



PHOTO: AFP
The wreckage of a plane lies in the forest near the Sheremetyevo airport in Moscow yesterday. An Ilyushin-86 aircraft crashed shortly after take-off from Sheremetyevo killing at least 14 people.

Russian cargo plane crash kills 14

AP, Moscow

A Russian Il-86 cargo plane crashed into a forest yesterday shortly after taking off from Moscow's Sheremetyevo-1 airport, killing 14 people. Two flight attendants were the only survivors, officials said.

The jagged remains of the fuselage were visible in a ditch in a wooded area of birch trees and bushes several hundred yards from one of the airport's runways. Smoke was still rising from the smouldering wreckage. About two dozen ambulances and fire trucks were racing around the scene of the crash.

One of the plane's flight recorders has been found, said Alexander Neradko, deputy Transport Minister. About 100 army conscripts crashed in camouflage combed the crash site, picking up bits of the plane for the investigation.

Vasily Nayuk, an official with the Emergency Situations Ministry, said that according to preliminary information 14 people on board were killed.

The two flight attendants who

survived were hospitalised in critical condition.

"We think things will be all right with them," Neradko told Russia's ORT television.

The airport, which serves both domestic and international flights, was running normally, with planes taking off and landing late last afternoon.

People were riding bicycles along the dirt paths in the woods near the crash site, and some of the onlookers were dressed for the beach in bathing suit tops and shorts. There are numerous ponds and lakes in the area.

Maxim Khmelov, 13, was at a nearby beach with a friend when he saw the plane begin to nose downward. He said a plume of smoke went up like a "mushroom cloud."

The cargo plane was on its way from Moscow to St. Petersburg. When it crashed, it barely missed the Dmitrov highway northwest of the capital. It landed about half a mile from the runway where it had taken off.

The highway was busy, as many

Muscovites were on their way back into the city from their country homes at the end of a hot summer weekend.

The aircraft belonged to Pulkovo airlines, which operates regular passenger and cargo service between Moscow and St. Petersburg.

An eyewitness who identified himself with his first name, Konstantin, said that the plane had banked hard on its left-hand side, hit the ground and exploded.

The fuselage was splintered, the tail twisted on its side and the front of the plane was totally destroyed.

The Il-86 has been a workhorse of Russian airlines for nearly 30 years. It is a four-engine wide-bodied plane and is often used by top Russian officials, including the president, for travel.

Russian media reported that the aircraft has endured six crashes with no fatalities since it first began flying.

Tanguar Haor

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tourism" alongside developing the natural resources. But things did not proceed further, the sources said.

When contacted, Sunamgaj Deputy Commissioner Mohamad Ali Khan said the government is being deprived of huge amounts of revenue from the vast water body for the past two years. Earlier, the government used to earn at least Tk 60 lakh revenue per year by leasing parts of the haor.

He also admitted that fish and other resources are being plundered as the district administration does not have adequate logistics to protect those. Officially, fishing and hunting is prohibited in the haor, but in reality, it can not be enforced.

As per programmes after declaration of haor a Ransar Site, local management bodies are to be formed with participation of stakeholders to develop fish resources protecting the ecology and to create awareness among local people about the importance of conservation of nature.

Tanguar Haor comprise 50 beels (water bodies). People of 46 villages around are dependent on it for their livelihood. If properly developed, the haor can bring about their welfare.

Six highway robbers caught in N'ganj

BSS, N'ganj

Six highway robbers were caught by a mob at Sanarpar on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway under Siddhirganj police station here yesterday afternoon.

The dacoits were identified as Babu, 25, Monir Hossain, 30, Sadek, 26, Ali Akbar, 30, Kamal, 28, and Khalil, 29.

Police said a group of nine highway robbers with sharp weapons hidden in their bags boarded a Dhaka bound bus from Chittagong in the guise of passengers. When the bus reached Sanarpar the robbers brought out their weapons and swooped on the passengers.

As the dacoits began looting, the passengers started screaming for help which forced the driver to stop the bus. Hearing the hue and cry, local people rushed to the spot and encircled the robbers. The mob dragged the robbers out of the bus and beat them up before handing them over to police.

Three robbers however managed to escape in the melee.

Commercial deals

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Chowdhury told The Daily Star last night.

