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Targets precise in weekend robberies

Cops arrest robbers who had been mugging money exchange agents, others for years

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

For almost six years, members of a gang from Barishal have been targeting money exchange agents in the capital and looting huge amounts of cash from them.

Police's detective branch (DB) arrested three members -- Jalil Mollah, Md Riaz and Dipu -- of the gang in raids in Jashore and Savar on Wednesday, officers said.

Police also recovered two foreign firearms, 50 bullets, two motorcycles and Tk 1 lakh in stolen cash, said AKM Hafiz Akter, additional commissioner (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

After the arrests, the law enforcement officials learned about the scheme which has enabled the gang to amass significant wealth and property over the last five or six years.

The gang first conducted reconnaissance at money exchange offices in Gulshan and Motijheel, calling agents and asking about converting between 20,000 and 30,000 dollars or euros to Taka.

The gang members then waited for the agent to call back. Once the transaction was agreed upon, some members -- stationed in the Gulshan and Motijheel areas -- started following the agent's movement, gleaning information that would later allow the gang to pounce with precision.

They conduct their operation on Saturdays as traffic is

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Afzal Hossain, left, and Tota Miah selling flowers and toy windmills made of plastic and paper in Sylhet city's Court area yesterday morning. They had almost been unemployed for over a year due to the pandemic. The two hope their sales will go up as movement of children outside home is increasing.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

AL men stage demo against Gazipur city mayor

Rail link to Dhaka cut off for an hour and half

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Rail communications from Dhaka to other districts remained halted for around one and an half hour as some ruling Awami League activists set up fires on a railway line demanding punishment of Gazipur City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Zahangir Alam.

The demonstrators alleged that Zahangir recently made some controversial comments about Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the number of the martyred freedom fighters at a programme and the video went viral.

Witnesses said about 200 AL men started demonstrating in Tongi Station Road, Cheraig Ali, Hossain Market and Boardbazar areas around 5:30pm. Later, they piled

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'SBAC Bank chief flexed muscles to get loans'

Probe finds Tk 40cr taken resorting to irregularities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amzad Hossain, chairman of South Bangla Agriculture and Commerce (SBAC) Bank, brought out Tk 40 crore from the private commercial bank misusing his powers and through forgery, according to an investigation into the alleged scam.

Of the amount, the bank gave a loan of Tk 20 crore to one Khulna Builders.

In its inspection, Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) has not found the organisation's existence in the place where it was supposed to be located, said sources aware of the investigation findings.

"Amzad had the loan approved abusing his power," one of the sources said.

Amzad also allegedly created and approved loan applications in the name of the organisation's staffers and then pocketed the money.

The Anti-Corruption Commission is currently probing the loan forgeries and the illegal wealth of the bank chairman, the sources said.

As a part of the investigation, ACC Deputy Director Gulshan Anwar Prodhon asked former SBAC managing director

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ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

We have truth and justice on our side: Osmany

SEPTEMBER 24, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

OSMANY ADDRESSES MUKTI BAHINI

Commander-in Chief of Bangladesh Forces (Mukti Bahini) Colonel MAG Osmany, in a broadcast to the nation and the Mukti Bahini over Shadhin Bangla Betar, today expressed his heartiest congratulations to the valiant fighters of the Mukti Bahini.

He said, "Our enemy has modern jet aircraft, armoured heavy guns and sophisticated weapons obtained from the USA and the Peoples' Republic of China but we have truth and justice on our side. Fighting against odds, with grim determination and valour, you have attained unprecedented successes on the field. Many have attained martyrdom, many have been wounded or disabled but you have inflicted on the enemy 40 times more casualties in terms of enemy killed."

The commander-in-chief declared that the government had decided to recognise the valiant performances of the Mukti Bahini by awarding them gallantry awards, and recommendations had already been called from the commanders in this regard. There would be four types of gallantry awards: Gallantry of the Highest Order (Cash 10,000 rupees), Gallantry of a Very High Order (5,000 rupees), Gallantry of a Commendable Order (2,000 rupees), and Gallantry of an Order Worth Recognition (certificate of gallantry).

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Two killed in daring train robbery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two passengers died and another was injured after a 'gang of robbers' stabbed them on the roof of a commuter train in Mymensingh's Gafargaon upazila last night.

The deceased were male, but their identities could not be known immediately, Sohel Rana, officer-in-charge of Jamalpur Railway Police Station, told this correspondent.

Another passenger, Rubel, sustained stab wounds and received primary treatment at a hospital in Jamalpur's Dewanganj upazila, the OC said.

Quoting Rubel, OC Sohel Rana said when the Dewanganj-bound commuter train reached near Gafargaon from Dhaka around 8:30pm, a gang of robbers stabbed the three passengers on the roof of the train and fled with their valuables.

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Suriname VP, 60, plays international football match



AFP, Paramaribo

Suriname Vice President Ronnie Brunswijk took a break from his political duties Tuesday to play a football match -- a pro-team CONCACAF league match. At age 60.

Brunswijk may be second in line to the presidency, but he's captain of the Inter Moengotapoe football team. He's also the team owner.

Brunswijk played for 54 minutes in Inter Moengotapoe's 6-0 loss to CD Olimpia of Honduras in Suriname's capital Paramaribo.

Wearing the number 61 -- symbolic of 1961, the year of his birth -- the vice president played

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COLLEGE GIRL'S DEATH Bashundhara MD seeks anticipatory bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bashundhara Group Managing Director Sayem Sobhan Anvir



has sought anticipatory bail from the High Court in a case filed over the rape and murder of a college student at a flat in the capital's Gulshan in April.

He recently filed a petition with the HC through lawyer M Hassan Imam seeking anticipatory bail, Assistant Attorney General Mohammad Mizanur Rahman told The Daily Star.

Mizanur also said that the HC bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice KM Zahid Sarwar Kajol was scheduled to hold a hearing on the petition on September 29.

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Half a crore Covid shots arrive

Country records lowest daily deaths since late May

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifty lakh more doses of Sinopharm Covid-19 vaccine reached Dhaka from China early yesterday.

Carrying the vaccine consignment, a flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 2:00am, according to a notification issued by Maidul Islam Prodhon, a senior information officer of the health ministry.

Abu Jaher, chief health coordinator of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS),

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A common moorhen, also known as waterhen or swamp chicken, wading through a marshland at Diabari in the capital's Uttara. This bird lives around well-vegetated marshes, ponds, canals and other wetlands. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF FATEMA KIBRYA LABONNO

PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 24

Fajr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-40	12-30	4-30	6-05	7-30
JAMAAT 5-15	1-15	4-45	6-10	8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Star HEALTHLINE

Tuberculosis NOT A DEATH SENTENCE ANYMORE

STAR HEALTH DESK

Medical science has advanced leaps to transform tuberculosis (TB) from a ticket to certain death to a treatable, manageable disease. Yet, taboo surrounding the transmission and treatment of tuberculosis exists.

The bacterium that causes TB -- Mycobacterium tuberculosis -- spreads through droplet transmission, when a person inhales droplets from another person with active TB. Does this mean a single

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