

ISLAMI BANK ROBBERY Cash, valuables recovered, 2 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Police yesterday recovered some cash and valuables looted from a branch of Islami Bank in Jhalakathi and arrested two people on charge of their involvement in the incident.

Two others were also detained in this connection, but were yet to be shown arrest, police said.

On October 17, some robbers looted valuables including Tk 77,21,930 in cash from different vaults and lockers of the bank in Aratdarpatty area.

The branch's Manager Sarwar Hossain filed a case with Jhalakathi Sadar Police Station after the incident.

Abdul Mannan, officer-in-charge at the police station, said they arrested Al Amin Shikdar Kalu and his wife Amena Begum from Palbari area of Jessor in this connection.

A total of Tk 89,500 and 5.5 tola gold ornaments were recovered from their possession, he said.

Abdur Rahim, a sub-inspector and the case's investigation officer, said they also detained Ratan Dhali and Moyna in this connection and they would be shown arrest after interrogation.

The arrestees would be produced before the court with a remand prayer today, he said.

Earlier, police arrested Abdul Barek, one of the guards of the branch, and interrogated another guard Shamsul Huq who was found unconscious inside a toilet of the building's third floor after the incident.

Police said they were looking for one Mohidul alias Hamidul Islam, a tenant at the building, who remains absconding after incident.



Despite the presence of a dumpster of Chittagong City Corporation, garbage lies scattered around a road in Wasa Mor area of the port city. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

CU admission system insecure

NIRJHAR MAZUMDER, CU

Aspiring students of Chittagong University (CU) are frustrated at the automated admission system of university for failing to provide any security and privacy protection.

Admission seekers have complained that their pictures on the admit cards have been changed while The Daily Star found that anybody can see and open roll numbers of students.

In the admit card of Mohammed Ali Hasan, an admission seeker who applied to the university's E unit, a picture of a film star has been uploaded.

In the website of state-run mobile service provider Teletalk, anyone can

open admit cards of B1 unit and E unit and if the card is without pictures any kind of picture can be uploaded.

However, university authorities and Teletalk denied any kind of technical faults in the system.

Talking to The Daily Star, SM Akbar Hossain, secretary of the admission committee, said someone might be sabotaging the system.

"We process admit cards of a large number of students but we have only received four to five complaints against the system," he said.

ABM Mamun, senior officer of Teletalk Bangladesh Ltd, said they designed the system to be user-friendly so that students can use it without any problem.

"I assure you that our system is fully secure and this is a sabotage to defame the system," he said.

An admission seeker preferring anonymity said downloading process of admit cards and the process of uploading pictures are not secure.

"As the roll numbers are in serial, anybody can see the admit card of another roll number and if it has no picture, any picture can be uploaded," he said.

Akbar Hossain said they will review the system and fix any problem.

The admission process of CU including admission form selling and submitting is conducted by the Teletalk.



Photojournalist Biplob dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Photojournalist Kazi Biplob died yesterday at a hospital in the capital, ending his five-day fight for life since he suffered injuries in a road accident on October 28.

He would be buried at Azimpur Graveyard today.

Biplob, 35, a photojournalist of the daily Banik Barta, was injured critically as a microbus hit his motorcycle near Setu Bhaban in the capital's Mohakhali when he was going to Tongi from his Hazaribagh residence.

He was first admitted to Ayesha Memorial Hospital, and later shifted to Metropolitan Hospital at Mohakhali.

Jahidul Karim Selim, a photojournalist and a close friend of Biplob, said the first namaz-e-janaza of Biplob was held at Hazaribagh Park after the Esha prayers yesterday. His body was kept at the BirDEM mortuary.

The body would be taken to the Central Shaheed Minar around 11:00am so that people from all walks of life could pay their last respects.

Later, it would be taken to Teacher-Student Centre in Dhaka University where his colleagues would pay their last tributes.

IMPROPER WASTE MANAGEMENT Spread of disease looms over port city dwellers

MINHAJ UDDIN, Ctg

Chittagong city dwellers are under threat of catching different airborne and waterborne diseases as Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) is struggling to properly manage the huge amount of rubbish the dwellers churn out everyday.

Some 1,200 tonnes of garbage is produced by the city's approximate 50 lakh residents everyday.

CCC sources said it has 1,445 dustbins, 70 vehicles, two dumping grounds and 1,950 workers working round the clock to dispose of this trash.

Apart from the inadequacy in its numbers, the city dwellers also complained that the dustbins were wrongly placed, mostly on busy roads and intersections and at the entrance of kitchen markets.

The putrid odour coming off the open dustbins overflowing with garbage proved to be a nuisance to passers-by.

However, residents of most areas were also seen dumping rubbish by the side of the road, causing the waste to scatter and pollute the surrounding environment.

