

Biman to introduce low-cost flights on Dhaka-Sylhet route

BSS, Chittagong

The reduced rate of Biman fare on Chittagong-Dhaka route came into effect yesterday as State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin launched the programme at a simple ceremony at M A Hannan International Airport here.

Under the new offer, passengers traveling on Biman's wide-bodied DC-10 and Airbus flights will have to pay Taka 1200 for an Executive Class journey while Taka 1000 for Economy Class.

Biman has such eight flights on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday on route to Dhaka from Middle East countries.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines, the national flag carrier has introduced the new programme to make profitable of its domestic flights.

Addressing the launching ceremony, the state minister said

that Biman will also introduce such flights at reduced rate on Dhaka-Sylhet route.

"The other domestic flights, earlier scheduled for the Chittagong-Dhaka route, have been cancelled," he said.

Citing different government efforts to make the M A Hannan International Airport a modern one, he said 15 per cent tariff will be reduced for private airlines and cargo carriers if they use the airport.

Among others, Secretary of the Ministry M Safa Ali, Chairman of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh Air Commodore Lutfar Rahman, Managing Director of Biman Commodore Khasruzzaman, President of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries Farid Ahmed Chowdhury, BGMEA leader and General Secretary of City Unit of BNP Dastagir Chowdhury were present.



LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan speaking at a discussion marking the 21st founding anniversary of Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal at the National Press Club yesterday.

'Govt implementing projects to preserve bio-diversity'

BSS, Chittagong

Minister for Environment and Forest Shajahan Siraj yesterday said the government had given special emphasis on preservation and management of bio-diversity to protect environmental balance in the country.

"Bangladesh government has already signed the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Ramsar Convention as part of the global initiative to preserve bio-diversity," he said while inaugurating a workshop at the Chittagong University.

The workshop titled "First Bio-diversity Workshop" was organized by the Institute of Forest and

Environment of the University. State Minister for Environment and Forest Shajahan Siraj Chowdhury was the special guest.

With CU Vice Chancellor Prof Md Faez Hossain in the Chair, it was also addressed by CU Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Shamsuddin, Executive Director of BARC Dr Nurul Alam and Dr Richard Smith of Bionet.

Since Bangladesh is a member of Global Environment Facilities (GEF), the minister said, the government has been implementing Coastal and Wetland Bio-diversity Management Project and Sundarban Bio-diversity Project for indigenously preserving the bio-

diversity.

Shahjahan Siraj referred to the government's revolutionary steps to contain environment pollution and said the dwellers of Dhaka City had already welcomed the ban on the use of Polybag because of its severe threat to public health and environment.

He called upon all to join the countrywide campaign against the use of Polybag from March 1.

"People are now using the environment-friendly bags made of jute, cloth and paper," he said. This will enormously help the farmers get fair price of their jute and revive the past glory of the golden fibre.

To free the country from the curse of mindless emission of black smoke, the minister said, the government ensured import of lead-free petrol and diesel with low level of sulphur.

Six killed in IU clashes in nine years

IU CORRESPONDENT

Five students and a guardian were killed and 800 others injured in clashes between rival groups of student fronts backed by different political parties at the Islamic University (IU) in Kushtia in the last nine years.

At least 40 incidents of serious clash took place on the campus from 1992 to 2001 in which about 2,500 rounds of bullet were fired and assets worth Tk.3.2 crore damaged. Some 45 students were also crippled.

The campus remained closed on a long unscheduled vacation of about one and half years.

Sources said, most of the clashes erupted over establishing supremacy on the campus.

The major student fronts on the campus were BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Jamaat-backed Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), AL-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), JSD-backed BCL and CPB-backed Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU). Sometimes, Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikyo (GCO), a conglomerate of left-leaning fronts BCU, SSF and BCM also launched various movements on behalf of the general students.

Fierce fighting erupted on the campus when activists of outlawed parties took part in the clashes on behalf of the student

fronts. Besides, heavy arms and ammunitions were easily available within a short time as these were kept secretly at places adjacent to campus including dormitories of the university.

The first clash took place on the campus between Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) and Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikyo (GCO) on November 25, 1992. Saiful Islam, a first year student of Islamic History and Culture and an activist of ICS was killed in the clash. At least 50 others were injured.

Ali Azam, a guardian and a BNP ward commissioner were killed and some 80 students were injured in a clash between ICS and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) held on April 28, 1995.

A day-long fierce fighting between ICS and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) took place on September 26, 1996 in which ICS leader Aminur Rahman also a student of Al-Quran and Islamic Studies was gunned down and 200 others injured.

Another fierce fighting between ICS and BCL took place on October 31, 1998 killing two Shibir activists Mohsinul Kabir of Islamic History and Culture and Abdullah-Al-Mamun of Dawah and Islamic Studies and injuring at least 160 others.

Shibir leader Rafiqul Islam, a final year student of Dawah and

Islamic Studies was killed in a clash between ICS and JSD-backed BCL on June 8, 2001. 20 others were injured in that incident.

The latest clash occurred between JCD and GCO on November 13, 2001 in which at least 20 GCO activists were injured.

Besides, many sporadic clashes also took place on the Islamic University campus during the same period. At least three hundred students were injured in those clashes.

Reports of probe bodies formed to investigate the incidents were never published while cases lodged with the concerned authorities are still pending.

KMP imposes restrictions

BSS, Khulna

Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) yesterday imposed restrictions on carrying brick, stone, knife, stick and explosive in the Khulna metropolitan city.

The KMP also banned torch processions and carrying arms with effect from 2 pm yesterday an official handout said.

The Metropolitan Police Commissioner Mohammad Ali Imam imposed the restrictions to ensure public safety and maintain law and order in the metropolis.

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2.	Pur-150/2001 dt. 28-11-2001	Insulator	Bid submission date has been re-fixed on 24-01-2002 up to 11:00 AM BST instead of 10-01-2002. The tender will be opened at 11:30 AM on the same day.

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