However, according to commerce ministry sources, Dhaka believes that free trade with Islamabad would not be of any benefit as both countries compete with similar products in the international market.

During the official talks, scheduled for tomorrow, Bangladesh will seek duty-free access of 21 categories of items to Pakistani market. Tea, jute and jute goods top the list.

It is almost certain that a memorandum of understanding (MoU) would be signed between the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

A 30-member business delegation, led by Pakistan Commerce Minister Abdul Razzaq Daud, will be on General Musharraf's entourage.

The Pakistan commerce minister is scheduled to have a separate meeting with his Bangladesh counterpart Tuesday afternoon.

As a least developed country, Bangladesh feels it should get some privileges while exporting goods to

Pakistan, the sources said. Pakistan has not made any proposal seeking duty-free access of its goods to Bangladesh but wants joint warehouses set up in Chittagong and Karachi, to which Dhaka has not responded as yet.

The other Pakistan proposals include strengthening shipping business between the two countries.

"It depends on the volume of business between Bangladesh and Pakistan," Chowdhury said. "If it rises, shipping would automatically increase."

Trade balance between the two countries is heavily tilted towards Pakistan, with an annual export income of \$32 million against an import bill of \$95 million.

Biman

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from August 1, sources said.

In reply, the Managing Director (MD) of Biman sent letters on July 22 to all concerned agencies including BPC and explained the financial crisis of Biman.

The letter also requested the BPC authority to reconsider its decision and urged not to stop fuel supply. BPC, however, regretted to such request. Today's meeting aims at finding a solution, sources said.

Students harassed

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yesterday. A third-year journalism student was driven out of the Ziaur Rahman Hall in the early hours of yesterday for supporting the demonstration in an interview to BBC.

"Leave the campus straightaway or face dire consequences," a student, requesting anonymity, quoted a JCD leader of the Mohsin Hall as saying.

Over the last five days, the DU students have demonstrated against the police's overnight raid on the Shamsunnahar Hall and demanded resignation of the DU vice-chancellor.

The JCD men threatened them with reprisal for any demonstration on the campus in future, many students alleged.

Meanwhile, some top JCD leaders held several meetings with the DU administration to foil the ongoing movement. They roamed the campus, most of the time in front of the Rokeya Hall, in pursuit of demonstrators.

Some leaders enlisted the protestors in a bid to punish them upon their return to the campus when the university reopens, campus sources said.

Wednesday's police raid on the DU hall whipped up protests across the country.

Meanwhile, law enforcers denied journalists entry to the campus and misbehaved with them.

Musharraf

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come back to the capital and check in at Sonargaon Hotel where he will stay during his visit.

Later in the afternoon, Khaleda is expected to make a courtesy call on the state guest.

In the evening, Musharraf will attend a banquet at the Bangabhaban following a courtesy meeting with Sircar.

Next morning, the Pakistan president will have breakfast with some retired Bangladesh Army officers, his fellows at the Pakistan Military Academy in the 1960s.

Later, he will offer prayers at the graveyard of late president Ziaur Rahman before going to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) for the official talks.

In the evening, Khaleda will host a dinner in Musharraf's honour followed by a cultural programme at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Centre.

Musharraf will leave the capital on Wednesday morning for Colombo. Prior to his departure, he is expected to have breakfast with a select group of editors and senior journalists from newspapers and news agencies.

Agitation flickers on

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other colleges and universities to make the rally a success.

The announcement was made at a rally yesterday evening at the end of a sit-in programme at 6:30pm that started Saturday night.

Student will start a 'fast until death' programme from 10:00 this morning at the Central Shaheed Minar to press home their demands.

After compelling the students to vacate their halls, the authorities sealed off all entrances to the university placing barbed-wire fences and deploying huge police contingencies on the campus. Teachers, students, journalists and others were barred throughout the day from entering the DU campus.

Meanwhile, nearly 200 teachers of the university expressed their solidarity with the six-point demand during the agitation by the students which includes the immediate removal of the VC.

Senior citizens who approached the premises to express their solidarity with the students were also intercepted at different entrances. Police barred over 30 teachers at the Aparajeyo Bangla from proceeding towards the students' sit-in in front of the Rokeya Hall.

The teachers took out a procession in the morning and paraded the campus in protest of the police atrocities on female students of the Shamsunnahar Hall.

