



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveils a plaque for the construction of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in Ishwardi of Pabna yesterday.

PHOTO: BSS

## Art exhibit of 34 artists starts tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 17-day art exhibition on the works of 34 modern artists of Bangladesh will begin at Galleri Kaya in the capital's Uttara tomorrow.

The artists are -- Aminul Islam, Murtaja Baseer, Qayyum Chowdhury, Samarjit Roy Choudhury, Rafiqun Nabi, Monirul Islam, Hamiduzzaman Khan, Abus Shakoor Shah, Abul Barq Alvi, Chandra Shekhar Dey, Tarun Ghosh, Mohammad Eunos, Ratan Mojumder, Jamal Ahmed, Kazi Rakib, Ranjit Das, Rezaun Nabi, Ahmed Shamsuddoha, Sheikh Afzal Hossain, Shishir Bhattacharjee, Wakilur Rahman, Goutam Chakraborty, Mohammad Iqbal, Aloptogin Tusher, Anisuzzaman, Nagarbasi Barman, Maksuda Iqbal Nipa, Sheikh Md Rokonzaman, Ashrafur Hasan, Kamaluddin, Bishwajit Goswami, Ruhul Amin Tarek Shohag Parvez and Shahanoor Mamun.

Galleri Kaya is organising the exhibition titled "Contemporary and Modern Art of Bangladesh", says a press release.

A selection of 42 works done in oil, acrylic, mixed media, pen, etching, aquatint, woodcut, indigenous pigment, serigraphy, relief process on paper and canvas will be showcased in this exhibition.

Eminent architect and art critic Rabiul Hussain will inaugurate the exhibition while Syed Almas Kabir, president of American Alumni Association will present, among others.

The exhibition will remain open from 11:00am to 7:30pm till December 17.



## A silent protest speaks volumes

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

As soon as the clock struck nine, Malek Hossain Pir sat on the balcony in front of the deputy commissioner's office in Sylhet's Sunamganj yesterday morning.

An hour went by. The freedom fighter did not say anything. He just sat there.

The 63-year-old was protesting against the ongoing trend of "coaching business" in the education system, in his own unique way.

Concerned citizens have long been blaming the teachers' involvement in coaching businesses for the downward trend in the quality of education. Many allege that instead of giving lessons at educational institutions, some of the teachers prefer tutoring their students privately for a hefty income.

When asked, Malek said rather than taking classes at schools and colleges, teachers are keen on tutoring students at home and coaching centres.

He said he also had a personal reason behind the protest. His daughter, a second-year student of botany at Sunamganj Government College, had an English exam on Wednesday. "When I asked her how the exam was, she said she did not do well. She said they did not have a single class before the exam as teachers were busy tutoring privately."

"How could she prepare for the exam then?" he asked. "Most importantly, how would she learn if no classes are being taken?"

"I run my family with the allowance I get as a freedom fighter. I cannot afford to pay for her private tuitions," Malek said. He said he was not only protesting against the culture of coaching business, which had become a serious issue over the years, but also against the shortage of teachers.

Contacted, Prof Abdus Sattar, principal of the college, said there is no shortage of teachers in the college and classes are being taken regularly.



Freedom fighter Malek Hossain at the DC office.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## Two 'militants' arrested in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion yesterday claimed to have arrested two alleged militants in Salimpur area of Sitakunda upazila in Chittagong on Wednesday night.

The two -- Sakil Hossen alias Sabbir, 19; and Rahatul Islam alias Rahat alias Rudro, 18 -- are from Bogra.

Of them, Sakil is a first-year honours student while Rahat a twelfth-grader, Rab-7 Assistant Director Mimitanur Rahman told The Daily Star.

Several jihadi books, leaflets and a knife were seized from their possession, said Mimitanur.

"The duo had a plan to loot firearms and ammunition from law enforcers on duty for Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar," he claimed.

