



Garments Sramik Trade Union Kendra forms a human chain at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding holiday on May 1.

Rejoinder, our reply

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has refuted part of a news item headlined "Biman MD leaves after less than 3 months' service" published in The Daily Star on April 22 saying the transfer of the MD was not made due to any difference of opinion with higher authorities.

"The transfer of Biman's managing director (MD) has been made as per government requirement," it said.

Biman said 17 officers were recruited on the basis of personal competence and merit of candidates with no pressure or influence in the entire selection system. Therefore, higher authorities' asking the MD to sign papers of 17 new recruits is baseless, the Biman rejoinder claimed.

The procurement of two F28s has not violated tender specification, it added.

Our point is that the government has transferred the MD after only less than three months of his appointment showing government's tentative plan on the vital post. Aviation experts said frequent changes have deprived Biman of solid and professional leadership required to run a commercial airline, which was not contradicted by Biman in its rejoinder.

Biman rejoinder has also skipped the issue of straining the relationship between the MD and the aviation minister which insiders said was the reason of MD's departure.

Ensure accountability of docs, nurses

Two consumers rights organisations demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two consumers rights organisations yesterday demanded effective steps to ensure accountability of doctors, nurses and other medical staff to improve healthcare in the country.

Patients cannot take legal action against doctors even on plausible grounds due to lack of proper law and unawareness about patients' rights, they said and demanded an end to this situation.

The Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) and Health Consumers Rights Forum (HCRF) made the demands at an exchange of views with journalists.

Cab and HCRF leaders said lots of pledges are made at seminars and discussions to ensure proper healthcare but those are never materialised.

Negligence to duties on the part of doctors and nurses, wrong treatment and their misbehaviour with patients and faulty reports by diagnostic centres have brought the health sector to a poor state. As a result, many people now prefer to go abroad for treatment, they pointed out.

They made a 13-point recommendation to improve healthcare. Their recommendations include formulation and implementation of a people-oriented national health and drug policy, steps to implement

government pledges for better healthcare facilities, accountability of doctors and others concerned in the health sector, an end to political interference in the sector and expansion of healthcare facilities in rural areas.

The authorities should also ensure that doctors follow the 10-point code of ethics formulated by Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council (BMDC) and give more emphasis on behavioural and ethical education of doctors, the recommendations said.

They stressed regular training of doctors and nurses to improve their professional skill. Training conducted by the Pharmacy Council should be further improved and expanded, they felt.

Cab President Kazi Farook chaired the meeting and speakers included Shamsuzzoha, Emdad Hossain Malek and Dr Yasmin Ahmed.



Appeal for help

Sahina Akhtar, a teacher of Agargaon Government Primary School, seeks financial assistance for her treatment as both of her kidneys have been damaged, says a press release.

Doctors have advised her to undergo kidney transplantation immediately but Shahina, a mother of two, could not afford such expensive treatment.

Her husband Mesbah Uddin works as a cashier at the ministry of cultural affairs.

Contributions can be sent to the following bank account: Md Mesbah Uddin, Savings Account No. 1458/2, Agrani Bank, Jatiya Press Club Branch, Dhaka.

Tribute paid to Dr Nurunnahar

Alumnae of Sakhawat Memorial Girls' School paid tribute to the memory of late Dr Nurunnahar Fyzennessa at a discussion in the city recently, says a press release.

Dr Nurunnahar, past president of the Sakhawat Memorial Girls' School Alumnae Association, passed away on March 31.

Presided over by Nurjahan Begum, editor of the weekly Begum, the discussion was organised by the alumnae association.

Nurunnahar's school friends and colleagues from different organisations spoke highly of her versatile genius.

Prof. Naushaba Khatoun, Prof. Husna Banu Khanum, Prof. Kulsum Huda, Prof. Latifa Akand, Prof. Mahmuda Islam, Sabera Sayeed, Prof. Sharfe Afza, Mehruunnahar Chowdhury and Prof. Sultana Zaman took part in the discussion.

Nurjahan Begum suggested forming a trust in the name of Dr Nurunnahar.

