### Biman's London flight delayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka-bound London flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines via Manchester on Sunday was delayed by around 10 hours due to inclement weather.

Biman officials said the flight took off from London in due time for Manchester, but could not land there at 5:50pm local time, as scheduled, for heavy snowfall. The flight finally diverted to London again.

"Passengers had to stay inside the stranded plane as the weather was so bad that we could not took them even to the hotel," said a top Biman official, wishing anonymity.

As the weather condition improved, the aircraft flew to Manchester again, was deiced and finally took off for Dhaka with the passengers after around 10 hours beyond schedule, he said.

SPEAKER, DEPUTY SPEAKER, MPS

METROPOLITAN / NEWS

# 2 bills placed to make taxes mandatory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two bills were placed in parliament yesterday seeking to amend the laws to make it mandatory for the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and lawmakers to pay taxes on their remuneration.

State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Md Qamrul Islam placed the bills on behalf of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shafique Ahmed.

The proposed laws will be enforced with retrospective effect from July 1, 2011.

Remunerations of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and MPs were free of income tax, according to the Speaker and Deputy Speaker (Remuneration and Allowances) Act, 1974 and Members of Parliament (Remuneration and Allowances) Order, 1973.

Usually any Bangladeshi's income above certain limit is taxable. So there is discrimination between the common people and the MPs regarding taxation, the law minister told the House. The bills have been placed to end the discrimination, he added. The cabinet on November 28 last year approved proposals for amending the laws.

Earlier on November 17, the cabinet also endorsed proposals for amending The Prime Minister's (Remuneration and Allowances) Act, 1975 and The Ministers, Ministers for State and Deputy Ministers (Remuneration and Allowances) Act, 1973 to make it mandatory for the prime minister, ministers, state ministers and deputy ministers to pay taxes on their remunera-

The law minister also placed another bill in parliament seeking to enact a law by repealing the current Powers-of-Attorney Act, 1882.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Shahara Khatun placed a bill seeking to enact a law to prevent human trafficking by repealing Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, 1933.

All the bills were sent to the standing committees on the ministries concerned for scrutiny and placing reports in the House.



Chittagong Samity-Dhaka President Rezaul Haq Chowdhury Mushtaq speaks at a view exchange meeting between The Daily Star and current and former leaders of Chittagong Samity-Dhaka on a special festival, "Odommo Chattagram" (Indomitable Chittagong) - to be organised by The Daily Star - at the samity's office at Naya Paltan in the city yesterday. On his right are former adviser to a caretaker government Rokia Afzal Rahman, former president of Institute of Chartered Accountants Parveen Mahmud, Jahangir Alam Khan, Azizul Haq Chowdhury, the samity General Secretary Mohiul Islam Mohin, Syed Nurul Islam, Mohammad Abu Solaiman Chowdhury and Mohammad Zakaria. On his left are Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, Maj Gen (retd) Ruhul Alam Chowdhury, Maj Gen (retd) Syed Mohammad Ibrahim, Shahriar Shahid, Dr Fauzal Kabir Khan and former principal secretary Abdul Karim. PHOTO: STAR



British High Commissioner Robert Winnington Gibson calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Gono Bhaban yesterday.

### SHARIATPUR BY-POLLS AL to sell nomination papers from today

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League Parliamentary Board (ALPB) at a meeting decided to sell the party's nomination paper for the vacant seat of Shariatpur-3 constituency from February 7 to February 9.

The meeting was held at prime minister's official residence Gonobhaban with Prime Minister and AL Chief Sheikh Hasina in the chair on Sunday evening.

Interested people can collect the nomination forms from the AL chief's Dhanmondi office from 11:00am to 8:00pm at Tk 10,000.

The date for submission of nomination paper is February 10 until 8:00pm. The ALPB will sit again on February 12 at 8:00pm at the Gonobhaban to interview

the nomination seekers. The seat fell vacant fol-

lowing the death of veteran The Election Commission has decided to hold the bypolls on March 15.

#### SSC, EQUIVALENT EXAMS

# 62 expelled on third day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 62 examinees and an invigilator were expelled for adopting unfair means at different examination centres across the country on the third day of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and its equivalent examinations yesterday.

