

Sylhet-London flight demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Leaders of Sylhet Kalyan Sangstha (SKS) yesterday demanded resumption of the direct flight on Sylhet-London-Sylhet route of Bangladesh Biman.

They placed the demand at a three-hour sit-in staged before the Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar.

They also held a rally with the organisation's president Ehsanul Haque Taher in the chair.

The speakers said the direct flight was suspended temporarily in December last year on the plea of dense fog.

Since then, several representations were made to the finance minister and civil aviation and tourism minister and even the Biman authorities had repeated their assurance, but it was yet to be resumed, they said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, during her recent visit to Sylhet, also assured the people of resuming the flight. But any announcement did not come as yet due some vested quarters in the authorities, they alleged.

Their other demands include stopping of passenger harassment by the immigration police and others at the Osmani International Airport and allowing flight operations of other airlines on the route.



Local people and class-mates form a human chain in front of Chittagong Press Club in the port city yesterday demanding punishment to the killers of Himadri Majumder Himu, 18, a student of Summerfield School and College.

PHOTO: STAR

BADC takes possession of its 0.33 acre land

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) in Chittagong took possession of its 0.33 acre of land with the help of the district administration in Sholoshahar area of the port city yesterday.

Sources said Mohammed Musa and Mohammad Harun, two businesspersons, took lease the land from the BADC in 2003 for commercial purposes. They built a community centre, Woodland Park, on the land in the same year.

BADC Chief Engineer Ashraf Ali Khan said: "The BADC cancelled the lease in 2009. Later, the two businessmen filed a writ petition with the High Court in this regard."

The court dismissed the writ petition a few days ago, he added.

"The BADC authorities issued their notice to hand over the possession of the land but the lease receivers declined to do it," he said.

However, Salah Uddin, director of the community centre, alleged that the BADC neither served any notice nor gave them any time for this.

Terming it an eviction drive, he said: "The BADC authorities did not issue any eviction notice though they were forcing us to leave the place."

"We have an agreement with the BADC till 2018 but they unilaterally cancelled it in 2009," said Salauddin.

Govt wants good relations with media: Azad

BSS, Dhaka

Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad yesterday said the government would do everything to narrow differences with the media.

"The government wants to maintain cordial relations with the media by removing differences, whatever they are", he said.

Speaking at a seminar on "Three years of the grand alliance government, mass media and right to information", he also expressed disappointment over media's role.

The government achieved tremendous success in the fields of health, education, food, agriculture and communication, but those were not properly highlighted in the media, he said.

Bangladesh Awami League (AL) organised the seminar at the capital's Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB).

President of the AL advisory council, Advocate Syed Rezaur Rahman, presided

over the seminar while AL Publicity and Publication Secretary Nuh Alam Lenin gave the welcome address.

The minister also said the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina believed in the free flow of information and passed the "Right to Information Act" in the first session of the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) in 2009.

Terming the present government as media-friendly, he said the government had given licences to 15 private satellite television channels and 14 community radio stations after coming to power.

Speaking on the welfare of the journalists, Azad said the government had established a welfare fund for journalists with Tk 50 lakh, which would start functioning from the current fiscal year.

The seminar was also addressed by Jute and Textile Minister Abdul Latif Siddiqui, president of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalist (BFUJ) Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Editor of the Samakal Golam Sarwar.



Workshop

Bangladesh National Commission for Unesco and Islamic Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organisation will organise a training workshop; Venue: BANBEIS Bhaban, Palassy-Nilkhet; Time: 9:00am.

View exchange meet

Pragatishil Ganotantrik Dal will hold a view exchange meeting; Venue: the party office; Time: 12:30pm.

Human chain

Bangladesh Jatiyatobadi Sangskritik Dal will form a human chain; Venue: Jatiya Press Club;

Road accidents kill 3

STAR REPORT

Three people were killed and six others, including a Prothom Alo journalist, were injured in three road accidents in the capital and in Tangail yesterday.

A truck crashed into an auto-rickshaw in Mirzapur upazila yesterday morning killing two people on the spot, reports our Tangail correspondent.

Gorai highway police said the brick-laden truck hit the three-wheeler at Sohagpur on the Dhaka-Tangail highway around 7:30am.

The deceased were Lal Chand, 25, driver of the auto-rickshaw, and its passenger Lakkhan Rajbongshi, 35, of Bohuria village in Mirzapur upazila.

Four people injured in the accident were rushed to Kumudini Hospital in Tangail.

Mainul Islam, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Banani Police Station in the capital, said a brick-laden truck rammed a motorbike on Banani Road-11 around 2:00am, leaving its two riders critically injured.

Injured Mushfiqur Rahman Shishir, 30, and Soheli were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared Shishir dead, the OC said.

Shishir, a resident of Juliatuli Lane of the capital's Wari, was a fabric trader in Bangabazar, he added.

Police arrested the trucker and seized the vehicle soon after the accident.

In another incident, Nazrul Islam, 40, a senior reporter of Bangla daily Prothom Alo, was injured when a bus hit his motorbike in front of Sher-e-Bangla Agriculture University in the morning.

Nazrul is now undergoing treatment at Pangu Hospital in the city.

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Corruption to be uprooted

Pledges rail's interim boss

UNB, Noakhali

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader, who is also in charge of the railway ministry, has promised to eliminate corruption from Bangladesh Railway and better its services.

"There'll be no corruption in the railway... its services will be improved while the grabbed lands will be recovered soon," he vowed, while inaugurating a new locomotive and air-conditioned compartment of inter-city train 'Upakul Express' at Noakhali Railway Station yesterday.

The train runs on Dhaka-Noakhali route. Locals, however, demanded that a pair of trains be introduced on this route to ease the movement of commuters.

Ekramul Karim Chowdhury, a local lawmaker, railway Secretary Fazle Kabir and Abu Taher, director general of Bangladesh Railway, were also present.

A new schedule for Upakul Express has been introduced. From now on, the train will leave Noakhali at 6:30am and reach Dhaka at 12:25pm while the same train will leave Dhaka at 4:00pm and reach Noakhali at 10:20pm.

Quader, an MP from Noakhali-5 constituency, said the 146 railway stations which were closed due to manpower shortage would be reopened after fresh recruitment.

Also the Awami League presidium member, Quader was made the communications minister in December last year after Syed Abul Hossain's removal from the ministry in the wake of graft allegation against the latter.

He was temporarily given additional charges of the railway ministry after Suranjit Sengupta stepped down as railways minister amid the railwaygate scandal in April.

Cuet student missing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A student of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet) has been missing since Wednesday.

Arafat Rahman, son of late Rafikul Islam of Singher Kathi village at Babuganj upazila in Barisal, was a student of the civil engineering department and a resident of Shaheed Mohammed Shah Hall.

The hall Provost Abdul Wazed said Arafat left for Chittagong from the campus Wednesday afternoon, but did not return. The next day, his roommate and classmate Anisul Islam informed about his absence to the provost around 8:00pm. The same night, the provost filed a general diary with Raozan Police Station.

Nurul Amin, the officer-in-charge, said police are searching for Arafat. His mobile phone was switched-off.

The provost said before leaving for Chittagong, Arafat told his roommates that he would visit an outsourcing training centre at Bahaddarhat on Wednesday.

Contacted, Saidul Hossain, owner of the outsourcing centre, "Pran Outsourcing", said Arafat had completed a course there and came to pay his due course fees about one and a half months back. Since then, Arafat made no contact with him.

Cuet Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Mohammed Jahangir Alam said he informed the detectives and the Rab of the incident.



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