

Biman gets int'l registration renewed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has got the renewal of the IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) registration, which is mandatory for achieving or maintaining membership of International Air Transport Association (IATA).

The IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) programme is an internationally recognised and accepted evaluation system designed to assess the operational management and control systems of an airline. It is the benchmark for global safety management in airlines.

The national flag carrier gained the IOSA registration on March 12 passing an audit on 775 subjects by an IATA audit team, a Biman press release said yesterday.

Sylhet city gets ready to welcome PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Sylhet city took on a festive look ahead of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to the north-eastern city tomorrow.

About a thousand banners, carrying messages welcoming the PM as well as portraits of the Bangabandhu, the PM and the local leaders of AL and its front organisations, have been hanged on the city streets.

More than a hundred arches have been erected at different city points with colourful festoons.

The roads, which will be used for the PM's motorcade, have been cleaned and cleared of roadside vendors.

Major works are being carried out on the Airport road, Ambarkhana-Shahi Eidgah road, Kumargaon road and the city's VIP road from Circuit House to Ambarkhana point.



Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday, demanding that transparency and accountability be ensured in the conservation of all water resources, including that of the river Pashur.

PHOTO: STAR

ICT ON ALIM Cognisance of charges deferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal yesterday deferred the date to pass order on whether to take the charges accusing BNP lawmaker Abdul Alim of committing crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War into cognisance.

The tribunal headed by its Chairman Justice Md Nizamul Haq fixed March 27 to pass the order, as a judge of the tribunal, AKM Zaheer Ahmed, was absent due to illness.

As per the tribunal's rules of procedure, presence of all three judges is required to pass the order on the cognisance matter, the court said yesterday.

The court asked Alim, who appeared in a wheelchair yesterday, facing 74 charges of crimes against humanity including genocide, murder, looting, arson and rape, to appear before it on that day and extended his bail.

The prosecution submitted the formal charges against Alim on March 15 and prayed to the court to take those into cognisance.

Arrested on March 27 last year in Joypurhat, Alim was granted conditional bail four days later.

Alim is among two BNP and six Jamaat leaders facing charges of crimes against humanity at the tribunal.

'Lack of transparency causing sweet water decline'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a human chain yesterday said lack of transparency and good governance were the causes behind the decline of sweet water sources, which include rivers, beels and canals, posing a threat to the lifestyle of the people.

Some seven green and human rights bodies, including Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) organised the programme before the city's Jatiya Press Club marking World Water Day 2012.

Their slogan was "Water for life and livelihood: Transparency and accountability to save water resources, including the river Poshur".

Addressing the programme, TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said food security and livelihood sources were under imminent threat due to encroachment and pollution of rivers and

water bodies with toxic industrial and household wastes.

Climate change has increased the salinity of the country's southern region, turning the land barren and threatening a severe food crisis, he said.

The speakers also urged the government to refrain from setting up a coal-fired power plant at Rampal in Bagerhat district.

"Establishing such a power plant on the banks of the Poshur river without any environmental impact assessment will adversely affect the sweet water sources and the biodiversity of the Sundarbans," they said.

Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon General Secretary Dr Muhammad Abdul Matin and columnist Syed Abul Maksud also spoke at the programme.

Meanwhile Jaago Foundation, marking the day, initiated a 3-day programme

from yesterday which includes cleaning the city's Banani lake and creating awareness among slum dwellers on the importance of safe water use, says a press release.

In another event marking the day, a seminar, "Safe Water for Safe Food", was organised at the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) auditorium.

Speaking as the chief guest, State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak said though access to water was a fundamental right, many people were still deprived of it for various reasons.

DPHE, Unicef, World Bank, Bangladesh WASH Alliance, Japan International Cooperation Agency, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies and NGO Forum for Public Health jointly organised the seminar, says a press release.

SCBA polls end

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two-day annual election to Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) ended yesterday afternoon with 3,147 lawyers casting their votes.

A total of 3,829 lawyers were enlisted to exercise their voting rights.

The second day's polling to elect 14 executives of SCBA, including president and secretary, started at 10:00am and continued till 5:00pm with one-hour lunch break.

Counting of cast votes was scheduled to start at 8:00pm and results of the election to be declared at midnight, said some lawyers.

Three panels are contesting the election. The panels are ruling Awami League-backed Sammilita Ainjibi Samannaya Parishad (SASP), the opposition BNP-backed Bangladesh Jatiyabadi Ainjibi Oikya Parishad (JAOP) and neutral Niropekkho Ainjibi Oikya Parishad (NAOP).

Entrance to Nat'l Memorial restricted on Mar 23-25

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Entrance to all to the premises of National Memorial at Savar will remain restricted for three days starting from March 23 for cleaning the memorial premises ahead of Independence Day on March 26.

The restriction will continue until President Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and other invited guests leave the memorial premises early on March 26, said a government handout.

The Ministry of Liberation War Affairs has requested all not to damage the garden as well as lawn on the memorial premises during placing wreaths on Independence Day.



Well-done TIGERS! You have put up a valiant fight and won our hearts.

No matter what the result is, a bit of history has already been created. We continue to support you and always be with you.

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