

Jewellery shop looted; five robbers held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

Robbers looted a jewellery shop at Tarkari Patti in Jhalakathi town yesterday evening.

Shajahan Mia, owner of the shop, said some robbers, including a girl, entered his shop, Muslim Gini House, in the guise of customers around 7:00pm. They came there by two motorcycles.

They blasted a crude bomb inside the shop and started looting the shop. Within five minutes, they left the place after looting the shop blasting crude bombs, he said.

Hearing the robbery incident, a blockade was put on the road near the toll plaza at Gabkhan bridge in Sadar upazila. Seeing this, the robbers tried to flee, leaving their motorcycles, said Sujon, a staff of the toll plaza.

Later, police with the help of locals caught five robbers. They also recovered two sharp weapons and around 60 tolas of gold from their possession, said Jubaydur Rahman, superintendent of Jhalakathi police.

A case was filed in this connection.

Hundreds protest against Trump in NY

AFP, New York

At least 300 people, including Beastie Boys singer Adam Horowitz, protested in New York on Sunday against what they said were hate crimes inspired by the election of Donald Trump, after swastikas appeared in a Brooklyn park.

The park bears the name of Adam Yauch, a bassist and singer with the Beastie Boys who campaigned for human rights. The popular group broke up in 2012 following his death of cancer. Yauch had played in the park as a child.

Some time before Friday morning, vandals used spray paint to draw awkwardly formed swastikas and the words "Go Trump" on a children's playground train.

City workers quickly painted over the graffiti, and by Sunday the defaced areas had been covered with flowers, hearts, messages of love and Tibetan flags, in tribute to Yauch, who was a Buddhist.

The defacement -- of a sort seen in many parts of the country since Trump's election, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), which monitors extremism -- sparked widespread outrage on social media.

Brad Lander, a New York City councilman, criticized Trump in a Tweet, saying that the president-elect "took time to condemn the thoughtful plea of the @HamiltonMusical cast. But not the swastikas in his name in a Brooklyn playground."

Trump criticized the "Hamilton" cast on Twitter after a lead actor had urged Vice President-elect Mike Pence, who attended a performance Friday, to ensure that the incoming administration respect racial, cultural and social diversity.

The Grammy-winning Beastie Boys, formed in the 1980s in Brooklyn, were one of the great successes of the hip-hop genre.

The surviving Beastie Boys -- Horowitz and Mike Diamond -- tweeted on Saturday: "Hate has no place in Brooklyn, NYC or America. Join us on Sunday to stand against hate messages."

Horowitz was joined by elected officials including New York state senator Daniel Squadron, a Democrat, as well as leaders of several religious communities.

BNP to name

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Shakhawat, a lawyer of the plaintiffs in the sensational seven-murder case, came prominently.

Khaleda said she would pick the party candidate from the proposed names, said Abdul Hai Razu who was present in the meeting.

Emerging from the meeting, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir told reporters that the party chief took opinions from grassroots leaders and she will finalise the candidate this evening.

Khaleda urged the party leaders to make a pledge to work together for the party candidate. She also enquired about the election atmosphere in Narayanganj and the possibility of the party's success in the polls.

Meanwhile, the scheduled meeting of Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader with Shamim Osman MP and party mayoral nominee Selina Hayat Ivy was not held yesterday. However, Quader talked to district leaders over the phone, said party sources.

AL President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to have a meeting with the district leaders this evening at the Gono Bhavan.

Ex-BCL duo get bail

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During the clash, Sabbir and Ashiqur were seen firing in the air. The picture of the two brandishing guns appeared in the media the next day. Some national dailies ran reports quoting police that there was no trace of the two.

Sub-Inspector Md Abdul Mannan of Shahbagh Police Station filed the case on October 31 against the two and 50 to 60 unnamed people.

Talking to The Daily Star, Officer-in-Charge Abu Bakar Siddique of Shahbag Police Station yesterday said, "We are trying to arrest the two. We cannot trace them because their mobile phones are switched off. I don't know whether they secured bail."

Mahmudur Rahman, general recording officer of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court, said

he opposed the petitions arguing that there was a specific allegation against the two of attempting to kill hawkers and processionists, but the court granted them bail exercising its inherent power.

Dhaka Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Abdullah Abu told this correspondent that he did not know about the bail order and the general recording office did not inform him about it.

