

Muggers shoot bus passengers, snatch Tk 6.4 lakh in Savar

A CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Muggers shot three bus passengers in broad daylight before snatching around Tk 6.4 lakh from them on Dhaka-Aricha highway at Savar yesterday afternoon.

Two of the injured, Sanwar Hossain, 37, a mason, and his brother-in-law Abul Hossain, 50, a grocery shop owner, were shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital from Savar Upazila Health Complex.

Tutul, 32, another brother-in-law of Sanwar, was undergoing treatment at Savar Upazila Health Complex. All of the victims are residents of Savar's Arapara.

Six muggers on two motorbikes waylaid the bus near Dairy Gate area beside Jahangirnagar University around 12:15pm and shot the victims as they resisted the mugging.

Sanwar received bullet injuries in both his legs while Abul in his right leg, Dula Miah, brother of Tutul, told The Daily Star.

"After we resisted them, the muggers shot us and fled the scene with the money," said Tutul.

The three had withdrawn the money from Savar Bazar branch of Islami Bank to deposit it with Jahangirnagar Post Office, he added.

Mohshinul Kadir, officer-in-charge of Ashulia Police Station, told The Daily Star that they were trying to arrest the criminals and recover the money. A case was filed in this connection.



Awami League leaders and activists led by Sylhet city unit president Badruddin Ahmed Kamran place a floral wreath on the coffin of veteran AL leader Suranjit Sengupta at Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar yesterday. Political parties, including BNP, and people from different walks of life poured in on the premises to pay tribute to the seasoned politician one last time.



Farewell, Suranjit

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Awami League leader and parliamentarian Suranjit Sengupta's body was cremated at Anwarpur village of Dirai upazila in Sunamganj yesterday evening.

ASM Firoz, chief whip of the parliament, and Mohammad Sahabuddin, whip of the parliament, accompanied the body of the lawmaker of Sunamganj-2 constituency, also a member of AL's advisory council.

Earlier in the day, Suranjit's

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SC SCULPTURE

Eminent citizens condemn demand of Hefajat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent personalities in a statement yesterday condemned the demand of Hefajat-e-Islam for removal of the sculpture "justitia" from the Supreme Court premises.

Issued by Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, the statement read, "We're aggrievedly observing that the agents of war criminals of 71, the fundamentalists and the communal evil force Hefajat along with its associates are imposing threats one after another against installation of the sculpture that symbolises justice."

But the authorities concerned are yet to take any step, it said.

"The followers of Hefajat in the administration are trying to attack the constitution of Bangladesh, its

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E-9 MINISTERIAL MEETING

Dhaka declaration vows equitable edn by 2030

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ministers of education and heads of delegations of the E-9 countries yesterday adopted an eight-point Dhaka Declaration, pledging to ensure inclusive and equitable education to all by 2030.

They also laid emphasis on devoting their energy, resources, and creativity to fulfilling the targets laid out in Sustainable Development Goal-4 and commitments in their respective countries and for the world.

Stressing increasing government funding for education and enhancing its efficient use, they recommended reaching the internationally recognised benchmarks of at least four to six percent of GDP or 15 to 20 percent of the total public expenditure allocated to education.

The declaration was revealed at a press conference on the second day of the three-day E-9 Ministerial Meeting on Education 2030 at a city hotel. Organised jointly by the Education Ministry of Bangladesh and Unesco, the meeting concludes today.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid has become the new chair of the group for the next two years.

The E-9 initiative is working on the common educational goals of nine countries -- Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, and Pakistan -- representing more than half the world's population and two-thirds of the world's non-literate youths and adults.

Launched in 1993 in New Delhi as part of the Education for All movement, this was the 11th two-yearly E-9 meeting, but the first one in the global SDG 2030 era.

Speaking at the conference, Nahid gave a synopsis of the declaration, saying the E-9 countries would take new initiatives and bring changes in education policies to ensure that no one was left behind.

The countries will work for ensuring gender equality and quality education and improving learning outcomes, he said.

"We have still a big number of out-of-school students. Bringing them to school and retaining them is a big challenge," Nahid said.

"But our biggest challenge is quality education, which is a common challenge for these countries," he added.

Asked what defines the quality of education, he said there was a debate going on worldwide on this issue, but generally, quality education means achieving the learning outcomes as outlined in the school textbooks.

As the new chair, he said, "Our main target is to make this forum more active and effective taking these countries on board."

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SAHR concerned at visa denial to Sultana Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR) has expressed its concern over the increased visa restrictions in the region.

In a statement issued on January 23 and received yesterday, the regional human rights network referred to Indian High Commission's denial of visa to Bangladesh's prominent human rights activist Sultana Kamal in December last year.

"The SAHR has been informed that the reason for denial of visa is due to her leadership in the campaign against the Rampal Coal Power Plant," according to an SAHR letter to Bangladesh prime minister's international affairs adviser Gowher Rizvi.

