

Almost 15pc of consignments get in thru misdeclaration

NBR official tells World Customs Day event

STAR REPORT

Around 15 percent of consignments are imported through misdeclaration, but the customs authorities find it challenging to detect those due to a lack of information, skills and institutional capacity, said a senior official of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) yesterday.

Md Farid Uddin, member of customs policy of the NBR, said this at a programme at the city's Agargaon marking the World Customs Day, which was being observed in 179 countries.

To mark the day, the NBR also give recognition to seven agencies and 12 customs officials with World Customs Organisation Certificate of Merit at the programme.

The agencies are Office of Attorney General, Bangladesh Border Guard, Rapid Action Battalion, Bangladesh Coast Guard, Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Bangladesh Land Port Authority, and Chittagong Port Authority.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith handed over the certificates.

Farid, in a paper, said money laundering, import of counterfeit items and inadequate digitisation of customs and infrastructure are major challenges to the customs office.

Meanwhile, marking the day, speakers at a



One of 700 Dhaka University students, who were selected for a four-year scholarship provided by Dhaka University Alumni Association, receives a cheque for Tk 30,000 at a ceremony on the campus yesterday. PHOTO: COLLECTED

JU burns greenery

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officials expressing concern over the issue and it seems that the authorities are not playing their due role to protect the environment."

Also an organiser of the annual butterfly fair on the campus, he said, "Butterflies, birds and other eco-friendly components have already been affected due to the bushfires."

Denying the allegation that the university gardeners are burning bushy areas to clean the places, Nurul Amin, acting officer of the office, said, "We do not have enough manpower for the maintenance of the campus and protect its biodiversity easily. Only two guards have been

700 DU students get alumni scholarship

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Alumni Association (Duaa) yesterday selected 700 poor, meritorious and some physically challenged freshers and sophomores of the university for scholarships.

The students will get Tk 30,000 annually for four years.

Duaa organised the scholarship distribution ceremony at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban on the campus yesterday.

The contributors for the scholarships are : Beximco Chairiman ASF Rahman, Eastern Bank Ltd CEO Ali Reza Iftekhar, City Group Chairman Fazlur Rahman, Steeltech Industries Ltd Chairman Ebrahim D Mamoon, Managing Director of Noir Shabnam Shehnaz Chowdhury, Rising Holding Ltd Managing Director Mahmud Hasan Khan, Hannan Fashion Managing Director ABM Samsuddin, Imran Fazlur Rahman, and Khwaja Nargis Hossain.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith was the chief guest at the ceremony.

Duaa President and Hamim Group Chairman AK Azad urged the finance minister to double the development budget for DU. On behalf of Hamim group, he also handed over a cheque of Tk 20 lakh to the chairperson of psychology department to extend its classroom.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique urged Duaa to continue their assistance. Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank SK Sur Chowdhury also spoke.

Local talents should design engineering products, not just assemble

Says a Bangladeshi-born Boeing engineer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh should encourage its talents to locally design engineering products instead of assembling, said a Bangladeshi-born engineer working in The Boeing Company -- a US-based organisation that designs, manufactures, and sells airplanes, rockets, and satellites worldwide.

Ashraf Ali, who has been working in the company since 1997, made the comments yesterday while addressing a seminar titled "Essential Aspects of Aircraft Design & Analysis" at Brac University. The university organised the programme to give an idea about aircraft making.

"As far as I know, Bangladesh has so far succeeded in assembling engineering products such as motor cycles, small to medium ships. If it wants to propel itself towards higher economic growth path, it needs to start solving complex mathematical problems through domestic design and analysis," said Ashraf.

But the high taxes imposed by the government on raw materials discourage local design work, he said.

"Local design and analysis work can be started from anywhere -- maybe a small part in a motorbike or garment machinery. But it must be started because the assembly type work suffers from tremendous limitation in terms of growth of personal productivity and overall national income."

Prof Syed Saad Andaleeb, vice chancellor of Brac University, asked the students to take note of the changing world and the competition it presents.

NEWSIN brief

ICT sends Bagerhat man to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday sent Abdul Ali Mollah, a war crimes accused from Bagerhat, to jail after police produced him before it.

Abdul Ali, 65, was arrested in his house in Udankhali village of Kachua in the district on Tuesday hours after the tribunal issued arrest warrant against him.

Ali is one of the 14 accused in a case and the tribunal earlier issued arrest warrant against 13 others.

Of the 14, Akram, Erdis, Ukil, Mokbul and Abdul Ali are in custody while the rest are absconding.

Tribunal's investigation agency said to have found evidence against the 14 over their alleged involvement in crimes against humanity.

Develop advanced rice varieties: Matia

CITY DESK

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury has asked scientists to develop more rice varieties and appropriate technologies which can withstand adverse environmental effects such as salinity, drought, cold flood and water resurge.

She made the call while inaugurating the Annual Research Review Workshop 2015-16 of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) in Gazipur yesterday, a BRRI press release said.

The technical sessions, highlighting details of the achievements and advances in rice research and extension programmes completed over the last year, research results of 19 research divisions and nine regional stations of the institute carried out in 2015-16, would continue for next five days. Agriculture Secretary Mohammad Moinuddin Abdullah chaired the inaugural session.

Selim president, Nizam secretary general of IHRO BD chapter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SM Selim Reza and Nizam Uddin Jitu have been elected president and secretary general of the Bangladesh chapter of Delhi-based International Human Rights Organization (IHRO).

The 25-member executive committee will discharge its duties for the next two years, says an IHRO press release.

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Head Office: 18, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka.

Tender Notice

Sealed quotation in the prescribed schedule are hereby invited from the enlisted firms of the Bank in the category of "Computer stationery" to offer rates for supply of 'Thermal Paper Roll' to be used by our Merchants under Card Division. The tender schedule and general terms & conditions for the tenderers will be available at System & Operations Division (6th floor, South side of NBL Head Office) against cash payment of Tk.1,000/- (non refundable) on all working days during Office hours upto 02nd February, 2017.

Interested tenderers may drop their sealed quotations in the prescribed schedule in the Tender Box of this Division between 10.00AM to 3.00 PM on 05th February, 2017. The tender will be opened on the same date at 3.30 PM in presence of the tenderers, if any remain present.

The tender committee reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the quotations without assigning any reason whatsoever. The Tender Committee is not bound to award the work to the lowest bidder. The tender committee also reserves the right to negotiate with any of the bidder and award the work order to that firm.

For any further queries, the tenderers are requested to contact at 02-9568429, 01713-388915 between the office hours 10.00 AM to 06.00 PM.

A K M Altaf Hussain
Vice President & Divisional Head

brac

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5. Monitoring and Lessons Learning Officer

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For details of the Job Description and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.bd.undp.org/content/bangladesh/en/home/operations/jobs/>. Applications should be received no later than 5 February 2017.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.