

# Biman to close domestic flights except Ctg, Sylhet

UNB, Dhaka

Biman Bangladesh Airlines Limited will not operate any domestic flight except on Sylhet and Chittagong routes as the national flag carrier is eyeing to establish itself as a world-class airliner.

The fleet committee in its proposal said that it would not be a wise decision for Biman to operate domestic flights except on Chittagong and Sylhet routes.

"We include Chittagong and Sylhet as there are huge number of expatriates from these two areas live in different countries around the world," Captain Shah Alam, a member of the fleet committee, told UNB yesterday.

He said the fleet committee proposed to operate connecting services for Sylhet and Chittagong.

Replying to a question, Capt Shah Alam said there are four private airlines operating their domestic flights and the domestic market is already

saturated.

"We don't want to enter that saturated and small market; we want to do our core business and that is operating international flights."

In the proposal, the fleet committee mentioned that there is no need to procure small aircraft in future to operate domestic flights.

"Rather, we are looking to make a new impression in the international market," he said.

Chief Adviser's Special Assistant Mahbub Jamil on Monday at a press conference said they are not interested in domestic market. "We will open the domestic sector to the private airlines," he said.

Biman currently owns three types of aircraft - four McDonnell Douglas DC10-30s, four Fokker F28s and three Airbus A310-300s. Out of 11 planes of Biman fleet, only four or five are operating now while the rest are grounded.

Amid aircraft shortage, Biman cut seven international routes and was forced to reduce flight frequencies on

five profitable international routes like Riyadh, Jeddah and Kuwait. Biman's market share came down to almost half of what it had in 1991.

Capt Shah Alam said the national flag carrier would try to restore its flights on the profitable international routes.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines on Sunday decided to purchase eight Boeing aircraft at a cost of US\$ 1.265 billion to resuscitate the country's lone public sector airlines.

Biman will sign a MoU with Boeing representatives here on March 15. Of the eight Boeings, the first consignment of four aircraft will be arriving here in 2013 while the second consignment in 2017.

Currently, GMG Airlines, United Airways, Best Air and Royal Bengal are operating domestic flights along with Biman.

The new private airlines are now operating domestic flights on routes connecting Dhaka with Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Sylhet and Jessore.

# Memorial to Nazrul, Zainul, Quamrul to be built on DU campus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to build a monument in memory of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, artists Zainul Abedin and Quamrul Hassan and Prof Matin Chowdhury on the Dhaka University (DU) campus.

A committee headed by DU Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof AFM Yusuf Haider has been asked to finalise the selection of a design of the monument in 15 days, said an official of Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) ministry yesterday.

A meeting of the ministry yesterday also decided to erect fences around the Central Shaheed Minar and set up a centre in memory of language movement martyr Barkat near Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) Bhaban, the official said.

LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal presided over the meeting.

Dhaka University authorities took up such a project in 1999, but failed to implement it due to lack of funds.

# CEC's RESIGNATION Hafiz terms his rivals' demand 'unfortunate'

UNB, Dhaka

Standing committee-nominated acting BNP Secretary General Major (ret) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed yesterday described the demand for resignation of Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda by some leaders belonging to his party's rival faction as very unfortunate.

"Some individuals demanded resignation of the CEC. It is very unfortunate and this demand will hinder the election process," he said while talking to reporters at his Banani residence.

Hafiz called for a meeting of the BNP standing committee to overcome the disaster facing the immediate-past ruling party in the changed political context. He hoped this policymaking body would play a role to rid BNP of the crisis.

The acting secretary general described the party constitution as undemocratic and said the way the party is run at the moment is not the right way.

"The way the party is run today is not the right way. BNP constitution is undemocratic," he categorically said, justifying their defiant move for party reforms suiting the demand of the time.

Giving an explanation of vesting the responsibility of the party in Saifur Rahman, Hafiz said since the party chairperson is in prison, Saifur was given the responsibility as he is the senior-most in the BNP hierarchy after Khaleda.

In an oblique reference to role of some young party leaders, Hafiz said the junior leaders should not play the role in leading the party rather senior leaders should be given the opportunity to do so.

About the unity of the party, Hafiz said, "We want unity of the party. Saifur has invited Delwar to sit across the table for discussion. But, Delwar doesn't want to sit. We think it's unfortunate for us that they don't sit together."

