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The World on Time



Monsoon rains throughout the day yesterday disrupted normal life in the city.

—Star photo

## PAC report placed in JS Formation of audit cell in each ministry suggested

The Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) placed its first report before the House yesterday suggesting formation of audit cell with adequate manpower headed by a joint secretary in each ministry to ensure accountability, reports UNB.

In the 196-page report, placed by its Chairman S M Akram, the committee recommended that the audit cells be created reorganising the existing manpower and functions in the ministries or by hiring additional manpower.

The committee heard audit objections, audit remarks and related issues from the Principal Accounting Officers, who are also the secretaries, and senior executives of different agencies and made a nine-point recommendation.

The committee noted that audit objections and remarks on those had piled up in every ministry since 1971, and in many cases, some ministries are not aware about the existence of old audit reports.

Police arrested two persons identified as Gulzar Hossain, 40, and Momitz Alam, 25, in connection with the killing. Sabir's father filed a murder case.

The committee initially reviewed 128 audit objections and audit remarks in its first 10 sittings and observed delays in taking necessary and effective measures by the ministries regarding audit objections.

The committee, in this context, reported delay by 77.54 months by the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry, 75.23 months by Water Resources Ministry, 72.79 months by Post and Telecommunications Ministry, 67.04 months by Housing and Public Works Ministry, 54.13 months by Communications Ministry and 35 months by Cabinet Division.

"This is unthinkable in an environment of accountability," it commented and directed

## Private train service

From page 1  
train compartments. They are neater and I think the company is trying to maintain quality service."

Rezaul Karim, who has travelled in the route for the past five years, agreed. "The private service seems much better in terms of comfort as they are taking special care for the passengers on board," he said.

Bangladesh Railway has provided two trains, each having five compartments, for plying in the route. But one is new and well-equipped.

But all the passengers were not satisfied with the service. "The service is satisfactory but the timing has not improved," said passenger.

Yesterday the two scheduled trains arrived 20 and 15 minutes late. "The main goal of the private service is providing faster, comfortable service for the commuters who want to avoid traffic congestion, especially at Jatrabari on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway," said the passenger.

A ticket booth manager at the Kamalapur Railway Station said there was a rush of passengers during the evening departure hours from Dhaka at 5.30 pm while similar rush is observed at Narayanganj station during the day's first schedule at 6.40 am.

Manumon Rashid, a supervisor of the train service, said the passengers are mostly office and garment workers who tend to catch the early morning service.

The poor condition of the rail track poses a danger, complained Mozammel Hossain, chairman of the company. "The

**Editor : Mahfuz Anam**

Printed by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 and published by him on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 50092-4, Commercial: 500091, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Email: dstar@bangla.net

## Strike by flight attendants: BA asks passengers to reschedule flights

By Staff Correspondent

The three-day strike of the flight attendants of British Airways (BA), which began yesterday, did not affect its Dhaka London service.

BA has made alternative arrangements transferring its passengers to Thai Airways and other airlines, according to officials at its Dhaka station.

Passengers booked for today's and next day's flights were earlier advised to either cancel or reroute the flight by Thai via Bangkok or other airlines or take a refund of tickets.

BA sources said, their offices in Gulshan and Motijheel will remain open from 9 am to 5 pm on Friday and Saturday to cope with the situation.

## One found dead at Syadabad bus terminal

By Staff Correspondent

A young man was found dead at the Syadabad bus terminal in the city yesterday afternoon.

Police said a group of unidentified people had left the body in front of the main building of the terminal at about 2:30 pm. He was wearing a lungi when a police patrol team recovered the body.

The body was sent to the Mithford Hospital morgue for autopsy. A murder case was lodged with Demra thana. None was arrested till last night.

## Bill passed

From page 1

At that stage, all the BNP lawmakers sprang to their feet to draw the Chair's attention that once endorsed, an amendment could not be rejected.

Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury sought the Law Minister's suggestion on the issue. Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru gave his view that there was no way back and a fresh bill would have to be tabled later if the House wants to do away with the amendment that the state minister had mistakenly taken as to have been accepted.

Starting at 8:15 pm, the process of passage of the bill continued till 11 pm and the House was adjourned immediately without finishing two other businesses of the day.

The Suppression of Offences Against Biman Security 1997, was passed with an aim to implement the Tokyo Convention, 'Hague Convention' and 'Montreal Convention', said the State Minister while proposing passage of the bill.

A number of BNP lawmakers, however, demanded for soliciting public opinion on the bill before its passage.

## Biman crew

From page 1

terrogated more than 35 people include some policemen in Tejgaon and Surtrapur thanas and the police personnel who were on duty when Nuruzzaman died in custody. Family members of Nuruzzaman and the persons who signed the inquest report prepared by a magistrate have also been interrogated.

Nuruzzaman Sharif, 37, died after he was taken to the court custody in the city after two days police remand on June 16.

The inquest report said there was no mark of injury but an old black scar in the right hand. But the autopsy report of the Forensic Department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, however, said the Nuruzzaman died following physical torture resulting in internal haemorrhage.

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# The Daily Star

## Withdraw false case against Alamgir Kabir MP: BNP

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has protested the filing of a false case and issuing warrant of arrest against Alamgir Kabir, MP, reports UNB.

In a statement yesterday, he alleged that police are also harassing the family members of Kabir, the Education Affairs Secretary of BNP.

Bhuiyan said the filing of case and issuing warrant of arrest against a parliament member during its session is a rare incident and it's tantamount to honouring the parliament."

