

BHAMRA LAND PORT IN SATKHIRA

Export-import by fake firm with forged documents

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The customs department at Bhomra land port has detected illegal export-import by an organised gang by using forged documents including letter of credit (LC) issued in the name of a Dhaka-based bank.

The illegal activity might have been going on for long, land port officials told this correspondent yesterday.

Investigation by customs authorities revealed that the unscrupulous group imported onion from India through Bhomra land port recently.

The group imported 165 tonnes of onion by opening forged LCs and making forged bank documents. M/s Almira International imported the onion through forged LCs (No. 133507010091 and 133507010111) dated April 17 and May 8 and other relevant documents

showing that those were opened with Motijheel branch of South East Bank in Dhaka. M/s Shibam Exporters of India exported the onion.

M/s Almira International imported 30 tonnes of onion through bill of entry no. 4070 on April 29, 30 tonnes through bill of entry no. 4237 on May 3, 30 tonnes through bill of entry no. 4378 on May 7 and 75 tonnes through bill of entry no. 4457 on May 8.

The forgery came to light when the exporter lodged an allegation with Bhomra customs authorities saying that it did not get the entire value of the onions. Its officials told land port authorities that they were unaware of the forgery.

Following the complaint, Bhomra customs authorities formed a committee to probe the matter.

The committee members went

to Dhaka to locate office of M/s Almira International. South East Bank officials told them that no one opened with the bank LCs in the name of M/s Almira International.

Even they did not issue any LC or other documents in favour of the said importer, the bank officials told the probe committee.

The committee members also went to the address of M/s Almira International stated in documents but could not find the importing firm.

On contact, Joint Commissioner of Customs Mahbubur Rahman at Bhomra land port confirmed the incident and said they are trying to detect the frauds. They will be punished, he said.

Meanwhile, the Bhomra Clearing and Forwarding (C&F) Agents Association also formed a three-member committee headed by Arafat Rahman as convenor to

probe the matter, its vice-president Ashrafuzzaman Ashu told this correspondent. Two other members of the probe body are Wahidul Islam and Abu Musa.

When contacted, Arafat Rahman said they are probing the matter and it will be completed soon.

C&F agents association, transport agency owners and leaders of workers unions at a joint meeting at Bhomra land port yesterday vowed to protect the land port from corruption.

C&F Association vice-president Ashrafuzzaman Ashu presided over the meeting.

They urged the authorities to take steps to stop all kinds of forgery and anomaly and demanded punishment of persons involved in such irregularities.

They also urged the government to build infrastructures and develop the port.

Shibir politics under cover of 'tea party'

RU CORRESPONDENT

Violating emergency rules, Islamic Chhatra Shibir (ICS) held party meetings on Rajshahi University campus yesterday in the name of 'tea party' where first year students were invited.

Campus sources said university authorities and police were informed about it but they did not take any action.

Shibir held several 'tea parties' at Rabindra Arts building, Shahidullah Arts building, Mamtajuddin Arts building, Third Science building and Ismail Hossain Siraj building to form party committees in different departments.

They invited first year students to the so-called 'tea party' entertained them with a call to join their party, sources said.

Shibir leaders also lured the freshers by saying that they would get seats in dormitories and other facilities if they join Shibir, some of the students told this correspondent.

Monwar Hossain, a first year student at Bangla department, said some Shibir leaders called him to a 'tea party' and assured him of a seat in a dormitory on condition of joins Shibir.

When contacted university Proctor Enamul Haque said student politics is banned on the campus now. Action will be taken if any body defies it.

He also told newsmen that he would investigate the matter.

When contacted RU Shibir president Delwar Hossain Sayeed said he congratulated some students after admission.

Progressive Students Alliance (PTA) at RU protested Shibir politics under cover of tea party and urged the RU authorities to take action against the organisers.

Corruption case against Jamaat leaders handed over to ACC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A corruption case filed against four Jamaat leaders including a former lawmaker has been handed over to the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) for investigation, police said.

