



Akbar Sheikh debarks his date palm tree, preparing it for juice extraction -- a cherished winter tradition. The sweet juice is transformed into date palm molasses, a seasonal favourite, now selling for Tk 350-400 per kg. The demand for molasses peaks during the chilly months. The photo was taken in Khulna's Dumuria upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## Biman aircraft seized after 20 gold bars found on flight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

National Security Intelligence, Customs Intelligence and Investigation Department, and security personnel of Chattogram Shah Amanat International Airport yesterday seized 20 gold bars from a passenger seat of a Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight.

CID seized the aircraft, as there is a possible involvement of airline officials in this regard, said Minhaj Uddin, additional director general of CID, Chattogram Office. "We seized the aircraft as per the law, but its operational activities, including carrying passengers, will continue as scheduled," he said. "We have informed all airline companies that any aircraft found with hidden gold inside will be seized."

The gold carrier, identified as Atia Samia, 35, was handed over to the police, he said.

Md Ibrahim Khalil, spokesperson of the airport, stated that the gold bars, weighing 2.33 kg and worth around Tk 2.60 crore, were recovered from a passenger seat of BG 148, a Biman flight that landed from Dubai around 9:25am.

"Wrapped in black tape, the gold bars were smuggled from Dubai and hidden under seat 9J," he said.

Group Captain Shaikh Abdullah Alamgir, director of the airport, said, "We have no information about the aircraft being seized. After the gold was recovered, the plane departed the airport for Dhaka."

## SSC examinee dies from electrocution in Jashore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A 16-year-old SSC examinee died from electrocution caused by an electrical short circuit in Chaugachha upazila of Jashore yesterday.

The deceased, identified as Rana Hossain, was the son of Shamim Hossain of Dighalsingha village, said Payel Hossain Chowdhury, officer-in-charge of Chaugachha Police Station.

According to Rana's uncle, Iqbal Hossain, the incident occurred around 3:30pm while Rana was connecting electrical wires at their house.

An electrical short circuit struck his left hand, causing severe injuries, he said.

Family members took him to Chaugachha Health Complex, where doctors declared him dead.

## Separate law ministry

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also pointed out that some lawyers continue to resort to bribing bench officers to ensure their cases are heard properly.

"These are the realities that must be stopped to uphold the spirit of the July revolution," Hossain said.

He also proposed two significant reforms: the introduction of a "Pre-Action Protocol" and judicial activism.

The Pre-Action Protocol, which was introduced in the UK in 1995, requires a settlement discussion before filing cases related to accidents, medical negligence, and other civil matters.

According to Hossain, implementing this system in Bangladesh could reduce case backlogs by up to 80 percent.

The second proposal, judicial activism, aims to prevent false or nuisance cases by imposing fines, thereby reducing the number of cases unnecessarily brought to court.

This approach, Hossain argues, could help resolve execution cases swiftly through civil court judgments.

Several other legal experts, including SC lawyers Shameem Haider Patwary, Qazi Zahed Iqbal, Tabarak Hussain, Ayesha Akter, Hamidul Misbah, and Shah Md Babar, also spoke at the meeting, offering further suggestions for judicial reform.

The Judiciary Reform Commission, which is tasked with reviewing and recommending changes to the judiciary, has already submitted a preliminary report to Environment,

Forest, and Climate Change Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan.

This report recommends a constitutional amendment to ensure that the senior-most judge of the Appellate Division is appointed as the chief justice, thus curbing presidential discretion in the matter.

The report also proposes the formation of a nine-member commission, led by the chief justice, for the appointment of SC judges to ensure the selection of qualified individuals.

The commission also advocates for the expansion of the Appellate Division, proposing a minimum of seven judges, up from the current five.

Further, the report calls for permanent attorney services for government cases at both the apex and district courts, independent investigation bodies in the criminal justice system, and swift and cost-effective justice for citizens.

The commission is expected to submit its final report by January 15, 2025.

## Police burnt

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Of the policemen standing beside the van, two were wearing police vests and seen throwing another body onto the piles.

In the video, Dhaka District North Detective Police (DB) inspector (investigation) Arafat Hossain was seen walking unarmed.

Masudur Rahman, officer-in-charge (investigations) of Ashulia Police Station, was also seen in the video.

Arafat is now behind bars.

## A canal or trash bin? Family reunited

FROM PAGE 5

3,000 tonnes of waste daily, of which 249 tonnes (8.3 percent) are plastic and polythene.

Alarming, 140 tonnes of this waste go uncollected, ending up in canals and drains, choking the city's drainage systems.

Prof Swapan Kumar Palit of Cuet's Civil Engineering Department highlighted the lack of adherence to the "Mandatory Jute Packaging Act, 2010" and "Mandatory Jute Packaging Rules 2013," which require jute-based packaging for a range of essential goods.

"Despite these regulations, we see no implementation in the market," he said.