The BNP Secretary General said Alamgir Kabir has raised his voice against irregularities in appointment of fertiliser dealers in Naogaon district and brought corruption charges.

Following this protest, he said, the government has filed the false case and issued warrant of arrest.

The BNP leader demanded immediate withdrawal of the false case against Alamgir Kabir MP, judicial inquiry into the alleged irregularities in appoint-

**Body of Mahbub arrives tomorrow**

By Staff Correspondent

The body of Mahbub, who died in the wheel carriage of a Biman Airbus in May, will arrive in Dhaka from Riyadh Friday morning.

A Biman official said the Saudi authorities have confirmed that the body would be sent to Dhaka by Biman flight BG-040 which was scheduled to land at Zia International Airport (ZIA) at 8:15 am.

Mahbub, son of Moazzam Hossain of Surikati village under Sawrakhati thana in Pirojpur district, was found dead in the wheel carriage when the Biman Airbus landed at Riyadh Airport in the early hours of May 24.

Two ministers and senior officials of Biman are expected to receive the body at the air port. Later, the body of Mahbub and a cheque of Tk one lakh will be handed over to his family.

**Written test of 18th BCS exams from Aug 26**

The written test of the 18th BCS examinations (1996-97) will begin on August 26, reports UNB.

The detailed schedule of the examinations will be announced through daily newspapers in time, said an official handout yesterday.

It said the candidates will have to come to the examination halls alongwith the admit-cards issued during the preliminary test as no fresh admit-cards would be issued for the written test.

Meanwhile, police arrested three persons identified as Shamim, Tipu and Wahab in connection with the violence.

However, Mohammadpur police said the FIR named accused could not be held till last night.

A dweller of the slum, Md. Abul, filed a case with Mohammadpur thana in this connection.

**JS standing bodies**

From page 1

Khandaker Delwar, who is also Chief Whip of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsads appreciated the attitude Nasim has shown on Tuesday night but reminded him of the BNP position on the composition of parliamentary bodies.

According to the BNP estimate, the party is supposed to get three members each in 20 committees and four members each in 15 committees. On the share of chairmanship of parliamentary bodies, the BNP which has 113 members in the 330-member house claims that it is entitled to head 12 committees.

"Although a slight difference of opinion was still there, the negotiators were unanimous on the fact that conducting the affairs of the House on the basis of mutual cooperation was imperative for a really effective parliamentary democracy," one source said.

At the meeting between the two leaders, Khandaker Delwar referred to the dispute over the

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Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury sought the Law Minister's suggestion on the issue. Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru gave his view that there was no way back and a fresh bill would have to be tabled later if the House wants to do away with the amendment that the state minister had mistakenly taken as to have been accepted.

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Following this protest, he said, the government has filed the false case and issued warrant of arrest.

The BNP leader demanded immediate withdrawal of the false case against Alamgir Kabir MP, judicial inquiry into the alleged irregularities in appoint-

ment of the fertiliser dealers and replacement and trial of the corrupt people, or else. He warned the government will have to shoulder the responsibility.

In a separate statement, Mannan Bhuiyan condemned the filing of 'false' cases against 31 BNP leaders and workers, including Moheshpur thana BNP general secretary and UP chairman Rafiqul Islam of Jhenaidah.

He said the murder which took place at Moheshpur was the outcome of a long-running conflict between two factions of ruling Awami League over the possession of a 'baor'.

**Emission of gas from tubewell in Sylhet**

SYLHET, July 9: A tubewell at Buridih village of Companiganj thana suddenly started emitting gas with a burst on Tuesday morning, reports UNB.

Sources said the gas started coming out at 10 am from the tubewell owned by one Rashid Mia of the village.

Local police and land commissioner visited the spot. Police have been deployed in the house.

**Hasina calls on Shahabuddin**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban and briefed him about her recent visit to Japan, reports UNB.

Hasina also apprised him of her forthcoming visit to Germany, beginning July 13, and said she would attend a seminar on Adult Education there.

The Prime Minister told the President that her objectives to attract private investment from Japan and get official assistance for important development projects in Bangladesh had been achieved.

The visit will provide impetus to the Japanese assistance for the economic development of the country," said Sheikh Hasina, adding that she received positive response from the Japanese investors.

**PM's directive to draw up plans for establishing EPZ in Ishwardi**

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) to draw up necessary plans for establishing an export processing zone at Ishwardi, reports BSS.

The directive came yesterday at the 13th meeting of the BEPZA board of governors meeting, held at the International Conference Centre (ICC) with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

He said his job was to copy the duty roaster used to be given to each of the PA-cum-receptionists who were on duty at the residence of Bangabandhu. The original copy used to be preserved at the president's secretariat.

The main responsibility of the job was to receive phone calls and connect people on the phone.

He said he was aware that KM Shafullah was the then Chief of Army Staff of Bangladesh Army.

When asked about Air Commodore AK Khandaker, who was then head of Bangladesh Air Force and Admiral M H Khan head of Bangladesh Navy, he answered that he could not remember their names at that moment.

About Col Shafayet Jamil who was commander of the 26th Brigade and Col A Rab, who was the then DG, DFI, Muhibul said that he did not know about their postings. He was not aware that Col Hasan was in charge of the Rakki Bahini of the night of the occurrence.

He said he remembered that Khaled Mosharraf, HM Ershad and MA Manzoor were all high officials of the army. He also remembered that Ziaur Rahman was at that time the Deputy Chief of the Army.

He, however, could not remember immediately whether Nurul Islam was then IG of Police.