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## Biman to raise domestic fare from October

By Special Correspondent

Bangladesh Biman is going to raise its fare in the domestic sector from October, next, even as it is losing its domestic and regional passengers to other airlines, both local and foreign. However it managed steady growth in the international sectors, both passenger and freight. There was a hike in the freight service charges, officials said.

The justification for the domestic fare hike is to bring it in par with the rival private airlines which operate with fewer aircraft and lower overhead.

Foreign airlines took away 59 percent of outgoing passengers and brought 57 percent of the incoming, leaving Biman the rest. In absolute terms, however, there was a rise as the national airline ferried 662,555 passengers in 1996-97, 662,128 in 1997-98 and 699,271 in 1998-99, they told reporters yesterday.

At a briefing at Biman head office after a review of the national carrier's marketing, last week.

The Indian Airlines once known for its erratic schedules overtook Biman's profitable Dhaka-Calcutta regional service, taking away 10,000 passengers last year, operating wide body Airbus five days a week. Biman even failed to maintain its three flights a day by F-28s due to aircraft shortage and operating wide body aircraft infrequently.

Overall the national carrier turned out a 2.66 percent growth in revenues and is looking ahead to improve the situation from the winter beginning end October, when it hopes to press all three of its F-28s and add a fifth DC-10-30 to the three- engine vintage work force of the airline, having four such second hand aircraft.

It is also planning to add another Airbus to join its two medium haul Airbus fleet, Waliul Huq Khandaker, director, marketing informed. The debacle in domestic sector was attributed to a small fleet of four aircraft: Two F-28s and a similar number of ATPs. They have

been flying both on internal and regional routes.

The crash of a F-28 in Sylhet in December, 1997 and an inoperational ATP earlier in June that year, after it skidded off the runway while landing in Chittagong, took a heavy toll on the airline's passenger carrying capacity.

In 1996-97 Biman carried 497,339 passengers on the domestic routes which declined to 391,101 and 367,230 in 1998-99 fiscal year marking a shortfall of 112,000 passengers. The situation is likely to improve from October when the F-28 currently undergoing D-check abroad rejoins the fleet.

But the disruption in schedules has helped the private airlines like GMG which has two 36 seat aircraft and Air Parabat having two 19-seat planes, the official said.

In the international sector the Gulf route continued to spin money. Revenues in the European routes were break-even, while the north American service was running at a loss.

The Tokyo flight, as a segment of the Bangkok to Tokyo route has become break even. Services to Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur are losing money as manpower recruitment in Malaysia abated. Carrying of cargo with Korean Air suffered a set back last year after the crash of a Korean Air MD-11 freighter which led to suspension of the service by the airline that mainly hauled garments to North America. Biman is currently negotiating with British Airways for the cargo service after botched talks with Saudia. Korean Air is however, likely to resume the service, the officials said.

On the reduction of aviation fuel price secretary, civil aviation said the matter is still being considered by the government which is examining the price in the regional airports. A delegation from the IATA recently was in Dhaka to discuss the issue which they said is one of the factor that is inhibiting the Bangladesh capital from becoming a regional aviation.

## Speaker refers case

From Page 1

The Speaker's office went to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court and appealed against the High Court verdict. The SC in a verdict on July 29 upheld the HC verdict and asked the Speaker to comply with the HC verdict in seven days from the receipt of the order.

The Speaker's office then moved a petition to a Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division for extending the time. On behalf of the Speaker, the Attorney General sought 15 days time from the receipt of the copy of the judgement to comply with the SC order.

The Appellate Division outright rejected the prayer yesterday.

### 20 BAU students fall sick after breakfast

MYMENSINGH, Aug 8: At least 20 students of Mymensingh Agricultural University fell sick after breakfast at a hall canteen today, reports UNB.

Campus sources said at least 20 students of Bangabandhu Hall fell sick after they went to classes. The hall canteen was inaugurated today.