2557 more held

Police arrested 2,557 people, including four listed criminals from different parts of the country in last 24 hours ending at 6am yesterday.

They also recovered seven firearms and four bullets and filed five cases against five people under the Arms Act during the period, says a police headquarters press release.

Eunuch killed in Ctg, body recovered after five days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

The body of a eunuch was dug up from a hole near the eunuchs' colony at Zakir Hossain Road on Saturday five days after he was killed over a love triangle.

Khulshi police dug up the body of Shilpi after Payel Sharma, a resident of the colony, informed them about the murder. The body was stuffed in a sack.

Police suspected that a feud between eunuch Pakhee, Ripon and Shilpi led to the murder.

"According to our preliminary investigation, Pakhee might have hired some criminals to kill Shilpi for his one-sided love for Pakhee," said Sub-Inspector Sheikh Abdul

Mannan, the investigation officer of the case.

Khulshi police took Mohammad Rafique, 14, who dug the hole, into their safe custody. They also quizzed Payel Sharma, who gave a statement to the police.

"Shilpi was murdered with sharp weapons on April 21," said the investigation officer.

Quoting Rafique, police said some unknown people picked up him and asked him to dig the hole for a latrine close to the level crossing near the eunuch colony.

None, however, was arrested till yesterday.

The residents of the colony fled away in panic after the incident, police said.

Abducted schoolboy rescued in Bagerhat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police rescued a schoolboy from the hideout of the kidnapers on Sunday night in Bagerhat and arrested one person in this connection.

Shrimp trader injured in bomb blast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Shrimp trader Amol Krishna Mondol was seriously injured as the extremists hurled bombs in front of the Raju Fish depot in Rupsha upazila on Sunday.

The powerful bomb exploded with big bang breaking glass fitted doors and windows of the fish depot.

Shopkeepers of the Rupsha commercial area shut their shops immediately and transports went off the road out of Panic.

The joint forces picked up 20 people for questioning in this regard. The bomb was exploded to create panic in the area, Khulna police super said.

Fish depot owner Amol Krishna said that he was target of the extremists as he refused to pay them toll.

Asaduzzaman, student of Bagerhat Govt High School, was abducted at arms point on Saturday from Dema Union in Sadar thana.

Asad was abducted following a dispute between his father Abdul Halim and members of 'Apon Bahini' over possession of a shrimp enclosure at Dema Union under Bagerhat Sadar thana.

Asad's father Halim lodged an FIR accusing eight people. In the FIR Halim stated that abductors gave death threat to him and his son for not leaving the shrimp enclosure.

The victim was tortured during captivity, police said. Selim, one of the FIR-named accused, was arrested.

The complainant said that the abductors were supporters of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).



LGDJF executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saiful Islam Shamim and Joyonto Achariya have been elected president and general secretary respectively of the Local Government and Development Journalist Forum (LGDJF).

Other office-bearers are Nesar Ahmed-vice president, Kamran Reza Chowdhury- joint secretary, Monir Haider- organising secretary, Rashed Mehedi- treasurer, Abul Kalam Azad- international affairs secretary, Jamaluddin- publicity and publications secretary, and Rozina Islam- office secretary.

Members are Mustafiz Shafi, Ashish Saikat, Rafiqul Islam Ratan, Shakhawat Liton, Kazi Hafiz and Salauddin Bablu.

The committee was formally announced at a function at the National Press Club on Saturday, says a LGDJF press release.

Children's painting competition on Asthma Day

A painting competition for the children will be held in the city on May 1 to mark the World Asthma Day, says a press release.

The Standard Chartered Bank in association with the Asthma Association and the Islamia Eye Hospital is organising the competition.

The event will begin on the premises of Islamia Eye Hospital at Farmgate at 9.00am. Children aged between 6 and 12 years are eligible to take part in the competition split into three groups.

Earlier, the event was scheduled for April 30 but the date has been changed due to unavoidable circumstances.



Bangladesh Jubo Maitry forms a human chain at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding resignation of the government and protesting mass arrest across the country.

