

'ROBBERY ATTEMPT'
Mob beats3 youths
to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Three youths were beaten to death by a mob in the early hours yesterday in Hadal village of the district's Faridpur upazila.

The victims were identified as Md Milon Hossain, 23, from Thanapara village, Md Joynal Pramanik, 24, from Nespara village and Jalu Pramanik, 26, from Berhawlia village of the same upazila.

The trio were attacked by the mob around 3:00am near the Hadal Madrasa as they were suspected of committing robbery in the area, said Faridpur Police Station Officer-in-charge Md Faruk Hossain.

"Seven to eight suspected criminals entered the village in a three wheeler around 2:00am. The village guards had announced their presence over the loudspeaker from the village madrasa. The mob was able to capture and beat to death the three, while the rest escaped. Their bodies were taken to the Pabna Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsies," he told The Daily Star.

He, however, could not confirm if any robbery took place and added there were no cases filed against any of the trio.

Faridpur Technical School and College Principal Abu Sayeed, a resident of Hadal village, said that the locals told him that the allegedly armed youths came to Hadal to steal a Nasiman -- a local motorised three-wheeler -- from a garage.

Four other suspected criminals were beaten to death by another mob in the same upazila on November 29, 2012.

US, Canadian
FROM PAGE 16
Iraq, Libya and Pakistan, were linked to al-Qaeda.

Unnamed US officials said the Washington alert had been issued after they intercepted electronic communications in which senior al-Qaeda operatives discussed strikes on US interests in the Muslim world.

The US State Department warned American citizens on Friday about terror attacks, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa with a possible attack coming from the Arabian Peninsula.

Friday's US advisory prompted Canada's foreign affairs department to release its own warning for travellers and diplomats in the Middle East and North African region, CBC News reported.

The department stated that Canadians were at a reasonably "elevated risk" of attacks due to the threat facing a "close friend and ally".

Of particular concern is Yemen, where the government is "on high alert against possible attacks in the days to come," a senior US security official told Xinhua.

On Saturday, security around the US embassy in Yemen was even tighter than last year when the embassy was raided by protesters. At least 12 tanks are stationed within 500 metres of the building, he added.

Meanwhile, security measures have been tightened in the diplomatic zone at Gulshan-Baridhara in Dhaka after the US embassy was shut yesterday over security threats.

Deputy Commissioner of the Chancery Division of Police Chowdhury Monjurul Kabir told The Daily Star that they had no specific information about security threats to the American embassy but they were on high alert to prevent any untoward situation.

Detectives in plain clothes, Rapid Action Battalion and Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) teams were deployed to ensure the security of the area, police sources said.

"In the recent elections to



Iftar items of Chawkbazar, Old Dhaka. Inset, a whole lamb roast, ready to be partaken at break of fast. PHOTO: STAR



OLD DHAKA

Culinary charm too hard to resist

ZYMA ISLAM

Urban legends proclaim Puran Dhaka's biriyani to be one of the best of its kind. The month of Ramadan that is nearly gone by has proven that its popularity remains unfaltering even in the middle of the night, with hotels reporting a high level of human traffic.

While Hotel Royal in Lalbagh and Amania in Chawkbazar disappointingly close shop around midnight, Al-Razzaq on North-South road, offering mutton whole-leg roast, chicken chutney, fragrant biriyani, and molasses-infused feni, is one of those places that do remain open for sehri.

Beginning from midnight, this historic restaurant has crowds spilling over the sidewalk waiting for a table.

Manager of Al-Razzaq Hossain Mollah said, "Unfortunately our restaurant can only seat a hundred at a time."

However, the jubilant Hossain Mollah said that they serve around 700 customers each night.

"Facebook has boosted our popularity during the past two years," he claims.

Tiqwan, a private service holder, went here out of sheer curiosity after seeing many of his Facebook friends use

the "check-in" option to broadcast that they had gone to Al-Razzaq for sehri.

Different socioeconomic classes shared the special meal in the same restaurant that was open for all. Kalam, a rickshaw-van puller, stoically made his way through daal-bhaat sitting at a table next to a group hailing from Gulshan.

Shahed, a resident of Mirpur, said he chose to come to Al-Razzaq because the wide North-South Road beside which the shop is located provides parking space.

"The other hotels are tucked inside narrow alleys that cannot fit a car, and I can't travel long distances this late at night without one," he said.

For similar reasons, a small restaurant called Al-Mizan in Chankharpool appeals to those who need a parking spot within eyeshot.