The accused are veteran Jamaat leader and former lawmaker of Pabna-5 constituency Moulana Abdus Subhan, also president of Al-Amana Foundation and three other Jamaat leaders named Alhaj Abdul Kashem, vice president of Al-Amana Foundation, Moslem Uddin, secretary of Al-Amana Foundation and Nurul Islam, director of Al-Amana Hospital, police said.

Pabna police seized huge CI sheets from a room of Al-Amana Hospital, established by former Jamaat lawmaker Moulana Abdus Subhan of Patherkhalia in Pabna town on June 20. Al-Amana Hospital director Md Nurul Islam was arrested during the raid.

Pabna Police Station sub-inspector (SI) Md Kamruzzaman filed a case with Pabna Police Station on June 21.

After primary investigation, Pabna police pleaded to court to hand over the case to ACC for investigation. Accordingly, the court sent an order to ACC recently, said Pabna Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Iqbal Shafi.

Pabna ACC office has sent an application to ACC Head Office last week seeking permission to investigate the case, Investigation Officer (IO) of the case, SI Jahangir Pasha said.

Pabna police sent a letter to the Relief and Rehabilitation Ministry asking about real price of the recovered CI sheets, said IO Jahangir Pasha. Police also sent another letter to Pabna Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Office on July 2 to supply the copy of order of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation under which the CI sheets were sanctioned for Al-Amana Hospital, he said.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Chittagong City Corporation began demolishing illegal structures at GEC Square in the city yesterday.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

A shower swamps most of the streets in Dinajpur town as outlets are clogged by encroachers. The photo was taken from Nimmagar area on Friday.

BDR, BSF trade fire on Bhomra border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) traded gunfire on Bhomra border in Sadar upazila in the early hours of yesterday.

BSF men at Ghojadanga camp under Basirhat Police Station in 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, India, opposite to Bhomra border fired three gun shots at BDR at Bhomra camp at about 4:30 am. BDR retaliated by firing seven gunshots.

After the incident, BSF reinforced their strength and increased patrol along the border.

BSF was also put on alert to counter any untoward incident, BDR said.

On contact, Major Kamrul Hasan, Operations Officer of 41 Rifles Battalion confirmed the incident.

RU celebrates 54th founding anniversary

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University yesterday celebrated its 54th founding anniversary through a day-long colourful programme.

The day started with hoisting of the National Flag and the university flag at the administrative building, central library, vice-chancellor's office and different dormitories.

Vice Chancellor Prof Altaf Hossain and Pro-VC Prof Mammunul Keramat jointly inaugurated the programme at Shabash Bangladesh Square on the campus by hoisting the National Flag and the university flag and releasing

pigeons and balloons, cheered by hundreds of teachers and students.

This year, the founding day was observed with the slogan 'Education for Peace'.

Later the VC, accompanied by teachers, officials and students placed wreaths at the Shaheed Minar, University Mass Grave and at the grave of Shaheed Shamsuzoha.

This was followed by a march-past by RU BNCC and Rover Scouts. The VC took salute from a dais erected at the Shabash Bangladesh.

Speaking on the occasion, VC Prof Altaf Hossain called for building Rajshahi University into an ideal educational institute suiting the

PHOTO: STAR
Vice-chancellor Prof. Altaf Hossain inaugurating the 54th founding anniversary celebrations at Rajshahi University yesterday.

5x2

needs of time.

He urged teachers, students and university employees to create a congenial academic atmosphere on the campus.

Later, a big colourful procession was brought out from the compound of Senate building, which paraded the campus.

Lead by the VC and the pro-VC, several hundred teachers, students, officials, employees and some cultural organisations took part in the procession.

After the rally, the VC also launched a tree plantation week by planting a 'Neem' sapling on the compound of the administrative

building.

