

on Friday

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VOL. IX NO. 315 REGD. NO. DA 781

www.dailystarnews.com

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20 PAGES PLUS MAGAZINE : PRICE : TAKA 9.00



Renewal of commitment

A procession in the city yesterday to mark the Rokeya Day, the birth anniversary of the legendary woman who gave the wakeup call to the Bengali Muslims. (Story on Page 11)

—Star photo: Sk Enamul Haq

Ceres Medal handed to Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was awarded the prestigious international 'Ceres Medal' by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) for her role in promotion of food security and struggle for eradicating hunger and malnutrition, reports UNB.

"FAO confers this medal on a remarkable leader, admirable advocate of food security and a protecting mother," said FAO director general Jacques Diouf handing over the UN agency's award to the Prime Minister amidst ovation at the International Conference Centre in the afternoon.

Diouf said: "... We present this medal in acknowledgement of her long effort to combat hunger and malnutrition through modernisation of agriculture sector and empowerment of rural women of Bangladesh."

The award symbolizes divine bounty being named after Roman goddess of agriculture Ceres that is considered as a protecting mother and teacher for acquiring food and production.

"This is a great honour for me, my people and country... I dedicate this award to the farmers of my country. This award belongs to the farmers and people of Bangladesh," said Prime Minister Hasina accepting the laurels from the UN agency.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury and Agriculture Secretary Dr M Shahzad Ali also spoke on the occasion.



Another feather in PM's cap
Sheikh Hasina receives the Ceres medals from the FAO director general yesterday. —PID photo

Biman moves to rev up ageing wings

A fifth DC-10 is on the way, more to follow

By Shehab Ahmed

Bangladesh Biman is on its way finally to acquire its fifth DC-10-30 aircraft, more than a year behind the schedule. Biman sources said yesterday.

After many months' wrangling, involving powerful quarters, the Biman has signed a deal on Sunday with a US based aircraft leasing company—Pegasus to dry-lease the wide-body three-engine jet for three years.

It also signed two other agreements—one for procuring an Airbus A 310-300 aircraft—also on dry-lease for three years.

from the Singapore Airlines and the other for chartering two wide-body Boeing 777s from China Southern Airlines for the Hajj flights.

A Biman spokesman told The Star that the DC-10-30 aircraft and the Airbus A 310-300 are expected to join the national carrier's fleet by December 20.

The two aircraft are expected to ease the Biman's log jammed flight schedules, which often are in disarray, as its ageing fleet of four DC's suffers from

mechanical hiccups.

"We are going to service the long haul flights properly with the DC-10 and medium hauls to the Gulf and the region flawless with the Airbus", the spokesman said.

But he could not provide the details of the deals immediately, including the price tag.

He said the Hajj flights scheduled to begin from February 15 next year would be smooth as the Biman has completed the agreement already.

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Army launches probe into Brig Ashfaq's death

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 9: A court of enquiry comprising senior army officers was formed to probe the death of Brigadier Shabab Ashfaq, security sources said.

Brigadier Ashfaq was found dead at officers' mess at Chittagong.

The doctors went on indefinite strike from Tuesday protesting the attack on Chittagong Medical College Professor Dr Nilkanta Bhattacharya by a group of armed terrorists.

The striking doctors today staged a demonstration on Chittagong Medical College Hospital premises demanding arrest of the attackers.

They threatened to an-

Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Dec	Sehri	Iftar
1	10	-	5:15
2	11	5:06	5:16
3	12	5:07	5:16

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Ctg docs still on strike

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 9: Doctors in the port city continued their strike for the third day today, mounting sufferings of the patients.

The doctors went on indefinite strike from Tuesday protesting the attack on Chittagong Medical College Professor Dr Nilkanta Bhattacharya by a group of armed terrorists.

The striking doctors today staged a demonstration on Chittagong Medical College Hospital premises demanding arrest of the attackers.

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Kader Siddique
plans to
party soon

By Staff Correspondent
The planned convention for floating Kader Siddique's party will be held at the Engineers Institution in the city on December 24, knowledgeable sources said.

"I am working with my followers to draw up the details of the convention," Siddique told The Daily Star yesterday, confirming his decision to float the new party as per schedule.

Siddique did not mention names of his followers with whom he was planning to finalise his next political course of action.

"These people had been with me during the liberation war, during subsequent movements and the hard days," Siddique said.

More than one thousand people are expected to participate in the convention, sources said, adding it would also include professionals and intellectuals representing pro-liberation forces.

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Poor exercise

They are there to monitor and detain air-polluting vehicles. The trouble is: nobody takes them seriously.

—Star photo: Sk Enamul Haq