However, just across the street lies the main attraction of Kazi Alauddin Road which offers more restaurants than can be counted.

Haji's Biriyani, located on this street, is a place that pulls down the shutters at night, but plenty more like it invite the taste buds.

The famous Bismillah Kabab Ghar

remains open throughout the night, offering beef chaap, liver stew, chicken tikka masala, or even uncommon fanies like mutton heart stew served with hot fluffy parathas that flake off at touch.

"Our items finish off quickly. It is only 2:00am and we only have the heart stew left to serve," said Habibur Rahman, claiming to be the present owner of the shop.

A gang of youths on bicycles, proclaiming themselves to be a part of BDcyclists, hovered around Madina Biriyani around 2:00 am, said they cycle around the town and often finish off with biriyani.

Hotel One-Star, claiming to belong to the same line of chain restaurants as Hotel Star and Super Star, has a variety of chicken preparations for its guests with borhani and labang to wash it down with and lacchi and faluda for the sweet tooth afterwards.

Nineteen-year-old Suraiya, who had been driven to the restaurant from Malibagh by her brother, said, "Plenty of other restaurants have equally good food but they do not serve this late at night. All I wanted was to eat out for sehri."

'I was involved'

FROM PAGE 1

Lopa, 25, is the wife of Maruf Reza Sagar, acting secretary of Dhaka city Jubo League (south) ward-10, who is an eyewitness to Milky's murderer.

Sagar drove Milky to Shoppers World, a shopping mall in the capital's Gulshan, in the early hours of July 30. During an interrogation by Rab, he later identified Tarek as Milky's killer.

In her three-hour-statement to Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate's Court-28, Lopa said she got the information from Sagar that Milky would go out with him for shopping

around 11:30pm on July 29.

She admitted to passing the information to Tarek, joint secretary of Dhaka City (south) unit Jubo League. Tarek later tracked down Milky and killed him in front of Shoppers World at 1:07am on July 30.

Lopa said she had a dislike for Milky, as her husband Sagar used to spend most of his time with him.

She also said Milky had been in conflict with Zahidul Islam Tipu, general secretary of Awami League's Motijheel unit, and Wahidul Alam Arif, general secretary of Dhaka

city (south) Jubo League.

Both the men, who have been on the run, are on the list of suspects in the Milky murder case filed by Milky's brother Major Rashedul Haque Khan.

The case, which was lodged with the Gulshan Police Station, was transferred to Rab-1 on Thursday, a day after it made a request to the home ministry for transferring the case to from the police.

Rab arrested Lopa on Saturday acting on a clue from text messages she had sent to Tarek's cell phone while watching TV news on the "shootout"

between Rab and Tarek's cohorts on July 31 night, said the elite force.

Rab officials claimed Lopa sent those messages to Tarek, as she could not believe that he was killed in the "shootout".

The "shootout" took place at Kaola near Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport while Rab was taking him to Gulshan Police Station from a hospital in the capital's Uttara that night.

Rab had arrested Tarek in the early hours of July 30 at Fortune Hospital in Uttara, where he had been reportedly receiving treatment for a bullet wound.

Jamaat-hit trains not yet fit

FROM PAGE 1

"We have been able to repair three slightly damaged coaches of Subarna Express. The rest are still lying at Pahartali workshop for lack of fund and repair," said a senior rail official in Chittagong.

The department stated that Canadians were at a reasonably "elevated risk" of attacks due to the threat facing a "close friend and ally".

Of particular concern is Yemen, where the government is "on high alert against possible attacks in the days to come," a senior US security official told Xinhua.

On Saturday, security around the US embassy in Yemen was even tighter than last year when the embassy was raided by protesters. At least 12 tanks are stationed within 500 metres of the building, he added.

Meanwhile, security measures have been tightened in the diplomatic zone at Gulshan-Baridhara in Dhaka after the US embassy was shut yesterday over security threats.

Deputy Commissioner of the Chancery Division of Police Chowdhury Monjurul Kabir told The Daily Star that they had no specific information about security threats to the American embassy but they were on high alert to prevent any untoward situation.

Detectives in plain clothes, Rapid Action Battalion and Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) teams were deployed to ensure the security of the area, police sources said.

"In the recent elections to

Upakul cost the railway Tk 60 lakh and each coach of Silk City Tk 4 crore.

A senior rail official in Rajshahi said repairing of the burned down Silk City coaches would require at least Tk 1 crore.

To cope with the Eid rush as much as possible, the railways ministry is going to launch 10 special train services on important routes like Dhaka-Chittagong, Dhaka-Sylhet, Dhaka-Kulna and Dhaka-Nilphamari by renovating

old coaches to ferry people from August 6.