Eight of the seriously ill students identified as Rafiqul Islam, Sudhanshu, Monir Hossain, Sadhon Guha, Mahbubul Alam, Morshed, Mamunuzzaman and Harun were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

### Khulna BNP convening body

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 8: A new Convening Committee of Khulna District BNP has been formed with former whip of the Jatiya Sangsad and joint secretary of the party's central committee Ashraf Hossain as convener and Advocate Shafiqul Alam as member secretary.

The 61-member new convening committee was announced by the secretary general of the party Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, MP.

The new committee has been asked to hold council session within next three months.

Meantime, Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury and Khandaker Delwar Hossain prayed before the Appellate Division yesterday morning for drawing contempt proceedings against the Speaker on the ground that he failed to comply with the Supreme Court order in seven days time from the receipt of the order.

Barrister Moudud Ahmed who appeared for the plaintiffs in the contempt case told The Daily Star yesterday evening, "It is good that the Speaker eventually complied with the court order. We are thinking whether to pursue the contempt case under the new circumstances."

Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury told the BBC that he had never thought of disobeying the court order. "As the matter is related to the sovereignty of parliament and other constitutional issues, we wanted a copy of the text of the judgement so that we could take steps after examining it," the Speaker said. "The SC did not grant us time. Even then, showing respect to the Supreme Court, we sent the matter to the Election Commission."

### Transport workers' leaders to sit with minister again today

Talks between Bangladesh Transport Workers' Federation leaders and the Communication Minister yesterday yielded no results, reports UNB. The leaders of Bangladesh Road Transport Workers' Federation will meet Communication Minister Anwar Hossain at his ministry again at 4 pm today.

The Federation has completed its preparation to make the planned strike a success. It took out a transport procession in the city yesterday to muster support for the proposed strike to realise its 11-point demand.

Prior to the procession, Federation president Wazid Khan MP told a workers' rally at Mohakhali Bus Terminal that they would go for non-stop strike across the country from August 10 if their demands were not met.



Liton (C) of Muktiyoddha trying to burst through a couple of Mohammedan defenders during their Premier league Super Four encounter yesterday. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman

## Muktijoddha maul MSC

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting holds an enviable track record in domestic football. The revered side with a glorious past has won most titles in Dhaka football. But yesterday the flood-lit Bangabandhu National Stadium became a living nightmare for the popular Motijheel outfit when Muktiyoddha Sangsad crushed them to an embarrassing 4-1 defeat in a crucial 'super four' match of the Keya Premier Football League.

It was the worst possible defeat for Mohammedan, who had never conceded more than three goals in a match against any side since independence. The outcome also ended Mohammedan's 11-match unbeaten run in the most ignominious way as the reds more than avenged their first-leg 1-0 defeat.

It was a memorable night for the defending champions, who will cherish the flattering victory by the extensive margin for a long time. The win was very significant for Muktiyoddha, who are however still trailing their vanquished opponents by three points.

Mohammedan still holds the reign with 29 points from 12 games, but the humiliating defeat left a severe dent in their pride and was a caustic blow to their smooth sailing in the League thus far.

Although, in the battle of the biggies, Mohammedan eventually managed to evade a defeat by the biggest margin of 4-0, a record they hold against their

arch rivals Abahani, the marauding Muktiyoddha were a wee bit unlucky for failing to rewrite the history books. Former national striker Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib set the pattern of a surprisingly one-sided affair when he opened the floodgate in the 11th minute. The lanky forward, after receiving a ball from Masud Rana from the left, first cracked it against the near post but was quick enough to score from the rebound from an acute angle.

Nakib was again in the thick of things 15 minutes after the lemon break when he took full advantage of a terrible Mohammedan defensive error to score his second goal with a neat grounder past a shaky custodian Ponir.

The double strike from Nakib effectively evaporated hopes of a turnaround after an injury-plagued Mohammedan.

But Muktiyoddha, who were out to completely destroy the

black and whites on a fast ground, made it 3-0 in the 77th minute when their nimble midfielder Liton volleyed home a Hasan al Mamun floater from the right.

The agony of the black-and-white supporters, who had never experienced such a reversal of fortunes, turned into violence when Muktiyoddha substitute Arif Khan Joy punched in the fourth goal eight minutes from the final whistle.

