and the people of India.

According to the Foreign Ministry, a list of around 600 foreign friends was prepared to be gradually conferred with the honour. The list included 40 Pakistanis who defied the then Pak junta in supporting Bangladesh's cause.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Capt (ret'd) AB Tajul Islam also addressed the function, while Joan A Dine, a social worker of the USA, spoke on behalf of the award recipients.

Cabinet Secretary M Mosharraf Hussain Bhuiyan conducted the function and read out the citation dedicated to the individuals and institutions that were honoured.

Ministers, parliament members, sector commanders, freedom fighters, diplomats, judges, educationists, politicians, students of different schools as well as high civil and military officials were present at the gala function.

3 'BCL men' arrested on kidnap charges

UNB, Dhaka

Plainclothes police yesterday arrested three alleged members of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) on charge of kidnapping a university admission seeker for ransom.

The arrestees are Habibur Rahman of world religion and culture department at Dhaka University, Rubel of Jahangirnagar University and Shishir Jagannath University.

Sources in DU said the trio took Tk 60,000 from Harunur Rashid Hira for supplying him with the question papers of the Jagannath University admission test held on Friday, and took away his transcripts.

They asked Hira to come to the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) at DU on Friday afternoon to collect his transcripts.

As Hira reached there, the three confined Hira to room no 208 of Zia Hall and demanded Tk 20 lakh from his father. They asked to send the money through SA Paribahan.

As per the plan of the detectives, the victim's father sent the money and asked the alleged kidnapers to collect money from the Kakrail office of the courier service.

The DB men arrested Habib and Rubel when they went to the office yesterday afternoon.

Iraq attacks kill four

AFP, Baghdad

Shootings in Baghdad and Iraq's main northern city Mosul targeting government officials and security forces killed four people yesterday, officials said.

In the capital, gunmen armed with silenced weapons opened fire on a police patrol in Shaab, north Baghdad, killing two policemen, according to an interior ministry official and a medical source.

BDR mutiny

FROM PAGE 20

each. The jawans were also fined Tk 100 each.

Special court 9 of the paramilitary force acquitted 12 soldiers of the mutiny charges as the charges against 10 were not proved and two others had died.

The court announced the verdict in the case filed against the soldiers of Sadar Rifles Battalion.

Though the trial in the mutiny cases ended yesterday, trial of the BDR members accused of killing, arson and looting is underway in a special court. They are being tried under civil law as the previous BDR law did not have provisions of trials for murder.

Seventy-four people, including 57 army officials, were killed during the gruesome mutiny on February 25-26, 2009 at the Pikhana headquarters and other battalions of the border guards across the country.

With yesterday's verdict, a total of 5,926 jawans have been awarded various jail terms, 115 acquitted and five dropped from the mutiny charges.

Briefing the press, prosecutor Lt Col Md Obaidul Haque said the soldiers were jailed for torturing officers, helping to bury the bodies of the slain officers and delivering provocative speeches, among other crimes.

The BGB constituted eleven special courts, including six in Dhaka, as per Bangladesh Rifles Order, 1972 to deal with the charge of mutiny.

Some human rights organisations have raised objections to the trial process.

Adilur Rahman Khan, secretary of Odhakar, alleged that the accused were not provided with enough facilities during the cross-examination of prosecution witnesses, while their confessional statements were obtained through torture, reports BBC Bangla Service.



A senior citizen offers her prayers at a mandap in Tantibazar in the capital on the Shasthi of Durga Puja yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Two girls 'commit suicide' in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two minor girls allegedly committed suicide in separate incidents at the capital's Tejgaon Shilpanchal and Adabor yesterday.

They are Sharmin Akhter 12, daughter of Abdus Sattar of Begunbari, and Shukhi, 10, daughter of Anwar Hossain of Adabor.

Tejgaon Shilpanchal police recovered Sharmin's body around 11:30am. She was hanging from a ceiling fan at their house, said Sub-Inspector Abdur Rahim.

After post-mortem, sources at Dhaka Medical College morgue said Sharmin had killed herself.

Quoting family members, SI Rahim said Sharmin was home alone after her sister and mother went to work in the morning. Seeing her hanging from the fan, neighbours called her mother around 10:30am.

Neither police nor any of the family members could say what drove the girl to "suicide".

At Adabor, 10-year-old Shukhi hanged herself in front of her three-year-old brother. Her parents, who are garment workers, were not at home, said Sub-Inspector Ramzan Ali of Adabor Police Station.

Family members claimed Shukhi had committed suicide, as she could no longer bear the pain she had been suffering from a stomach illness for the last two years.

Neighbours told police that the family could not afford proper treatment for the girl and was relying on quacks.

Another Destiny

FROM PAGE 1

Didarul was picked up from his office around 2:00pm and later taken to the anti-graft body's Segunbagicha headquarters for interrogation, an ACC official said.

The Destiny official would be kept at Ramna or Shahbagh police station until it is produced before a court today.

Didarul is also a director of Destiny Agro Industries and chief executive officer of Destiny Builders.

Earlier, on October 11, a Dhaka court sent three top Destiny bosses to jail. The three -- Lt Gen (ret'd) Harun-Ar-Rashid, president of the group, Rafiqul Amin, chairman and managing director, and Mohammad Hossain, a director -- had sought bail after surrendering to the court.

Gen Harun, who is shown as director in the ACC's case documents, was granted conditional bail by the High Court on Thursday. He was released yesterday from the prison cell of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, confirmed Mohammad Abu Musa, deputy jailer of Dhaka Central Jail.

