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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE



THE GLASS CEILING

Males preferred when it comes to promotion in RMG sector

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'BLACK WIDOW'

Woman, suspected to have killed 7 husbands, held in Japan

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Biman men in gold smuggling racket

3 senior officials held; watch on 61 staff of Biman, Caab, customs

SHARIFUL ISLAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Detectives have found involvement of more than 60 officials and staff of Biman, Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh and customs with a gold smuggling racket at Shahjalal International Airport.



Emdad Hossain



Captain Shaheed

Biman Bangladesh Airlines staff -- from captain to cabin crew -- and Caab security officials have links with the syndicate, according to officials of DB police, customs intelligence and Armed Police Battalion (APBn).

At least 12 other rackets are active in smuggling gold through the country's premier airport, they said.

"The biggest gold smuggling syndicate includes Biman officials and staffs at differ-

ent levels ... The other syndicates are not that big," said an investigator, asking not to be named.

Almost all big hauls of smuggled gold were made from flights of the national carrier.

Captains, first officers, cabin crew, flight schedulers and even engineers of Biman have links with this syndicate. Officials of Caab and airport customs are also involved with it, said the investigator.

In a 12-hour operation at Shahjalal airport, Uttara and Bashundhara since Tuesday evening, detectives arrested five members of the racket, who include three Biman high-ups.

The trio are Captain Abu Mohammad Aslam Shaheed, chief of planning and scheduling, Emdad Hossain, deputy general

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789kg gold seized at 3 airports in 2 years

A section of cockpit, cabin crew involved

12 syndicates active at Shahjalal airport

113 people held in 2 years

Road, rail, waterways to link entire South Asia

6 MoUs likely during 18th Saarc Summit

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

To boost economic activities in the region, the Saarc nations are likely to sign six Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) on rail, road, water and air connectivity among the member states.

The MoUs are expected to be signed during the 18th summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) scheduled for

November 26-27 in Nepal.

The cabinet has already approved three draft MoUs on road, railways and energy security while the rest three on waterways, civil aviation and tourism are likely to get the government nod in the next cabinet meeting.

Under the Regional Railways Agreement, thirteen routes connecting seven countries have been identified. The Maldives, an island nation, has been kept out of this link. Seven of the

routes involve Bangladesh.

However, routes for road connectivity are yet to be finalised.

Cabinet Secretary Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan told The Daily Star that in the Kathmandu Summit, the heads of government and of state will sign the MoUs in the form of frameworks.

Duty, fees and commissions for transportation among the Saarc

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PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Myanmar nationals, rescued from a trawler heading for Malaysia in the Bay on Monday, being taken to the Chittagong Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court yesterday in a case filed against them for intruding into Bangladesh.

HAY FESTIVAL DHAKA 2014

The festival of creative minds opens today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shining through the late autumn morning, Hay Festival Dhaka 2014 begins today on the Bangla Academy premises where writers, journalists, historians, editors and publishers from all over the world will converge to share their ideas and thoughts.

Now in its fourth year, the festival will continue for three full days with more than 80 panel discussions and several

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Traffickers treated them like prisoners

Says one of the 600 fortune seekers rescued by Navy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Imtiaz Ahmed Bubul had to spend two days on a small engine boat, with his head tucked between the knees for almost the whole time.

He was not allowed to lift his head or move his hands as that might draw attention of fishing trawlers in the Bay of Bengal.

There were around a dozen more like him on the boat. And every one of them shared the same experience.

"I could not stay like that for long. My back would hurt. But every time I would raise my head to straighten up, the broker on the boat would hit me in the head with a plastic pipe," said the 20-year-old who hails from Jessore's Bagharpara village.

Imtiaz was one of the 600 fortune seekers who were rescued from a trawler in the Bay by Bangladesh Navy on Monday while being taken to

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