About chairperson's adviser Hannan Shah's letter through messenger to Saifur, he said Shah could have a cup of tea with Saifur instead of sending a messenger.



PHOTO: PID

Advisers, dean of diplomatic corps, chiefs of three services and senior civil and military officials see off Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at Zia International Airport in the city prior to his departure for Dakar last night.

# US journalist shares experiences of Iraq war

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is not possible to do independent journalism while covering a war like Iraq war as it becomes very difficult to collect and verify information in such a situation, said Brian Palmer, a US war correspondent and filmmaker, yesterday.

Though a reporter is supposed to be independent, there is no alternative to embedded journalism during a war, he said while delivering a lecture on 'Notes from occupation: War and ethics of journalism' at RC Majumder Auditorium of Dhaka University (DU).

Globalisation Study Group and Mukto Buddhi Charcha Kendra, a centre for practice of freedom of thought, jointly organised the lecture.

Brian Palmer covered the Iraq war in 2003 as an embedded journalist. He then worked with the CNN.

Sharing his experiences of the war, Palmer, now an independent journalist, said he had to become an embedded reporter as he wanted to know what the US troops were going to do after declaring the combat operation in Iraq.

If anybody had wanted to cover the war, they would have to be embedded with the US troops, he said, adding that otherwise, the troops would not have cooperated with them.

Palmer also said that even if any reporters now want to cover the post-war situation in Iraq or Afghanistan, they have to become embedded journalists. Otherwise, the US troops will not cooperate with them, he added.

During the war, the US media aired only those news which they thought are newsworthy as they regard themselves as universal and objective, he said.

Replying to a question, he said that although he was an embedded journalist, his eyes and ears were open. He is now making a documentary on his experiences during the war.

He is now working for his first documentary titled 'Full disclosure: A reporter's journey toward truth in Iraq' based on three trips to Iraq with the same US marine combat unit.

Anis Alamgir, a Bangladeshi journalist who went to Afghanistan during the war, said the embedded journalists received cooperation from the US troops, but the independent journalists did not get any cooperation from the US troops or from the then Afghan government.

Dr Giti Ara Nasreen and Shamim Reza also spoke at the programme presided over by Kaberi Gayen, associate professor of the department of Mass Communication and Journalism of DU.

# Two brothers drown in Buriganga

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two brothers drowned in the river Buriganga near Sadarghat Launch Terminal yesterday afternoon.

They were identified as Sajal Saha, a class ten student of Udayan School in Barisal, and his elder brother Kajal Saha.

They were returning to Barisal with their cousin Suman Saha and friend Shubha Saha after Sajal participated in the Asia Pacific Mathematical Olympiad, Bangladesh Chapter at Dhaka

Teachers' Training College.

At about 2:45pm, Sajal fell down from the boat that was taking them to a launch anchored in the mid-river, witnesses said. Kajal immediately jumped into the river to save Sajal, but both of them drowned.

Divers of Fire Service and Civil Defence recovered the bodies and handed them over to their relatives.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Nazrul Islam of South Keraniganj Police Station said, "It is very sad that several hundred people saw them drowning but none of them came to their aid."

