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Cargo handling in a shambles

Shahajalal airport hamstrung by lack of trained manpower, logistics

SYED MANSUR HASHIM with SHARIFUL ISLAM

Even though recent government efforts have improved services, scarcity of trained workforce, shortage of equipment and space, and security concerns still plague the cargo village of the country's premier airport.

Exporters and importers allege that they are troubled by incidents of theft in the cargo village area and corruption of a section of customs officials and ground handling staff, who create an artificial crisis of equipment like pallets, containers, and trolleys.

Despite a temporary dip in vegetables exports of late, export-import activities through the airport have gone up manifolds in recent years due to increased overseas trades.

Goods are still left haphazardly out in the open due to space constraint, even though construction of a new shed by the BGMEA for garment items improved the situation a little bit.

Exporters, however, attributed the improvement to around 60 percent drop in the export of vegetables and fruits, which account for 20 to 25 percent of the total export cargo through the airport.

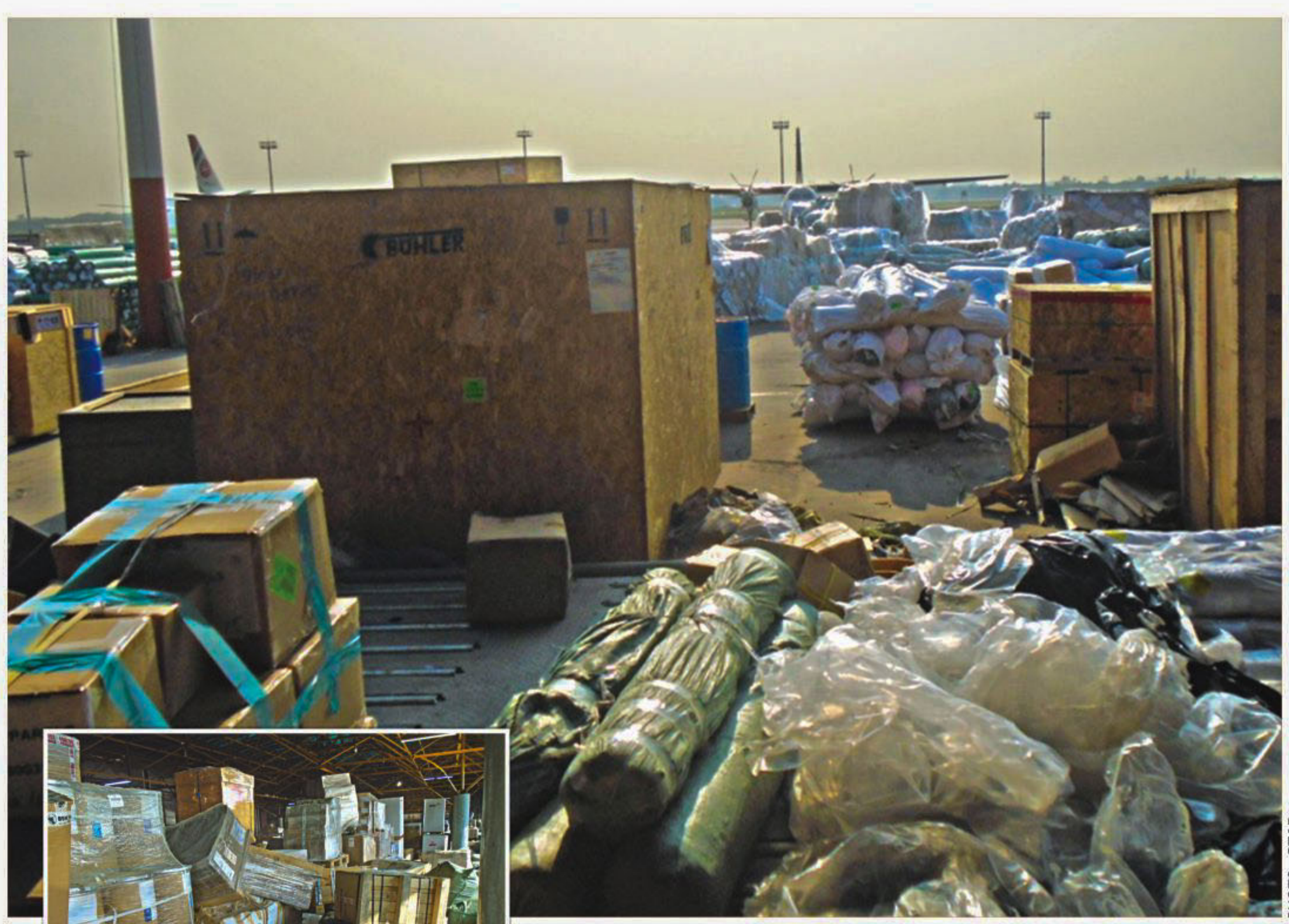
Some 800 tonnes of goods are shipped by air every day through Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. Around 70 percent of it is garment items, exporters said.

"The services at the cargo village improved because of the drop in the export of vegetables and fruits," Mohammed Mansur, general secretary of Bangladesh Fruits, Vegetables and Allied Products Exporters' Association told The Daily Star.

Exports of vegetables and fruits dropped since September due to floods in some major vegetable-producing districts, he added.

Mansur feared that it could be messy again if new scanning

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Goods are left out in the open at the cargo village of the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka while other goods are stacked haphazardly, inset, in a shed of the airport last week. Security risks and poor scanning capabilities led to the UK, Germany and Australia banning direct cargo from Dhaka this year.

POLLS-TIME DEPLOYMENT BNP defends proposal for magistracy to armed forces

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday defended its proposal for deploying armed forces with magistratorial power during elections, claiming that giving this authority to the forces does not mean they would enjoy judicial powers.

"In the CrPC, there is a scope for deploying military to aid civil administration during national needs and there are many such instances. There is no scope for creating confusion by terming such deployment martial law," party Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir told journalists at a press conference at the party's Nayapaltan central office.

He said it has been observed in the past that chaos, irregularities and vote rigging decreased significantly when armed forces were deployed at the field level during elections.

"It is not possible to get

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REFUGEES slipping in, getting help

Myanmar's envoy summoned; OIC worried

PINAKI ROY with MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT, Cox's Bazar

Wearing a burqa, Rashida Khatun was waiting in front of Lambabil fish market along the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf highway yesterday afternoon.

Two children -- both in tattered clothes -- and an elderly woman were with her. None of them was carrying any luggage.

They kept waiting for a three-wheeler or a bus to go to a slum near Kutupalong Rohingya refugee camp in Teknaf.

Asked, Rashida, who turned out to be a Rohingya from Myanmar, said she entered

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Mahmudur out on bail, at last

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amar Desh acting editor Mahmudur Rahman walked free on bail from Kashimpur Central Jail-2 in Gazipur yesterday after spending over three and a half years behind bars.

"We freed him around 1:00pm after scrutinising documents related to his

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CONGRATULATIONS MR. A ROUF CHOWDHURY

Bank Asia congratulates Mr. A Rouf Chowdhury, honorable Chairman of the Bank and Chairman of Rangs Group, a leading Bangladeshi industrial conglomerate, for receiving

Lifetime Achievement Award

as part of Business and Entrepreneur Excellence Award 2016

by the UK Bangladesh Catalysts of Commerce & Industry (UKBCCI) in an auspicious ceremony held in London Hilton Park Lane, UK on 20 November 2016



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