He said the authorities concerned should have informed him about the matter because it is a sensational case and the incident was reported in many national dailies.

Former Dhaka Bar Association president Masud Ahmed Talukder said if such offenders secure bail in a short time, it would encourage others to commit similar offences.

Care for herbal drink

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The jute herbal drink will earn worldwide reputation as its quality is very good and it is organic.

The idea of the drink crossed the mind of BJRI officials following government initiatives to diversify the use of jute, he said.

BJRI officials said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina praised the quality of the jute herbal drink after tasting it at an event recently at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital.

Prof Sagarmay Barua of the Institute of Nutrition and Food Science at Dhaka University said that like other vegetables, jute leaf contain ingredients such as iron, calcium, carotene, fibre, carbohydrate, protein and vitamins.

Mainul Hoque, director (project monitoring and implementation) of the Jute Diversification Promotion Centre, said, "The jute herbal drink has a great future as organic products are becoming very popular. We expect a huge boost in this sector."

Warsi Aquatech Ltd, a Bangladeshi firm, has shown interest in commercial production of the herbal drink.

It has already produced an organic green tea based on the recipe it got from the BJRI.

Ismail Khan, chairman of the firm, said he received BSTI lab test report on the product and applied to the industries ministry for patenting the drink named "Miracle Organic Green Tea".

Ismail said 200 kilograms of the green tea would be shipped to

Germany on a trial basis, and the price would be \$12 a kg.

Asked, he said, "We will commercially launch it soon in the domestic market."

BNP seeks

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for forming the next EC on the basis of "consensus" among all political parties.

She said, "The president should constitute a search committee on the basis of consensus among all registered political parties or the ones that had representation in parliament at different times since the country's independence. The committee would pick the chief election commissioner and four commissioners."

At the briefing, Fakhrul said they would put Khaleda's proposal before President Hamid for discussion as he is the country's guardian and hoped that the president would take the proposal into consideration.

The BNP leader said there was no alternative to holding a free, fair and acceptable national election to get rid of the country's present crisis.

He also said the BNP must submit its chief's proposal to President Hamid as it is his jurisdiction, as per the constitution, to form the EC.

Replying to a query, he said there were no hard and fast rules that Khaleda's proposal would have to be implemented thoroughly. It could be changed through discussion.

Santal women

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home, law, industries and land, inspector general of police, deputy commissioner and superintendent of police of Gaibandha, upazila nirbahi officer of Gobindaganj, officer-in-charge of Gobindaganj police, managing director, Rangpur Sugar Mill, Abul Kalam Azad, lawmaker, Gaibandha-4, and Shakil Akand Bulbul, chairman of Sapmara Union Parishad have been made respondents in the required rule.

Earlier, both the Santal women sent a legal notice seeking an explanation from the administration under what authority they had carried out the eviction.

Petitioners' lawyer Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua told The Daily Star that the HC might hold hearing on the petition today.

The Gobindaganj police have meanwhile arrested five more people in connection with the alleged attack, looting and arson in Shahebganj cane farm.

The police yesterday launched a drive at Shahebganj, Taraf Kamal, Nasirabad and Madarpur villages and arrested Rana Babu, 30, Abul Khair, 35, Mokhlesur Rahman, 28, Rafiqul Islam, 35, and Abdul Mannan.

As many as 17 people have so far been arrested in connection with the case.

One Shawpon Murmu filed the case on November 16 against some 500 unknown people, said Subrota Kumar Sarker, OC of Gobindaganj police, reports our Gaibandha correspondent.

However, Santal leader Philimon Baske termed the case an eyewash and said they would file a case depicting the "real" facts.

No such case has been filed yet.

Two Santal men were killed and 25 people injured in a clash between the indigenous community and labourers as well as police on November 6. Joint forces later opened fire and lobbed tear gas shells to evict the Santal community.

The Court of Senior Judicial Magistrate yesterday granted bail to another arrested Santal man -- Majhee Hembrom. He was arrested along with three others on November 6. Three Santal men have so far been released on bail.

The HC has meanwhile issued an order on the sugar mill authorities to hand over Aman paddy to the Santal community by November 30.

"We have asked the community leaders to send a list of Santal men, who planted Aman seedlings but received no response," said Abdul Awal, managing director of the sugar mill.

