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Gold worth Tk 31.6 lakh seized at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent

The Customs Surveillance team at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) recovered gold bars and chains worth about Tk 31.64 lakh from four passengers including a woman who came from Dubai yesterday morning.

Most of the 46 gold bars, each weighing 10 tola and the gold chains weighing around 1,954 grams were found inside the tyres of body cycles and blankets. Customs sources said.

Three of the four were identified as Md Nazimuddin, 20, and Baby Akhter, 23, of Nawapara, Raizan in Chittagong, and Zahiruddin Ahmed, 40 of Jall Road under Kotwali thana in Chittagong. They landed at the ZIA at around 8:15 am by a Bangladesh Biman flight. The other person, Sohrab Hossain Khan, 45 of Gourmadi, Barisal arrived by an Emirates flight at

about 9 am, the sources said.

Acting on a tip, the customs team challenged the three Biman passengers when they were about to cross the green channel at the arrival lounge. Smuggled gold was recovered from Sohrab following a search, the sources said.

8 arsenic affected patients found in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL Nov 2: Some eight arsenic affected patients were found in Barisal during the last five days.

The doctors of the Dermatology Department of the Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital identified the patients in the district.

The eight persons identified as Ziaur Rahman, 20, and Saifur Islam, 17, of Kashiipur, Jahangir, 25, of Kagasura, Farida, 32, of Karnakathi, Hanufa, 18, and Suma, 17, of Nalchity, Sunil, 27, and Subal, 22 of Barisal town area.

Meanwhile the hair of two patients has been sent to the Atomic Energy Commission at Dhaka for further investigation.

Fire at Gulistan Adarsha Hawkers' Market

By Staff Correspondent

A fire broke out in a market near the Fulbaria bus terminal at Gulistan in the city last night.

The blaze gutted some shops of the Adarsha Hawkers' Market near the fruit market in Gulistan at about 11:30 pm, police and fire service sources said.

The cause of the fire and the extent of damage could not be known immediately. Police said there are more than a hundred shops selling clothes, plastic goods, shoes and other commodities in the market.

Fire service units were trying to control the blaze till the filing of this report at 12:10 am.

Four shops were gutted in a fire at the Gulistan market in the city early yesterday.

The blaze that reportedly originated from an electric short circuit in a grocery at the DCC market at about 5 am spread to the adjoining shops, police and Fire Service sources said.

Fire Brigadesmen from Kurmitola and Tejtanga rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire in half an hour.

Two stabbed, robbed of Tk 70,000 in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG Nov 2: Two persons were stabbed and Tk 70,000 was snatched in two incidents in the city today, police and witnesses said.

The cashier, Prabortak Saugha, Nani Gopal Dey was stabbed and Tk 20,000 snatched from him while he was returning from a local bank at 10 am, police said.

The victim was admitted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

The muggers waylaid him at the Probartok crossing and fled immediately after taking the money.

In another incident, one businessman was attacked by suspected snatchers at the Timpul crossing this morning, sources said.

The snatchers robbed him of Tk 50,000 in cash and clothes worth Tk 11,000 while he was coming out from Reazuddin Bazar.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina giving away prizes among the winners in a children's competition organised by the Islamic Foundation at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city yesterday. — PID photo

PM's call to build up non-communal society

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called upon the people to ensure a peaceful and healthy future for the next generation by establishing a non-communal and friendly society, based on the ideals of Islam, reports UNB.

The Prime Minister was addressing an award-giving ceremony the Islamic Foundation organised to distribute awards and certificates of the "National Juvenile Competition 1994-95" at the Osmani Memorial Hall yesterday morning.

Some 72 children and juveniles of the country received the awards for their outstanding performance in competitions on Qirat, Azaan, recitation, Islamic songs, extempore speech and general knowledge.

The Prime Minister said that the target of the present government was to ensure a peaceful and secured future for all.

"We can ensure peace and stability in society by spreading the teachings of Islam and by bringing smiles to those of the exploited class," she said.

