

Currencies worth Tk 49.63 lakh seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials at Zia International Airport (ZIA) seized local and foreign currencies worth over Tk 49.63 lakh from a Singapore-bound passenger late on Friday night.

Civil Aviation security personnel held the passenger, Mohammad Masud, as his movement at a security checkpoint seemed suspicious.

At about 11:30pm, they informed customs officials who searched his luggage and seized 253,500 Saudi riyal, 2,800 euro, 532 Singapore dollar and 62,400 Bangladeshi taka from a baggage containing vegetables.

The customs officials later filed a case under the Money Laundering Act against Masud with Airport Police Station and handed him over to the police.

Hailing from Sarderkandi village in Daudkandi upazila of Comilla

district, Masud is possibly a member of a money smuggling gang, police and customs officials said.

Two shot in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people were shot when a gang of four assailants fired at a construction company office at Mirpur in the city yesterday.

The injured were identified as owner of Titan Engineering and Construction Ltd SM Kamaluddin, 50, and Abdul Awal, 48, an employee of the firm.

Around midday, the unknown assailants burst into the West Shewrapara office of Titan Engineering and Construction Ltd and fired shots indiscriminately at its employees.

Kamal was shot in his left hand while Awal in his legs.

They were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).



PHOTO: STAR

Suchitra Rani Ghosh, mother of Turza Ghosh Rony, bursts into tears at a press conference at National Press Club in the city yesterday while his father Jgannath Ghosh looks on.

TURZA MURDER CASE

Parents cry for justice

Father demands trial of case in Speedy Trial Tribunal and alleges that criminals threaten to kill his younger son

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jagannath Ghosh, father of Turza Ghosh Rony, at a press conference yesterday demanded immediate transfer of the case to the Speedy Trial Tribunal to hasten the trial process.

Turza Ghosh Rony was abducted and killed by a gang of criminals for ransom on October 29 last year.

He also questioned the competency and intention of the police officer investigating the case, saying that the investigation officer (IO) could neither recover any money or gold ornaments from the prime accused Khora Liton nor succeed in realising confessional statement from Liton.

Turza's family members attending the press conference at the National Press Club also alleged that the criminals having link to the accused are threatening to kill Turza's younger brother. "We are passing days in utmost insecurity," Turza's father Jagannath Ghosh said.

Jagannath also alleged that Detective Branch Inspector Nazrul Islam who is investigaling the case did not take any step to recover the money and gold ornaments from Khora Liton despite two other accused in the case have already confessed that the money and the gold are in Liton's possession.

He said the IO took Liton on a 13-day remand in three phases, but for mysterious reasons no significant development occurred in the investigation.

He said they paid Tk 10 lakh and 10 tolas of gold in ransom soon after his son was abducted. Besides, the gang took away Turza's wristwatch worth Tk 1.5 lakh, two diamond rings worth Tk 2 lakh and a gold chain, but the IO is yet to recover any of them.

Turza, who oversaw the Dhanmondi branch of his father's Purabi Jewellers, went missing after he went out of his Dhanmondi

shop riding a motorbike on October 29 last year.

Later on December 11, members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recovered his severed body in Rampura and Khilgaon.

The Rab members also arrested five accused --Shewly, Mamun, Abu Sayeed, Sahadat Hossain alias Khora Liton and Farhad Alam Hira. Three of the accused have

already given confessional statements before the magistrates confessing their involvement and saying that Khora Liton was the mastermind of the killing.

Inspector Nazrul Islam, however, denied that he has any negligence in investigating the case. "As it is a sensational case, it will take some time," Nazrul, the IO of the case, told The Daily Star.

CARTIER WOMEN'S INITIATIVE AWARDS

Applications invited

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Applications from the enterprising women have been invited for The Cartier Women's Initiative Awards which was introduced by Cartier and the Women's Forum for the Economy and Society last year, says a press release.

To participate, candidates must fill in the registration forms to be downloaded from the www.cartierwomensinitiative.com and send it along with their short business plans and executive summary, including information on the product, service offered and the market or competition, to contact@cartierwomensinitiative.com before April 15, 2007.

"The award is aimed to support meaningful businesses and enable budding initiatives to grow. We hope to see new talents emerge and inspire more women to join the great entrepreneurship adventures," said Bernard Fornas, president and chief executive officer (CEO) of Cartier.

Each year, following a personalised coaching provided by a consulting firm McKinsey & Company and graduate business school INSEAD, along with Cartier, 15 women will present their business plans before a high profile international jury.

Of them, five laureates, one from each continent, will be selected to receive the Cartier Women's Initiative Awards trophy and rewarded with a US\$20000 grant.

In addition to financial help, winners will gain access to additional coaching support for a full year.

The winners will be named at the Women's Forum for the Economy and Society from October 11 to 13 in Deauville, France.

Kamal Ahmad, president and CEO of Asian University for Women Support Foundation, Bangladesh has been nominated as a jury from Asia for this prestigious award.