Police intercepted the teachers in front of the Institute of Fine Arts while they were marching towards the Ramna Police Station, where the female students were confined on Wednesday, to place a wreath. The teachers gave a police sub-

inspector a bunch of flowers to place it in the police custody.

Authorities with the help of the police, paramilitary BDR and activists of the ruling BNP's student wing the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) vacated all the residential halls excluding the Rokeya Hall yesterday morning, witnesses said. "Members of the law-enforcement agencies drove away the students from the hall," said a student.

The students who staged an angry protest against the closure of the university until 4:00am yesterday came out of their halls early in the morning along with their belongings. Some defied the order and gathered in front of the Rokeya Hall.

It was the female students of the Bangladesh Kuwaiti Moitri Hall and Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall who encouraged students of other halls to gather for a demonstration on the campus. Despite heavy police presence, several hundred students of the two halls took up a joint procession from their halls and marched toward the Teacher Student Centre (TSC) at about 6:30am.

Students of the Shamsunnahar and Jagannath halls joined the procession at about 7:15am. Soon, the procession became large and the students gathered in front of the Rokeya Hall.

Students of the Rokeya Hall, who were staying at the hall defying the order to leave, welcomed the students. They complained that the water and power supply was cut off in the morning to force the students to leave the hall.

The agitated students declared the area in front of the hall a "free zone" and staged demonstrations throughout the day ignoring the

scorching sun in the morning and downpours in the afternoon. They put up barricades around the 'free zone' road and barred police personnel from getting in.

The students announced that they would not leave the area until the VC resigns or is removed. "This is the beginning of our demonstration and it will end only after the VC's ouster," a female student told the gathering.

The TSC area reverberated with resounding slogans. The students chanted slogans like "Police are banned here," and "We are here to save our sisters and you (police) better not come to the campus."

They carried banners, festoons and placards that condemned the police atrocities on the female students and demanded the removal of the VC and proctor.

The gathering was very lively in the morning due to the participation of a large number of female students. However, it thinned gradually with female students leaving the campus.

To live up to the agitation, some students staged dramas and sang songs, with police and paramilitary BDR condoning the gathering. They also tried in vain to disperse the students.

The students while passing the VC's residence hurled abuses at the VC for his role in the Shamsunnahar Hall incident and his attempt to cover it up.

Many students said the government should drive out the VC rather than the 28,000 students of the university.

Kajol gives confessional statement in court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

PBCP's second-in-command Khalilur Rahman Kajol's confessional statement was recorded under Section 164 of CrPC in the court of first class Magistrate Haroon-ar-Rashid yesterday.

He was produced in the court amid tight security. Hundreds went to the court to have a glimpse of the notorious criminal.

Kajol has already confessed his involvement in eleven murders in Khulna and Bagerhat districts.

He said a former UP chairman of Fakirhat helped PBCP armed cadres murder Awami League leader and shrimp exporter Farhad Hossain.

A secret meeting to kill Farhad was held in the house of one Amjad Khan of Satshoiya village of Fakirhat upazila, Kajol said.

Bagerhat police super said that Kajol would be sent to Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC) after expiry of a 10-day remand.

Meanwhile on Saturday, Kajol told Bagerhat police that shrimp exporter Farhad Hossain was gunned down for refusing to pay Taka 10 lakh in toll.

He was killed on order of Tapan, the ring leader of the political wing of the party, Kajol said naming all the six armed cadres including a Jubo Dal leader involved in the murder.

Kajol also confessed his involvement with a network of drug trade based at Fakirhat upazila.

As per his confessional statement, police nabbed Ibrahim Shaikh, 36, another professional killer of PBCP, from Hadis Park in the city on Saturday.

He was sentenced to 32 years of rigorous imprisonment in a murder case recorded with Bagerhat Sadar thana on June 25, 1987.

Ibrahim told police his party's top leaders Tapan and Rashid had been staying in a rented house at Bashabo in Dhaka for the last two months.

Graft cases Alamgir

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The court heard the appeals on July 25 and fixed the date.

Moving the appeals, the lawyers -- Barrister M Amir-ul-Islam, Advocate Syed Rezaur Rahman, Sahara Khatun, Qumrul Islam, Abdullah Abu, Moklesur Rahman Badal and Abdur Rahman Howlader stated that the co-accused in the cases except former prime minister Sheikh Hasina were earlier granted ad-interim bail by the High Court.