Asked, Santal leader Philimon Baske said, "No individual but the Shahebganj-Bagda Bhumi Uddhar

committee planted Aman on the land." Paddy on hundreds of acres of land is getting ripe and needs to be harvested soon, he added.

BRAC and local NGO Gono Unnayan Kendra have set up two childcare centres at Joypurpara and Madarpur for the Santal children. Besides, Dhaka-based Bidhananda Foundation is arranging food for 102 distressed Santal people every night.

Obama says NSA director a 'patriot' after quit calls

AFP, Lima

US President Barack Obama on Sunday refused to say whether he was considering the dismissal of National Security Agency chief Admiral Michael Rogers, but suggested he was looking at how cyber defenses are organized.

"Admiral Rogers is a terrific patriot and has served this country well in a number of positions," Obama said at a press conference in Peru, amid suggestions that key intelligence and defense officials want him to be dismissed after a series of security breaches.

"I generally don't comment on personnel matters here. I can say, generally, that we have spent a lot of time over the last several years looking at how we can organize our cyber efforts to keep pace with how rapidly the environment is changing."

On Saturday, US media reported that top US military and intelligence leaders were pushing Obama to fire Rogers, even as Rogers was apparently being considered for a senior position in President-elect Donald Trump's administration.

US House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes has asked Defense Secretary Ash Carter and Director of National Intelligence James Clapper -- the two reportedly behind the push -- to testify before the end of the year.

If Trump nominates Rogers, and he is confirmed by the Senate, he would succeed Clapper as the official who oversees all 16 US intelligence agencies coordinated by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

Rogers, who also heads US Cyber Command, has been at the helm of the NSA and its Central Security Service since 2014, in the wake of a massive leak by former intelligence contractor Edward Snowden linked to broad surveillance methods.

IS suicide blast

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Hussein, grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, was assassinated in the year 680. His fate laid the foundation for the faith practised by the Shia community, a minority in mainly Sunni Muslim Afghanistan.

The death toll given by Obaidi was confirmed by health ministry spokesman Mohammad Ismail Kawoosi, who yesterday said evening the wounded toll had jumped from 35 to 64. Women and children were among the injured.

The UN gave a different toll of at least 32 dead and more than 50 wounded.

The Islamic State group claimed the attack in a statement via the jihadist-linked Amaq news agency.

President Ashraf Ghani said in a statement he strongly condemned the "barbaric" attack, which the UN called an "atrocious".

Nato commander in Afghanistan General John Nicholson offered condolences and the US embassy in Kabul also condemned the blast, which Amnesty International called "horrific and deliberate".

"(Afghan authorities) have a duty to take effective measures to protect Shia Muslims from attacks," said Champa Patel, Amnesty's South Asia director.

Mosques in Kabul generally do not have any security -- though police patrols can be seen near some on Fridays -- and some eyewitnesses criticised the government over the lack of protection.

"They know that Daesh (IS), who is able to conduct attacks in Europe, can reach places in Afghanistan easily. They should provide security to sacred places," said one man who gave his name as Rahmat.

Last month a powerful blast targeting Shia during Ashura killed 14 people in northern Afghanistan. It followed twin attacks claimed by IS that also targeted Shias and killed 18 in Kabul.

In July IS jihadists claimed twin explosions that ripped through crowds of Shia Hazaras in Kabul, killing at least 85 and wounding more than 400 others.

Those bombings marked the deadliest single attack in the Afghan capital since the Taliban were ousted from power in a 2001 US-led invasion.

Fighters from IS, which controls territory across Syria and Iraq, have been making steady inroads in Afghanistan, challenging the Taliban on their own turf, primarily in the country's east.

The Taliban, who are waging a bloody war to topple the US-backed Afghan government, said they were not involved in Monday's attack.

The assault underscores rising insecurity in the war-torn country nearly two years after US-led Nato forces formally ended their combat operations.

Cops to install

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fire to his cowshed on November 16.

On October 30, a group of religious zealots carried out a synchro-nised attack on the Hindu houses in Nasirnagar, vandalised around 100 homes and looted valuables from at least five temples over a Facebook post purportedly from the account of Rasraj Das, a local fisherman, "hurting Muslims" sentiment.

Later, several attacks on Hindu houses and temples happened.

So far, six cases have been filed over the attacks, and police have arrested 85 people in connection with those incidents.

Prosecution

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proceedings until today.

