

Biman earns Tk 44 crore through austerity

BSS, Dhaka

The national flag carrier, Biman, saved Tk 44 crore through austerity in several heads during 2002-2003 fiscal year.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry sources said Biman earned Tk 86.39 lakh by leasing out its 500-vehicle capacity car park to private enterprise last year.

In addition, Biman completed a number of development projects including connecting channel between the international and domestic terminals at Zia International Airport (ZIA), boundary wall around ZIA's runway, expansion of runway of Sylhet Osmani International Airport, and increased utilisation of Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport.

Besides, Silk Air of Singapore and Thai Airways have introduced their direct air services in international routes in Bangladesh.

The sources said Biman also saved Tk two crore through bargaining over normal and regular rent of two DC-10-30 and two airbuses last year. Biman saved Tk 40 crore in foreign exchange by carrying Hajji passengers by its own aircraft instead of leasing airbuses for this purpose in last Hajji season.

The sources said as the quality of food of BFCC have been improved many international airlines including British Airways, Uzbekistan Airways, Qatar Airways, Iran and Dragon Airway have started taking food from Biman's caterer. It would help earn Tk 5.50 crore during 2002-2003, two crore more than the earning of the previous year.

The sources said another Tk two crore would be saved owing to 25 per cent cut in manpower strength of Biman's foreign stations. The national flag carrier would also save a significant amount of money in foreign exchange through carrying out maintenance and overhauling of its aircraft in its own hanger.

Biman succeeded in curtailing Tk 3.11 through bargaining hotel rents of its crew members support during their overseas stay. The authorities also directed to reduce 25 per cent of overtime expenses at the first

phase.

The sources said a number of reform measures have been taken to make services of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation more dynamic and profitable. As part of this programme, the corporation set up motels at Bogra, Benapol,

Sagardari, Bandarban and Khagrachhari.

Besides, the management of a number of services of the corporation were handed over to some private enterprises to involve private sector in expansion and development of tourism.



Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rafi Karim, a two-year nine-month-old child, has been suffering from Thalassaemia, says a press release.

Doctors said Tk 30 lakh is needed for his treatment.

But his poor father, Reza-e-Karim, is unable to manage such a huge amount of money.

So, in order to save his child from untimely death, he has sought financial help from people of all walks of life.

Contributions can be sent to Rafi Karim, Savings Account No 75963-3, Agrani Bank Head Office, Motijheel, Dhaka, or Rafi Karim, Savings Account No 3712, Uttara Bank Limited, Magura branch, Magura-7600, or Rafi Karim, C/O Reza-e-Karim, Bhayna, Munshipara, Magura-7600, Mobile: 018817425.

BSP meets today

BSS, Dhaka

An emergency meeting of Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Parishad (BSP) will be held today at 7pm at Dainik Deshjanata office in the city.

All members have been requested to attend the meeting to discuss matters relating to DFP's advertisement distribution, a press release said.

Navy College opens in Khulna

Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Shah Iqbal Mujtaba yesterday inaugurated Bangladesh Navy College on the Sailors' Colony premises at Mujgunni in Khulna on Saturday, says an ISPR press release.

Admiral Mujtaba unveiled the plaque and later offered munajat alongwith the officers, teachers and students.

The different faculties include Science, Arts and Commerce. The newly inaugurated college will remain open to the students of the locality as well.

Later, Admiral Mujtaba went to the BNS Titumir and distributed Advance Supply and Secretariat certificates among the student officers.

Speaking on the occasion the Navy Chief hoped that the student officers would make the best use of the valuable training which they acquired from the course.