"The government is working to create a favourable condition for the street urchins the Prime Minister said and called upon the children of well-to-do families to think about the pitiable condition of those deprived and be friendly towards them. "Extend your hand of co-operation to the poor and exploited children."

Hasina said the real Islamic education was implemented during the post-liberation period, after the independence was achieved through the Liberation War waged in the light of a non-communal spirit.

Bangabandhu wanted to build up the country as a safe place for the people of all faiths, she said, adding that the present government, as his fol-

3 killed, 10 hurt in road accident

FENI, Nov 2: Three persons died on the spot and 10 others were injured when a mini bus fell into a road-side ditch near here today, reports BSS.

According to passengers, the bus skidded off the road and fell into the ditch after the driver lost control on the steering.

The injured persons were admitted to Feni Sadar hospital.

Our Narayanganj correspondent adds: Abdul Latif son of one Akkas Ali was killed on the spot when a truck collided with a minibus in the Malibagh area under the Bandar thana today at around 10:45 am.

At least seven persons got severe injuries in the accident and were sent to different hospitals of the capital, police said.

The truck driver escaped with his vehicle and police seized the minibus without its driver.

The body has been sent to the Narayanganj General Hospital for autopsy.

Jail Killing Day today

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Sheikh Hasina said November 3, 1975 created a sad chapter in our national life glorified with tradition of struggle. "The day fills our heart with sadness, anger and outrage," she said adding the unholy force opposed to the spirit of the Liberation War had slogged the humanity."

She said when the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu took over the responsibility to rehabilitate and rebuild the war-waged independent nation, defeated enemies of the Liberation War were engaged in a deep-rooted conspiracy to destroy the gains of the Liberation War and the spirit of independence in a planned way.

They had killed cruelly the Father of the Nation along with his family members on the fateful night of August 15, 1975. Before their blood dried, the hated conspirators killed the four national leaders Syed Nazrul Islam, Mr Tajuddin Ahmed, Captain Mansur Ali and Mr AHM Kamruzzaman on November 3 the same year at the Dhaka Central Jail mercilessly.

She said the clique which captured power did not try the killers of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and those responsible for the jail killings. On the contrary, they had enacted law to protect the killers and rewarded them with diplomatic jobs, she added.

Ruling Awami League as well as various socio-cultural organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day.

Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to chair a discussion meeting at the Engineers' Institution at 3 pm, organised by her party.

Prof. Zillur Rahman Siddique, Prof. Anisuzzaman, Sayed Hasan Imam and central AL leaders would take part in the discussion, says a press release.

Awami League programmes include hoisting a black flag and party flag at half-mast at the Bangabandhu Bhaban and AL central office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city and at all offices of the party throughout the country at 6 am, wearing of black badges, placing wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bangabandhu Bhaban at 8 am, offering Fataha, holding milad nahfil and placing wreaths at the graves of the four national leaders and shahids of August 15 at Banani graveyard at 8:30 am.

In a statement AL general secretary Zillur Rahman urged all to observe the day with due solemnity.

Bangabandhu Parishad will place wreaths at the graves of the four national leaders at 7:30 am today and holding a discussion at 4 pm on November 6 in the city.

The Dhaka City Unit Command of Bangladesh Muktiyoddah Sangsad in a press release urged all its units in the city to observe the day.

Jatiya Char Neta Parishad and Bangabandhu Shilip Goshti also held two separate discussion meetings in the city yesterday on this occasion.

Detection cell

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central bank, but Bangladesh Bank only takes "civil sort of action" like removal of the managing director or the directors.

"But if there is any illegality, there should be involvement of anti-corruption organisations... the criminal part has to be dealt by the anti-corruption agencies," he said.

Water accord

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Ganges water.

This prompted Bangladesh to accuse India of unilaterally using water at the Farraka barrage.

Soon after the new government assumed power in India in June this year, talks resumed between the two countries.