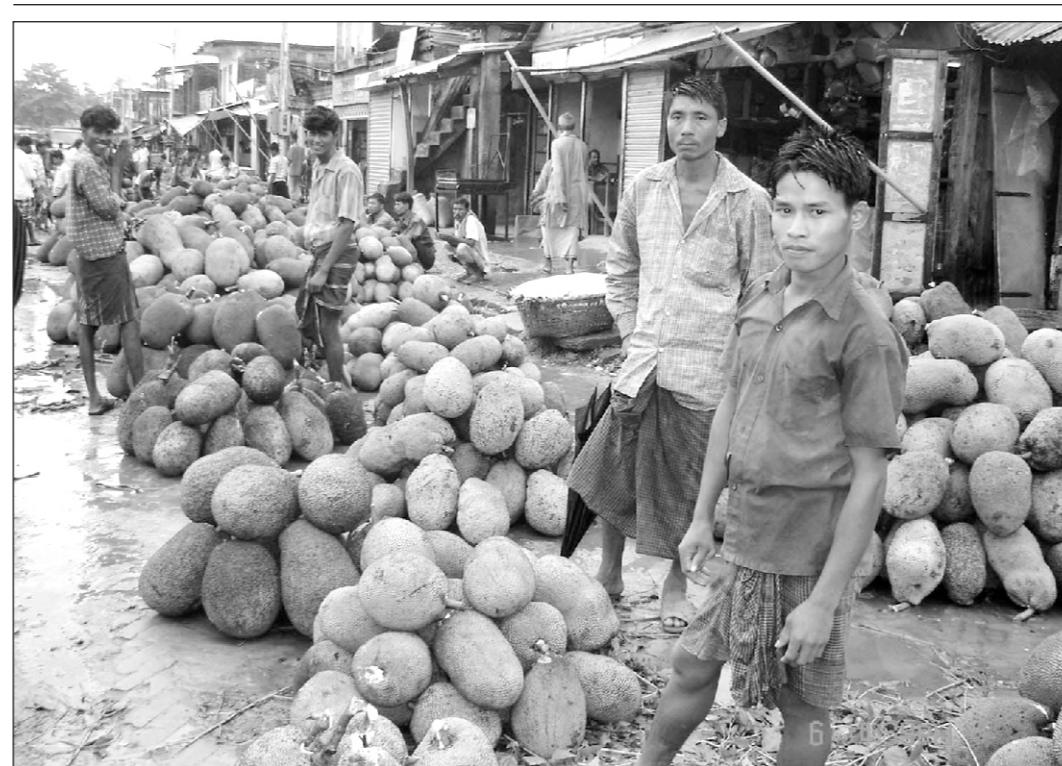
At about noon, friendly cricket and handball matches between teachers and students were held at the university stadium.

Special prayers were offered after Zohr prayers at the university central mosque.

The programme concluded with a reception at VC's residence in the evening.

Some cultural organisations staged street drama and cultural programmes on the campus marking the day.

At night the campus wore a festive look with all buildings illuminated with kaleidoscopic lights.

PHOTO: STAR
There has been a bumper yield of jackfruits in Chittagong Hill Tracts this year. Farmers with the fruits at Matiranga Bazaar in Khagrachhari yesterday.

