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(From left) Sri Lankan Deputy Foreign Minister D P Wickremasinghe, Bangladeshi State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Thai Deputy Foreign Minister Pitak Intrawityanunt and Indian Minister of State Saleem Igbal Shervani toast after the signing of the Bangladesh-India-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation (BIST-EC) treaty on Friday.

Biman's sales earning up by Tk 55cr

By Masud Arif

Biman Bangladesh Airlines earned Tk 1085.38 crore from sales during the first eleven months of the current financial year (1996-97) which is Tk 55 crore more than that of the corresponding period last year.

Biman sources said 85 per cent of the earning was from carrying passengers. The airline carried 13.20 lakh passengers during this period which was 60,000 more than that of the previous year. But it carried 300 tonnes less goods during this period compared to the previous years.

These figures were released at the 15th System Marketing conference of the Biman held in city from June 1 to 4. All country, district and station managers of about 35 offices of the Biman at home and abroad participated in the conference.

It was also announced at the conference that agreements have been signed allowing Biman flights from Dubai to Tehran, from Kuala Lumpur to Manila and for two flights a week to Rome instead of one now.

The conference discussed and analysed various ways to

increase the airline's earnings and cut expenditure to make it more profitable.

An amount of Tk 3 crore was saved during the eleven-month period through more efficient deployment of crew and better utilisation of their lay over time. An amendment to fuel purchase policy also saved another Tk 7 crore a year.

Biman officials said they hoped the airline would earn an additional Tk 15 crore by re-adjusting fares in different routes.

Meanwhile, Biman has introduced package deals in six of its international destinations — Amsterdam, Brussels, Frankfurt, Paris, Rome and Tokyo — to attract tourists.

Biman, established in January 1972, has now a fleet of four DC-10-30s, two Airbus A310-300s, two F-28s and two ATP aircraft.

The sources said the airline needs more pilots, engineers and technical staff because of the variety of aircraft in Biman's fleet.

Biman now flies to eight destinations in the country and 26 destinations in three continents.

Historic June 7 observed

The historic June 7 was observed throughout the country yesterday commemorating the nation's glorious struggle for realisation of the six-point demand including autonomy for the then East Pakistan, now Bangladesh, reports BSS.

On this day in 1966, the Awami League observed an all-out hartal in support of the six-point demand. A number of activists including Manu Mia, a railway worker at Tejgaon area in the city were killed in police firing.

The six-point movement led by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman culminated in the mass upsurge of 1969, which ultimately led to the liberation of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Awami League and its front organisations and several other organisations arranged separate programmes to mark the occasion.

The programmes included the hoisting of national and party flags in the morning atop Bangabandhu Bhaban, Awami League central office and all other party offices across the country, assembly and placing of wreaths at the portraits of fathers of the nation, holding of meetings and rallies.

At the main programme in the capital Prime Minister and party chief Sheikh Hasina along with party leaders placed wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu at Bangabandhu Bhaban in the morning.

They observed one minute's silence as a mark of respect to those including the Bangabandhu who had laid down their lives for the cause of the nation.

Later, leaders and workers of the Awami League Dhaka City Unit, central leaders of Mahila Awami League, Awami Juba League, Jatiya Sramik League, Bangladesh Chhatra League and several other organisations also placed wreaths at the portrait of the Bangabandhu.

Awami League's front organisation Jatiya Sramik League arranged a workers' rally at Tejgaon industrial area. Sheikh Hasina addressed the rally as the chief guest.

Benapole

From Page 1 sent to jail here recently in connection with a road accident that left a young Bangladeshi child dead.

Sources said Sharsa thana police arrested an Indian driver Sunil Roy and his helper Nazrul from inside Bangladesh when their truck hit and killed a child on the spot on May 27. Later, the two Indians were sent to jail by the court.

Protesting their arrest, Indian truck drivers and workers gave a strike call on May 30 demanding unconditional release of them and vowed to continue the strike unless they were released.

Police said the deceased were buried without autopsy. They have left behind one son and four daughters.

Couple commit suicide

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, June 7: Two persons — husband and wife — allegedly committed suicide at Barnandanga village under Digholia thana Friday night, police said.

Abdur Rouf, 55, committed suicide by hanging with a rope from a tree reportedly due to poverty.

Soon after finding him dead, his wife, Manjila, also committed suicide by hanging with her saree from another tree.

Police said the deceased were buried without autopsy. They have left behind one son and four daughters.

Road accident

From Page 1

and rushed to the Jessor hospital. His condition was stated to be serious.

According to police, the truck ran over the van at 10:30 am killing the occupants of the van.

After the accident, angry people blocked the road for over 3 hours.

A case was recorded with Kaliganj police station.

Police seized the truck, but the driver escaped.

Storm

From Page 1 when storm lashed eight unions in Sadar and Kamarkhand thanas of the Sirajganj district today.

Witnesses said more than 500 kutch houses were damaged and several hundred trees uprooted by the strong wind that lasted only for 15 minutes.

Shukur, 54, an inhabitant of Kura village in Kamarkhand thana, and Amzad, 56 of Selomdaha village in Sadar, were buried alive under their houses. Four of the injured were admitted to local hospitals.

The press release said the another agreement for private sector power generation may be signed within the next week.

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The Daily Star

120 Shi'ite Muslims arrested in Kabul

KABUL, June 7: Taliban soldiers swept through the war-weary Afghan capital arresting at least 120 Shi'ite Muslims they suspected of plotting their overthrow, security officials said today, reports AP.

Taliban soldiers, most of whom are Sunni Muslims like most Afghans, have been wary of their Shi'ite brethren since last week's massacre in the northern Afghan city of Mazar-e-Sharif.

Then at least 300 Taliban soldiers were massacred by rebelling Shi'ite Muslims, known as Hazaras — named for the region in Afghanistan they come from — as well as their former Uzbek allies.

The Taliban's defeat in Mazar-e-Sharif was their first real setback since beginning their sweep through Afghanistan three years ago.

The Taliban, made up of ethnic Pashtuns, controls roughly two-thirds of the country where it has imposed its version of strict Islamic rule.

The northern one-third of the country is ruled by an alliance that includes minority Shi'ite Muslims, ethnic Uzbeks, ousted military chief Ahmed Shah Massoud, Ismaili Muslims, former prime minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and a small royalist party.

"We believe they are launching a coup or plan to launch attacks around the city," Haji Jumadi, security department director told The Associated Press.

Police said the clash occurred over the formation of a mosque committee in Khudra Gozal village.

The arrested are Tota Mia, Shamim, Shah Alam, Rafiqul Islam, Nazrul Islam, Abdus Sattar, Osman Gani and Abdul Gafur.

Four of the injured were rushed to Purnimangati hospital.

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