Alfazz scored a late consolation goal for the League leaders, heading home an Anwar-cross from the right. But that was a little too late to stop the incessant brick-batting in the terraces. The brawl among the rival supporters, which left working journalists and radio-men stranded in the middle of a volatile situation, continued long after the long whistle.

**Yellow cards:** Arun, Liton (Muktiyoddha) and Motiur (See page 11 Col 8)

Team	Rank	M	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mohammedan	1st	12	9	2	1	17	7	29
Muktiyoddha	2nd	12	8	2	2	26	11	26
Abahani KC	3rd	12	6	4	2	17	8	22
Arambagh	4th	12	4	3	5	15	17	15
Badda Jagorani	5th	11	5	2	4	15	12	17
Brothers Union	6th	10	3	2	5	14	14	11
Farashganj	7th	10	3	2	5	10	13	11
Fakirerpool	8th	11	2	4	5	10	19	10
Rahmatganj	9th	10	1	6	3	10	13	9
Chalantika	10th	10	0	1	9	9	29	1
		39	28	39	136	136	145	
			117	28	145			

### Postmen in rural areas begin 10-day strike

Postal operations throughout the country came to a halt as thousands of postmen in rural areas went on a 10-day strike yesterday on their three-point demand, reports UNB.

Some 22,000 postal employees of about 10,000 sub and branch post offices in the rural areas went on strike at the call of Bangladesh Postal Employees Parishad (BPEP).

Their demands include bringing of non-postal divisional employees under the national pay scale, allotment of offices for BPEP in GPOs and reinstatement of BPEP secretary general Ashrafur Alam in his service.

Meanwhile, the union at a meeting in the city yesterday halted the postal employees for observing the countrywide strike and urged them to continue strike till August 17.

