

## UAE to give assistance to road crash victims' families

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The UAE government has announced special monetary assistance for the families of the 21 workers, including 19 Bangladeshis, who were killed in a road accident in Al Ain on February 4.

The country will pay one year's salaries to the victims' families, said Shaikh Abdullah Bin Mohammad Bin Butti Al Hamed, under secretary at the ministry of interior, reports Gulfnews.

The ministry issued a statement in this regard on Tuesday.

This is to help the bereaved families until a final legal ruling is issued by the authorities regarding the compensation, said Al Hamed.

The UAE government bore the costs for repatriating the 21 workers' bodies to their home countries.

The body of Wasir Ali, of Sylhet, arrived at MAG Osmani International Airport yesterday while bodies of 18 other Bangladeshis arrived home earlier this week.



Policemen seize sticks which Islami Chhatra Shibir activists attempted to use while carrying out vandalism in Colonel Haat area of Chittagong city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## HALL-MARK LOAN SCAM ACC quizzes former Sonali Bank official

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday interrogated state-run Sonali Bank's former board director Saimum Sarwar Kamol, who allegedly took bribe from Hall-Mark Group to help the controversial group commit a loan scam.

Kamol was summoned as Hall-Mark Managing Director Tanvir Mahmud confessed that he (Kamol) received Tk 3 crore as bribe to help him (Tanvir) commit the scam. Kamol however denied taking any bribe from Hall-Mark Group, a source in the ACC said.

A six-member team led by ACC Deputy Director Mir Mohammad Zainul Abedin Shibli quizzed him for three and a half hours at ACC's Segunbagicha office in the capital.

On October 4 last year, the ACC filed 11 cases against 27 top officials of Sonali Bank and Hall-Mark Group for misappropriating over Tk 1,568 crore as loan.

## Bhutanese king, queen due today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The king and queen of Bhutan will arrive in Dhaka today on a five-day private visit.

As per the draft schedule of the royal visit, the king and queen are expected to meet high government officials, various civil society representatives and intellectuals, said official sources.

The royal dignitaries are expected to call on the president and prime minister on February 15 and 16 respectively.

They will stay in Dhaka during the visit and pay a visit to the Dharmaraji Buddhist monastery in Kamalapur on February 15.

They will be on a river cruise, organised by the foreign ministry, on February 16 and will visit garment factories in Savar the following day.

This is the second visit of King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck to Bangladesh in less than two years. His last visit was in March 2011 as the guest of honour in Bangladesh's 40th Independence Day celebrations.

"It shows Bhutan's deep interest in Bangladesh and her people," said an official of the Royal Bhutanese Embassy in Dhaka.

It is the first visit of Queen Gyalsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck.

The king was formally crowned on November 1, 2008, a year that marked 100 years of monarchy.

On May 20, 2011, King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck announced the royal engagement to the opening of the seventh session of the parliament. The royal wedding took place on October 13, 2011.



## Unipay2u chairman, MD get 3yrs jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday gave three officials of Unipay2u, a multi-level marketing (MLM) company, including its chairman and managing director, three years imprisonment in a money misappropriation case.

The court also fined each of them Tk 10,000, and in case of a default in payment they will have to serve one more year of rigorous imprisonment.

The judge of fourth Metropolitan Magistrate Ahmad Sayed passed the order after taking testimony of four witnesses.

The convicts are Unipay2u Chairman Shahiduzzaman, its Managing Director Muntasir Hossain Imon and Agent Jafar Alam.

Out of the trio, Imon is behind the bar.

On April 7, 2011, one Md Jahangir lodged a case against the trio before the court on charge of misappropriating Tk 52 lakh.

The court framed charges against them on April 26, 2012.

## Three-day Sagar-Runi family exhibition ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Crime scene, do not cross." The black letters on a yellow plastic tape in Drik Gallery made the visitors feel like being in the middle of a crime scene--that of the murder of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi.

Behind the yellow tape were no bodies, though, but souvenirs of a happy family. There were photos of their wedding, drawings of the five-year-old son Megh, and pictures of the colourful memories of the family's stay in Germany.

Even the camera that had documented the daily family life was there. Most of the

photos were taken by Sagar and Runi themselves.

A three-day family photo exhibition had showcased these in Drik Gallery since February 11, the first anniversary of the killing of Sagar-Runi.

"We only have these photos as the last remnants of these two people," family members wrote in a press release. "We have come here to link our sufferings to those of the people of Bangladesh, who cried for us in the last year."

Sagar, a news editor at Maasranga TV, and his wife Runi, a senior reporter for ATN Bangla, were murdered in their residence in the capital on February 11, 2012.



Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid presents a medal to a graduate during the second convocation of United International University at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## HALL-MARK HC asks judge why chairman got bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked a lower court judge to explain why he granted bail to Jasmine Islam, chairman of Hall-Mark Group, in 11 corruption cases.

Judge Md Zahirul Haque of the Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka has to appear before the HC on February 18 to explain his order of granting bail to Jasmine.

Earlier, Zahirul Haque granted bail to Jasmin in the cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on the condition that Jasmine and the Hall-Mark Group will repay Tk 2,600 crore, which the company swindled out, to Sonali Bank.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Mahmudul Hoque yesterday passed the summons order during hearing a rule issued by the bench regarding legality of granting the bail.

Responding to a petition filed by journalist Nazim Ahmed, the bench on February 11 issued the rule upon the authorities concerned to explain why the lower court order that granted bail to Jasmine should not be cancelled.

The HC on the same day also directed the government to immediately take steps for barring Jasmine from going abroad.

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