"Around 90 percent of carry-bags used in grocery shops and kitchen markets are still plastic and polythene."

Pranab Kumar Sharma, deputy conservation

officer of Chattogram City Corporation, said, "We're removing waste from the canal, but resource limitations prevent us from addressing all canals simultaneously."

Experts emphasise that banning polythene bags isn't enough without viable alternatives.

Prof Sekandar Khan of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolan said, "Polythene use will decline naturally when affordable alternatives become widely available. The government must provide incentives to support alternative packaging industries."

Meanwhile, kitchen markets near the canal continue to flout the ban.

Vendors argue they have no choice.

"Customers demand polythene bags. If they don't bring their own, how can we pack their purchases?" asked Md Ismail, a vendor.

FROM PAGE 3

after 18 years of separation. For Dollar and his siblings, the reunion was more than just having their father back -- it marked the end of an 18-year journey filled with struggle, longing, and hope.

Dollar, now 28, told The Daily Star, "I often asked myself if I would ever see my father again."

Overwhelmed by emotion, he struggled to say much more.

For years, Dollar and his siblings visited countless offices and sought help from numerous people to bring their father back, but each attempt ended in heartbreak.

Two months ago, however, hope was reignited when a person provided Dollar with the address of the BRAC Migration Welfare Centre.

Without delay, he went to BRAC, where his journey to reunite with his father finally found a ray of hope.

BRAC gathered the necessary details and started working to resolve the complexities surrounding Robiul's return.

Their efforts bore fruit yesterday, bringing an end to the 18-year-long wait and struggle.

## Acquire legal

FROM PAGE 5

nationals who are living in Bangladesh without valid visas to promptly take necessary action as per existing regulations, warning that failure to do so would result in legal repercussions.

As of December 13, there are around 1,19,000 foreigners living in Bangladesh.

At least 30,000 foreign nationals, mostly from India and China, are currently residing in Bangladesh with expired visas, according to sources at an intelligence agency and the visa wing of the Department of Immigration and Passports.

As of December 13, around 45,000 Indians were living in Bangladesh, with most of them here in a professional capacity and the rest being students.

A senior official at an intelligence agency, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Daily Star, "The visas of at least 60 percent of the Indians residing in Bangladesh have expired," suggesting that around 27,000 Indian nationals are staying with expired visas.

Chinese nationals rank second in terms

of foreigners living in Bangladesh with expired visas, according to the Special Branch (SB) database. There are about 10,500 Chinese nationals currently living in Bangladesh, and 40 percent of their visas have expired, said intelligence officials.

The database shows that around 13,000 US nationals are in the country, but many of them hold dual citizenship.

Other foreign nationals include 7,500 from the UK, 4,500 from Canada, 3,500 from Nepal, 4,500 from Russia, 4,500 from Japan, 2,500 from Sri Lanka, 2,000 from Pakistan, 2,000 from Italy, 500 from Belarus, 500 from Indonesia, 500 from Japan, 300 from Bhutan, 150 from Portugal, 100 from Finland, and 22 from Argentina.

Additionally, there are 17,928 nationals from other countries, many of whom are from African nations.

Apart from Indian and Chinese nationals, around 1,017 South Korean citizens, 187 Sri Lankans, 231 UK citizens, 97 Canadians, and 461 Nigerians are staying in Bangladesh with expired visas.

## AL destroyed

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administration's "state-sponsored atrocities", alleging that it had used state-owned weapons to kill citizens in order to maintain power.

"Such actions disqualify them from participating in politics. Even after being ousted, they continue to conspire against the country's stability," he said.

He reiterated Jamaat's commitment to building a corruption-free society, where young people could find jobs based on merit, and women could move freely and safely.

"We seek justice for all, without forcing people to beg at the doors of the courts," he said.

**PRAYER TIMING**  
**DECEMBER 27**

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-25 12-30 3-45 5-24 7-00  
JAMAAT 6-00 1-15 4-00 5-27 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Commission to uncover domestic

FROM PAGE 3

to relevant authorities, including the chief adviser, to secure necessary secretariat support.

It will request additional facilities, such as security for its members and their families, transport, secretariat and office resources. It will also propose granting the commission chief a position equivalent to an adviser to effectively deal with domestic and foreign stakeholders.

Additionally, the commission will suggest that its other members receive a status equivalent to that of judges of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, said the commission chief.

After securing these

provisions, the commission has a plan to hold its next meeting and begin taking statements.

"After every meeting, if necessary, we will update the media to ensure transparency and keep the nation informed," the Major Gen said.

When asked about aligning the commission's investigation with the International Crimes Tribunal, he stated that they will seek the inclusion of four legal experts specialising in civil, criminal, military, and international law.

He said the commission will consider measures to prevent individuals involved from leaving the country, following discussions with commission members.

Regarding extradition, he said efforts will be made to contact individuals living abroad through the foreign ministry.

