

64 gold bars recovered at Ctg airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
 Chattogram Customs House and Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (CIID) officials recovered 64 gold bars weighing 7.5kg, worth around Tk 2.88 crore, from Shah Amanat International Airport yesterday.
 The gold bars were left abandoned in a passenger car parked inside the airport, said Shahinur Kabir Pavel, deputy commissioner of customs, adding that none was arrested in this regard.
 The recovery was made acting on a tip off, said the customs official.

New nat'l plan needed

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 government and NGOs is needed to resolve the crisis," he said.
 Presenting a keynote paper, Prof Nazmuzzaman Bhuiyan of Dhaka University's law department said the government's lack of monitoring has made fight against child labour difficult and time-consuming.
 "A proper plan can protect children working in the informal sector which comprises around 94 percent of the total child labour," he said.
 He said a number of agreements including the CRC, Goal 8 of SDGs could properly guide the policy decision in formulating the NPA.
 "Raising awareness among the people about the negative impact of the child labour, ensuring compulsory primary education, an institution-based countrywide monitoring and evaluation framework, establishing a good coordination among all relevant governmental and non-governmental agencies can play a vital role in eliminating child labour," he said.
 Among others, Labour and employment ministry's Additional Secretary Md Rezaul Haque and Country Director for Islamic Relief Bangladesh and India Akmal Sharif also spoke at the discussion, presided over by BSAF acting chairman Mahbubul Hoque.

Opportunities for youth

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 youth of the country have the responsibility to build the nation."
 Kazi Maruful Islam, professor of development studies at Dhaka University presented a study on "Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in Bangladesh".
 Between 1999 and 2016, there were 67 violent incidents in the country, Prof Maruful mentioned in his study. During the period, some 301 people died while 2,103 people were injured in incidents of violent extremism.
 Citing data from Police Headquarters, he said some 3,676 people were arrested as of October 2017 in connection with militancy. "Different initiatives from the state and non-state development organisations have proved fruitful to curb religious extremism."
 The first day of the festival included roundtable discussions among teachers and students of different schools and madrasas, exhibition, and cultural programme.
 On the second day today, law enforcement officials and media personalities will take part in separate sessions at the same venue. The festival is open for all.
 The Sampreeti project is currently operating in six districts of Dhaka division, and works to create tolerance among students of colleges, universities and madrasas.

Rohingya influx caused reduction of wages in host community: report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The Rohingya influx has caused 14.3 percent wage reduction of all labourers among the host community in Teknaf, says a United Nations Development Programme-commissioned report.
 While daily wage of a labourers during pre-influx period was Tk 417, it came down to Tk 357 post-influx, it says.
 The reduction in wage is 6.08 percent -- from Tk 450 to Tk 423 -- among the host community in Ukhia. This comes in contrast with daily wage of labourers in other parts of Cox's Bazar, which has increased by 4.2 percent by this time, it adds.
 Findings of the report titled "Impacts of the Rohingya Refugee Influx on Host Communities" were disseminated at a workshop at the capital's Brac Centre Inn, jointly arranged by Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh (PRI) and UNDP.
 Data for the report was collected through a survey between April and May 2018, said MA Razzaque, research director of PRI, which was commissioned to conduct the survey.
 The report says price of coarse rice has increased to Tk 38 from pre-influx price of Tk 32 per kilogramme. About 25,000 households fell into poverty due to refugee influx, it says.
 The influx also caused a loss of 6,163 acres of forests while underground water level has fallen five to 15 metres, it further says.
 Addressing the workshop, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said, "The problem was created by Myanmar and it can be resolved only by Myanmar."
 The minister said he is hopeful that the repatriation process will start soon.
 UNDP Resident Representative Sudipto Mukherjee said Rohingya refugees should be able to lead dignified lives both at the camps and after their peaceful repatriation.
 PRI Chairman Zaidi Sattar said global community must continue their pressure on the Myanmar government to take back the forcibly-displaced Rohingyas from Bangladesh, ensuring their safe, secure and dignified return. "There are no two ways about it," he said.
 Myanmar should be held accountable for what it has done to its own people, said Prof CR Abrar of Dhaka University's international relations department.
 In that context, the issue should be taken to the International Court of Justice, he said.

MA Chaklader's death anniversary today

CITY DESK
 Today is the 19th death anniversary of MA Chaklader, founder chairman of Maxwell Group, says a press release.
 On the occasion, a doa mahfil, Qurankhwani and food distribution programme will be held at his residence and family graveyard.
 Similar programmes organised by Alhaj MA Chaklader Foundation will be held at its office in the capital.
 Chaklader's family and the foundation requested all of his relatives and well-wishers to be present at the programmes.

Whatever she said

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 Quoting different governments' census carried out between 1947 and 2011, the Parishad said the number of minorities has been reduced to 9.7 percent from 29.7 percent of total population in the last five decades. Of the 9.7 percent minority population, the number of Hindu population was 8.4 percent.
 Although the incidents of torture and discrimination against the minorities in the country are still going on, it is undeniable that the overall rights situation has improved significantly over the last 10 years, Dasgupta said.
 "For the welfare of the country, we should positively face the problems of the minorities instead of ignoring those," he added.
WHAT DID PRIYA SAHA SAY?
 In a video clip that went viral on social media on July 19, Priya Saha was heard telling Trump: "Sir, I'm from Bangladesh ... 37 million Hindus, Buddhists and Christians are disappeared. Please help us - for the Bangladeshi people. We want to stay in our country."

