



Sectors commanders observe a one-minute silence at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard in Dhaka yesterday. Sectors Commanders Forum-Liberation War '71 also held a discussion there, demanding that December 1, the first day of the month of victory, be observed as "Freedom Fighters' Day".

PHOTO: STAR

# Goldsmiths a dying breed

Artisans leaving traditional profession due to less pay, opportunity, demand

UNB, Dhaka

With a slump in demand for gold ornaments and decline in their wages and job opportunities, many goldsmiths and artisans are opting either to leave the traditional profession or migrate to another country.

Jewellery traders and goldsmiths said the number of gold users is falling gradually due to the rise in gold price and easy availability of cheaper gold-plated imitation ornaments and stone-made ones.

Besides, they said, the jewellery sector has been losing its customers as the price of gold is much higher in the country compared to the international market and the neighbouring country for lack of a national gold policy.

They said many jewellery shops at Tanti Bazar in the capital and different parts of the country have been closed over the last several years as the orders for gold ornaments have almost halved, forcing many goldsmiths and artisans to switch to other professions.

According to Bangladesh Jewellery Samity, around 15,000 Sharma Shilpi (goldsmiths and artisans) were in the capital seven to eight years ago. The figure has now come down to 4,000-5,000.

Besides, nearly 3.5 lakh people used to work as goldsmiths and artisans 10 years back.

Nearly one third of them quit the profession.

The samity leaders also said around 10,000 traders are currently involved in the jewellery sector.

Enamul Hoque Dolan, vice president of the samity, said a large number of skilled goldsmiths, involved in the sector for generations, have already changed their profession. Many also left the country in search of better jobs.

Also, many people now prefer to buy imported and readymade ornaments. "Many are bringing gold ornaments from India through illegal channels as the prices are lower there," he alleged.

He said a well thought-out national gold import and export policy is a must to protect the country's jewellery sector and ensure welfare of the goldsmiths.

Dinesh Chandra Paul, general secretary of Sharma Shilpi Sramik Shangha, said, "Many goldsmiths and artisans are turning into small vendors and vegetable sellers. Also, some are migrating to the neighbouring country..."

The young generation is also not showing any interest in their traditional profession.

Dinesh, who used to employ around 80-100 goldsmiths at his jewellery factory 10 years back, has now 12 workers due to the drastic fall in demand, he said.

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# Ctg traffic cops to get place to rest

CMP installing 36 police boxes in port city

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

In order to provide a place for the field-level traffic officials where they can take a breather, the Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) has started constructing police boxes in different areas of the port city.

The CMP will install 36 such boxes primarily in 36 areas. At present, installation works are going on in 24 areas.

In 2006, police boxes were installed in the city but those became dilapidated after around two years. Muggers allegedly used those places to snoop on their preys undetected. There were also allegations that the boxes became a hub of anti-social activities.

So, once the old ones were dismantled, those were not replaced with new ones, said CMP sources.

Contacted, Debdas Bhattacharya, additional commissioner (traffic) of CMP, said considering the allegations, the police

boxes, 10-foot high and 6-foot wide, would be made of transparent glasses.

"Rain or shine, our traffic officials have to stand on the road for around eight hours a day. At times, they have to go to the roadside shops to take rest."

The lack of having any facility also hampers their duties, he said. "Some officials are not found on the spot when the supervisors check the areas. When asked, some of them said they went to nearby shops to take rest as they were not feeling well."

The boxes are being built under the sponsorship of private companies, he said.

Contacted, Mohammad Mainuddin Khan, inspector (traffic, north zone) of CMP, said there are around 300 constables in two CMP zones at present. They also have 135 sergeants and 70 assistant sub-inspectors and traffic sub-inspectors.

The works will be completed within a month, he said.

# INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR SCIENCE OLYMPIAD Six Bangladeshi students to join

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six Bangladeshi students will participate in the 14th International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO) to be held on December 3-12 this year in the Netherlands.

The participants are KM Sadman Mahmud of Notre Dame College, Ahmed Nafis Farhan of Willes Little Flower Higher Secondary School and College, Rubayat Jalal of Rajshahi University School, Imtiaz Tanvir Rahim of Barisal Zilla School, Muwabbar Sarwar Nibir of Narayanganj Ideal School, and Absar Khan Siam of Ideal School and College in Motijheel.

Society for the Popularisation of Science, Bangladesh (SPSB) made the announcement at a press conference in the capital's Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel yesterday.

SPSB selected the six from 5,500 students through different sessions of Bangladesh Junior Science Olympiad (BDJSO), which began in July.

Students of 50 countries will compete in the international Olympiad. All participants are below 16 years of age. During the competition, they will sit for written, multiple choice question (MCQ) and practical examinations. The Bangladeshi team will leave the country on December 2.

Speaking at the press conference Prof Muhammed Zafar Iqbal, president of SPSB, said science is very important for children as it helps them think logically.

Munir Hasan, general secretary of Bangladesh Math Olympiad, was also present.

# Transport owner

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daily payment from the driver of his bus that was parked on the roadside.

The driver and helper fled the scene after Taher threatened to open fire on them for parking the bus there. At one stage, the councillor shot and injured Shahjahan, Shamim said quoting his brother.

Rebutting the allegation, Taher told The Daily Star that he found out about the incident in the morning.

