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ACC PUBLIC HEARING

# Ctg port users complain of irregularities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Users of Chattogram Port yesterday alleged that a section of port officials, employees and equipment operators were taking bribes, harassing them and wasting time.

Speaking at a public hearing at the auditorium of Chattogram Port Authority (CPA), they also complained that irregularities are committed during the delivery of goods and containers from the port, and also during loading, unloading and transfer of goods and containers inside the port.

The port users said the irregularities were reducing the efficiency of the port.

A total of 52 complaints were raised at the meeting. The complaints include delaying discharge of consignments by staffers of the One Stop Service Centre, storing import containers at yards not assigned for those, delaying transfer of containers inside the port by crane operators and damage of goods caused by equipment operators if not bribed.

The public hearing, first of its kind at the port, was jointly organised by the Anti-Corruption Commission and Corruption Prevention Committee, Chattogram, with support from the Chattogram divisional and district administrations.

Only 16 out of the 52 accusers were present at the three-

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Workers unload free textbooks from a truck in front of Pathantula Dipakkhik High School in Sylhet city yesterday. The books would be distributed among the students of the school on January 1, the first day of the new academic year.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

# Onion prices under control

Says industries minister as prices go up to Tk 150 a kg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

When onion prices have reached Tk 150 a kg, Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun, raising many eyebrows, claimed that the prices were under control.

Prices of the essential cooking ingredient rose further yesterday and some retailers in the capital were demanding Tk 150 for each kilogram of the bulb.

The market price data by the state-run Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) showed that onion prices rose by Tk 10 yesterday to Tk 125-145 a kg from Tk 115-135 a kg the previous day.

This was the second consecutive day of spike in prices of onions this week, show TCB data, which recorded prices of the bulb at Tk 110-Tk 125 per kilogram on Saturday.

Prices began soaring since Monday.

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# BENAPOLE CUSTOMS Burglars loot 20kg gold from vault

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Burglars looted around 20kg of gold, worth Tk 8.5 crore, from the vault of Benapole Customs House sometime during the three-day holiday that ended on Sunday.

Police and customs officials believe there was insider help, as no one was seen entering the four-storey building, although it is under constant CCTV surveillance.

The wires of two of the 20 cameras were cut.

The theft came to light after staffers arrived at the office on Monday morning and found the collapsible gate of the vault broken, Samimur Rahman, deputy commissioner of Benapole Customs House, said.

The criminals made away with 20 kgs gold kept in a vault of the first floor. They, however, did not take some gold and a huge amount of foreign and national

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# Samrat sued for illegal wealth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expelled Dhaka South Jubo League president Ismail Hossain Chowdhury Samrat has invested at home and abroad over Tk 1,000 crore in plots, houses, and movie production.

The Anti-Corruption Commission has found the information in Bangladesh Bank documents and other intelligence reports.

The commission has filed a case against Samrat for amassing wealth worth about Tk 2.95 crore beyond his known sources of income.

ACC Deputy Director Jahangir Alam filed the case with its integrated district office, Dhaka-1.

The case statement says Samrat amassed Tk 1.84 crore till 2018-19 fiscal year. The commission did not find any legal source of the amount.

The ACC also found that he has moveable properties worth Tk 1.11 crore.

The commission officials said Samrat invested money in the silver-screen. He maintained an account named "His Movies" with the Sonali Bank's Kakrail branch.

The anti-graft watchdog also filed a case yesterday against his close aide Enamul Haque Arman for amassing wealth worth Tk 2.05 crore beyond his known sources of income.

The FIR says Arman also invested a huge amount of money, gathered from illegal casinos, in Desh Bangla Multi-media Production.

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# 'Rohingya criminals' shoot 2 BGB men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A patrol team of Border Guard Bangladesh came under attack in Ghumdhum border area of Bandarban's Naikhyangchhari upazila on Monday evening.

Two members of BGB -- Mritunjoy, 32, and Farid Uddin, 23, jawans of 34th BGB Battalion -- sustained bullet injuries during the attack, said Brig Gen Shazedur Rahman, commander of BGB Cox's Bazar region.

A group of Rohingya yaba traders opened fire on the patrol team around 7:30pm on Monday and injured them, he said, adding that the jawans received treatment at

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# Vietnam mouse deer rediscovered



AFP, Paris

A very rare species of small, deer-like animal thought to be on the verge of extinction has been spotted in the northwestern jungle of Vietnam for the first time in nearly 30 years.

Known as the Silver-backed Chevrotain or Mouse deer, a specimen was last recorded in 1990, according to a study published Monday in the journal Nature Ecology and Evolution.

The species, Tragulus versicolor, was first described in 1910 based on several animals found near Nha Trang, about 450 kilometres (280 miles) northeast of Ho Chi Minh City.

With no confirmed sightings since 1990, experts assumed the species must have been

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# JOBS IN MALAYSIA New option for hiring workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Once the Malaysian labour market is reopened for Bangladesh, employers will be able to hire Bangladeshi migrant workers through a platform of agencies there, Expatriates Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad has said.

The previous system of recruiting workers directly through Bangladesh agencies will also remain, he said.

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**PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 13**

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:00	12:45	3:45	5:22	7:00
JAMAAT 5:35	1:15	4:00	5:25	7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# Dev projects could harm Sundarbans

Says expert; warns against poorly planned development in southwest

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Sundarbans may be destroyed if unplanned development in the southwestern region follows the opening of the Padma Bridge, noted climate change expert Dr Saleemul Huq said yesterday.

"We are now at a critical point when we are building a bridge from Dhaka to the southwestern part of the country, connecting Khulna through the Padma Bridge.

"Once the bridge is constructed, you will see a lot of development in Khulna region, which is a good thing. But, if we

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Villagers look for survivors in a bus that plunged into a roadside canal in Khejurtola area of Shariatpur's Damudya upazila yesterday. Police said the accident happened as the driver of the bus, heading for Shariatpur from Damudya, lost control. The accident left two people dead and 20 others injured. A villager, who joined the rescue operation, died from a suspected cardiac arrest.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

# ISRAELI AIR STRIKES Top Islamic Jihad man killed in Gaza

Tension escalates as retaliatory rocket salvos reach Tel Aviv

REUTERS, Gaza

Israel killed a top commander from the Iranian-backed Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad in a rare targeted strike in the Gaza Strip yesterday, drawing retaliatory rocket salvos that reached as far as Tel Aviv.

In the most serious escalation in months, an Israeli missile attack also hit the home of an Islamic Jihad official in Damascus, Syrian state media said. The strike killed two people including one of the official's sons, the group and Syrian state media said. Israel refused to comment.

As the sound of Palestinian rockets and Israeli air strikes echoed throughout Gaza and Israeli border areas, Islamic Jihad leader Khaled Al-Batsh spoke at the midday Gaza funeral of his slain fellow militant, Baha Abu Al-Atta.

"Israel executed two coordinated attacks, in Syria and in Gaza, in a declaration of war," he said. Mourners fired guns into the air, chanting "revenge!"

Both sides expected further escalation after the funeral, but the extent of it appeared to hinge on whether the much larger Islamist group Hamas would join Islamic Jihad in the exchange of fire that sent civilians on both sides huddling for shelter and forced businesses and schools to close.

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