

## Biman's DC-10

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suspend operation of the aircraft and cancel its flight scheduled for 9:30am local time on Jeddah-Chittagong-Dhaka route due to a leakage in the hydraulic line in one of its wings.

The national carrier sent spare parts and technicians from Dhaka to Jeddah in a flight today at 1:00am. It might require only a couple of hours to repair the leakage, the official told The Daily Star.

After hours of misery, the passengers were taken to local hotels. The Biman authorities will bear all the expenses, according to Biman sources.

Biman will accommodate as many as it can in the next Jeddah-Sylhet-Dhaka flight scheduled for 6:00pm today, they added.

A top Biman official said they will have to revise the schedules of other flights due to the technical glitch detected during the aircraft's flight to Jeddah.

"We've already asked the next flight to land in Dhaka first to offload passengers before flying to Sylhet," said another Biman official seeking anonymity.

The Chittagong-bound passengers will take another domestic flight from the capital to reach their destination, he added.

Biman has a fleet of 12 aircrafts including four DC-10s. It is the only airline in the world which still operates 34-year-old DC-10s, mentioned sources in Biman.

## JS body

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telecommunications ministry at a meeting at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban also asked the BTRC to settle the issue of licence renewal fees for mobile phone operators without further delay.

The BTRC in May last year cancelled licences of RanksTel, Dhaka Phone, National Telecom, PeoplesTel, and WorldTel after switching off services in March for their involvement in illegal international call termination through voice over internet protocol (VoIP) technology.

The telecommunications regulator has already taken initiatives to give back licences to two operators, committee chief Hasanul Huq Inu told The Daily Star.

"Today we asked officials concerned to return licences conditionally to the rest of the three," added the lawmaker of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD).

He also observed it is already too late to decide about licence renewal fees of mobile phone operators, which deprived the government of huge revenue.

"The government will shovel crores of taka once the issue is settled. The committee asked both the ministry and BTRC to resolve the issue immediately without wasting precious time," mentioned the JSD leader.

The House watchdog also recommended that the government waive all types of tax and duty on internet modem, noted Inu adding, they asked to allow tax-free import of internet equipment to ensure cheap internet service for the people.

The now-defunct landline telephone operators had been serving around six lakh clients, according to committee sources.

RanksTel was the market leader with more than 3 lakh subscribers followed by PeoplesTel's 1.6 lakh and National Telecom's 1.38 lakh. Besides, Dhaka Phone had 77,000 customers and WorldTel served 14,000, they added.

## Khaleda

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judiciary situation in Bangladesh, said BNP Vice-chairman Shamser Momin Chowdhury who was present there.

The minister said that not only Prof Yunus issue is a case of human rights violation, there are also other instances of rights violation in Bangladesh.

The British minister wanted to know what steps Khaleda will take if she returns to power. In reply, she said the party will establish the rule of law and ensure independence of judiciary and strengthen it.

Khaleda was scheduled to hold a meeting with Conservative Party Co-chairman Sayeeda Warsi at 10:00pm London time.

## Farmers beam

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Boro season--the biggest of the three rice-growing seasons--begins in December-January and ends in April-May. Aman and Aus seasons come next.

Output of Aman was 1.22 crore tonnes last season and that of Aus was 21 lakh tonnes.

According to a government estimate, the country's yearly demand for rice is over 3 crore tonnes.

Major Boro-growing regions are northern districts, greater Mymensingh and haor areas in Sylhet, Sunamganj and Moulvibazar districts.

Asked about the reasons for the better showing, Matia Chowdhury said the weather was good throughout the Boro season and there was no flash flood either. "We made all sorts of fertiliser available at cheap prices, and all this helped achieve a higher yield."

She also referred to the slashing of non-urea fertiliser prices in October last.

Habibur Rahman, director general of the Department of Agriculture Extension, said, "Too much of rain or foggy weather that brings on pest attacks was almost absent this season."

## Urban health

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"Most of the slum and street dwellers have limited access to health care because the centres open after they go out to work and close by the time they are back to their huts," said Mohammad Jasim Uddin, a Health Systems scientist at ICDDR,B.

According to Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), about 75 percent of the urban population in the country are out of the government's primary health care service, as the service mechanism for urban people is still inadequate and neglected.

The Local Government Division looks after urban health care, but it can cover only one fourth of the four crore urban population for a lack of manpower, money and infrastructure, sources close to UPHCP said.

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The family apprehends assault from the killers who still remain at large.

Contacted, Officer-in-charge Sirajul Islam of Ashulia PS denied hearing about the shooting incident.

Locals chased suspected killers Shipon, Shakil, Sababuddin and their accomplices when they appeared at Gazirchat few days back but police always claim they could not trace the gang, mentioned Mohammad Meron Khan, another son of Mozammel.

Hearing about the incident, I rushed to Gazirchat but could not arrest them," noted the IO.

The cop expected to prepare the charge sheet within around two more months.

As the law enforcers could not recover the looted goods and money and arrest the alleged killers, they cannot submit the charge sheet, added Rafiqul.

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