Import of oil cake through Bhomra land port suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

Import of Indian oil cake through Bhomra land port has remained suspended since yesterday morning as the superintendent of customs has ordered not to allow the loaded trucks to enter the land port from across the border.

At least 200 trucks loaded with Indian oil cake remained stranded at Shojadanga land port in India opposite to Bhomra land port, creating a massive traffic jam.

The importers alleged that they were also being harassed following the order.

According to the clearing and forwarding (C&F) agent sources, some importers, including M/S MR Enterprise, are importing oil cake, used as livestock feed, through the land port maintaining all formalities.

Customs Super Moazzem Hossain has stopped the trucks from entering the land port without assigning any reason, the importers said.

Habibur Rahman, president of C & F Agent Association, Bhomra, termed the decision a move to close down the land port.

Women journalists' confce postponed

The conference of Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra, which was scheduled to be held at the National Press Club tomorrow, has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances, says a press release.

Obituary

UNB, Jhenidah

Sujit Kumar Shaha, a freedom fighter and founder principal of Shekhpara Dukhi Mahmud Degree College, died of cardiac arrest at Suhrawardy Hospital in Dhaka on Sunday at the age of 55.

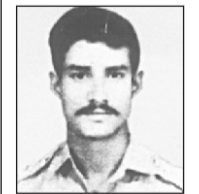
The college authorities announced a holiday yesterday to mourn his death. He served the college for 10 years without any salary.

He left behind his wife and two daughters.

People from all walks of life attended the funeral to mourn his death.

Principal Sujit was cremated with state honour at his village Mirjapur.

Death anniversary



The 33rd death anniversary of freedom fighter Shaheed Captain Aftabul Qader Bir Uttam will be observed today, says a press release.

On this day in 1971, Capt Aftabul Qader sacrificed his life in a direct confrontation with the Pakistani occupation forces at Mahalchhari under Khagrachhari district in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at Astana Sharif of Faridabad in the city today.

Ahsanul Qader, brother of Shaheed Aftabul Qader, also embraced martyrdom during the War of Liberation.

Tanveer Ekram



Today is the first death anniversary of Tanveer Ekram, only son of former secretary Dr Ekram Hossain, says a press release.

Relatives and friends have been requested to pray for the departed soul of Tanveer.



Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) observes a token hunger strike in front of its office in the city yesterday to protest against mass arrests and killings and crimes.

DHAKA TODAY

Roundtable
Lions Club of Dhaka Central South organises a roundtable on 'Degradation of the youth and its remedies' with Chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on information ministry Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11.00am.

Inauguration
The inaugural ceremony of 'The project for identification of Arsenicosis patients and the management' will be held with Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 9.30am.

Memorial discussion
On the occasion of the death anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Haque, Dakkhin Bangla Jubo Kalyan Samity organises a discussion. Venue: Shaheed Asad auditorium, 31/F, Topkhana Road. Time: 5.00pm.

Film show
The Academy Film Society will screen a German film titled 'Anatomy' (2000). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Reception
A reception for Maestro Afzalur Rahman and an instrumental recital titled 'Ganer Sangsar' will be held. Venue: Shaheed Zia auditorium, National Museum. Time: 6.30pm.

Concluding function
The concluding function of the four-day-long folksong festival, organised by the Shilpakala Academy, will be held with Law Minister Moudud Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: National Art Gallery of the academy, Segun Bagicha. Time: 6.30pm.

Film show
The Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'Auto Focus' (2002). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

WEATHER TODAY

Temperature may rise

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty to squally wind is likely at one or two places over all the six divisions till 6pm today. Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said. Highest temperature 36.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and the lowest 20.0 degree at Madaripur.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:26 pm today and rises at 5:26 am tomorrow. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.5	25.5	58	76
Chittagong	34.8	24.5	68	73
Rajshahi	34.2	23.1	68	59
Khulna	34.4	23.0	--	54
Barisal	34.0	23.1	63	58
Sylhet	34.0	23.9	68	47
Cox's Bazar	33.8	24.5	68	76