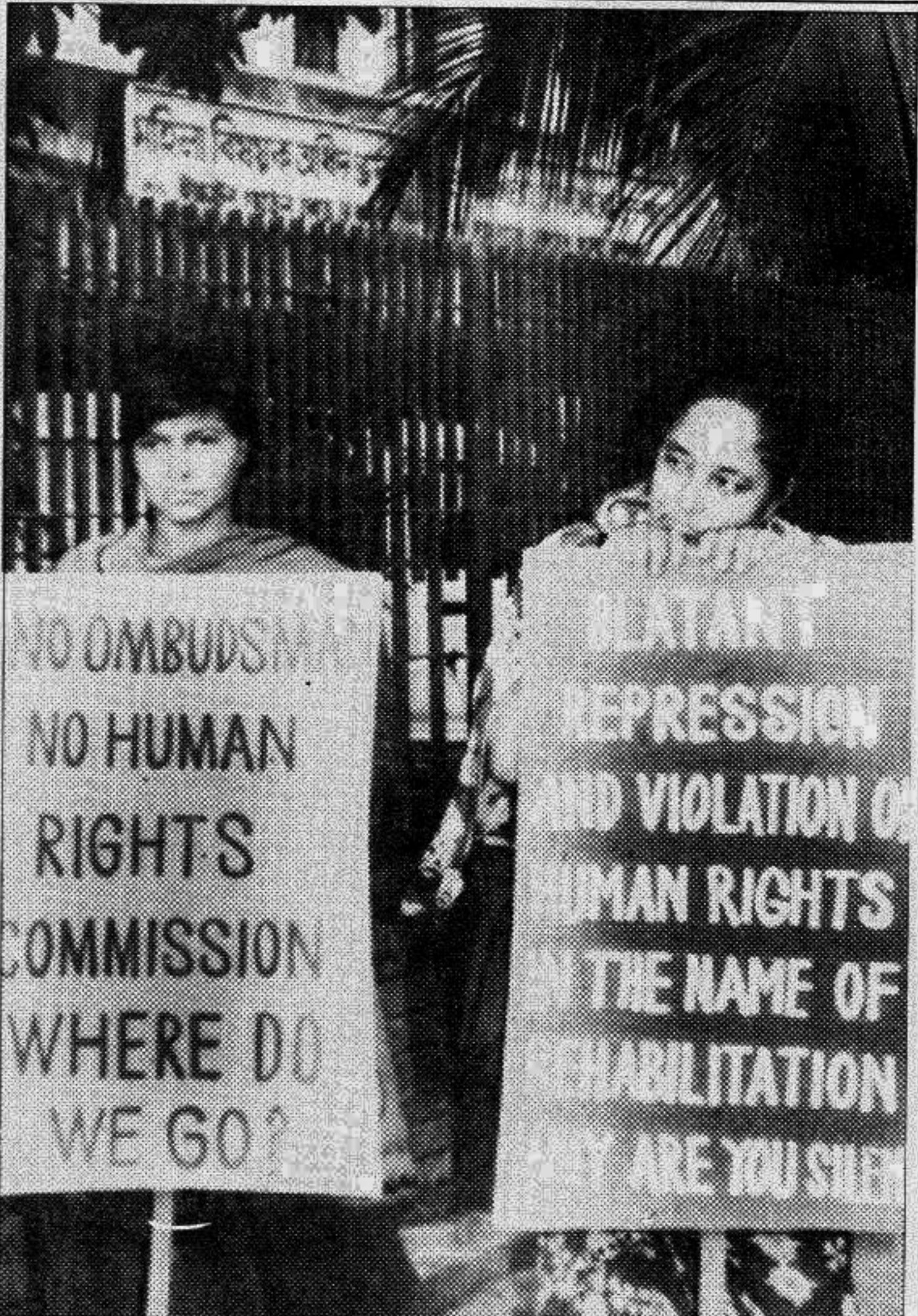
### Sonali Bank

From Page 1

permission. The MD, however, flatly rejected the suggestion on the plea that SB is not a subsidiary of the central bank.

The directors then said unless the issue be referred to Bangladesh Bank they would register their note of dissent.

Later it was decided that Rahman Group's case would be referred to a lawyer for suggestion.



Inhuman saga. Evicted sex workers stage demonstration in front of the Directorate for Women Affairs yesterday. — Star photo

### Tariqul gets ad-interim bail

By SC Correspondent

BNP Vice-chairman Tariqul Islam yesterday got ad-interim anticipatory bail for three months from the High Court in the case of bomb attack on Uddichi cultural programme in Jessore.

The Division Bench of the HC comprising Justice Md Sirajul Islam and Justice M M Ruhul Amin also directed the Deputy Commissioner, Jessore to show cause why Tariqul Islam shall not be enlarged on anticipatory bail in the case.

It was stated in the petition that on August 6 the petitioner came to know from the 'Daily Janakantha' that his name is going to be implicated in the charge-sheet of the case.

Thereafter, all on a sudden on August 6 at about 11:00 pm and on August 7 at about 11:30 pm, without any summons or warrant of arrest, the residence of the petitioner was raided by police, the petition alleged.

Five people were killed and 49 injured in the bomb attack on the cultural function of Uddichi Shilpi Gosthi at Jessore Town Hall.

Barrister Maudud Ahmed with Barrister A M Mahbubuddin, advocate Anwarul Islam Shaheen and Irin Mahbub moved the petition, while senior advocate Habibul Islam Bhuiyan and former Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali and about 20 others were present in the court at the time of hearing of the petition.

### Secretariat calm

By Special Correspondent

The Secretariat remained quiet yesterday.

Police, whose ranks were reinforced with Armed Police Battalion and Riot Police, continued to guard every nook and corner of the Secretariat, including rooftops.

The Secretariat employees are demanding change in office hours and 30 percent dearness allowance.

On Sunday last, a section of the employees staged violent demonstrations following arrest of some of their leaders. But since then, the employees maintained a low profile, exchanging information and cross-checking rumours about disciplinary actions being taken against their leaders.

So far, nine of their leaders have been arrested, at least 40 employees suspended and over 100 asked to show cause for their alleged involvement in incidents last week during which a minister's chamber and offices of some officials were ransacked.

Only two gates of the Secretariat remained open, one for entry and the other for exit.