5x2

4X3

5X3

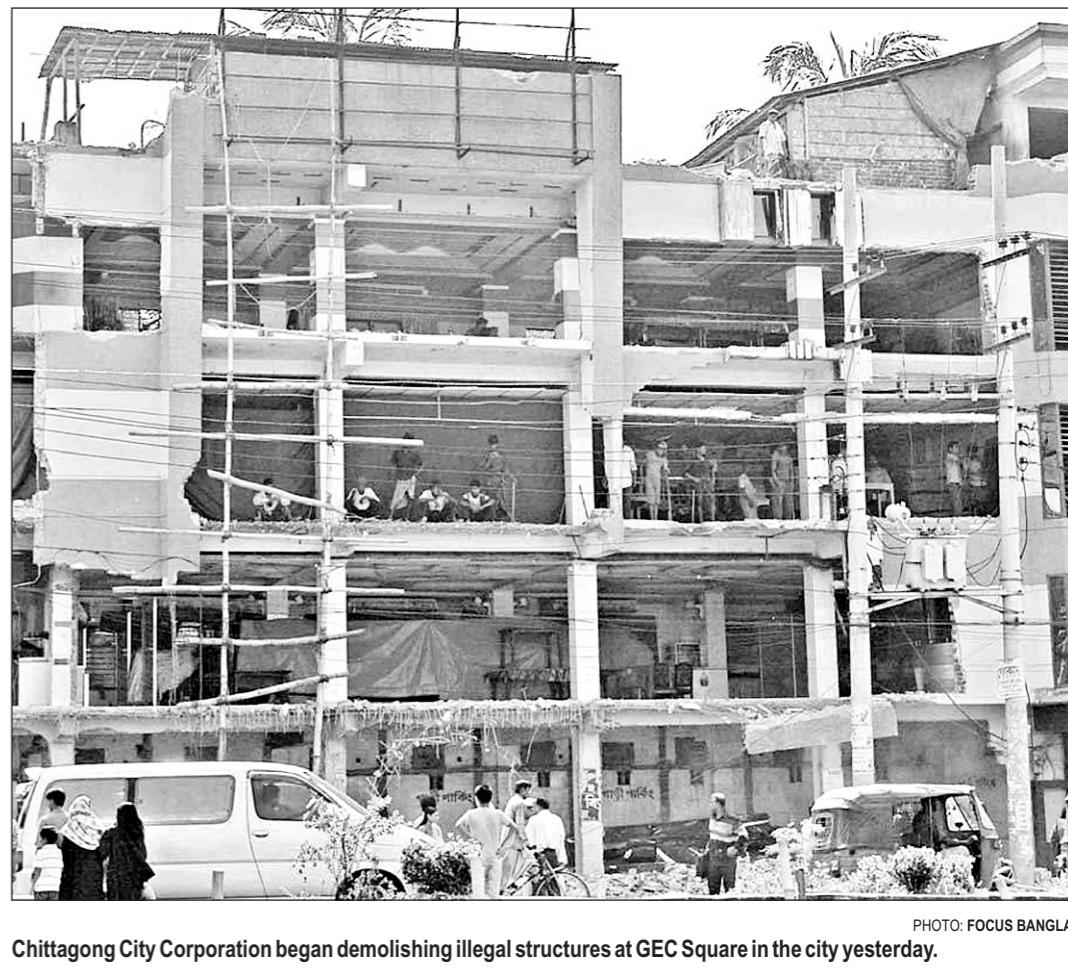


PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Sylhet govt high schools realise excess fees

TIB survey reveals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Students of government secondary schools in Sylhet Sadar upazila pay Tk 290 a year in excess of government-fixed tuition fees. They pay Tk 444 annually as tuition fees.

The students pay Tk 238 as examination fees, which is Tk 94 more than the official rate.

On an average, students of government schools pay Tk 1168 annually on different counts while those at non-government schools pay Tk 179.

These were revealed in a survey done by the Conscious Citizens' Committee affiliated with Transparency International, Bangladesh (TIB). The findings were made public at a view exchange meeting held at a hotel in Sylhet city yesterday.

The TIB report said the standard of secondary education is very poor due to private coaching by teachers, lack of accountability and sincerity of teachers.

Sylhet Citizens' Committee chief

EU Shahidul Islam chaired the meeting while former treasurer of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) Prof Abdul Aziz was the chief guest.

Dr. Tulshi Kumar Das, head of the department of Social Works at SUST, TIB's MM Morshed, Karuna Kishore Chakravarty and Mahfuz Ul Alam also spoke.

A number of school teachers, NGO men, guardians and journalists were also present at the meeting. The TIB survey covered 316 households in 50 villages.

The report said money is excess was collected from students on different occasions. In addition to excess tuition fees, money was collected for examination, re-admission, tiffin, development work and social and religious festivals.

Fifty-eight per cent of students surveyed said they were not given documents against payments except for tuition fees and examination fees.

Seventy-four per cent guardians alleged that their children did not get