

Tarique Rahman
not owner of
daily Dinkal
Says his lawyer
UNB, Dhaka

Contradicating media reports, the lawyer for detained BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman yesterday claimed that his client is not the owner of Daily Dinkal, but the printer and publisher. "I want to state that Tarique Rahman is not the owner of Dinkal as it appeared in the media," Tarique's lawyer Advocate Ahmed Aazam Khan said at a press briefing at his chamber.

The briefing was organised to

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BSF kills 1

A CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot dead a Bangladeshi national at Jadavpur frontier in Moleshpur upazila of the district early yesterday.

The victim was identified as Azizur Rahman, 38, son of Minajuddin of Pakrail village under the upazila.

Locals said the Indian border guards opened fire on Aziz when he went to Pakrail field near border pillar no 54 to cut down a tree. He died instantly.

When contacted, Jadavpur BDR camp-in-charge Abdul Gani confirmed the incident.

Prayer Timing

August 16		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-25	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-38	6-41
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

1,000 stranded as Biman flights go haywire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awaiting flight schedules, 1,000 more passengers of Biman Bangladesh Airlines suffered at Zia International Airport (ZIA) yesterday as at least nine more Biman flights were delayed due to technical glitches and aircraft shortage.

The flights delayed yesterday include five flights to Malaysia, and one each to Riyadh, Jeddah, Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

Later, two of the flights could manage to fly to their destinations in the afternoon. The Malaysia-bound aircraft flew at 4:30pm with full passengers on board while the Riyadh-bound flight flew about 50

hours behind schedule with 220 passengers on board.

On Tuesday, three Biman flights were cancelled leaving around 600 passengers in untold suffering at ZIA.

Biman high officials at a meeting yesterday discussed arranging make-up flights as soon as possible, hiring aircraft, if necessary, or with the help of other airlines to solve the crisis, said a meeting source.

A Biman high official told The Daily Star that the situation cannot be improved shortly as eight of Biman 11 aircraft have been sent to the hangar due to technical glitches. Three operating aircraft include a DC10-30 and two airbuses.

The flights were delayed for

different periods ranging from 10 hours to 50 hours, forcing the Biman authorities to reschedule all flights including those already scheduled several times.

Following delay of the flights, aggrieved passengers staged demonstration at the airport terminal several times.

Many passengers--mostly expatriate workers--fear losing jobs for not being able to join work on time. Those who came on vacation or official assignments also feared complications due to the delay.

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US to scrap nuke deal if India tests weapons

AFP, Washington

The United States will scrap a landmark deal to export civilian nuclear fuel and technology to India if New Delhi conducts an atomic weapons test, the State Department said Tuesday.

The statement came as the two governments gave different interpretations of the controversial nuclear deal's recently adopted operating agreement, also known as the 123 agreement.

"The proposed 123 agreement has provisions in it that in an event of a nuclear test by India, then all nuclear cooperation is terminated, as well as there is provision for return of all materials, including reprocessed material covered by the agreement," State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said.

His comment came as US President George W. Bush and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh discussed the deal Tuesday by telephone.

Singh told parliament on Monday that the agreement would not affect the Asian giant's military programme or any plans to test nuclear weapons.

He said "the agreement does not in any way affect India's right to undertake future nuclear tests, if it is necessary."

The operating agreement was officially approved by the two governments about two weeks ago after discussions spanning two years.

But US law also requires

FLOOD RELIEF
Khaleda slates govt for not permitting her

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Former prime minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday criticised the government action barring her from visiting the flood affected people.

"The government is not allowing me to stand by the flood-hit people. I don't understand why it (government) is doing so," she told JCD activists of Rajshahi University during a teleconference.

"I was always with the people in any disaster. But this time, I could not go to the distressed due to government restrictions on my movement. It is violation of human rights."

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HASINA'S BAIL
Govt files leave to appeal against HC orders

UNB, Dhaka

The government, in compliance with the Supreme Court Appellate Division's instructions, yesterday filed regular leave to appeal petitions to overturn High Court orders on former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's cases.

In its recent orders, the HC has granted bail to the detained former prime minister and Awami League president in two extortion cases and stayed the ACC notice asking her to submit wealth statement.

Besides, the government also filed another similar application against the High Court order that granted bail to detained former

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Minu ran business in other's name

Invested Tk 1.8cr in cold storage industry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Rajshahi

Rajshahi Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu invested Tk 1.80 crore in cold storage and seed storage business

in the name of another businessman to cover his illegal income, said arrested former president of Rajshahi Chamber and Commerce and Industries (RCCI) Lutfar Rahman in a judicial confession.

Lutfar, a close aide of Minu, provided his confessional statement under Section 164 before First Class Magistrate Jonendranath

Sarker on Tuesday on completion of two-day interrogation by an anti-corruption taskforce team.

He was taken on a two-day remand after businessman Nurunnabi on August 6 filed two cases against him with Boalia Police Station for extorting Tk 1.30 crore.

Saiful Islam, investigation officer of the extortion case against Lutfar, told the court in writing that Lutfar as a director of Rajshahi Krishni Unnayan Bank and RCCI president extorted huge money

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EXTORTION CASES
Trial of Hannan Shah, son stayed for 3 months

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court (HC) yesterday stayed for three months the trial proceedings of two extortion cases against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Adviser Brig Gen (retd) ASM Hannan Shah and his son.

A division bench comprising Justice MA Matin and Justice M Abdul Hye also issued a rule upon the government to explain why the cases should not be quashed.

"The rule is made returnable in four weeks," says the court order.

Hannan Shah and his son Shah Rezaul Hannan were arrested on May 14 at their old DOHS residence at Mohakhali in the city in connection with an extortion case.

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Laid-off jute mill workers stage sit-in for arrears

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Employees of the closed People's Jute Mills started a sit-in programme from 7:00am yesterday demanding their arrears of last eight months.

Habibur Rahman, project director of the jute mill, said the sit-in would create a deadlock in the payment process.

He said the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) had no intention to deprive the employees. "A few complications have arisen regarding the payment process of arrears of permanent employees and employees absorbed on adhoc basis," Rahman added.

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Chiefs of the three services stand in solemn silence after placing wreaths at Bangabandhu's grave at Tungipara yesterday.