The latest visit of Razzak to India is just one of the many that ministers and diplomats of both countries have had to make in order to make a concrete resolution of the complex problem.

In an interview with the Daily Star, Razzak said that things are looking much brighter now than they did earlier and he was confident that the two countries would reach "some kind of understanding" over the issue.

With the dry season approaching fast, Razzak said that he would expect the leaders of the two countries to reach a decision before the year end.

He added that this would be just another venture to strengthen the relationship between the two countries.

The probability of some kind of joint venture between India and Bangladesh to improve the flow of the river like dredging will also be discussed in the near future.

Apart from holding talks with his Indian counterpart Janeshwar Mishra, Razzak also met External Affairs Minister Inder Kumar Gujral.

As of now it is not clear whether a permanent solution has been brought about or not.

In reply to a question, Razzak hinted that quantum of water that Bangladesh may ask for may be between 35,000 and 40,000 cusec during the lean period. But he declined to elaborate.

In reply to a query the Bangladesh minister said that the agreement would contain a guarantee clause like the agreement signed in 1977.

In the past, this issue has often added problems to the otherwise friendly relations between India and Bangladesh.

Other members of the Bangladesh delegation were Water Resources Secretary Shamsul Huda, Additional Foreign Secretary Ahmed Tariq Karim, water expert Prof Amin Nishat and Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Safi Shami.

Call for transport strike in Cox's Bazar from Nov 5

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Nov 2: The bus and coach owners here have called a transport strike for an indefinite period beginning November 5. They are demanding trial of those who have damaged vehicles and assaulted transport workers here recently.

At a press conference today, Abul Kashem and Rafiqul Huda Chowdhury, leaders of the Cox's Bazar Zilla Parishad, declared a 6-point programme to realise their 4-point demand.

Under a court order police had earlier seized the moveable property of Col Rashid from his Gulshan residence on October 24.

Yasmin murder

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Pleading before the court for granting more time, Gazur Rahman said Barrister Amirul Islam whom law ministry accorded permission to appear before the court in connection with the case was yet to come from Dhaka.

The PP in another application submitted today before the court pleaded for trial of all the nine accused under Bangladesh Penal Code instead of the Women and Child Repression Control Act.

Charges against all nine accused are scheduled to be framed on November 10, court sources said.

Col Rashid

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lier said that they had a warrant of arrest against Zobaidda Rashid. He, however, did not elaborate the charges against her.

"They have a warrant of arrest against me in a false case," Zobaidda said at around 11:40 last night, when contacted over telephone.

Her daughter Mehnaz said, "They were trying to break into the house and were pounding the collapsible gate with metal rods."

Zobaidda said that police cordoned off their house for five hours since the evening before producing the warrant of arrest against her. She added that her daughter would address a press conference at their house today.

Under a court order police had earlier seized the moveable property of Col Rashid from his Gulshan residence on October 24.

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Forex reserve \$2020.85m

Country's foreign exchange reserve totalled 2020.85 million US dollars at the end of October, up from the mark a month back, Bangladesh Bank announced yesterday, reports UNB.

According to sources in the banking circles, the foreign exchange reserve with the central bank was some 1960 million dollars at the end of September.

The central bank announcement, however, did not mention the reasons for the rise in the reserve position.

A decline in imports and increased exports may be the reasons behind the upturn, sources said.

JCD worker hurt in bomb blast

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 2: A teenaged boy was seriously injured when a hand-made bomb went off in his hands in Shahjadpur thana of the district tonight, reports UNB.

Police sources said Jahangir, 16, a local JCD worker, received serious burn injuries in the bomb blast that took place at his home at Chhoyanipara village at 8:30 pm.

Jahangir was admitted to Shahjadpur Health Complex. A case was filed with Shahjadpur police.

Khaleda

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is not taking any action against the criminals.

The BNP chief reiterated that the ruling party wanted to make Bangladesh a vassal state by giving transit to India and importing electricity from that country.