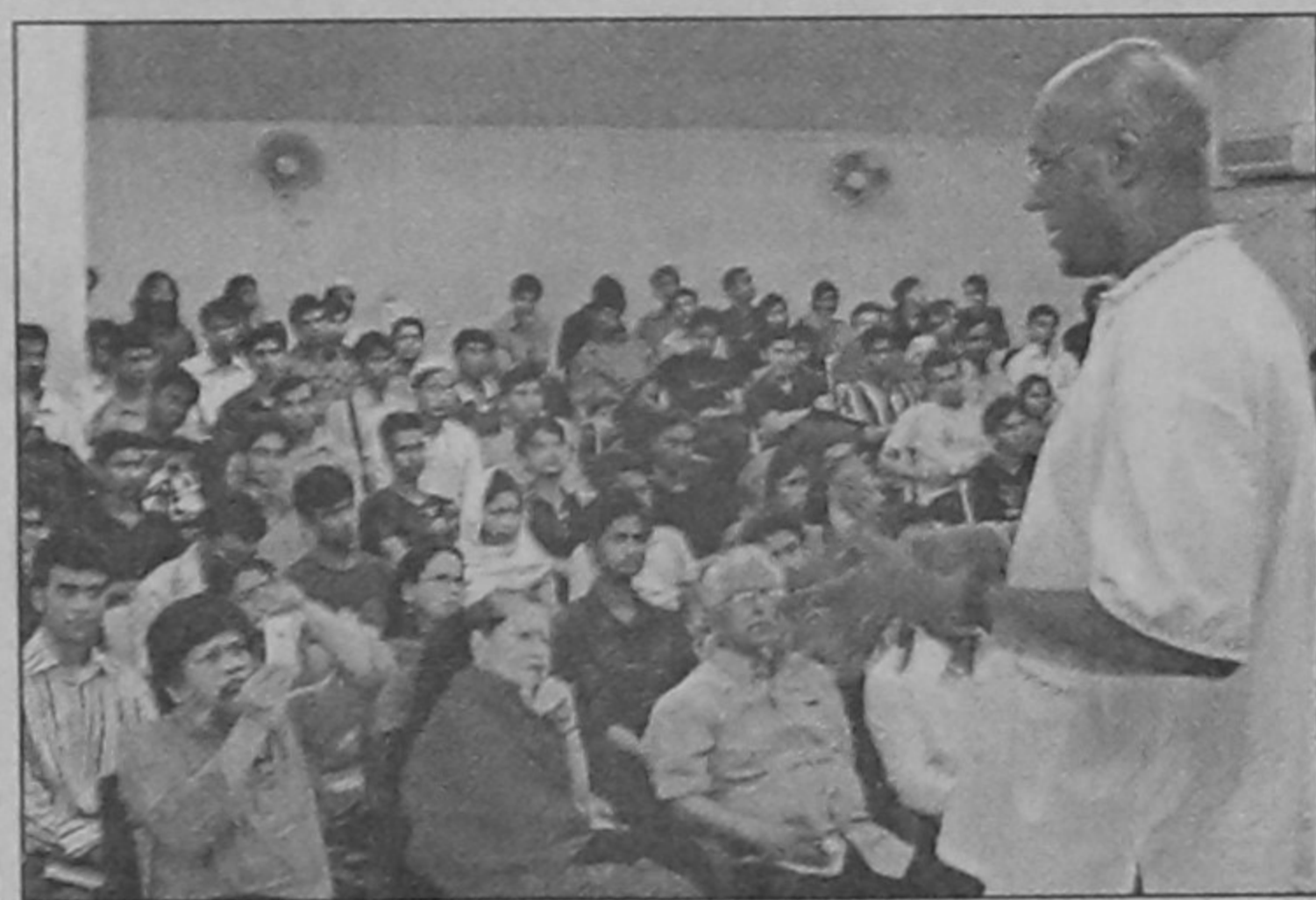


PHOTO: STAR

Brian Palmer, a US war correspondent, delivers a lecture on 'Notes from occupation: War and ethics of journalism' in the city yesterday.

## WEATHER TODAY

# Fall in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Having chances of rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia and Comilla, Met Offices said.

It also said that day temperature may fall slightly over the country.

Highest temperature 34.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 19.3 degrees Celsius at Srirampol.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:06pm today and rises at 6:09am 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	31.5	22.5	73	51
Chittagong	29.1	22.2	88	87
Rajshahi	31.8	21.1	84	41
Khulna	32.4	21.0	86	67
Barisal	32.4	22.2	87	67
Sylhet	28.9	20.7	69	67
Cox's Bazar	30.5	21.4	92	83

# DHAKA TODAY

**Talk**  
Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) organises a talk on 'Combating terrorism: Theory and practice'. Venue: BISS auditorium. Time: 11:00am.

**Seminar**  
Ministry of Agriculture organises a seminar on fertilizer management. Venue: Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

**View exchange**  
Institute for Environment & Development (IED) will organise a view exchange meeting on democracy and good governance. Venue: Cirdap Auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.

**Discussion**  
Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee organises a discussion on fundamentalism in Bangladesh and women rights. Venue: Bilia auditorium. Time: 4:00pm.

**Roundtable**  
Jabtya Nari Nirjatan Protirod Forum organises a roundtable on necessity of laws against domestic violence. Venue: Chhayanaut auditorium. Time: 5:00pm.



PHOTO: STAR

Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain addresses a meeting in memory of Gono Forum General Secretary Saifuddin Ahmed Manik at the Kanchi Kanchar Mela auditorium in the city yesterday.