Mohammed Asad, a garment worker residing in Miler Matha area, said the dustbin meant for his area's residents was right at the entrance of the alley leading to his house.

"Every day the city corporation workers take out the garbage but in the process scatter waste all around. This makes crossing the dustbin troublesome. Moreover, the rotten smell coming out of the dustbin never goes away from the area," he complained.

He said the dustbin was always overflowing with garbage as only one spot for waste disposal was not adequate to cater for the thousands of people living in the area.

Thousands of passers-by were also exposed to the rotten odour seeping out from the open dustbin, he said.

On spot visits, The Daily Star found dustbins at almost every intersection, kitchen market and main road.

Reazuddin Bazar, Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation Falpatti, Choumuhani Karnaphuli Market, Atur

Depot, Chittagong Export Processing Zone area, Bahaddarhat, Agrabad CDA, Bandartila, Steel Mill and Katgor were a few among those.

Abul Hashem, an inhabitant of Nalapara area, said thousands of people every day happen to pass by the spots which incidentally house the dustbins.

"If dustbins were placed at remote corners of different areas in the city, the situation would have been much better," he suggested.

About dustbins overflowing with rubbish, CCC Chief Conservancy Officer Shofiqul Mannan Siddique blamed the city dwellers for not discarding their garbage as per the time schedule provided by CCC.

"We repeatedly appealed to the residents to dispose of their rubbish between 5:00pm and 7:00am. But the residents continue to discard their trash during the day," he said.

He admitted that the dustbins around the city had been placed without any previous plan and it was difficult to shift those to alternative spots now that those were proving to be a nuisance.

There was always a danger of various airborne and waterborne diseases growing and spreading from overflowing dustbins and rubbish dumped on open roads, said CCC Health Officer Dr Mohammed Ali.

Open dustbins spread rotten odours which can lead to respiratory diseases and decrease olfactory senses, he said.

Germs could also reach groundwater sources by mixing with rain water and surface water. If consumed, the germs in the groundwater could cause waterborne diseases like diarrhoea, dysentery, jaundice and skin diseases, explained Ali.

However, he blamed the city residents for the unhygienic condition of dustbins and the spread of garbage all around the city and urged them to be more conscious about where they dump their trash.

"People must stop fly-tipping and practice putting the garbage inside dustbins. Until then, no garbage management system can succeed in hygienically managing garbage and make the city a clean, tidy and healthy place to live in," he said.



Police nab activists of Jamaat-e-Islami from Jatiya Press Club premises in the capital as they tried to join a scheduled meeting at the club's hall room yesterday. (Story on Page 20)

10 Jubo Dal men hurt in attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

At least 10 Jubo Dal activists were injured as a group of youths attacked them in Sadar road area in Patuakhali yesterday.

The local Jubo Dal unit alleged that the ruling Awami League men attacked them. However, the district Awami League denied the allegation.

The attack was made when Toufiq Ali Khan Kabir, joint convener of the district unit Jubo Dal, said he along with 100 of his party men went to a mini Chinese restaurant, Daruchini, around 9:00am to exchange eid greetings with Saiful Islam Nirob, central unit secretary of Jubo Dal.

The body was taken to CMCH morgue for an autopsy. An unnatural death case was filed in this connection.

Girl dies after falling from building in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A young girl died after falling from the rooftop of a five-storey building in Chand Mia Munshi Lane area under Bakalia Police Station in Chittagong city on Thursday.

The deceased was Fahmida Akter Mita, 18.

She was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where doctors declared her dead around 8:30pm, police said.

Quoting family members, Bakalia Police Station Sub-Inspector (SI) Shakhawat Hossain said Mita might have fallen from the rooftop due to vertigo while she was drying clothes around 2:30pm.

However, the girl might have committed suicide by jumping off the rooftop, said police.

The roof was surrounded by a three feet high railing and it was impossible for anyone to fall off the roof, SI Shakhawat said.

Bakalia Police Station Officer-in-Charge Nurul Absar Bhuyan said, "The girl had a love affair with a man and she got married to the man recently. But her family members did not accept the marriage."

The deceased's family members, however, refused to say anything about the matter.

The body was taken to CMCH morgue for an autopsy. An unnatural death case was filed in this connection.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwani of Begum Meherunnisa Baker, mother of Roquia Haider, chief of Bangla Service of Voice of America, will be held at her residence at 'Meherba Plaza' in the capital's Topkhana road area after Asr prayers today.

She died of old age complications on Wednesday. She was 97, said a press release.

She left behind her three sons and five daughters to mourn her death.

Her relatives, friends, and well-wishers have been requested to attend the programme and pray for the salvation of her departed soul.



Participants at a discussion titled "Killing of four leaders in jail, politics of conspiracy by the anti-liberation force: present context" organised by Amra Muktijoddhar Santan in Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday. (Story on Page 2)