

BURIGANGA RIVER

Sand traders offer free dredging

MORSHED ALI KHAN and TAWFIQUE ALI

The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority is going to launch a Tk 6.6 crore project to dredge parts of the Buriganga river although some traders are offering to do it free of cost and would rather pay for the extracted sand.

The BIWTA officials have completely ignored the sand traders' offer, selected a private contractor for the job and forwarded the project file to the Board of Members for final approval. The BIWTA board may approve the project any day.

Preparedness of BIWTA for the project to be launched this month is so vague and mysterious that when asked, Chief Engineer (Dredging) Abdul Matin said they would return the money to the exchequer if they are able to sell the sand.

The Daily Star has obtained copies of the "detailed" project proposal and nowhere in it did the BIWTA officials mention about sale of this valuable commodity or "return of project money".

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Eid is almost here and the transport system is feeling the crunch with people rushing in and out of the capital. The photo taken near Khilkhet in the capital shows people risking their lives to come to Dhaka on this train from Mymensingh.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



6th session of JS starts Sept 20

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Zillur Rahman has summoned the sixth session of the ninth parliament on September 20 at 4:00pm, a parliament secretariat press release said yesterday.

The upcoming parliamentary session is considered to be important so far as the amendment of the constitution in line with the recommendations made by the Jatiya Sangsad special committee is concerned.

Besides, some bills of public importance related to the real estate development and management are likely to be passed in this session, sources at the parliament secretariat said.

Earlier this month Suranjit Sengupta, co-chair of the JS

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Biman bows to staff demand

Decides to reinstate pension scheme, hike salaries as per govt pay scale after days of agitation at its HQs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Biman board of directors yesterday finally conceded to its employees' demand for revising a new pay scale, reinstating their pension scheme and giving pay raises in line with the government salary structure.

"Everything has been resolved. The board has approved all demands," said Biman Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Muhammad Zakiul Islam, after more than a two-hour long negotiation with the national airline's staff representatives.

Yesterday's negotiation followed Tuesday's demonstrations by Biman employees on the premises of its headquarters Balaka, after unofficial circulation of the new pay scale scrapping the pensions of around 3,000 permanent staff, and giving pay raises lower than what government employees had got.

The state-owned airliner was turned into a public limited company in July 2007, from a state-run corporation. A new pay scale was a demand of its staff since declaration of the new government salary structure in November 2009.

"We are happy that our righteous demands have been met," said Md Mosikur Rahman, convener of Sammilito Sangram Parishad of Biman, yesterday, coming out of the negotiation meeting sporting V signs along with other

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Help stop illegal power takeover

PM urges media

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought cooperation of the media so that none can take over power unconstitutionally in future.

She made the call when a delegation of Newspaper Owners Association of Bangladesh (Noab) led by its President Mahbubul Alam met her at her office.

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Milk Vita manages suppliers' strike

Cooperatives resume delivery of milk upon govt assurance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agitating dairy cooperatives yesterday resumed supply of milk to Baghabari unit of Milk Vita after getting assurance from the government authorities on meeting their demands in phases.

General Manager of Milk Vita Nasim Ahmed confirmed that the company collected milk from the cooperatives on Thursday afternoon.

The dairy cooperatives of Shahjadpur upazila in Sirajganj

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CHANGES TO CHARTER Spl committee meetings after Eid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The special committee of the Jatiya Sangsad on constitutional amendment has deferred its series of meetings scheduled for September 4, 5 and 6, a press release from the Parliament Secretariat said last night.

Suranjit Sengupta, co-chair of the special committee, told

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AL vows to thwart BNP's agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) will resist the anti-government movement called by the main opposition BNP after Eid-ul-Fitr, Mahbubul Alam Hanif, acting general secretary of AL, has said.

Earlier on August 24, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at a BNP-organised iftar party spoke of announcing an anti-government movement programme after the Eid to "free the countrymen from their sufferings".

According to Hanif, BNP called this movement to save the war criminals, and to cover up the "corruption and misdeeds" committed by Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman Koko -- the two sons of the BNP chief.

"If BNP goes for movements, especially to protect war criminals and to cover up the corruptions and misdeeds

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MP's driver 'admits' killing Ibrahim

Victim's wife says confession made under pressure; lawmaker tells of different story

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kamal Hossain Kala, driver of Awami League lawmaker Nurunnabi Chowdhury Shaon, yesterday confessed to shooting AL activist Ibrahim Ahmed during a tussle.

Ibrahim's wife Rina Islam alleged that the investigators forced Kala to confess to killing his husband to let Shaon off the hook.

She said the investigators echoed Shaon, who on Wednesday claimed that Ibrahim was killed by a bullet fired during a tussle with Kala.

Kala made the confessional statement before a metropolitan magistrate, who sent him to jail.

In line with a court directive, inspector of Detective Branch of police Shah Moshir Rahman yesterday filed a murder case with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station in connection with the incident.

Azim Uddin, sub-inspector of the police station, said Moshir did not accuse anyone in the case.

Moshir mentioned that they became sure that Ibrahim was murdered through the statements of driver Kala and Sohel, personal secretary of Shaon.

Kala in his statement said he pulled the trigger during a tussle with Ibrahim leaving the AL activist dead.

However, Kala earlier said Ibrahim, an acquaintance of Shaon, turned up on the scene when he was cleaning a car. He picked up the pistol from the car to check it out. A bullet hit him in the face when he pressed the trigger accidentally.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Moniruzzaman said Kala, during an interrogation, admitted that he pulled the trigger of Shaon's pistol during a tussle with Kala.

Shaon, lawmaker from Bhola-3 constituency, on Wednesday gave another version of the incident in a teleconference with journalists in Bhola.

He claimed that Kala and Ibrahim were checking out the pistol. At one stage Kala tried

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