"We are extremely concerned of the increasing restrictions imposed by governments on visas and clearance, especially for civil society," says the letter issued by SAHR Executive Editor Deekshya Illangasinghe, dated January 30.

Sultana Kamal, chairperson of Transparency International Bangladesh, and her husband applied for Indian tourist visas in Dhaka on November 13 last year.

On December 12, her passport was returned without issuing any visa without giving any reason for the denial, she added.

A former adviser to a caretaker government of Bangladesh, Sultana Kamal then wrote to the Indian High Commission, seeking to learn of the reasons for the denial, but she has not received any response so far.

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National leader Kamaruzzaman's wife passes away

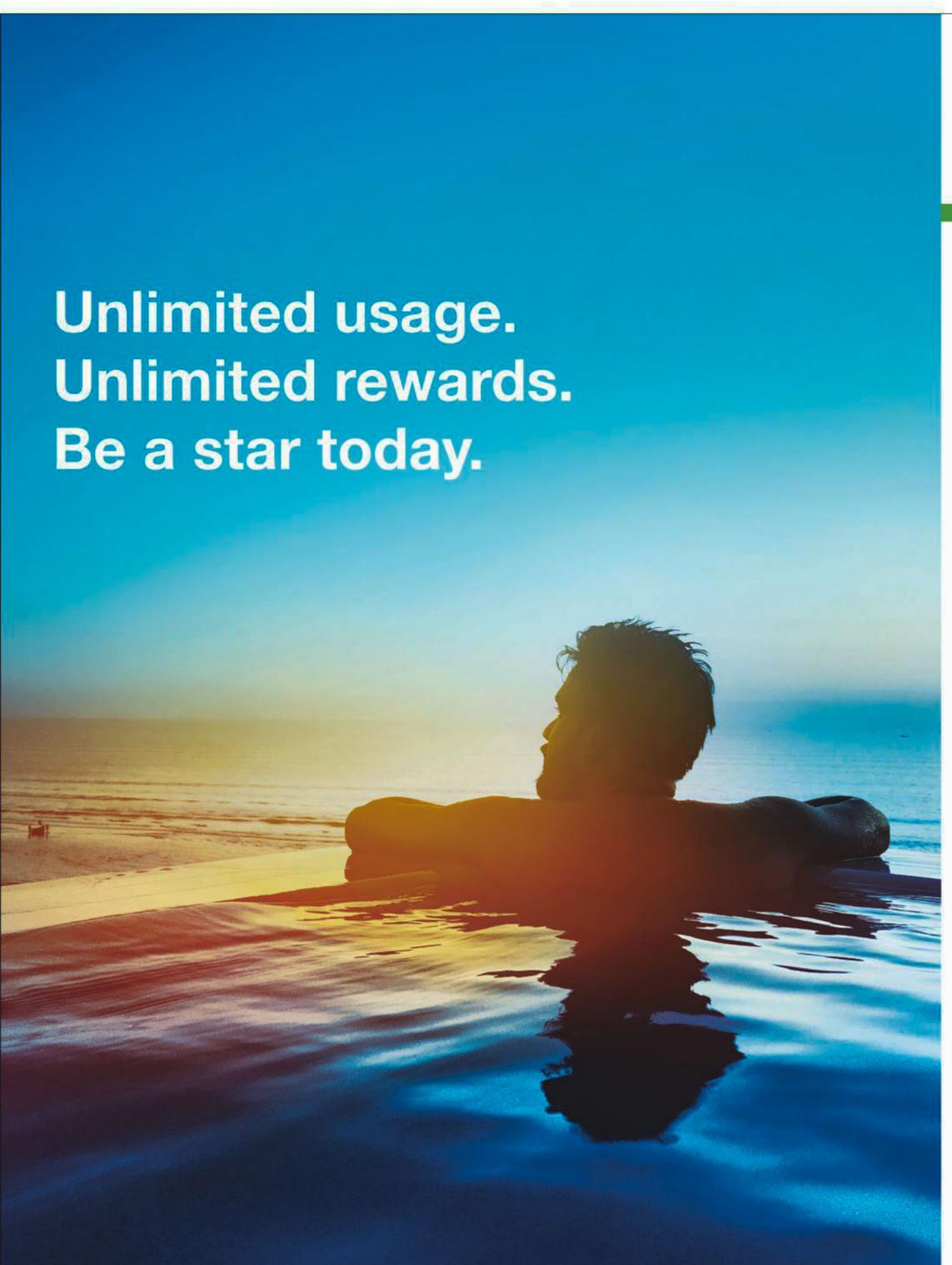
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Zahanara Zaman, wife of slain national leader AHM Kamaruzzaman Hena, passed away at her son's house in the capital's Gulshan early yesterday.

She died at 12:30am at the age of 84, said her eldest son AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, former mayor of Rajshahi city.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed condolences over her death in separate statements and

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