

Gold worth Tk 20 lakh seized from Biman passenger

UNB, Dhaka

Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (CIID) at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport recovered gold bars and ornaments weighing around 406 grams from a passenger of Biman Bangladesh Airlines from Abu Dhabi yesterday.

The passenger is Saidur Rahman, of Brahmanbaria. CIID officials said that on a tip-off, its officials started monitoring movement of Saidur Rahman just after the Biman flight landed around 11:00am.

When he was about to cross the green channel of the airport's customs, the CIID officials searched him and found the gold, said Dr Moinul Khan, director general of the CIID.

He kept three gold bars hidden inside his underwear, while the ornaments were found in his luggage. The gold bars and ornaments are worth Tk 20 lakh, said Moinul.



ROAD OR DUMPSITE? Initially, broken metal road dividers were dumped on a corner of this road in the capital's Fakirapool area. Afterwards, damaged trash bins were added to the mix. Soon, locals apparently inspired by the act started throwing waste there. As the corner was eventually blocked to traffic due to the garbage, utilising the opportunity, rickshaw-van pullers also started parking their vehicles alongside. The photo was taken in front of Wasa office yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Iajuddin's death anniversary today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Today is the fifth death anniversary of former president Professor Dr Iajuddin Ahmed.

He died at Bumrungrad International Hospital in Bangkok on this day in 2012 at the age of 81.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil has been arranged at President Professor Dr Iajuddin Ahmed Residential Model School and College in Munshiganj.

Iajuddin was a professor of soil science department at Dhaka University. He also assumed the office of chief adviser of the caretaker government at the end of 2006. His family has requested all to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



3 persons get Kazi Mahbubullah Award

CITY DESK

Three eminent persons of the country have been given the Kazi Mahbubullah Award-2017 for their contributions in respective fields.

Begum Zebunessa and Kazi Mahbubullah Janakalyan Trust announced the names of the recipients recently, says a press release.

Eminent educationist Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, also vice chancellor of the University of Asia Pacific Bangladesh, has been given the award under the lifetime achievement category.

Golam Sawrwar, editor of the daily Samakal, was awarded for journalism, and Fahim Hossain Chowdhury, a renowned Rabindra Sangeet singer, for music.

Each recipient will get a crest, citation and cash award of Tk 1 lakh.



Jamilur Reza Fahim Hossain Golam Sawrwar

Govt to hire 1,112 IT-trained persons

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is going to appoint 1,112 persons trained in computer science and information technology at district and upazila levels.

The decision was taken last week at a meeting of the secretary-level committee on administrative development under the Cabinet Division.

Officials at the Information and Communication Technology Division said the appointments would be given for conducting ICT activities properly at the field level.

In addition, computer labs are also being set up in primary and secondary schools. The labs have been set up in four to five secondary schools in every upazila with equipment worth Tk 20 lakh to Tk 30 lakh each.

The headteachers of the schools are provided with tablet computers. The schools will soon have free Wi-Fi services, said headteacher of a

secondary school at Kolaroa in Satkhira.

Besides, a digital data centre has been set up in each union so that people can avail information easily.

For coordinating these activities properly, the government has decided to hire the persons at district and upazila levels, said an ICT division official.

Of the 1,112 persons to be recruited, 64 are assistant network engineers, 64 office assistants at district levels, 488 data entry or control operators and 488 office assistants at upazila levels, he said.

The government has already set up a directorate of information and communication technology for utilisation of ICT, the official added. It has taken a number of projects in this regard.

In future, more ICT-related jobs would be created in public and private sectors, he added.

Death anniversary

UNB, Dhaka

Today is the 11th death anniversary of advocate ABM Fazle Rashid Chowdhury Hiru, also a businessman, politician, and social worker.

On the occasion, a Qurankhwani, doa, milad mahfil and feeding of the destitute will be held at his residences in Dhaka, Chittagong, Cox's Bazaar and his ancestral village Gohira in Raozan. His wife Prof Masuda M Rashid Chowdhury requested all to pray for the departed soul.

Fazle was the eldest son of AKM Fazlul Kabir Chowdhury, former leader of the opposition in then East Pakistan Assembly. Fazle was the founding vice-president of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, and founding executive committee member of Jatiya Party.



PLAN TO BUY DREAMLINER AIRCRAFT Biman seeks loan proposals

UNB, Dhaka

The national flag carrier Biman's dream to have the Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft in its fleet is now just a step away from reality.

Once Biman Bangladesh Airlines successfully wrap up the deals to get financing partners on board by early next year, its 13-strong fleet will be richer by two American long-haul Dreamliner, 767-8, by November 2018.

And two more of these latest Boeing airplanes are also in the purchase pipeline, scheduled to be delivered to Biman by last quarter of 2019.

In a bid to ensure that Biman gets the deliveries on time, the airlines on November 29 floated "Request for Proposal" (RFP) seeking loan for financing of the delivery payments for the two Dreamliners.

Biman invited the RFP from

reputed banks or financial institutions with experience of arranging and funding aircraft loans for financing of two 787-8 aircraft, popularly known as Dreamliner, scheduled to be delivered in August 2018 and November 2018.

Biman sought the proposals from prospective parties by January 28, 2018. It splits the loan arrangements into two categories -- senior loan and junior loan. The financing shall be in US dollars for a minimum 144 months term with quarterly payments of principal and interest for up to US\$ 250 million. Aggregate amount of financing will be 80 percent of US\$ 250.00 million. This loan will be called as senior loan.