# Forge greater unity to establish effective parliament

Says Dr Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent jurist and Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday urged all to work together for establishing an effective parliament through a free and fair election, restoring the power of the people over the government.

Stressing the need to forge a greater unity to establish a true democracy, he said the anti-liberation elements are now trying to hinder the process of achieving empowerment of the mass people.

Dr Kamal was speaking as the chief guest at a meeting in memory of late Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, a liberation war veteran and one of the doyens of the country's politi-

cal arena.

He also recalled the contribution of Manik to democratic movements in the country.

Jatiya Chhatra Forum organised the meeting to pay tribute to Manik, also the general secretary of Gono Forum, at Kanchi Kanchar Mela auditorium in the city.

Bijoy Talukder chaired the meeting while Pankaj Bhattacharya, Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, Khaled Mohammad Ali, Abdul Rouf, Subrata Chowdhury, Mostafa Mohsin Montu and Fowzia Moslem, the wife of the late leader, also spoke.

Urging the students to help make politics clean, Dr Kamal said that this year would be the year of

mass awareness and people's victory.

"We should face all the crises together to ensure the welfare of the nation and the countrymen," he said.

He also said, "We should be alert and conscious as the prices of essentials in the country are higher than in the international market."

The speakers said Saifuddin Ahmed Manik played a vital role in the student movement against the then Pakistani regime as well as the struggle for independence.

He never compromised his principles, they said.

Saifuddin Ahmed Manik passed away at a city hospital on February 3.

# 'A policeman helped criminal Emon evade arrest'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Notorious criminal Sanjiddul Islam Emon told CID interrogators yesterday that a policeman, in exchange for bribes, went to inform him beforehand of any drive to arrest him.

"Emon told us of a sub-inspector who provided him with information about the police drive during the time he was posted at the Ramna Police Station few years ago," a Criminal Investigation Department (CID) official said, seeking anonymity.

The sub-inspector is now posted at a bordering police station in northern region, the official said but declined to disclose the name of the policeman.

An eight-member team of CID officials is interrogating Emon, who is now on an eight-day remand.

# Hotelier shot dead

Garment worker stabbed to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An hotelier was gunned down at Sayedabad in the city yesterday and a garment worker was stabbed to death at Mohakhali on Monday night.

A gang of four assailants fired on Abu Siddique alias Mohon, 45, one of the owners of Hotel Anwara Residential, in front of his hotel at around 7:45am, witnesses said.

"The gunmen were waiting outside the hotel. As soon as Mohon came out of the hotel, they sprayed seven to eight bullets on him," the victim's younger brother Abdus Sobhan said quoting a witness.

Mohon came to the hotel from his home at Dayaganj in the morning, he said.

Hotel staffers rushed injured Siddique to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead.

Sobhan said his brother became the target of a gang of extortionists

who used to collect toll from the counter of Padma Express, a bus service on Dhaka-Chandpur route, but could not do so for about one month because of resistance from Mohon, who was also a supervisor of the bus service.

Sobhan also demanded arrest of and exemplary punishment to the killers.

"Jatrabari police said they could not arrest anybody in this connection as of 8:00pm yesterday."

In the other incident, Monirul Islam, 42, a worker of a garment factory in Gulshan area, was stabbed to death by his fellow worker near his home at Wireless Gate in Mahakhali on Monday night.

Monir's younger brother Alamgir told reporters, "Enayet called my brother out of our home at around 10:00pm and few minutes later, I heard my brother crying for help."

Gulshan police said Alamgir has filed a case against Enayet, who is now at large.

# Outlaw killed in 'crossfire'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A regional leader of the outlawed Purna Banglar Communist Party (Red Flag) was killed in a gunfight with Rab at Nandanpur village in Pabna's Ataikula upazila early yesterday.