Form national child rights

FROM PAGE 3
 According to data analysis done by ASK over the last five years, 90 percent of rape victims are children and teenagers.
 Coalition members, including Save the Children, ActionAid Bangladesh, Terre des hommes and Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum, among others, demanded a separate tribunal for trying crimes against children.
 Prolonged trial and the prevailing culture of impunity are the main reasons behind increasing violence against children, the statement said.
 All incidents of child torture, rape and murder should be given the highest priority so that justice is served through quick trials, the coalition suggested.

AL candidate wins Kanchan

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 Asked, Rafiqul said voting was held in a peaceful manner. "There was no irregularity or influence," he claimed.
 Correspondents at least on five occasions at various centres found polling officials and polling agents of the AL candidate casting vote for the ruling party candidate inside the secret chamber, where only voters are allowed.
 A polling official named Jahangir was found instructing voters to vote for the AL candidate at the secret ballot room of Birabo Government Primary School. He was accompanied by two others, who were wearing badges of AL's electoral symbol "boat".
 Asked, Jahangir said he was helping voters cast votes through EVM.
 Upon notification, Presiding Officer Nuruddin Miah asked Jahangir to leave.
 People wearing badges and T-shirts inscribed with photos of "boat" and the AL candidate were found inside all the centres. They were entering polling booths randomly.
 Presiding officers of at least three centres including Mohammad Solaiman of Kendua Government Primary School said they are taking action against those people.
 Long queues formed in front of polling centres since morning, with notable presence of female voters.
 Asked about irregularities, ARO Mahbubur Rahman said, "We are not aware of any such incident. Action will be taken if anyone files a complaint."

BY-POLLS, UP ELECTIONS

By-election to West Bakalia ward in Chattogram city was held peacefully yesterday.
 Independent candidate Kamrul Hasan Mandal in the by-election for chairman of Kauriyad union in Sreepur upazila alleged that supporters of AL candidate Aziz Ahmed forced others to leave the polling stations, reports our Gazipur correspondent. Aziz refuted the allegation.
 Elections to six union parishads were held yesterday.

Six held

FROM PAGE 5
 official's house to bribe him after the official allowed them to import Indian cosmetics through false declaration.
 "The seized money was in a bag with one of them, but we did not find any evidence of giving the money away to the official," the officer said.
 "We will write to senior customs officials for enquiring into why the official allowed them inside his house with illegal foreign currency," he said.
 Police officials claimed they had information that the accused, in connivance with customs officials, recently imported Indian cosmetics and paid way below the required amount of tax through false declaration.
 During interrogation, the accused told police it was normal for them to cart the money, but they could not show valid documents for having the foreign currency, officer Al Mamun said.

Int'l Crimes Tribunal

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 Khaled sent a copy of the letter to the tribunal registrar, and through a letter the tribunal's authorities came to know about the risk, sources said.
 Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Shohel Rahman said he was not aware whether any action or step was taken on the basis of their report.
 On July 23, he once again visited the tribunal.
 "The building needs retrofitting as soon as possible. We are now assessing how much time it would take for the retrofitting," he said, adding that he was expected to submit the assessment report within two to three days.
 After that, field office of PWD will start necessary procedure, he added.

"WE ARE WORKING PUTTING OUR LIFE AT RISK"

Senior Prosecutor Zeyad Al Malum said they have sent several letters for repair and renovation of the building but to no avail.
 "We are working putting our lives at risk," he told The Daily Star yesterday, adding, "We didn't talk about the matter to media on several occasions. But, this is a very uncomfortable situation for us."
 He demanded that the authorities take immediate action for repairing and renovating the buildings.
 Contacted, Public Works Minister SM Rezaul Karim said he will take necessary action after looking into the matter.

Court accepts charges

FROM PAGE 3
 an inspector of police's Detective Branch (DB), pressed charges against the four accused, all of whom are currently in jail.
 All of the accused have given confessional statements before magistrates.
 DB pressed charges against Yasin and Gopal in the Abrar murder charge, while all four were charged for the attempted murder of Synthia.
 On March 19, a bus of Suprobhat Paribahan ran over and killed Abrar near Dhaka's Bashundhara Residential Area, after it had hit Synthia in Shahjadpur.
 Following the incident, Abrar's father Brig Gen (ret'd) Arif Ahmed Chowdhury filed a murder case with Gulshan Police Station.
 As per the confessional statements of the accused, passengers and pedestrians caught bus driver Sirajul and handed him over to police in Shahjadpur in the morning of March 19, after the vehicle had hit college girl Synthia.
 After the accident, the bus was parked by a road there. Conductor Yasin informed Gopal of the incident over phone and said agitated locals might torch the bus. Gopal then asked him to drive the vehicle to a safer place.
 Yasin, who had no driving licence, took the wheels and ran over and killed 20-year-old Abrar near Bashundhara Residential Area.

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