During primary interrogation, the two admitted that they were involved in militancy after watching videos of a network named "Ummah" on YouTube, said the Rab official.

## Extra fare for using toll-free flyover!

### A Ctg bus service charging more than govt-fixed rate with excuse of 'faster' ride

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

A group of transport owners are realising additional fare from commuters for using a flyover, although the government has fixed no toll for that.

Metro Probhati, a city bus service, is realising the additional fare, which is more than the government-fixed rate, on a route in the port city.

Chittagong Metropolitan Paribahan Malik Group launched the bus service on Route 10 between Patenga Sea Beach and Kaptai Rastar Matha on January 14.

The government has fixed Tk 5 for first three kilometres, but the minibus service is realising Tk 10 in the name of "faster" service.

Moreover, the service has been realising Tk 30 for the eight-kilometre distance between Bahaddarhat and Agrabad inter-section for using the flyover for around a month.

Abdul Aziz, a resident of city's

Panchlaish area, said he was surprised when the counter man demanded Tk 30 on Monday, while other city buses take Tk 12 for the same distance.

The "special" service would go over the flyover, the counter man argued.

Mozammel Haque Chowdhury, secretary general of Passengers' Welfare Association of Bangladesh, said the transport owners often start realising additional fare in the name of special services. After a few days the "special" service disappears and only the additional fare remains, he added.

Belayet Hossain Belal, secretary general of Chittagong Metropolitan Paribahan Malik Group, said the flyover service was initiated only for the eight-km route from Bahaddarhat to Agrabad.

"The service was launched at the request of some women officials who work in Agrabad. They requested us to launch a quick

service to reach their offices in time," he said, adding, "Only two buses -- one at 8:45am and other at 9:00am -- ply this route."

He said these buses miss four stops for using the flyover and thus count loss.

However, Shahedul Azam, another commuter, said buses of Metro Probhati offer sitting service and should not take passengers on the road.

"Seats of their buses always remain occupied. Their argument of missing passengers is not valid," he said.

Debdas Bhattacharjee, additional commissioner (traffic) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police, said they had no information of realising additional fare for using the flyover.

"They [bus service] cannot do it. They rather reach the destination quickly for using the flyover and thus consume less fuel," he said.

"We will look into the matter," he added.



Saiful Shukur

## Saiful DRU president, Shukur secy

BSS, Dhaka

Saiful Islam of Boishakhi Television and Syed Shukur Ali Shuvo of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) were yesterday elected president and general secretary of Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) respectively for the next one year.

Saiful secured 607 votes beating his nearest contestant Abu Darda Zubair of ATN Bangla who got 343 votes, while Shukur bagged 502 votes defeating his nearest contender Mursalin Noman of BSS who secured 279 votes.

Galman Shafi was elected vice-president unopposed while Md Moin Uddin Khan became joint secretary bagging 542 votes.

Other elected office bearers are financial secretary Manik Muntasir (unopposed), organising secretary Nurul Islam Hasib, office secretary Md Jihad Hossain Chowdhury, women affairs secretary Jharna Moni (unopposed), publicity and publications secretary Aminul Haque Bhuiyan (unopposed), training and research secretary Md Mohsin Hossain, sports secretary Arafat Dharia, cultural secretary Mizan Chowdhury (unopposed), entertainment secretary Kamal Uddin Sumon and welfare secretary Kawsar Azam.

Executive members are Abdullah Al Kafi, Mahmuda Doly, Jannatul Ferdous Panna, Md Zafar Iqbal, Abdullah Tuhin, Kamal Mosharef and SMA Kamal.

Some 1,260, among 1521 voters cast their votes in the election held at the DRU office.