So, the accused Alamgir should be released on bail as co-accused.

The prosecution side opposed the petitions.

Earlier, the CMM's Court on May 18 rejected the bail petition of Dr Alamgir.

In the first case, filed with Tejgaon thana, it has been alleged that during the Awami League rule, the then prime minister Sheikh

Hasina, Dr Alamgir and six other ministers embezzled Tk 21,57,050 by appointing consultants for Bangabandhu Novo Theatre without inviting tender.

In the second case, filed with the same thana, it has been alleged that Alamgir and others embezzled Tk 4,52,65,646 in purchasing equipment for the theatre from the second lowest bidder.

In the third case, filed with Tejgaon thana, it has been alleged that Alamgir and 11 others were involved in inviting tender without estimating the cost of the theatre.

The Bureau of Anti-corruption (BAC) filed the cases against Dr Alamgir and others on March 27 this year.

Outcry over hall attack

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DU authority and campus terrorism. Termining the authorities' decision to close the university 'a cowardly attempt to eschew responsibility' that resulted in the volatile situation on the campus, the teachers flogged the DU authorities. The statement mentioned that the DU authorities have paved the way for the barbaric and unprecedented crime in which male police personnel swooped on the sleeping female students in the Shamsunnahar Hall.

The signatories include Prof. Anu Muhammad, Prof. Amir Hossen, Nasim Akter Hossen, Sayeed Ferdous, Ryhan Rhyne, Prof. Shaikh Monjurul Haque, SS Mosaffizur Rahman, Sharmind Nilormee, Swadhin Sen, Manash Chowdhury, Farid Ahmed, Nurul Haque, Kamrul Islam, Sajed Ashraf Karim and Khaled Hossain. They demanded immediate reopening of the university and trial of those responsible.

Sixty pro-Awami League teachers, in a meeting held on the JU campus yesterday, strongly condemned the DU authorities' decision to close the university. The closure of the university clearly proves the authorities' failure to handle the

situation and speaks of their 'self-created blunder.' Prof. Abdul Matin, a senior pro-AL teacher, told this correspondent today.

The pro-AL teachers, demanding immediate reopening of the university, asked for a neutral probe into the July 23 incident and the consequent attacks on the agitating students. They demanded immediate removal of the DU Vice Chancellor and Proctor who are responsible for the incidents.

Gonotantrik Chhatra Oikkya (GCO) also demanded immediate reopening of the university and removal of the DU VC and Proctor.

GCO brought out a procession on the campus in the evening today, which started from the university Prantik gate and ended in front of the Prtilata Hall of JU campus.

Addressing a rally, BCU president Munirul Islam and SCF general secretary Afsana Ayub asked the authorities to restore the congenial educational atmosphere of the university by removing the VC and Proctor immediately.

Meanwhile, Jahangirinar Sanskritik Jote (JSJ) will hold a demonstration at the Social Science Faculty premises today to protest the DU incident. They will bring out a

procession from the JU central cafeteria at 10 a.m.

Govt terms

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Mannan Bhuiyan, also BNP secretary-general.

The government has assured that it will take immediate action against the persons responsible for the overnight raid on the Shamsunnahar Hall upon receipt of the report by the judicial inquiry committee formed with a sitting judge of the Supreme Court as investigator.

At his secretariat office in the morning, Bhuiyan told reporters that the DU is an autonomous institution and the government cannot interfere at will.

And considering that, the prime minister ordered formation of a high-powered judicial committee to probe into the incident, Bhuiyan continued.

The judicial committee has already started its investigation, he said.

Bhuiyan hopes none would try to capitalise on the incident and urged all not to derive any political dividend from it.

Bangladesh to get 560m euro from EC

BSS, Dhaka

The European Commission (EC) will provide 560 million euro to Bangladesh under its country strategy programme for 2002-2006.

Esko Kentraschynskyj, newly appointed ambassador of the EC to Bangladesh, stated this when he paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday.

He said the EC approved the fund for different development projects in Bangladesh as well as promotion of her trade and commerce including diversification of exports.

