



Oman Air, Biman compensate Jarina

By Staff Correspondent

Smile once again returned to Jarina's face on Saturday morning when Oman Air handed over a cheque for Tk 70,000 to her as compensation for the Dirhams pilfered from her briefcase at the Zia International Airport at November 4.

Bangladesh Biman also gave her Tk 20,000 on the same day as humanitarian grant.

Ismail R Chowdhury, Country Manager of Oman Air in Bangladesh, handed over the cheque to Jarina at a simple ceremony at the airline's head office at Gulshan in the city.

"No such incident happened during our service in the last few years. We have done it strictly on humanitarian ground and we fulfilled Jarina's need," Chowdhury said.

Chowdhury Mohammad Mohsin, Secretary of Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry, handed over Tk 20,000 to Jarina at the Bangladesh Air Training Auditorium at Kurnitola.

"There are weaknesses in our system which need to be addressed. We are trying to do this," Mohsin said.

Jarina's lawyer Advocate Alena Khan of Bangladesh Manobhikar Bastobayan Sangha who was present on the occasion offered her a job in the city and promised that the Sangha would bear the expenses of her son's education.

Managing Director of Biman, Air Commodore M Khorshedul Alam, Director Zia, Wing Commander M Salimullah, Director Customer Services, Muhammad Abdus Salam, General manager, Corporate Affairs, Anwar Hossain Khan and senior officials of Oman Air were present on the occasion.

Charge sheet on Shamsi murder today

DB ends investigation in record time

By Shaikh Nazrul Islam

Detective Branch of police will submit charge sheet today against four youths in Ammar Shamsi murder case, sources concerned said.

"We have completed investigation into the case in the shortest possible time--18 days. It is a clear case," said Deputy Commissioner of DB Abdul Hannan.

The investigators interrogated 27 people in connection with the murder of Shamsi, an O-Level examinee from Nalla Fleur Tutorial at Dhamondi in the city.

The four youths -- Ziaur Rahman Zia, Salauddin, Mostafa Almas Bappi and Alamgir-- allegedly kidnapped Shamsi for ransom, strangled him at the National Park in Gazipur on October 16 and left the body there.

The case filed with Lalbagh police in this regard was transferred to DB on October 25. Three of the accused were arrested from the old part of the city on the following day and the main accused -- Zia -- was arrested later from a mosque at Nachal in Chapai Nawabganj. He went there with a group of devotees from Kakruli mosque in the city.

All the four gave judicial statements concerning their involvement in the murder.

The DC said that charge sheet could be submitted earlier had they got the autopsy report.

Shamsi's partially decomposed body was recovered from the National Park on October 26 and his father identified it.

Inside Today

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The Great Betrayal

Column: Perspectives By Brig (Rtd) M Abdul Hafiz

Law and our Rights

The constitutional journey of Bangladesh

Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Nov 13	5.14 pm
Nov 14	6.12 am

Prayer Timings

November 13

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5.00	5.35
Zohr	12.45	1.15
Asr	4.00	4.15
Maghrib	5.19	5.24
Esha	7.15	7.45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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3rd Millennium

DHAKA MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2000

KARTIK 29, 1407 BS

SHABAN 15, 1421 HIJRI

16 PAGES PRICE : TAKA 6.00



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad attend the inaugural session of the ninth Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit in the Qatar capital of Doha yesterday.

--AFP photo

PM urges OIC to rally behind Palestinians

From Reaz Ahmad

DOHA, Nov 12: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today called upon the Muslim Ummah to take a united stand on the question of Palestine and its rightful cause.

"It is now time to show to the world that we stand united with our brothers in Palestine and in the Arab world," she said while addressing the ninth OIC Summit here tonight.

As the lone woman Prime Minister participating in the summit, Hasina addressed a special session

on the Palestinian situation, held at Doha Sheraton Hotel.

Sheikh Hasina reiterated the second largest country's clear stance for establishment of an independent homeland for Palestinians in Jerusalem.

Hasina appealed to world community to put on pressure on Israel for ending brutalities on Palestinians.

It is now time to tell the world that the Palestinian

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DB seeks permission to interrogate some diplomats

Foreign ministry refuses to hand over papers on smuggled goods

By Staff Correspondent

Detective Branch (DB) of police has sought permission from the authorities concerned to interrogate some officials of some foreign embassies in Dhaka for their alleged involvement in smuggling.

The DB has also requested the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to provide all relevant papers to probe last month's smuggling of goods through containers addressed to some embassies here.

"Our officials went to the foreign ministry several times but the papers were not handed over," said senior DB official last night. Investigation can not be started without the papers, he said.

When contacted, foreign ministry officials declined to make any comment in this regard.

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Non-transparent bureaucracy, infrastructure impedes FDI

ICC-UNCTAD investment guide points out

By Staff Correspondent

Top executives of an international chamber and a UN body feel that Bangladesh's liberal and attractive investment regimes have great scope to attract more foreign investment but its non-transparent bureaucracy and poor physical infrastructure are stumbling blocks.

They said this at a press conference while releasing an investment guide on Bangladesh at the end of a two-day ICC Asia Conference in the city on Saturday.

ICC (International Chamber of Commerce) and UNCTAD jointly prepared the guide.

There are plenty of scope for Bangladesh to attract foreign investment because of its friendly policies. However, bureaucratic

red-tapism and non-transparent administration are to some extent diminishing the prospect," ICC Secretary General Maria Livanos Cattu said. "Strong points would outweigh the weaknesses".

Inter-regional Adviser of UNCTAD Pedro Roffe, ICC Bangladesh President Mahbubur Rahman, its Vice President Latifur Rahman, Executive Director of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya and Executive Chairman of Board of Investment M Mokammel Haque also spoke on the occasion.