Seven people, including the then Narayanganj city corporation panel mayor Nazrul Islam and senior lawyer Chandan Sarkar, were abducted from Dhaka-Narayanganj Link Road on April 27, 2014. Their bodies were found floating in the Shitalakkhya river a few days later.

Nazrul's father-in-law Shahidul Islam alleged that Rapid Action Battalion personnel abducted and killed Nazrul in exchange for Tk 6 crore from the then ward councillor Nur Hossain.

The District and Sessions Judge's Court of Naryanganj on February 8 this year framed charges against the 35, including Nur Hossain and three sacked Rab officials, in two cases filed over the sensational murders. Twelve of the accused, who are still on the run, are being tried in absentia.

Yesterday, Wajed Ali Khokon, in the presence of 23 accused including Nur Hossain and dismissed Rab officials Lt Col Tareque Saeed Mohammad, Maj Arif Hossain and Lt Commander MM Rana, placed arguments for around four hours from 9:00am.

The defence counsels then placed their arguments.

Later, Khokon told reporters that the prosecution lawyers were able to prove the charges of abduction, murder and hiding bodies "beyond reasonable doubts" and that was why they sought death sentences of the accused.

As many as 107 witnesses gave testimonies against the accused who pleaded not guilty at the court.

Nabi keeps lighting Vikings

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consecutive defeats by posting a three-wicket win over Dhaka Dynamites.

Back to the evening game, chasing a target of 184 the Vikings seemed in trouble at the end of the 14th over. They needed 67 runs from the last six overs with seven wickets in hand and two new batsmen at the crease. However, that is where the game changed.

Mohammad Saifuddin was slammed for three consecutive fours in the first three balls and that over yielded 14 runs. Captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza was hit for two fours in the next over and the equation came down to 42 required from the last four. Then Nabi started to unleash himself.

He kept clearing his front leg and dispatching the deliveries either over mid-wicket or over cover. He punished Sohail Tanvir with two boundaries in the 17th over and followed that by hitting Mohammad Sharif for a four in the last ball of the 18th over. That brought the equation down to 17 from 12 balls.

While Tanvir came back to dismiss Shoaib Malik in the first ball of the penultimate over for 38, Nabi pulled him for a six over backward square leg in the fifth ball for a six. A nervous Tanvir bowled a beamer in the next ball and further leaked runs.

With eight runs required off the last over, Nabi gleefully hit Saifuddin for a four and a six in the first two balls and took Chittagong home in style. In the process, he completed his half-century off 25 balls.

Earlier, Khalid Latif led a brilliant batting performance for the Comilla Victorians. He laid the foundation for

the Victorians with a quick 53-ball 76. He hit five sixes and six fours. He was well supported by Imrul Kayes and Ahmed Shehzad.

While Imrul hit 36 off 26 with one six and three fours, Shahzad hammered 40 off 25 balls with five fours. Taskin Ahmed was the lone wicket-taker for the Chittagong Vikings. He was however quite expensive, finishing with figures of 1 for 44 in his four.

Comilla lost Nazmul Hossain Shanto as early as the fifth over of the match. His replacement Imrul though joined hands with Latif to score 68 runs in eight overs for the second wicket. Imrul was the more dominant partner scoring, scoring 36. A direct hit from Tamim Iqbal in the 13th over ended his knock.

Latif unleashed himself after Imrul got out. He dismissed Mohammad Nabi for three sixes in the 14th over. The first one was creamed over mid-wicket, the second one -- which brought up his 50 off 38 balls -- was smashed over long on, while third was hit over backward square leg.

He clubbed Shahidul Alam for another six in the next over and by over number 15, Comilla were poised for a good finish at 137 for two.

Shahzad joined in the act, hitting Taskin Ahmed for two fours in the 17th over. Latif eventually did get run out in the last over, but his replacement ensured that the runs continued to flow. Ryan ten Doeschate hit Taskin for a six in that over while Shahzad finished the innings with a four to help them cross the 180-mark.

Lost poem

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Anne Frank was born in 1929 in Frankfurt, Germany but her family fled the Nazis in 1933, moving to Amsterdam where her father worked in the fruit extract business.

But in 1940 Holland was occupied by the Nazis and the family were once again under threat because they were Jews.

The newly found poem was written two days after Jews in Berlin were ordered to paint the Star of David on their houses to identify them to the Nazi authorities.

