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CUSTOM HOUSE, CTG

# Where 1 tonne is not always 1 tonne

Officials helping importers dodge revenue; Experts call for strict punishment, say mere transfer won't work

MOHAMMAD SUMAN

MS Selim Machinery, a Jashore-based company, imported car parts from India through the Chattogram Port in March this year.

The imported goods weighed 20 tonnes as per the documents. An assistant revenue officer of the Custom House, Chattogram cleared the consignment after physical examination, declaring that it matched the papers.

But a second inspection by the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate, following information about irregularities in the first examination report, found the weight of goods to be 41 tonnes.

Had the first examination report not been challenged, the government would have been deprived of around Tk 60 lakh in revenue, said the investigation report.

The official who conducted the first physical examination was suspended in early October for submitting a biased report.

This is not an isolated incident of customs officials getting involved in corrupt practices in coalition with a section of dishonest importers and C&F agents for personal gain.

The Custom House, Chattogram has found at least 59 of its employees involved in helping importers dodge customs duty, according to an internal investigation conducted from 2018 till this year.

The authorities have suspended six of them, framed charges against 17, show-caused 23 and sought clarification from the remaining 13 officials, according to official documents.

Corruption in the Custom House can

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As the winter approaches, workers in dried fish processing industry are passing busy hours every day. Dried fish processing is mostly done in this season. Meeting the local demand, dried fish is now being exported to international markets. The photo was taken at Diamond Ghat in Chattogram recently.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

## Noted citizens slam filing of case against BLAST staffer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eighteen eminent citizens yesterday condemned the filing of a defamation case against a female employee of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) by a member of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

In a joint statement, they said there has been an allegation of sexual violence at a BGB check post in Cox's Bazar and the female BLAST employee is said to be the victim.

If a female, who has been subjected to violence, faces harassment due to misuse of the country's criminal law, then this will undoubtedly spread further fear among many more similar victims and also discourage them from filing complaints, they said in the statement.

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## Man sets alight wife with petrol

Victim fighting for life; husband arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTG

Police on Friday night arrested a 35-year-old man for setting his wife on fire leaving her critically injured in Chattogram's Rangunia upazila.

The victim, 30, was fighting for her life. She was first admitted to the burn unit of Chattogram Medical College Hospital and referred to Dhaka yesterday evening for better treatment, said CMCH sources.

The arrestee is Salimullah Rafel, a sand trader in Rangunia upazila and also a former secretary of Swecchasebak League of an union under the upazila, said police. The attack was carried out over

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## FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

### Repatriation can't be linked with POW

November 22, 1972  
 SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

DACCA, DELHI EXAMINING PAK RESPONSE

No indication is available here today as to when the repatriation of women and children to and from Pakistan under the offer made by India and Bangladesh will take place. India and Bangladesh are in consultation with each other on Pakistan's response to their offer.

Bangladesh is learnt to have received today the Pakistani offer for repatriation of ten thousand stranded Bangali women and children. The offer was communicated to India by the Swiss Ambassador in New Delhi and Bangladesh informally received the news through ICRC sources.

Informed sources hope that Pakistan would not make it conditional upon or link it with the

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## ROUMARI BORDER Bangladeshi man shot dead by BSF

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A Bangladeshi youth was shot dead by the members of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) in Kurigram's Roumari border area early yesterday, said police.

The dead is Hasinur Rahman Chand, 25, of Khatiamari village in Roumari upazila.

Montasir Billa, officer-in-charge of Roumari Police Station, said Hasinur, along with some other people, went to the border area at night.

At that time, patrolling members of Kushimara BSF camp of BSF Battalion-6 in India opened fire on them.

During the firing, Hasinur was shot and later rushed to Roumari Upazila

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## BID TO REVERSE US POLLS RESULTS

# Trump faces more setbacks

REUTERS, Washington

Joe Biden yesterday reached the two-week mark since becoming president-elect, with President Donald Trump stinging from back-to-back setbacks in his desperate, unprecedented bid to undo his election defeat.

Biden, a Democrat, is preparing to take office on Jan. 20, but Trump, a Republican, has refused to concede and is seeking to invalidate or overturn the results through lawsuits and recounts in a number of states, claiming - without proof - widespread voter

fraud. That effort, which critics call an unparalleled push by a sitting president to subvert the will of voters, has met with little success. Trump's campaign has suffered a string of legal defeats and appears to have failed to convince key fellow Republicans in states that he lost, such as Michigan, to buy into his unfounded conspiracy theories.

Trump's bid to cling to power appeared ever more tenuous on Friday after Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger announced a manual recount and audit

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### PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 22

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
 AZAN 5:00 12:45 3:45 5:25 7:00  
 JAMAAT 5:35 1:15 4:00 5:30 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Some parts of Dhaka city remained shrouded by mild to moderate fog throughout yesterday which, to many, heralded the arrival of winter. This photo was taken from the rooftop of a 22-storey building near Dhaka University area around 1:30pm.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

**ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE**

Mr. Dissanayake Mr. Malinda Asanka Amarasuriya

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that my client Europtex Fashion Limited has been conducting business with reputation for many years in Bangladesh. Recently it was detected by my client that Werallapatha Ralalage Dissanayake (Country Manager) and Mr. Malinda Asanka Amarasuriya (Sr. Merchandising Manager) have been involved in activities harmful to the company.

Upon being aware of their activities, the management of my client (Europtex Fashion Ltd.) has terminated the said employees since 18.09.2020 and 20.09.2020. Legal notice has already been issued to them for returning company funds. A general diary bearing no 2006 dated: 25.10.2020 has been lodged at Uttara West Police Station to this effect pending further investigation.

Now the aforesaid employees are trying to tarnish the image and good-will of my client before its stakeholders/clients.

In this circumstance, all concerned are hereby put on notice not to communicate and/or enter into any transaction with the above named in matters relating to Europtex Fashion Ltd. My client (Europtex Fashion Ltd.) shall not bear any responsibility thereof.

Mohammad Torikul Islam  
 Advocate  
 Membership No- 4898 (Dhaka Bar)  
 For and on behalf of  
 Europtex Fashion Ltd.

## Pompeo meets Taliban, Afghan negotiators in Qatar

AFP, Doha

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met negotiators from the Afghan government and the Taliban in Doha yesterday, amid signs of progress in their talks as Washington speeds up its withdrawal.

Pompeo's visit comes in the wake of a rocket attack which struck densely populated areas of Kabul, killing at least eight people in the latest outbreak of violence in the Afghan capital.

The Taliban denied responsibility and the Islamic State group claimed

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