It also said there can be an offer of 20 percent (US\$ 50 million) of the total amount and it will be

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Green univ awards quiz contest winners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Green University of Bangladesh yesterday awarded the winners of a quiz competition, based on reading The Daily Star, at a programme held on its main campus in the capital.

The university's Institutional Quality Assurance Cell organised the event titled, "Language and Development: Charioted by Newspaper and Culture".

Vice Chancellor Prof Golam Samdani Fakir said The Daily Star is a tool for the students to connect with the world. He hoped that the students will enrich their knowledge by reading newspapers regularly.

Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam called on the students to know about the country properly by reading more books and newspapers so that they can contribute to the society and make it prosperous.

He also urged the students to enrich their vocabulary, think critically and express their thoughts clearly.

Pro-VC Prof Muhammad Fayyaz Khan addressed the programme as a special guest.

A language-based club named, "Green University Club for Languages", was also inaugurated at the event. Later, a cultural programme was held.



Winners of the quiz competition along with dignitaries at Green University of Bangladesh in the capital yesterday. Sitting from left, Dr Golam Ahmed Faruqi, Muhammad Fayyaz Khan, Prof Golam Samdani Fakir and Md Shahid Ullah.

PHOTO: STAR



This little child seems to have eyes set on a bright dress while browsing through warm clothes at a makeshift market in front of the Ideal School and College in the capital's Motijheel yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

NEWSIN brief

Woman dies after being run over by train

UNB, Gazipur

A woman died after being run over by a train in Chandra area of Gazipur's Kaliakoir upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased could not be identified immediately. SM Rakibul Islam, in-charge of Joydevpur Railway Police Outpost, said a train hit the woman around 6:00am, leaving her dead on the spot.

Later, police recovered the body and sent it to Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

Victory festival begins today

BSS, Dhaka

A weeklong festival marking 47th Victory Day will begin today at Liberation War Museum in the capital's Segunbagicha.

The festival with the theme "From Human Right Day to Victory Day" will continue till December 16, said organisers.

The programmes including poetry recitation, discussion and cultural events will start at 3:00pm and continue till 8:30pm every day on the museum premises.

CIU to introduce course on taxation

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong Independent University (CIU) yesterday announced their plan to introduce a professional course on taxation in the upcoming academic session.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed in this regard between the National Board of Revenue (NBR) and the university authorities at a meeting titled "Promoting Education, Transparency and Accountability: Curriculum Development for Education Program on Taxation".

NBR Chairman Md Nojibur Rahman was present as the chief guest at the event, chaired by CIU Vice Chancellor Prof Mahfuzul Hoque Chowdhury, held in CIU auditorium. The NBR is reviewing the legislative framework, preparing a draft for new income tax law and has taken multiple approaches to facilitate taxpaying, said NBR chairman. Dr Ahsan H Mansur and Md Zahid Hossain presented two key-note papers, "Tax Regime in Bangladesh" and "Tax Systems", at the event.

Freedom fighter Nishikanta

Thakur passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Nishikanta Thakur, a freedom fighter, died of cardiac arrest in his Jamindarpara residence in Thakurgaon town early yesterday. He was 80.

He left behind his wife, three sons and three daughters. He was cremated with state honour at Kalimata Cremation Ground in the municipality.

Leaders of different political and social organisations expressed deep shock at his death.

Rally held marking human rights day

CITY DESK

To celebrate International Human Rights Day, to be Centre for Men and Masculinities Studies, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) organised a series of events at Dhaka University yesterday.

The day is observed every year on December 10. This year's theme is "End Violence against Women and Girls: Leave No One Behind".

The United Nations Youth and Students Association of Bangladesh and DU Model United Nations Association also assisted in organising the events, which included a rally, a flash mob at TSC and cycle procession. Around 500 youth took part in the rally named, "Brave Men Rally", said a press release.

Dr Syed Saikh Imtiaz, chairperson, Center for Men and Masculinities Studies, and Sharmilee Rasool, chief technical officer, UNDP, Bangladesh, were present.

The initiatives were part of a 16-day global campaign aiming to eliminate violence against women and girls.

NO END TO BLOODSPILL ON ROADS

Road crashes kill 3

CITY DESK

Three persons were killed while three others injured in road accidents in the country yesterday.

Our Gaibandha correspondent reports, a person was killed and two others were injured when two motorcycles collided head-on on Gaibandha-Shaghata road at village Putimari yesterday.

The deceased was Rani Begum, 26, wife of Sanju Mia, a school teacher of village Saguna in Shaghata upazila.

Injured Sanju and Abu Taher were rushed to Shaghata Health Complex.

Staff correspondent of Chittagong adds, a fish trader, Abu Naser, 52, of Nabinagar in Brahmanbaria, died as a bus ran him over at Chittagong city's Kotwali intersection yesterday morning.

Naser was returning home after selling fish in Chittagong city's Sadarghat area when the incident occurred, said witnesses.

Naser was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where doctors declared him dead.

In another accident, a helper of a covered van was killed while the driver injured as the vehicle veered out of control and overturned on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway at Mirsharai upazila in Chittagong yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was Hekmat Ali Molla, 50, of Korpara in Gopalganj. Fifty-year-old Bashir, of Barguna, is undergoing treatment at CMCH.

The van had the name "Pran" written on it, said police officials.