"Being aware of the allegation and filing of the case, I surrendered my pistol and bullets to police with the help of my wife," he claimed.

Contradicting Taher's claim, Fakhru Alam, inspector (investigation) of Darussalam Police Station, said they recovered the licensed firearm along with 50 rounds of bullets after they raided the councillor's house.

"The councillor is on the run and police are trying to arrest him," he also said.

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Ref: DACAW/Delivery Financing/787-8/Senior/2017/61 Date: 29 November 2017

## NOTICE

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Senior 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, ECA supported, Islamic Financing etc.
- The financing amount would be either:
  - (a) Commercial Loan ("the Senior Loan") Financing: The financing shall be in US Dollars for a minimum 144 months term with Quarterly payments of principal and interest for up to USD 250 Million. The loan will be supported by a guarantee from the Government of Bangladesh. The form and structure of the loan and the guarantee will be as agreed with Biman and the Government of Bangladesh
  - Or
  - (b) "Financial Lease" Financing

Estimated Amount of Financing	Aggregate amount of financing will be 80% of USD 250.00 Million.
Term of Financing Lease	Minimum one hundred and forty-four (144) months from the Lease Inception Date. The repayment would be on quarterly installments of principal and interest payment basis from the delivery date of each Aircraft.
Financing Interest/Rental	3 months floating rate payable every 3 month in arrears. There should be an option available to Biman and applicable to each Aircraft loan, of a fixed rate to be chosen within three business days before either of the date of drawdown or any interest payment date thereafter.

Or  
(c) SACE/ECA-Guaranteed Loan Financing

Estimated Amount of Financing	Aggregate amount of financing will be 80% of USD 250.00 Million. In addition to above 100% 2011 ASU exposure fee calculated on the above amount.
Term of Financing Lease	Minimum one hundred and forty-four (144) months from the Lease Inception Date. The repayment would be on quarterly installments of principal and interest payment basis from the delivery date of each Aircraft.
Financing Interest	3 months floating rate payable in every 3 month. There should be an option available to Biman and applicable to each Aircraft loan, of a fixed rate to be chosen within three business days before either of the date of drawdown or any interest payment date thereafter.
Guarantor	The SACE of the Italy. All the offers will be contingent upon Biman receiving revised approval on a Final Commitment for Guarantee support from the SACE/ECA.

03. Detailed information is available in the RFP Schedule (DACAW/Delivery Financing/787-8/Senior Loan/2017/59 Date: 29 November 2017) which may be viewed at Biman's website: [www.biman-airlines.com](http://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](mailto:controller@bdbiman.com) during the office hours.

04. 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 [df787sr@bdbiman.com](mailto:df787sr@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.

05. 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-2627

# Export earning to hit \$60b by 2021

Says commerce minister

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed yesterday expressed hope that annual income from export of the country will hit \$60 billion by 2021.

The minister said this while addressing as the chief guest the inaugural ceremony of the month-long fourth Bangladesh International Trade & Export Fair.

The Chittagong Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CMCCI) organised the fair at Abahani ground of Halishahar in the city.

"After independence Bangladesh used to earn just \$348 million annually from export. But now the country earns \$38.5 billion annually and we hope to raise it to \$60 billion by 2021," the minister said.

Though the country faced some crisis due to flood this year, it can be mitigated with a target production of 380 million tonnes, which can facilitate enough surplus food product for the country, he said.

The minister stressed the need for modernisation of the Chittagong Port with contemporary technologies and machineries for a dynamic flow of export and import.

# HC verdict

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 Losses of income, future advancement, estate, medical expenses of claimant, funeral expenses and damage of property (microbus).

The HC bench also scheduled tomorrow for hearing the case filed by the family of Mishuk Munier seeking Tk 5.5 crore as compensation for his death. Dr Kamal Hossain argued for the victims' families.



Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed inaugurates Bangladesh International Trade and Export Fair 2017 at Halishahar Abahani ground in Chittagong city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Condolences pour in

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the city. His various initiatives for the city also inspired me. I never thought he would leave us this way," said a DSCC press release quoting Khokon.

Deputy leader of parliament Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Opposition Leader Rawshan Ershad, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed, Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, Law Minister Anisul Huq, Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan, Workers Party of Bangladesh President and Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon in separate messages expressed deep shock at the death of the mayor.

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad, former President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal

(JSD-Rob) President ASM Abdur Rob also expressed their condolences.

Besides, political parties, social, cultural and business organisations also expressed condolences.

With the demise of Annisul, the country not only lost a successful entrepreneur, but also a social worker, a patriot and a soul close to the people, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) said in a press release.

The nation will remember his contributions as he has accomplished the promises within a short period of time as a mayor, the release added.

Nagar Unnayan Sangbadik Forum, Bangladesh President Amitosh Pal and its General Secretary Abdul Matin in a statement expressed their deep sorrow over the mayor's demise.

Tributes and condolences also poured in on social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter from all corners of the country.

# 'Mastermind'

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bail order reached a Brahmanbaria court earlier in the day.

On October 30 last year, religious zealots carried out attacks on the Hindus and vandalised over 100 homes, 17 temples and looted valuables from houses of the minority community people in Nasirnagar over an anti-Islamic Facebook post.

On January 5, 2017, the prime accused in the attack was arrested in Bhatara area of Dhaka. Later, he was remanded for several times.

Later on January 15, Local Government Division suspended him.