Pedro Roffe said Bangladesh's plus points are its homogeneous society, political stability, energetic, low-cost and easily train-

able workforce and liberal regime on FDI.

But poor physical infrastructure, unreliable power supply, non-transparent and complex administration and non-implementation of policies are the major problems in attracting more foreign investment.

Regional integration is a vital issue that can increase prospects of the countries of this region to attract FDI, he said.

Quoting from the guide he mentioned that foreign direct investment (FDI) in Bangladesh rose from virtually zero in late 1980s to US\$ 300 million in 1998. However, most of the recent investments are in the natural

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Hand count begins as Bush goes to court

WASHINGTON, Nov 12: Election officials in Florida county today ordered a laborious hand recount of hundreds of thousands of votes after a week of unprecedented political turmoil in the United States, reports AP.

Earlier, George W Bush's Republican Party sent the presidential race into the courts, requesting that a judge block the manual recount of the improbably close vote in Florida, a state whose winner will take the presidency. A federal judge set a hearing for Monday in Miami.

The Texas governor holds a narrow lead after an unofficial Florida recount, with an unknown number of overseas ballots yet to be counted.

"We're all in limbo," Bush said.

Former US Secretary of State James A Baker III, a Republican, said that with a manual recount, "Human error, individual subjectivity, and decisions to, quote, determine the voters' intent, close quote, would replace precision machinery in tabulating millions of small marks and fragile hole punches."

Vice President Al Gore's Democratic Party responded forcefully a few hours later, calling for the withdrawal of the suit.

"The hand count can be completed expeditiously and it should be," said former US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, speaking on Gore's behalf. He added that Bush, as governor of Texas, had signed legislation in 1997 specifying that hand recounts be used to settle certain disputed elections, a position at odds with the current stated Republican preferences.

In a hand count in four precincts in Palm Beach County on Saturday, officials said there were enough errors to prompt hand recounts in all 531 precincts more than 425,000 votes.

In Palm Beach County a Democratic stronghold Gore supporters claimed a poorly designed ballot may have caused them to vote inadvertently for conservative Reform Party candidate Pat Buchanan, who received a tiny fraction of the nation's vote.

Carol Roberts, a county commissioner and a member of the canvassing commission, argued for the labor-intensive manual count of all 531 precincts, saying the errors found thus far "clearly would affect the national vote."

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Debutants continue to impress

Ganguly, Joshi hold visitors together

By Al-Amin

A century partnership for the seventh wicket between skipper Sourav Ganguly and Sunil Joshi gave India something to cheer about on the third day of the Dutch-Bangla Inaugural Test match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

But it were debutants Bangladesh who continued to mesmerise their much vaunted opponents for a third successive day. It has been a fairytale run that started with a sizzling 71 by Habibul Bashar on Friday. The second day when the home side resumed on 239-6, was an equally unforgettable evening for Bangladesh and Aminul Islam. The veteran middle-order batsman entered the history with a memorable 145, the second best individual score behind Charles Bannerman of Australia, who retired hurt on 165 in his country's debut Test against England in 1877. The other century-

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Aminul Islam plays a delicate sweep shot on his way to his debut century on the second day of Bangladesh's maiden Test against India at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Star photo

Greenidge is back!

By Hasan Masood

Believe it or not, Cuthbert Gordon Greenidge may well once again start coaching Bangladeshi cricketers shortly.

The former Bangladesh coach, who was axed midway through the World Cup in England last year following a row with the tour management, has agreed to take up a permanent job at the Bangladeshi Krira Shikkha Protishthan (BKSP), revealed State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader yesterday.

Talking to The Daily Star Sport at the Bangabandhu National Stadium at close of third day's play, Quader said See page 11 col 5



Defaulters in new FBCCI body

Star Report

The recently concluded FBCCI election has been an eye opener on how money, politics and defaulters can capture power in the so-called apex business body.

FBCCI is now a name slurred by vote buying and election manipulation. Its role as a neutral platform for the country's business community is now mostly gone. It is now a club of defaulters, political lobbies and unprincipled businessmen.

A Daily Star investigation has unearthed how votes were purchased for fat amounts, how influential ministers worked to push their favoured candidates, promising political blessings, and how some of the traditional vote brokers skimmed huge amount of money from candidates in exchange for votes.

Those who have been elected through the so-called election now lack any credibility in the business community. The public image of those who have been elected represents more of political lackeys than business community. A top defaulter, who was identified by the Bangladesh Bank to have defrauded banks and against whom several cases are pending now, holds the second top post of the once prestigious apex body.

The Daily Star talked to a large number of businessmen who feel betrayed by the decline of the stature of the federation. Those who have

paid money to the vote sellers on the promises of votes and subsequently have been defeated are now spilling the beans as to what actually happened in the elections.

Not only money, some influential members, who have been elected, even opened free-bar in city hotels. Anybody could pop in there for free drinks in designated suites.

Political power was blatantly exerted to have Yussuf Abdullah Haroon, a treasurer of the ruling AL, elected unopposed.

For the ruling party, the choice was difficult to make. Salman F Rahman, who wished to contest, on the one hand; and Haroon, the ruling party favourite, on the other.

According to sources, Salman was persuaded to step down after a promise that he would get AL nomination in the coming parliamentary elections. He was also given the assurance that he would be the next FBCCI president.

Several ruling party leaders and influential ministers were personally involved in dissuading all other contestants for FBCCI presidency to ensure an unopposed sail for Haroon. Commerce Minister Jallal, who was assigned the task of managing the election by the ruling party, convened a meeting of the aspirants and other influential business

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