

Khaleda to visit Ramu

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will start for Ramu of Cox's Bazar on Friday to inspect the Buddhist temples and localities, which were ravaged by the September 29-30 communal attack.

Khaleda, also leader of the opposition in parliament, will start her journey from the capital on road in the morning, BNP Acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir told the news agency yesterday.

The BNP chief will spend the night at Chittagong Circuit House and reach Ramu on Saturday and visit the affected areas of the upazila.

Khaleda is expected to address a rally in the upazila headquarters on Saturday afternoon.

She is scheduled to return to Dhaka by Saturday night.

Earlier on October 10, narrating the violent attacks on them, Buddhist leaders at a meeting with Khaleda at her Gulshan office invited her to visit the violence-hit areas to witness the atrocities herself.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also visited Ramu last month.

ENERGY SECTOR China keen to cooperate with Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka

China has expressed interest to strengthen cooperation with Bangladesh in prospective areas, particularly the energy sector.

The interest was shown at a meeting between a delegation of China and acting president of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) M Helal Uddin at the FBCCI office yesterday.

Consultant, Division of Coordination and Scientific and Technological Equipment of Yunnan Provincial Energy Administration Xie Jin Shu led the six-member Chinese delegation to the meeting.

Xie Shu said China has been a development partner of Bangladesh for long and they were here to get a clear idea about the present energy need.

"If possible, we'll sign an MoU to work here together. We're interested to extend our cooperation in energy sector," Xie Shu said.

The FBCCI leader said Bangladesh was in need of energy to expedite economic growth and China was involved in the renewable energy sector.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addresses an enlargement ceremony marking the joining of Bangladesh in the 52-nation Asia-Europe Meeting (Asem) at Champa Grand Hall of the National Convention Centre in Vientiane of Laos yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Bangladeshi shot dead in South Africa

UNB, Sylhet

A gang of unidentified miscreants shot dead a Bangladeshi businessman in Johannesburg, South Africa on Sunday.

The deceased was Sadrul Alam, 35, son of Tazamul Ali of Islamabad village in Sylhet's Golapganj upazila.

Family sources said five to six criminals opened fire on Sadrul in front of his business establishment around 11:00pm, leaving him dead.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwani of Fawzia Karim, wife of former ambassador Saber Reza Karim, will be held in the capital today.

On the occasion, a doa and milad mahfil will be held after Asr prayers at House No-23/A, Road No-1 in Dhanmondi.

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

Fawzia died in the US on November 3.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 20th death anniversary of Anwara Begum, an industrialist and former managing director of KDH Laboratories Ltd.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and a milad mahfil will be held at her Banani grave in the capital, says a press release.

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

Anwara, mother of former lawmaker Sultana Daula, was also former president of Abahani Sporting Club.

New breed of snatchers daunt Dhaka residents

SHUDIPTA SHARMA

Mariam Begum was chatting with a woman sitting next to her on a city bus. It was going to Nabinagar on the outskirts of Dhaka. In the bustling Savar Bazar, the bus started moving slowly. Suddenly Mariam cried out as she felt a sting in her right earlobe and found her ear bleeding and earring gone. Outside, she saw a boy leaving the place in a hurry.

A private jobholder, Aminul Islam, was talking over his phone on another city bus. When it reached Mohakhali area, a hand from the outside grabbed his phone and took it away in moments. From the moving bus, he could do nothing but seeing the snatcher quickly disappearing.

A journalist of The Daily Star was playing games on his mobile phone in his private car. When it stopped at an intersection in Banani, he rolled down the window only to find a hand coming into the car and taking his phone away. Astounded, he saw the snatcher running away.

It was Jigatala. Shanta Sarkar was going to Dhaka University by a rickshaw from Dhanmondi. She saw two youths on a motorbike beside her rickshaw. All of a sudden, one of them grabbed her vanity bag and took it off her and the motorbike sped away.

These are only a few of the incidents of such snatching that the city dwellers go through ever day. Worse yet, the number of such incidents is increasing at an alarming rate in Dhaka city and its surrounding areas.

This is a new technique of snatching by a gang, popularly known as "Tana Party". They snatch valuables from passengers of slowly moving vehicles, usually waiting for their prey on busy roads. People fall victim to them when

vehicles have to move slowly for congestion or at any intersection.

Police said they had information about this type of snatching by "Tana Party" and those who were involved in this kind of snatching were junkies. However, police could not provide any data about how many incidents of such snatching have taken place, as most of the incidents go unreported.

Unless the criminals take away any important valuable, the victims do not care to inform the police, even in cases when he or she suffers injuries.

Md Obaidul Haque, assistant commissioner of anti-dacoity and robbery team of Detective Branch (DB) of police, said, "It is true that there are several gangs in the city who are snatching valuables from slowly moving vehicles. But we cannot take action against them as most of the victims do not file case or general diary in this regard."

The victim, Mariam, told The Daily Star, "I don't think that police can recover my snatched earring at all. That is why I don't want to go to police."

Driver of a city bus, Golam Mostafa, said he regularly experienced this type of snatching and the rate of this incident was on the increase.

"It has become commonplace in the city buses. I regularly hear that mobile phones or other valuables were snatched from my bus. I stopped the bus at the request of passengers but fail to catch the snatcher," he added.

Mostafa said this type of snatching increased on the occasion of eid.

Hayat-uz-Zaman, officer-in-charge of Motijheel Police Station, said most of the Tana Party members were drug addicts. "Locals seldom hold them in confinement and hand them over to us after beating. But most of the victims are not interested in filing any case to avoid court," he added.

HC wants probe into fatwa incident in Mirsarai

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the home secretary to form a high-profile committee led by a joint secretary to investigate the allegation of imposing a fatwa on a housewife in Mirsarai of Chittagong.

During hearing of a rule, the court asked the secretary to submit the probe report before it within four weeks, and fixed December 10 for passing a further order on this issue.

Media reports said ruling Awami League leader of Nayduria and local union parishad member, along with some supporters at a village arbitration declared that stones will be thrown at housewife Asma after putting her in a hole, which was chest deep.

The arbitration was held on October 2

after Asma had filed a case against Mahfuzul and his aides on charges of sexual harassment in July. They reportedly sexually abused her days before the case was filed.

Advocate Manzill Murshid, on behalf of Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, filed a writ petition following the media reports. He sought necessary directives over the matter.

Following the writ petition, the HC on October 16 issued a rule upon the government to explain why it should not be directed to act against those responsible for the fatwa incident.

The HC bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury and Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah yesterday ordered Officer-in-Charge of Mirsarai Police Station Iftekhar Hossain and Mahfuzul Haque to appear before it on December 10.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Passengers of vehicles suffer while remaining stuck for long hours in long tailbacks from Shonir Akhra to Jatrabari in the capital yesterday.

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