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Ref: DACAW/Delivery Financing/787-8/Junior/2017/62 Date: 29 November 2017

### NOTICE

#### Request for Proposal (RFP)

#### Junior Loan for Delivery Financing of 2 (two) Boeing 787-8 aircraft

- Biman Bangladesh Airlines invites Proposal/Offer from reputed Banks or financial institutions with direct experience arranging and funding aircraft loans under the requested structures for financing of two 787-8 aircraft scheduled to be delivered in August 2018 and November 2018. Biman welcomes innovative structures including tax-incentive structures, Islamic Financing etc. Offer may be made only for 20% of the purchase price of aircraft and to be considered as Junior loan referenced under this RFP, or jointly for the Junior Loan and the Senior loan referenced under a separate RFP: DACAW/Delivery financing/787-8/Senior loan/2017/59 Date: 29 November 2017 titled as "Request for Proposal (RFP) for Senior Loan for Financing of Delivery Payment for two (2) Boeing 787-8 aircraft.

Estimated Amount of Financing	Aggregate amount of financing will be maximum USD 50.00 Million.
Term of Loan	Minimum 60 months
Financing Interest	3 month floating rate payable every 3 months in arrear with an option, applicable to each aircraft, for Biman to select fixed rate either from the date of drawdown or on any interest payment date thereafter.
Security	Sovereign Guarantee to be provided by Government of Bangladesh. In case of subordinate Loan, it will include a second charge under a Mortgage. However, second charge will not be created in case of pure commercial loan

- Detailed information is available in the RFP Schedule (DACAW/Delivery Financing/787-8/ Junior Loan/2017/60 Date: 29 November 2017) which may be viewed at Biman's website: www.biman-airlines.com. For further information or query, Controller of Accounts, Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd, may be contacted at Telephone: +8802-890-1590. Cell: +88-017-7771-5526, e-mail: controller@bdbiman.com during the office hours.
- The proposal/offer should be submitted at the latest by 1000 hours BST (0400 hours UTC) on 28 January 2018 addressed to Controller of Accounts, Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd., Head Office, Balaka, Dhaka, Bangladesh through Courier Service or E-mail at [df787jr@bdbiman.com](mailto:df787jr@bdbiman.com). The proposal(s)/offer(s) will be opened on the same day immediately after the closing time. No proposal/offer would be accepted after the closing time on the date specified above. Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd. would not be responsible for late receipt of any proposal/offer due to any reason whatsoever.
- Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd. reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposal(s)/offer(s) partly or wholly at any time and/or stage without assigning any reason whatsoever and no claim shall be entertained in this regard.

**A. S. M. Monjur Emam FCMA**  
 Controller of Accounts

GD-2626



A labourer working in the construction site of Chittagong city's Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Flyover without any safety gear. The lack of proper safety measures might cause a fatal accident in no time. The photo was taken in Muradpur area yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## SERIES OF BOMB BLASTS Section 144 imposed in Gouripur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Mymensingh's Gouripur upazila administration yesterday imposed section 144 in the municipality area following a series of bomb blasts at different places including the compound of upazila nirbahi officer's residence.

Confirming the incident, UNO Marjina Akter said, "Unidentified miscreants threw a crude bomb at my residence when I was at my office around 10:30am."

Md Delwar Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Gouripur Police Station, said the triennial conference of Jubo League Gouripur upazila unit was scheduled to be held at Bangabandhu Chattar in the upazila headquarters yesterday noon -- after a gap of 14

years.

But unidentified miscreants torched the stage of the conference in the morning creating panic among the people and local leaders. Several crude bombs were blasted at the town's Kalipur, Baluapara and Patbazar intersections, the OC said.

The situation was brought under control around 12:00 noon, said police. Additional police and Rab personnel were deployed in the area. Fire brigade personnel visited the spots.

Meanwhile, the UNO lodged a case accusing unidentified persons with the police station.

Advocate Azharul Islam, president of Jubo League district unit, alleged that a vested quarter had foiled the conference.

## Qulkhwani

CITY DESK



Qulkhwani and a doa mahfil for Zillul Hye Razi, former trade adviser, delegation of the European Commission to Bangladesh, will be held at Banani Jame Masjid after the Asr prayers today.

There will be a separate seating arrangement for women, says a press release.

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