Destiny started its journey in 2000 through multi-level marketing business with a paid-up capital of Tk 12 lakh only. Currently, its top officials are facing charges that include money laundering and transferring company funds to personal accounts.

The anomalies first came to light after a Bangladesh Bank probe in March found Destiny's cooperative arm engaged in illegal banking.

Admission test or graft fest?

FROM PAGE 1

As many as 22 admission tests were held over six days from October 4, and more than 2.42 lakh applicants competed for 3,615 seats.

"The more the units, the more is the sale of forms and the larger the share of the money. In most cases, an admission seeker buys several forms and takes tests on several subjects to maximise his chances of getting admitted to a public university," said the official.

According to the UGC guidelines, the RU authorities are bound to deposit all the internal income, including that from sales of admission forms, with the university's central account, the official said.

Each form costs between Tk 220 and 600, depending on subject. This year's sales of forms to 2,42,264 applicants fetched more than Tk 9.08 crore.

The RU authorities deposited only 30 percent of the money with the university's central account while the remaining 70 percent was shared among teachers and staff. The earnings remained out of audit, said the source.

Even the invigilators and staff, who were on duty during admission tests, were paid from the money deposited with the central account.

Prof Amzad Hossain, dean of the business faculty and RU syndicate member, said each invigilator was paid Tk 1,000 and each employee Tk 300 an hour for admission duty.

The teachers and staff shared 70 percent of the money earned from the sales of forms through their faculties. Each of them received between Tk 35,000 and Tk 70,000, said the source at the accounts department.

RU Pro-VC Prof Muhammad Nurullah told

The Daily Star that the teachers and staff were paid for their role in the admission process in line with the RU admission committee's decision.

"Though some teachers have reservations, we do not find anyone talking against it in committee meetings."

The pro-VC denied the allegation of admission trade, and said the number of units was increased to select quality students.

"It is not for me to judge whether it is unethical to share the money earned from sales of admission forms."

He said the deposit of 30 percent of the money with the RU account was a proof of their commitment to the UGC guidelines.

Selim Reza Newton, a teacher at RU mass communication and journalism department, who refused to accept a share of the money earned from sales of forms, said, "Teachers are paid from state coffers and it is part of their duty to organise and conduct admission tests. Why should they be given money from the sales of admission forms?"

Newton said he wrote to the authorities many times requesting them to "stop stealing from the guardians' pockets".

"In some cases, teachers get paid without performing any duty during tests. They never raise any question about the process because they keep receiving money."

Moreover, nearly a quarter of a million candidates, and their guardians, who travel to Rajshahi from all over the country, face severe accommodation crisis.

The university has an accommodation capacity of 8,500 people while residential hotels and guesthouses in Rajshahi city can accommodate around 5,000 people.

Prof Biswajit Chandra, dean of the law faculty, admitted that the increase in number of units added to the sufferings of admission seekers as well as teachers and students.

"Teachers cannot take any classes for over a week because they remain busy during the period. I shall raise the matter in the next meeting of the admission committee," he said.

A senior RU teacher said the accommodation problem would have eased had the top universities like DU and Buet taken admission tests before the RU.

Another teacher suggested a single admission test for all public universities.

Shelling in Libya's Bani Walid kills 2

AFP, Tripoli

Libyan fighters linked to the army on Friday pounded the town of Bani Walid, a former bastion of toppled dictator Muammar Gaddafi, killing a man and a child, a medic told AFP.

"We have received two people dead and more than nine wounded until now," said Abdullah al-Mansuri, deputy director of Bani Walid's hospital.

"The shelling is ongoing so the number of casualties could grow," he said, adding that those killed were a 13-year-old boy and a man in his fifties.

The spike in violence comes one year after rebels defeated die-hard loyalists of the former regime both in Bani Walid and the desert city of Sirte, hometown of Gaddafi who was captured and killed on October 20, 2011.

Students want judicial probe

FROM PAGE 20

student by the proctor on the campus recently due to his alleged bias.

Prof Abdur Rahman Sarkar of agronomy department was replaced by Prof Ali Akbar of animal nutrition department as the new head of the committee, reports our Mymensingh correspondent.

The committee was formed three days ago following the directive of Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid after the media published reports and photographs of the incident depicting Proctor MA Salam punching the female student at a protest rally.

Talking to a private TV channel on Thursday, Prof

Abdur Rahman claimed that no incident occurred on the campus involving a teacher assaulting a female student.

Asked about his comment, Prof Rahman, also the president of BAU teachers' association, yesterday said he made the comment on his personal capacity and not as the chief of the probe body. But later he realised that his remark was not correct.

Shenjuti Chowdhury, president of the BAU unit of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, told The Daily Star that replacing a teacher in the probe body with another will yield no results. She demanded a judicial probe into the incident.

Meanwhile, a section of teachers, officials and employees of the university will form a human chain and hold a rally on the campus today to protest "students' misbehaviour" with the teachers.

Prof Sultanuddin Bhuiyan, student affairs adviser of the BAU, chaired a meeting yesterday to drum up support for the rally.

There was no bar to arranging such a programme when a probe to investigate into the October 9 incident is underway, he mentioned.

On that day, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front staged protests against the hike in admission fees.

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited
ONLINE POLL

Do you think the threat of a strong movement after the Eid-ul-Azha by BNP to force the government to restore the caretaker government is justified?

Yes (49.0%)
No (48.7%)
No Comments (2.4%)
TOTAL VOTES: 337

TODAY'S POLL
Do you support the BNP-led opposition's decision to boycott the dialogue with the Election Commission on redrawing the boundaries of parliamentary constituencies and finding out ways to make the next election free and fair?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT
www.thedailystar.net
YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT
facebook.com/dailystarnews