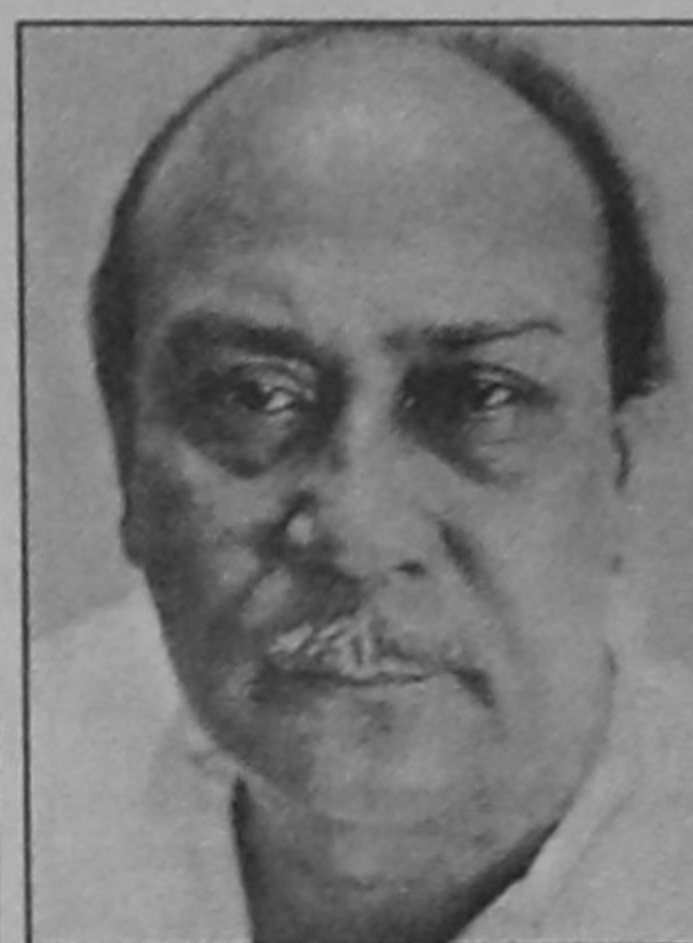
He was identified as Md Abdus Samad alias Dhala Samad, 45, son of late Azim Uddin Sardar of Kakilakali village in the upazila.

A Rab press release said Samad was accused in several cases, including four for murder. He was also accused of rape, abduction and extortion but the victims never dared to file complaints fearing reprisal.

Rab said they raided a jackfruit orchard in the village at about 1:45am following information that operatives of the outlawed outfit were holding a secret meeting there.

But sensing the presence of the law enforcers, the criminals opened fire and hurled bombs on them, ensuing a gun battle in which Samad died on the spot.

Rab recovered eight bombs, two shutter guns and three rounds of bullet from the spot.



# Death anniversary

Today is the 28th death anniversary of Mashiur Rahman Jadu Mia, one of the founders of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and also a senior minister of Zia's government and one of the frontline leaders of progressive democratic movement in the country, says a press release.

On the occasion, family members, Bangladesh National Awami Party (NAP) and other organisations will organise milad mahfil in different places.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the milad mahfil.

"During 'the World War II', Mashiur Rahman joined the National Liberation Force in Myanmar. He also took part in the anti-British movement in 1943.

# Engineer Md Shariar Rony

Today is the fourth death anniversary of Engineer Md Shariar Rony, son of the Chief Engineer of Bangladesh Agricultural

University (BAU) Md Rahmatullah, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and doa mahfil will be held at the BAU Baitul Aman Masjid after Asr prayers today.

Relatives, colleagues, friends and admirers are requested to attend the doa mahfil and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

# Dilruba Rahman Ruma

Today is the 3rd death anniversary of Dilruba Rahman Ruma, wife of filmmaker Badal Rahman, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held after Maghrib prayers at her parent's residence. A destitute feeding programme will also be held.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the milad mahfil.

# Obituary

Ahmed Hossain (Shona Master), first commander of Muktiyoddha Sangsad of Sarishabari Upazila in Jamalpur and teacher of Bhatra High School, passed away at his residence in Bhatra yesterday morning at the age of 80, says a press release.

He left behind his son and daughter and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

# Modasser Hossain Jamali

Modasser Hossain Jamali, father-in-law of Workers Party of Bangladesh General Secretary Saiful Haque, breathed his last due to prostate cancer early hours of yesterday at the age of 81, says a press release.

He was laid to rest at the Goalkhali graveyard in Khulna.

He left behind his wife, six sons and daughters and a host of well-wishers to mourn his death.

Workers Party President Khondokar Ali Abbas and Politburo members Paresch Chandra Saha, Nasiruddin Ahmed Nasir, Raja Mia and Abdus Salam in a joint statement condole the death.