She called for strengthening and uniting the womenfolk and involving them in BNP's politics of production and development to resist 'conspiracies' against the country.

The former Prime Minister said her government took a lot of women development programmes, particularly for their education. "This is why the women like BNP," she said.

"Women make up half of the country's population... but they are always ignored and repressed," she said adding that Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had constituted a separate ministry to look into the matters of womenfolk and initiated women education programmes.

Begum Zia asked the Mahila Dal leaders to work for creating political consciousness among the women and encourage them to rally round the BNP to carry forward the politics of production and development.

Women's madrassah principal held for 'teasing' students

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Nov 2: A Principal of a women's madrassah was arrested here today for allegedly teasing students of the institution, police said.

Zahurul Islam, Principal of the Firoja Khatun Ideal Senior Mahila Madrassah was arrested following filing of a complaint against him with the Narayanganj thana by President of the Board of Directors of the Madrassah Mohammad Ali Chowdhury. Police said they rescued Islam from a room of the madrassah after some local people reportedly beat him in the morning and kept him confined there.

Police and Madrassah authorities said he had submitted fake documents while he was appointed Principal of the Madrassah in July this year.

Some local people also alleged that he used to make girls senseless offering them a liquid, police was investigating the matter.

BNP leader murder 7 arrested in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 2: Seven persons arrested in connection with the murder of Khalilur Rahman, Secretary, Ward 9 unit of Sylhet BNP on Friday, were sent to jail today.

The arrested are Advocate A. S. M. Quasem Ali, his brother, two nephews and three others.

Khalil was allegedly stabbed to death when he tried to mediate a dispute in the premises of Shibanjir Bazar mosque after Juma prayers.

Indian Minister

From Page 1

Making comment on the discussion about the sharing of the Ganges water, Misra said it would be possible to reach an acceptable solution to the Ganges water sharing problem within a very short period of time.

On arrival at the Calcutta Airport, Abdur Razzak was received by West Bengal State Minister for Irrigation Nanda Kumar Bhattacharya, Gita Mukherjee and senior officials. The water resources minister is expected to return home tomorrow.

Another report says, in an informal meeting at Hotel Taj Bengal, both the ministers exchanged ideas on possible cooperation on irrigation system of Bangladesh and West Bengal. The West Bengal minister also briefed Bangladesh minister about success of small scale irrigation system in West Bengal.

Govt to ensure

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cornea disorders.

They can get back sight with the grafting of cornea, she said. "So intensifying posthumous eye-donation campaign is a must for the country."

She said the government would also set up a modern, international-standard eye bank and was thinking of introducing a policy on posthumous eye-donation issue.

Responding to a demand of Sandhani for a piece of land for its permanent office building, the Prime Minister assured that the government would help the organisation have a land to set up modern eye bank and blood bank.

The function was also addressed by Health and Family Welfare Minister Salah Uddin Yusuf, Red Crescent Samity Chairman Maj Gen (ret'd) Abdus Salam, Director General of Health Directorate Prof AK Shamsuddin Siddique, Sandhani president Zahirul Islam Bayezid and vice-president Dr Qamrul Hasan Khan. Health Secretary Mohammad Ali presided.



Michael Jackson joins young Thai girls in traditional costume dancing at the entrance to the lobby of his hotel to welcome him upon his arrival in Bangkok yesterday for a concert. — AFP/UNB photo

JS Committee on Privileges takes decision on notices

The first meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Privileges was held at Sangsad Bhaban yesterday with its chairman Speaker Humayun Rasheed Choudhury in the chair, reports UNB.

The committee examined and took decision on a number of notices on alleged breach of privilege which were sent to the committee during the last session of Parliament.

The committee also decided to set up a sub-committee to prepare and submit a report to the Privilege Committee regarding enactment of a law under the provision of the Constitution on the breach of privileges. Speaker Humayun Rasheed Choudhury was empowered to set up the sub-committee.

Members of the committee who attended the meeting were Prime Minister and Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina, Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister and Deputy Leader of the

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