If extradition proves impossible, a team will be sent to record their statements.

On December 23, the government formed the seven-member commission to reinvestigate the BDR massacre and uncover the nature of the crimes committed during, before, and after the killings.

The commission has been tasked with submitting a report within 90 days.

"We hope to complete our report within the designated time. If delays occur for valid reasons, we will seek an extension," he concluded.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Press Information Department (PID)  
Ministry of Information & Broadcasting  
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka

Memo No. 15.52.0000.012.07.007.18/1387 Date: 24.12.2024

**e-Tender Notice**

e-Tender is invited in the national portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of goods as stated below:

S. No.	Tender ID, Reference No.	Procurement Nature, Title	Type, Method	Publishing Date, Closing Date
1	1055833, 15.52.0000.012.07.007.18-1387	Goods, Procurement of desktop and laptop computer	NCT, OTM	26-Dec-2024 11:00:00, 15-Jan-2025 17:00:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no hard/offline copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the national e-GP portal is required

Md. Jubayer Hossain  
Information Officer  
255101065

GD-1281

**ফ্র্যাট বিক্রয়**  
আগামী ৩ জনতা হাউজিং-এ ১৩২৫  
বর্গফুটের দক্ষিণমুখী নির্মানাধীন ফ্র্যাট।  
ম্যাজিক ব্রিকস হোল্ডিংস লিমিটেড।  
০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৭  
০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৮

**ফ্র্যাট বিক্রয়**  
বসুন্ধরা ডি-ব্লক- ২০৫০ বর্গফুটের দিলে  
ইউনিটের সোনি ফ্লোরসেস নির্মানাধীন ফ্র্যাট।  
ম্যাজিক ব্রিকস হোল্ডিংস লিমিটেড।  
০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৭  
০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৮

**ফ্র্যাট বিক্রয়**  
বসুন্ধরা এল-ব্লক- একই বিল্ডিং এ ১৫২০  
বর্গফুটের ৩ টি রেডি ফ্র্যাট।  
ম্যাজিক ব্রিকস হোল্ডিংস লিমিটেড।  
০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৭  
০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৮

**TUITION WANTED**  
15 years of experience Maths teacher wants to teach O-A Level (Edexcel, Cambridge) Q/P solve, Mock test.  
B.Sc (Hons), M.Sc (Math), DU.  
DIPAK BARMAN  
01712018889, 01777846252

**EGM 2025**  
St. Joseph Old Boys' Foundation (SJOBF)

The Executive Committee of St. Joseph Old Boys' Foundation (SJOBF) requests the members to join the Extraordinary General Meeting of 2025 to be held at Gulshan Club, Dhaka on Friday, January 24, 2025 at 4:00PM.

Agenda has been sent to all registered life members through email. In case if any life members missed the email notifications, please sent an email for requesting the agenda at "[sjofb.2025@gmail.com](mailto:sjofb.2025@gmail.com)"

**Extraordinary General Meeting**  
Venue: Gulshan Club  
NWJ-2/A, Bir Uttom Sultan Mahmud Road, Gulshan Ave, Dhaka  
Date: January 24, 2025 (Friday)  
Time: 4:00 PM onwards

GD-1278

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ  
সড়ক বিভাগ, গোপালগঞ্জ  
টেলিফোনঃ ০২৪৭৯৯৬১৬৭৮  
ইমেইলঃ [eegopal@rhd.gov.bd](mailto:eegopal@rhd.gov.bd)

স্মারক নংঃ ৩৫.০১.৩৫০০.৪২৮.১৮.০০১.২৪-৩২৪৪ তারিখঃ ২৬/১২/২০২৪

**জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, গোপালগঞ্জ সড়ক বিভাগাধীন টুঙ্গিপাড়া-কোটালীপাড়া(মাঝবাড়ী) (জেড-৮৪৩০) সড়কের চেইনেজ ১৩+৬৭৯ কিলোমিটার কোটালীপাড়া উপজেলাধীন বর্ষাপাড়া নামক স্থানে নতুন একটি ব্রিজ নির্মাণের জন্য ডাইভার্সন নির্মাণ করা হয়েছে। এখন পুরাতন ব্রিজটি ভাঙ্গা শুরু করা হবে। ব্রিজ নির্মাণকালীন সময়ে সতর্কতার সঙ্গে ডাইভার্সনটি ব্যবহার করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

সরকারী কাজের স্বার্থে জেলা প্রশাসন, গোপালগঞ্জ এর নির্দেশনা মোতাবেক এ বিজ্ঞপ্তি জারী করা হলো। সাময়িক অসুবিধার জন্য আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখিত।

২৬.১২.২৭  
মোঃ আজহারুল ইসলাম  
পরিচিতি নংঃ ৬০২৩০৬  
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (চ.দা.), সওজ  
সড়ক বিভাগ, গোপালগঞ্জ

GD-1278