

No Biman flight today, tomorrow

8 flights cancelled yesterday, 60 pilots call in 'sick', 1,000 passengers uncertain about travel plans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There will be no flights of Biman Bangladesh Airlines today and tomorrow.

For the first time in over two decades Biman has cancelled all international and domestic flights for two days.

Hajj flights, however, will take to the sky as per schedule.

"The airline has cancelled all its flights on domestic and international routes other than hajj operation," said Khan Musharraf Hussein, head of Biman public relations, on behalf of Biman Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Muhammad Zakiul Islam.

"Considering the humiliation and suffering of our esteemed passengers at the airport, we are compelled to announce the cancellation for

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PM for safety of commuters

Suggests strict enforcement of traffic rules

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pedestrians should be careful while crossing busy roads to avoid tragic accidents, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said yesterday, and also directed the authorities concerned to strictly implement traffic rules to ensure safety for all commuters.

"The causes behind road accidents need to be identified immediately so that effective measures can be taken to stop them," Sheikh Hasina said at a meeting with a

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ARMY HOUSING SCHEME IN RUPGANJ

Project area includes flood flow zone

TAWFIQUE ALI

The proposed site of the Army Housing Scheme in Rupganj includes designated flood flow zone, water bodies and rural homesteads, where no construction or earth-filling is permitted by the Dhaka Metropolitan Development Plan.

The project covers 24 moujas of Rupganj and Kayetpara unions lying between the Balu and Shitalakkhya rivers.

Of the total area of the 24 moujas, 65 percent is flood flow zone, 12 percent water bodies and 13 percent rural settlements, show documents of the development plan.

A canal flows from Beraid to Dakshin Nabagram across the proposed site in Rupganj upazila of Narayanganj, where the army plans to implement a 12,000-bigha housing project.

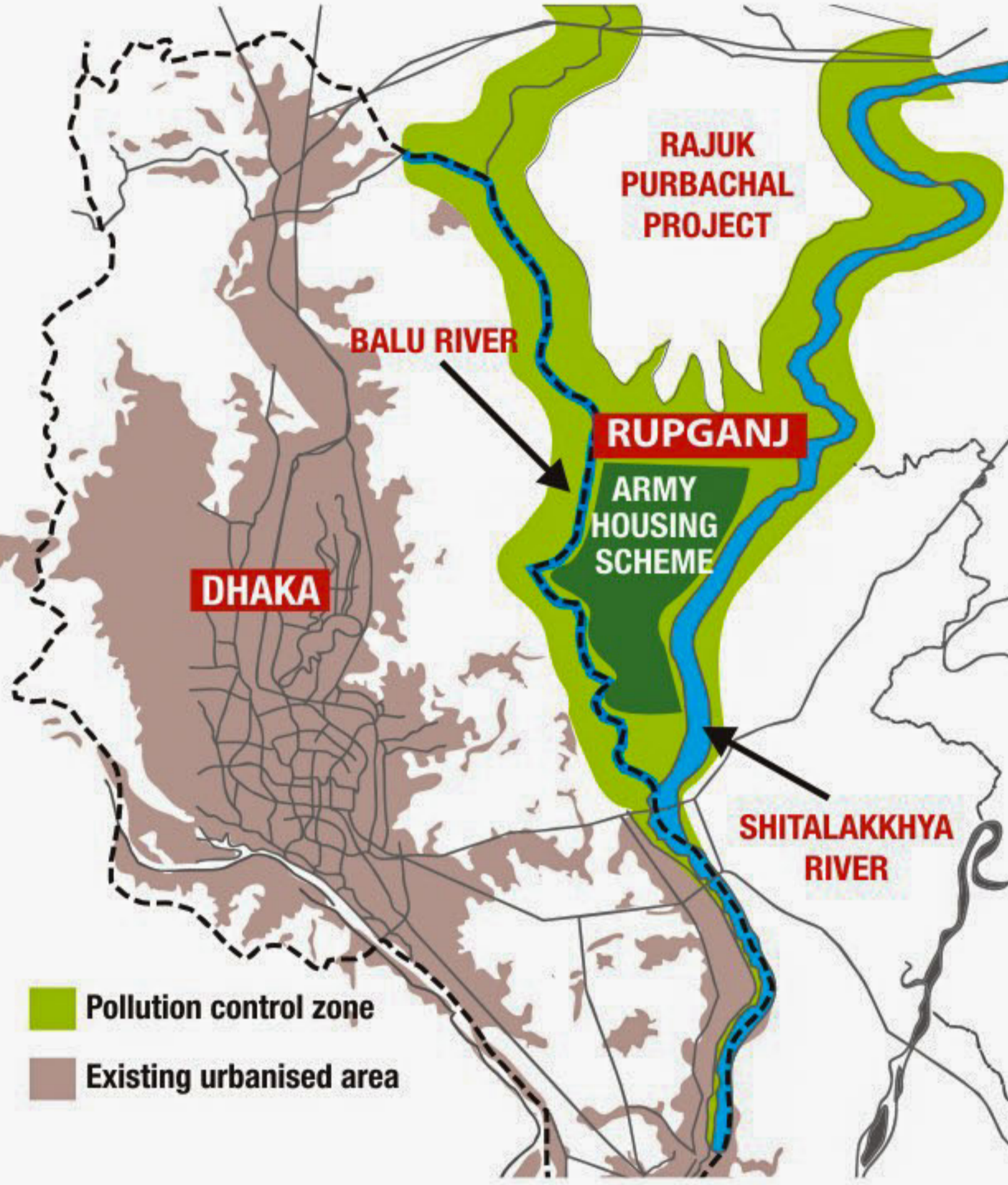
The AHS authority did not consult Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk), the custodian of the Detailed Area Plan (DAP), about the project although it was obligated to do so in line with the Private Housing Development Rules, 2004, said Rajuk Chairman Md Nurul Huda.

