

Biman flight schedule about to crash-land

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On July 9, another Biman flight, this time to London, was delayed for about a day at ZIA due to technical glitches in the aircraft.

Recently Biman cut three weekly flights each to Riyadh, Jeddah and Kuwait and one each to London and Rome.

"We have demand in the above routes but we failed to meet it due to aircraft shortage," Abdul Mamud Khan told The Daily Star.

During the last one year Biman suspended its flights to Yangon, Mumbai, Tokyo, Frankfurt, Orly (Paris), Brussels, New Delhi, Karachi, Dubai, Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, Riyadh, Dammam, Jeddah, Rome, London and Doha.

Meanwhile, the Biman aircraft that had been stuck at Heathrow International

aircraft 15 to 16 hours a day, whereas it should not be used more than 10-11 hours per day, he said.

Biman presently owns three types of aircraft -- four DC10-30s, four F-28s, and three A310-300s. Production of DC10-30s and F-28s has been discontinued because of their lack of viability in business.

Of the 11 aircraft of the Biman fleet, only four or five can operate a day while the rest are grounded due to technical malfunctions.

At present Biman is running flight to Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Singapore, Kolkata, Kathmandu, New Delhi, Karachi, Dubai, Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, Riyadh, Dammam, Jeddah, Rome, London and Doha.

Meanwhile, the Biman aircraft that had been stuck at Heathrow International

Airport for about 48 hours is likely to fly for Dhaka at 2:00am (Bangladesh standard time) on Tuesday, Biman sources said.

The London-Dubai-Dhaka flight was scheduled to fly for Dhaka at 2:00am (Bangladesh standard time) on Tuesday, Biman sources said.

But due to hydraulic failure, the aircraft could not fly, sources said, adding that unavailability of departure slot caused more delay to the flight.

The aircraft is ready to fly after repairing for its technical glitches, a Biman official said.

The aircraft carrying 40 passengers is supposed to arrive at the Zia International Airport at 3:00pm today, said Biman sources.



PHOTO: STAR

Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury, vice-chancellor of Brac University, inaugurates 'Science and Technology Week-2007' at Dhaka College by lighting a torch yesterday.

Arrest panic grips RU BCL men

RU CORRESPONDENT

Leaders and activists of Rajshahi University (RU) Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) are now passing their days in fear that they might be arrested any time.

Panic gripped them as the joint forces recently arrested BCL Originising Secretary Tuhin Reza from the campus allegedly for organising a protest against the arrest of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina.

Tuhin, however, was released two days later, sources said.

The joint forces raided two dormitories at midnight and searched for BCL leaders and activists in the wake of BCL demonstrations held in front of the arts faculty building.

The law enforcers also raided the house of RU BCL Joint Secretary Ujjal near the university area but could not find him, the sources said.

Meanwhile, the university authorities have allowed the joint forces to conduct raids on any dormitory in order to maintain law and order.

The arrest and raids have prompted many top BCL leaders and activists to leave the campus, sources said.

Expressing concern over such situation, a BCL worker said, "We might not hold August 15 mourning programme as most of the leaders left the campus fearing arrest."

The law enforcers have also raided

residences of students near the university and in the city several times to hunt down 'listed' activists of BCL, who violated the state of emergency by taking part in the demonstration and demanding resignation of the law adviser, the sources said.

They also said the police and intelligence branches recently prepared a list of leaders and activists of BCL who violated the state of emergency and organised demonstration on the campus.

Some students said that the police have also interrogated them to inquire about BCL leaders and activists.

When contacted, RU BCL General Secretary Ayeen Uddin said, "Our August 15 programme has become uncertain as most leaders and activists are now passing days in fear."

Drug stores fined

RU CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court in a drive in Rajshahi yesterday fined eight drug stores Tk 9000 on different charges, including preserving date-expired medicines.

The court led by Metropolitan Magistrate Jonendranath Sarker conducted the six-hour drive in city's Shahab Bazar Zero Point, Gonopara and Laxmipur areas.

The court also demolished a billboard advertising cigarettes in the city.

Three killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least three people were killed and 11 others injured in separate road accidents in Comilla, Gaibandha and Brahmanbaria yesterday.

UNB from Comilla reports: A man was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Babuchi in Choudhogram upazila yesterday.

The deceased was identified as auto-rickshaw driver Ali Akkas, 45, of Munshi Bari at Uttar Noorpur in the town.

Police said a Dhaka-bound truck from Chittagong rammed the auto-rickshaw coming from the opposite direction at about 12:00 noon, killing Akkas on the spot and injuring three taxi passengers, including a forest official.

The injured are forest official Rafiqul Islam, 50, of Choudhogram, Jalil, 30, of Sreepur, and Chheru Miah.

Critically injured Rafiqul Islam was rushed to Comilla Medical College Hospital. Our correspondent from Brahmanbaria says: One person was killed in a road accident on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Khariala village under Ashuganj upazila yesterday morning.

The victim was identified as Rubel Mia, 9, of Khariala village of Brahmanbaria.

Witnesses said a Dhaka-bound bus knocked him down on the road and crushed under its wheels when he along with his mother was crossing the highway, leaving him dead on the spot.

Injured Naya Mia, Zillur Rahman, Sujan, Tarajul, Reaz, Shamsul and Nurunnabi were rushed to Ghoraghat Health Complex. They were transferred to Bogra Hospital as their condition deteriorated.

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