The poem, written in Dutch, begins Dear Cri-Cri, and seems to be giving homely advice to the younger girl.

Cri-cri died 10 years ago and her sister has now put the poem up for auction, where it is expected to fetch around 50,000 euros (£42,000).

Thirteen weeks after the poem was written Anne, her sister Margot and their parents went into hiding, along with four other families, in an annex above the offices of their business.

The entrance to the annexe was concealed by a bookcase.

The family were sustained by

friends who kept their secret and brought them food and anything else they needed.

Her diary was left behind when the hideout was eventually discovered by Dutch collaborators in August 1944, who handed them over to the occupying German Army in 1944.

The family ended up in a concentration camp and Anne died in February or March 1945.

But her father Otto, who survived the camps, returned to the house in Amsterdam and found Anne's diary, which had been kept by a Dutch friend, Miep Gies.

Anne Frank's diary, an account of her life in hiding, was published in 1947 and became a global sensation, being translated into 67 languages.

Thijs Blankevoort, director of Dutch auction house Bubbs Kuyper Auctions, which is selling the poem this week, said: "The poem is very simple - it has eight lines.

'It is very significant because it is very rare. Normally a poem like this would already have been donated to a museum or would be kept in small family circles for ever.'

Solar hope for riders

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Yousuf said, explaining how he came up with the idea of a small solar powered trike.

He again started working doggedly on the project and after about four months and spending about Tk 20,000, he built a solar powered three-wheeler for his mother.

"It was evident that the unit made her life a lot easier than before. Also she was delighted to be able to control the thing," he said.

The trike he designed brought him the attention of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who gave him a letter of appreciation.

In July, when he was showing his trike at the "Civil Service in Development Innovation-2016" Summit in the capital, the Bhutanese prime minister, who was visiting Bangladesh at that time, was impressed by the low-cost unit and gave him a letter congratulating him.

"The three-wheeler I built can be operated with one hand. But now I am contemplating one that can be controlled by any android device via Bluetooth. It would take me months to earn the money needed for the project" he said while talking to The Daily Star at his house on Bangabandhu Road in Chandpur town.

Yousuf's father Khwaza Ahmed Sarder and elder brother, who run roadside tea stalls in the town, are the breadwinners of the family.

His technical prowess and inventiveness cannot be traced to his education in humanities, which is marked with repeated breaks.

"I first dropped out of school when I was in class-V, my right arm broke in a road accident," he said.

He added that he went back to school after about a couple of years and dropped out again after a couple of years later. Eventually, he passed SSC from Open University in 2010. After a break of five years, he went back to studies again and sat for HSC this year.

"I never received any training. I was just fascinated by electronic gadgets since childhood. I often designed different machines in my head," he said.

However, after the success of the solar powered trike, he now wants to focus on things that can be useful for people with disabilities.

Earlier, he built two small solar

powered trikes funded by the Upazila Parishad Chairman of Matlab Uttar upazila Manzur Ahmed. But this time it took him only about a couple of weeks to finish.

The trikes were given to two school goers who had lost ability to walk.

Riding his trike for over 20km, Raju, one of those boys aged around 15, went to The Daily Star correspondent in Chandpur to show his trike.

"The charge won't be an issue when I go back since there was plenty of sun when I came here," said the boy.

Central BCL

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ransacked Diaz's residence and assaulted his mother and a sister, the family further alleged.

Diaz's elder sister Jobaida Amin Chowdhury said he was in a happy mood with his friends on the CU campus, marking its golden jubilee. "My brother could not commit suicide."

About the reasons behind the death, Hathazari Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Belal said they can say more about it after getting the autopsy report.

Nure Alam Mina, superintendent of police in Chittagong, also said they are conducting an investigation.

According to the police inquest report, police found the body, hanging from the ceiling fan, after breaking open the door.

The report says, the northern door of the room leading to the open balcony was found open. Marks of injuries were found on his left arm, below the left knee and on the neck.

Claiming that it is a pre-planned murder, Diaz's followers gathered before his house, chanted slogans against the killers and demanded a fair probe into the incident.

The BCL activists loyal to Diaz vandalised a CU-bound Demu train, disrupting shuttle train services between the university and the port city in the morning.

Around 100 supporters blocked the city's Probartak intersection and Chittagong-Hathazari road for one and a half hours, creating a tailback there.

They withdrew the blockade following intervention of police and the CU authorities.