Housing project in any flood flow zone is not permissible, he said.

Asked why Rajuk did not stop the army's move to go ahead with the project, Nurul Huda said the AHS authority did not even approach Rajuk for consultation, let alone seeking Rajuk's approval.

Thousands of villagers fought pitched battles with law enforcers on October 23 over "forced purchase of land" for the proposed project.

Around 1,400 bighas of land has been purchased so far for the project since September, says Rupganj sub-registrar's office.



Prof Nazrul Islam, urban researcher and chairman of the University Grants Commission, said it is Rajuk's duty to prevent any violation of the DAP.

Shaheentul Islam, director of Inter Services Public Relations, said he was unaware about the status of the project.

The army had set up a company and got it registered with the registrar of joint stock companies to implement the project.

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Graft fight stays in talks

AL-led govt hardly took any step in 22 months to fulfil its top poll pledge

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The Awami League-led government has taken no significant anti-graft move so far in the 22 months of its tenure although curbing corruption through multi-pronged measures was one of its major electoral pledges.

The government appears stronger on rhetoric than on concrete action as no big graft-suspect has been held during its rule, which raises questions about its sincerity in this regard.

The ruling party in its election manifesto's top five priority issues mentioned that multi-pronged measures to fight corruption will be put into place. "Powerful people will have to submit wealth statements annually. Strict measures will be taken to eliminate bribe, extortion, rent seeking and corruption."

The manifesto said strong measures will be taken against those having unearned and black money, against loan defaulters, tender manipulators, and against abusers of muscle power in every stage of state and society.

State and private monopoly will be broken up. Discretionary power of officials will be curtailed. To establish people's right, citizens' charter will be introduced in every department. "Opportunities for corruption will be eliminated or minimised through widespread computerisation," it added.

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MURDER IN FARIDPUR

Culprit still at large

A CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Police are yet to arrest Devashish Saha Rony, who killed a mother by running his motorbike over her on Tuesday in Faridpur for protesting the harassment of her two daughters.

Madhukhali Police Station Officer-in-charge Syed Mohsinul Haque said they have information that Rony is hiding in the capital.

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NATORE TEACHER KILLING

Main accused Rajon arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Police yesterday arrested Rajon, the main accused in Natore college teacher Mizanur Rashid murder case, from Chakrampur village of the district.

Nasirul Islam, district superintendent of police (SP), said police picked him up around 6:00pm on his arrival here from Dhaka.

Rajon, 26, was taken to SP office for interrogation when reports last came in.

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CANTT HOUSE

BNP to step up agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP will continue their agitation against the government's move to evict party chairperson Khaleda Zia from her cantonment house, said party Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday.

"People will forge a movement against the conspiracy to evict Khaleda Zia from her house," he said while addressing a meeting in front of Engineers Institution of Bangladesh in the capital.

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HC ORDER

Trial of Pintu to continue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday cleared the way for continuing the trial of a corruption case filed against former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu on charge of misappropriating corrugated iron (CI) sheets meant for relief.

Earlier in 2008, the HC following a petition filed by detained Pintu, had stayed the proceedings of the case against him, and issued a rule upon the government and Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) to explain why the proceedings should not be quashed.

An HC bench of Justice AKM Fazlur Rahman and Justice ANM Basir Ullah

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IN FOND MEMORY

One year has passed since you left us and our hearts break every day still. The day you left, a part of us went with you and the world seemed to have stopped since. We miss every single moment, the precious gems you spent with us in your ephemeral life. We cherish every fleeting shadow you have draped around us as it is your blessings that enable us to persist. We believe that Allah is taking good care of you and pray to Him that you may have eternal peace.

Your family

We ask all friends and well-wishers of Mr. Imtiaz Husain to pray for his departed soul and remember him fondly for the good deeds he has done and the hearts he has touched.



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391.70	377.43	+0.74	0.78%	82.02
95.67	93.96	+0.42	1.69%	7.433
25.32	24.74	+0.30	1.22%	
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