The number of expelled students yesterday is the highest so far. On the first day, the number of expelled was 38 while 22 students were expelled on the second day.

Besides, 5,211 candidates remained absent during the English First Paper examination yesterday. The highest number of absentees was 1,654 from Dhaka

Board. Among the expelled students, 18 are from Technical Board,

15 from Dhaka Board, eight each from Jessore and Barisal Boards, four each from Madrasa and Comilla Boards, three from Dinajpur Board, and two from Chittagong Board, according to the education ministry control room. The expelled invigilator was from Jessore Board.

The month-long SSC, Dakhil and SSC vocational exams for the year 2012 started on February 1 under the supervision of 10 education boards including madrasa and technical boards. On the first day, the question papers for irregular students

in different centres including some under Dhaka Board. Meanwhile, Dhaka Education Board identified six centres out of its 275 centres where the incident of mixing question

had been mistakenly given to regular students and vice versa

papers occurred. Prof Fahima Khatun, chairman of Dhaka Board, told The

Daily Star that they will hold a meeting today with the centres'

secretaries to discuss it. "We won't take any decision which will harm students," she said.

## Gibson apprises PM of Elizabeth Trust formation

UNB, Dhaka

British High Commissioner Robert Winnington Gibson yesterday called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Gono Bhaban and apprised of formation of the Queen Elizabeth-II Diamond Jubilee Trust on the occasion of the Queen's 60th anniversary of accession to the throne.

The trust was launched in all Commonwealth nations simultaneously across the world yesterday for fund raising in the Commonwealth states. Former British Prime Minister John Major is heading the trust.

Briefing reporters PM's Deputy Press Secretary M Nazrul Islam said the High Commissioner requested the prime minister to appoint a trust in Bangladesh which will be a focal point of all trusts in the Commonwealth countries.

Hasina praised the initiative of setting up the trust and hoped that it would play an important role in socioeconomic field in the Commonwealth nations.

Issues relating to bilateral matters also came up for the discussion during the meeting when Ambassador-At-Large M Ziauddin and Special Assistant to the PM Abdus Sobhan Golap were present.

### Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwani of Sadik Ahmed Rumu will be held today, says a press release. On the occasion, a doa

mahfil will be held after Asr prayers at his parental residence in Damudya of Shariatpur district. Sadik Ahmed died at a

city hospital on Friday. He left behind his mother, five brothers, one sister and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

### Only renaming of caretaker govt acceptable: BNP to form such a "non-party, neutral UNB, Dhaka

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will accept renaming the caretaker government as interim government but nothing short of the "character of the nonparty, neutral caretaker government", said BNP standing committee member Nazrul Islam Khan.

"We will not accept an all-party interim cabinet," he told the news agency over phone on Sunday night.

On Saturday, Khaleda said if Awami League had any "allergy" over the name "caretaker government", it could be renamed as "non-party, neutral interim government or by any other name" to oversee the next general election.

She also offered to hold discussions

interim government" having a threemonth lifespan. She was addressing leaders and

workers of Barguna BNP's front organi-

sations who came to meet her at her

Gulshan office in the city after obtaining bails from the higher court. Nazrul, present at the meeting, said they could discuss over constituting a "non-party, neutral interim government" once the present government

declares to restore the caretaker government system. There were various options in the constitution to form a caretaker government before the adoption of the 15th amendment which abrogated the sys-

tem, he added.

Nazrul said discussions could be held on how to improve those provisions and overcome any loopholes of the caretaker government.

A few weeks ago, Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam, without elaborating, said a solution to the caretaker government issue could be worked out by maintaining the 15th amendment and the High Court judg-

Nazrul said they will not accept an all-party interim cabinet, formed with present parliament members ahead of the elections.

Since Awami League has the majority in the parliament, the president will invite them to form such an interim cabinet, he added.



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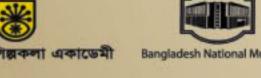
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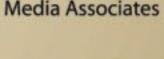




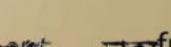








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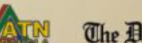
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