One more such train could be introduced using the burned coaches now awaiting repair.

The ministry has meanwhile decided not to operate Maitree Express on Dhaka-Kolkata route for a week before and after the Eid so that its coaches can be added to the existing express trains.

Coaches from some unscheduled trains would also be used for the special

and existing trains.

Director General of Bangladesh Railway Abu Taher said despite limitations they were trying to give the people their best services.

"We have fund crisis, but we will soon repair the damaged coaches and add those to the respective intercity trains," he added.

The intercity trains leaving Kamalapur for different destinations offer around 17,000 seats every day.

five city corporations, our candidates were defeated despite being the ruling party-backed hopefuls," she said, adding that the government did not try to win the polls through ballot rigging.

Referring to the opposition leader's speech on governing the country 'in a new way', Hasina said the opposition leader would, in fact, run the country by opening a new 'Hawa Bhaban'.

Terming the Kuril flyover

a new milestone in the development of Dhaka city's communication network, she urged all to protect the environment of the capital.

Earlier, Hasina inaugurated the Purbachal Balu Bridge over the River Balu in Rupganj. The four-lane bridge was her Eid gift to the people in the area, she said.

With the construction of the 300-meter-wide Kuril Purbachal Link Road and the opening of Balu Bridge

to traffic would raise the living standards of Rupganj people, she added.

Hasina also assured the locals of providing necessary compensation for their lands in the Purbachal project area.

Post and Telecommunications Minister Shahara Khatun and State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Justice Mizanur cleared

FROM PAGE 16

activist of Gonojagor Moncho, a murtad (deviated from Islam) citing his alleged blog posts.

The Moncho was set up to demand the highest punishment for all war criminals during the Liberation War.

Rajib was hacked to death near his Palash Nagar home in the capital's Pallabi on February 15.

Yesterday, the three-member judicial council sent a short report to the law ministry to forward it to the president, a high official of the law ministry told The Daily Star.

The ministry will also send the report to the Prime Minister's Office to forward it to the Bangabhaban, he said.

The official, however, declined to give details of

the report.

Contacted, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed said he did not get any report from the judicial council although he was in office till 3:00pm yesterday.

Supreme Court Registrar AKM Shamsul Islam, however, said his office sent the report to the law secretary by an official messenger at around noon yesterday.

On February 25, the then president Zillur Rahman ordered Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain to constitute the Supreme Judicial Council to investigate the allegations against Justice Mizanur.

The two other members of the council are Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha and Justice MA Wahhab Miah, judges of the SC.

On February 28, the council issued a notice

asking Mizanur to explain the allegations against him.

He responded to the notice on March 14, according to SC sources.

This is the second such council to probe allegations against an HC judge. Mizanur was appointed additional HC judge on July 29, 2002, and his job was confirmed after two years during the rule of the BNP-led alliance.

In 2004, HC additional judge Syed Shahidur Rahman was removed from office on the basis of the first ever judicial council's probe into a judge's misconduct, and its recommendations.

Shahidur was charged with taking Tk 50,000 in bribe to fix bail for an accused in a women repression case.

Khanjahan Ali Tk 4.96 crore. The scam, according to bankers and analysts, is unprecedented in the history of the country's banking sector because the borrowers were neither well-known nor well-established.

According to a Bangladesh Bank investigation in May 2012, Hall-Mark and five other companies with the connivance of some bank officials had taken out loans of Tk 3,547 crore from the Ruposhi Bangla Hotel branch of Sonali Bank, using forged documents.

Of the money, Hall-Mark alone took away around Tk 2,600 crore while T and Brothers commanded Tk 609.69 crore, Paragon Group Tk 146.60 crore, Nakshi Knit Tk 66.36 crore, DN Sports Tk 33.25 crore and

Tanvir Mahmud, mastermind of the scam, and Tushar Ahmed, general manager of Hall-Mark and a close relative of Tanvir, are now in jail.

"manga" culture, it tends to favor cute robots with human-like characteristics with emotional appeal, a use of technology that has at times drawn criticism for being not productive.

Kirobo's design is said to have been inspired by the legendary cartoon character Astro Boy.

But designer Takahashi said sending a robot into space could help write a new chapter in the history of communication.

JAXA, Japan's equivalent of Nasa, said the rocket launch was successful, and the separation of a cargo vehicle, carrying the robot to the space station, was confirmed about 15 minutes after lift off.