### JS body to probe irregularities in Postal Deptt

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Post and Telecommunications Ministry at a meeting yesterday formed a three-member sub-committee to probe irregularities in the Postal Department, reports BSS.

Headed by Sharif Khasruzzaman, two other members of the committee are Barkat Ullah Bulu and Mohammad Shahabuddin.

Activities of the Postal Department were also discussed in the meeting.

Special emphasis was put on expansion of mobile post offices and introduction of a separate marketing department to expand postal life insurance scheme.

The meeting was told that steps were underway to introduce world's best telephone technology in the country.

The meeting, held at the Sangsad Bhaban with committee Chairman Kamal Ahmed Majumder in the chair, was apprised of various aspects of the tenders accepted to set up digital telephone exchanges in 80 thanas of the country.

Home, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim, Whip Mohammad Mizanur Rahman Manu, Barkat Ullah Bulu, Sharif Khasruzzaman, Mohammad Shahabuddin and Advocate Mohammad Nadim Mustafa attended the meeting.

Post and telecommunications secretary and officials concerned were present.

## Panamanian ship crew on strike at Ctg Port

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Aug 8: A Panamanian vessel could not leave Chittagong Port yesterday due to strike by its 22 Chinese crew who were demanding arrears wages, port official said.

The vessel MV Youngly, owned by a Vietnamese Company, was sold to a New York based firm at about seven lakh dollars, harbour master Kamrul Islam said.

The vessel carrying clinkers from Indonesia for a private cement factory here arrived at the port about one and a half months ago.

The crew went on strike yesterday demanding their outstanding wages just before the ship's departure from Chittagong port after unloading its cargo.

The sudden strike by the crew not only made the voyage of the ship uncertain, but also kept our port jetties hostage, harbour master said.

"Now it has become a problem for us as we can not allow another clinker carrying foreign vessel to enter the same jetty for unloading cargo," he added.

The harbour master summoned the captain and ship's local agent for holding a meeting.

### Mystery shrouds death of maid in city

Mystery shrouded the death of a maid in the city's Paribagh area yesterday, police said, reports BSS.

Rokhsana Islam, owner of the house, informed Ramna police by telephone that her maid Nasima, 12, committed suicide by jumping from the rooftop of her Paribagh residence at about 5 am, police said.

But, she could not give details about the alleged suicide.

Ramna police recovered the body from behind the house and sent it to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.

Nasima, a native from Mymensingh, had been working in the house for several months.

Rokhsana's husband Azharul Islam is now living abroad, police said.

Police suspects that the maid was murdered before being thrown from the rooftop of the three-storey building. She had wounds and fracture in her body which indicated torture, they added.

Another teenage maid, who was allegedly raped and thrown from the rooftop of a Dhanmondi house recently, is now struggling for life at the Orthopaedic Hospital.

### Ships collide at Ctg: No major damage

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 8: The two foreign cargo ships that collided at the outer anchorage of Chittagong Port yesterday escaped any major damage, port sources said.

Port officials said that a Vietnamese ship MV Saigon loaded with fertilizer raw materials while moving back to outer anchorage collided with another vessel MV Fortana.

"Though we call it a 'kissing contact' it left a minor scratch on the body of MV Fortana," they said.

Both the ships are now staying at the outer anchorage, port sources said.

### Kosovo

From Page 1

Additional DIG Waliur Rahman on August 5 that the policemen from Bangladesh in Kosovo were being asked "to appear in fresh tests and attempts were being made on different pretexts to send them back home."

Forty-nine policemen including senior officials left Dhaka on July 27 to join peace-keeping mission in Kosovo.

Both the officials of the Foreign Ministry and the Home Ministry decided to remain tight lipped about the reported return and said they have to wait till they hear from the Bangladesh mission in New York.

## SHIFTING OF OFFICE

This is information for all concerned that the office of **Bangladesh Arsenic Mitigation Water Supply Project** BAMWSP has been shifted as follows:

**OLD ADDRESS**  
Deptt. of Public Health Engineering  
DPP, Dhaka  
14/Shahid Capt. Mannur Ali Sarak  
Kakrail, Dhaka-1000

**PRESENT ADDRESS**  
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