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RMG owner shot, robbed

Criminals take Tk 66 lakh in broad daylight in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Muggers shot a garment factory owner and snatched Tk 66 lakh from him in a busy area in broad daylight yesterday.

The incident occurred in Maleker Bari area on Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway under Gazipur City Corporation yesterday afternoon.

Seriously injured Managing Director of RN Corporation (Garments) Rabiul Islam was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The accounts officer of the factory and the driver were also injured.

Driver Mozammel Haque said he drove Rabiul Islam and the accounts officer from their Uttara office in Dhaka to Islami Bank at Gazipur Chandra roundabout. After drawing money from the bank they were returning to the factory to pay salaries of the staff.

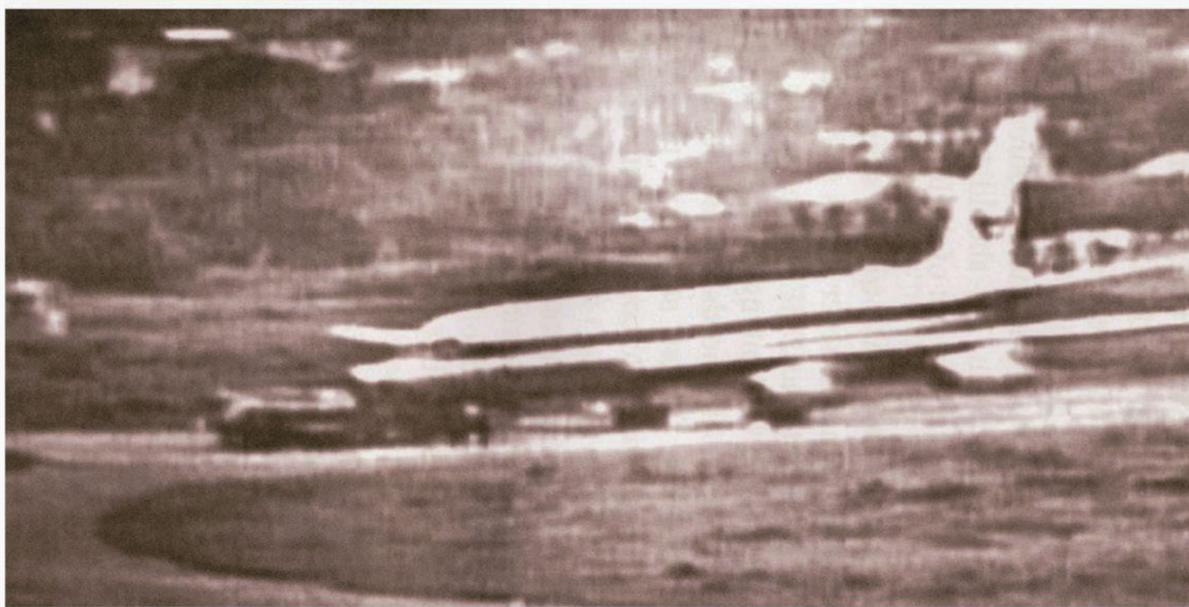
Haque added when their car reached Maleker Bari area, a yellow pick-up van intercepted them. Four to five hijackers in two motorcycles arrived on the scene from behind. At one stage, the hijackers opened fire and broke the windshield and the windows of the car by an iron rod.

The driver said the muggers also beat him up and the accounts officer and shot the MD. They also snatched the bag containing the money and sped away.

In-charge of Bhogra police outpost under Joydevpur police Sub-inspector Zakir Hossain said if anybody carries more than Tk five lakh, they have to inform the law enforcers about it. But the victims did not do so, he added.

In primary estimate it has been known that Tk 66.5 lakh

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The hijacked Japan Airlines DC-8, top, on the tarmac of Tejgaon Airport in Dhaka in September 1977. A Japanese delegation, left, having a discussion at the ATC tower during the standoff. Negotiations with the hijackers over the radio, right.

IMAGES: MY DESTINY



Japan still remembers his heroics

SHARIFUL ISLAM and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The day started like any other day for AG Mahmud on September 28, 1977. He was in a regular cabinet meeting that day. As the air chief and deputy Chief Marshal Law Administrator who was also holding portfolios of some ministries, this was business as usual.

At around 10:00am, his Aide-De-Camp (ADC), personal assistant to the air chief, handed him a small piece of paper. That small note would take Mahmud through a whirlwind of events for the next five days and change his life.

The note said a hijacked

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NIGERIA PRISONER SWAP 82 Chibok girls freed by Boko Haram

AFP, Abuja

Eighty-two of the more than 200 schoolgirls kidnapped in northeast Nigeria in 2014 yesterday headed to meet President Muhammadu Buhari after a prisoner swap deal with Boko Haram secured their release.

The presidency announced late on Saturday that months of talks with the jihadists had "yielded results" some six months after 21 of their classmates were freed with the help of international mediators.

"Today 82 more Chibok girls were released," a statement said.

"After lengthy negotiations, our security agencies have taken back these girls, in exchange for some Boko Haram suspects held by the authorities."

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Narcotics dept comes under ACC hammer

Anti-graft chief blasts it for providing 'wrong address' of top drug-peddlers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman Iqbal Mahmud yesterday accused the Department of Narcotics Control of giving "inaccurate addresses" of drug peddlers, which was why, he said, the ACC could not continue with its crackdown against them.

