



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."

RMG workers block highway for arrears

UNB, Gazipur

Workers of a readymade garment factory blocked the Chandra-Nabinagar highway in Gazipur yesterday, demanding two months' arrears.

The blockade disrupted vehicular movement, but traffic between Dhaka and northern districts remained operational via another route.

The agitated workers of Hardy Associates Ltd alleged that the factory authorities promised to pay their arrears but failed to do so. On December 23, the factory was closed without settling the unpaid wages, leaving workers with no choice but to take to the streets.

Mizanur Rahman, superintendent of Gazipur Industrial Police, said workers were driven to protest as the management did not pay their due wages.

Free judiciary from

FROM PAGE 3

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

FROM PAGE 3

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?

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.

Family reunited

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.

AL destroyed

FROM PAGE 3

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 Fazlur Rahman 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. 15.52.0000.012.07.007.18/1387Date : 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

আপার্পীও জনতা হাউজিং-এ ১৩২৫ বর্গফুটের দক্ষিণমুখী নির্মানাধীন ফ্র্যাট।
ম্যাজিক ব্রিকস হোল্ডিংস লিঃ।
০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৭
০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৮

ফ্র্যাট বিক্রয়

বসুন্ধরা ডি-ব্লকে ২০৫০ বর্গফুটের সিলেব ইউনিটের সেনি ফ্লোরারফেস নির্মানাধীন ফ্র্যাট।
ম্যাজিক ব্রিকস হোল্ডিংস লিঃ।
০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৮
০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৬

ফ্র্যাট বিক্রয়

বসুন্ধরা এল-ব্লকে একই বিল্ডিং এ ১৫২০ বর্গফুটের ৩ টি রেডি ফ্র্যাট।
ম্যাজিক ব্রিকস হোল্ডিংস লিঃ।
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"

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

স্মারক নংঃ ৩৫.০১.৩৫০০.৪২৮.১৮.০০১.২৪-৩২৪৪তারিখঃ ২৬/১২/২০২৪

জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, গোপালগঞ্জ সড়ক বিভাগাধীন টুঙ্গিপাড়া-কোটালীপাড়া(মারাবাড়ী) (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 নির্দশনা 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