The EC ambassador, who was accompanied by Jorg Volker Ketelsen, Counsellor of the Commission of the European Community and also Chairman of the Council of International Jute Study Group (IJSJG), said EC would also support diversification of jute goods jointly with IJSJG.

During the meeting, the prime minister sought the EC's support in IT (Information Technology) sector and also in capacity building particularly in the field of female education, which would help create multiple positive social impacts.

She referred to some of the steps that her government had already initiated for promotion of the interests of children and women. She also mentioned the measures taken for primary and mass education and poverty eradication.

The European Union (EU) countries constitute the number one official development assistance partner of Bangladesh and their imports make up 48 per cent of the country's exports. EU has also provided duty-and-quota-free access of Bangladeshi goods, which would continue also after 2004.

The EC ambassador hoped that Bangladesh would make maximum utilisation of the opportunity of export facilities of EU countries.

EU has been providing assistance in health, education, poverty

eradication and human resource development sectors as well as for food security and disaster preparedness programmes.

The ambassador mentioned the allocation of 10 million euro for promotion of small and medium sized enterprises under the private sector and allocation of another 50 million euro for capacity building.

Praising the performance of Chittagong Export Processing Zone, the ambassador said EC would offer necessary support for similar steps in the future. He also lauded the government's initiatives for privatisation and promotion of environment.

The prime minister recalled her participation in the UN Summit on children in New York while mentioning the importance attached by her government to promotion of interests of children and empowerment of women.

The existing relations between Bangladesh and EU were described as excellent while emphasising the need for further expanding the ties.

PM's Principal Secretary Dr Kamal Siddiqui was present.

AL: Hartal

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the university when they were demanding the resignation of the vice chancellor and others involved in the incident.

The meeting, held at party's Dhanmandi office with acting President Abdus Samad Azad in the chair, also reviewed the latest political situation and extended party support to a hartal called by Chhatra League on July 30.

Referring to the police attack on Shamsunnahar Hall at midnight on July 23, the meeting held the view that it overshadowed the brutalities done by the Pakistani forces in 1971.

The meeting urged the people to make July 30 hartal a success to put pressure on the government for taking action against the culprits.

HC rule baffles NBL

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response on the verdict is yet to be made public.

The bank sources said they have sought the opinion of a reputed legal expert on the issue. "It will take some time for the legal expert to give his opinion as the matter is a bit complex," a high official of the bank said.

Meanwhile, the NBL board has decided to convene a meeting on July 30, where the issue may be raised among other things. Taher, the man in question, would also be invited to the meeting, the bank sources said.

"Yes we are thinking of inviting AKM Abu Taher to attend the meeting as we are yet to get a clear interpretation of the verdict and any instructions from the central bank," said Abu Taher Miah, Chairman of the NBL.

AKM Abu Taher was the guarantor of a loan taken by one Zyta Garments against two accounts. The loan being defaulted on, the Bangladesh Bank issued a notice in 1995 under Section 17 of the Bank Companies Act to adjust the outstanding liabilities within two

months of receiving the notice.

Taher received a stay order from the court on the central bank notice and filed a writ petition. After the High Court quashed the writ petition in 1997, he later went to the Supreme Court. However, the Supreme Court in 1998 upheld the verdict of the High Court.

At this point, the BB once again issued a letter to the NBL mentioning that AKM Abu Taher's directorship at the bank would fall vacant. Taher filed a writ petition one more time against the BB's notice, but the court again quashed it. Finally Taher made an appeal to the Appellate Division against the High Court verdict.

The Appellate Division cancelled his appeal on July 8 upholding the order of the central bank that asked Taher to relinquish his directorship from the NBL in 1998.

AL demands

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Shamsunnahar Hall of Dhaka University on July 24 saying the incident had disgraced the country and the nation before the whole world. It said the attack on female students inside their dormitory was a violation of civility, human rights as well as articles 11, 27 and 31 of the Constitution.

Issuing the statement on behalf of all AL deputies, the opposition chief whip Md Abdus Shahid noted that the VC, proctor and teachers of the university are the guardians of students but when police raided the hall, the VC did not take any preventive steps rather made audacious remarks.

"He (the VC) should have resigned and take all the responsibilities," the statement read.

The opposition lawmakers demanded withdrawal of false cases filed against the provost and the residents of Shamsunnahar Hall, cancellation of the decision of class suspension and immediate reopening of the varsity.