In the presence of DNC Director General Salauddin Ahmed at a seminar, Iqbal said it was not believable that the narcotics department didn't know who the drug peddlers were.

Many powerful men are behind drug business and none will be spared. "We want to say, either leave this business or go to jail....We do not want Bangladesh to turn into another Philippines..."

In response, DNC chief Salauddin said he was newly appointed and so he would have to check the list of drug traders handed to the ACC before making any comment.

DNC and Internal Security Services Division of the home ministry jointly organised the seminar, "Aggression of drug: what should we do" in the capital's BIAM Foundation Auditorium.

At the start of his speech, the ACC chief tried to clear the anti-graft body's role in tackling issues of illegal drug business.

"The ACC is trying to investigate those who are running drug business for years."

"I said many times that corrupt people, criminals, drug peddlers -- all have the same root," Iqbal said.

The ACC in June last year asked the DNC to give a list of drug peddlers since, he said, it should know who the drug peddlers are.

The narcotics department accordingly gave a list of 365 drug peddlers.

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'It's murder, not an accident'

Says lawmaker Shirin Akhter about Dinajpur boiler blast

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The families of 17 people killed in a boiler explosion on April 19 were given Tk 50,000 each yesterday.

Three injured in the blast were also given Tk 50,000 each at a programme held at the deputy commissioner's office where Mujibul Haque, state minister for labour and employment, was present.

Jatiya Shramik Kalyan Foundation organised the programme.

"The boiler explosion that killed 17 workers was not a simple accident. It's murder," said Shirin Akhter, a lawmaker as well as labour rights activist.

This disaster was similar to the Rana Plaza tragedy, she added.

"I am sorry to sound like that, but it's true based on a report prepared by the deputy commissioner's office," she observed.

She also expressed her disappointment as Subal Ghosh, owner of the rice mill and the prime accused of the deadly blast, was still at large.

The boiler of the rice mill was faulty, said Shirin quoting the report.

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PIA pilot sleeps on flight, risks 300 lives



PTI, Karachi

Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has taken a senior pilot off-duty for allegedly sleeping on a London-bound flight, risking the lives of over 300 passengers on board by handing over the aircraft to a trainee.

Captain Amir Akhtar Hashmi had taken a two-and-a-half-hour nap in the business class passenger cabin on April 26 soon after flight PK-785 took off from Islamabad for London, the Dawn reported.

The airline was initially reluctant to take action against Hashmi, a former president of the highly influential Pakistan Air Lines Pilots Association (PALPA), but later caved in to "pressure from above".

PIA spokesperson Danyal Gilani said that

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No fuel price cut for now

State Minister Nasrul tells parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid yesterday said the government has no plan to reduce oil prices for now as Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) may face a loss in the next fiscal year if international market prices continued to rise.

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JAMAAT 4-50 1-15 5-00 6-35 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Reshuffle in Bangladesh missions

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government has brought some changes in its missions in South Korea, Vietnam, Sweden, Brazil, Oman and Libya through transfers and fresh appointments.

Foreign ministry sources said incumbent Bangladesh Ambassador to South Korea Zulfikar Rahman had been transferred as ambassador to Brazil, while Director General (the Americas) at the foreign ministry Abida Islam would take over as Bangladesh ambassador to Seoul.

The post of ambassador to Brazil fell vacant following the death of Mijarul Quayes.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Sweden Golam Sarwar has been transferred to Oman, while Director General (admin) at the foreign ministry Nazmul Islam will join as Bangladesh ambassador to Sweden.

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Khushi Rani Das piles half-ripe Boro on a road in Sunamganj's Tahirpur upazila. Crop on her two acres was damaged by the recent floods. Inset, farmers "harvest" paddy and load them onto a boat. They will use the paddy as fodder. The photos were taken on Friday.

PHOTO: STAR

SUNAMGANJ FARMERS Once solvent, now broke

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, back from Sunamganj

Even a few months ago, Khushi Rani Das was all smiles when she saw the green sheaves of Boro paddy on her two acres of land in Sunamganj's Tahirpur.

She dreamt of a good harvest which would feed her nine-member family all the year round.

But the recent flashfloods dashed the 60-year-old woman's hopes. On Friday, she was seen collecting the submerged paddy from her land in Shanir Haor. The half-ripe paddy she would now use as fodder.

"I have a family of nine and my family depends on the Boro crop. But our whole year's food has been damaged, and I don't know how to survive with my family this year," Khushi told The Daily Star.

Hers is a farmer family and they were somewhat solvent than other families in Baghmara village. This made it difficult for her to stand in line for Open Market Sale (OMS) rice. Besides, her name was not on the list of Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme as she was considered a bit solvent.

Borhan Uddin, chairman of Tahirpur Sadar union, said farmers who were solvent were not included in the VGF programme as the support from the government was inadequate.

"After a month of the floods, we can now find that the once solvent farmers are the worst victim of the flood as they feel shy to stand in line for OMS rice and their names are not in the VGF list," he said.

Another farmer of Madya Tahirpur village in the upazila, Khelu Miah, who was more affluent than Khushi, used to cultivate Boro paddy on three-four acres of land to meet his family's food supply as well as sell every year.

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