

NEWS IN *brief*

Technical glitch delays flight for 4 hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight by a newly purchased Boeing 777-300ER aircraft, was delayed for around four hours last night due to technical problems.

The flight (BG 086) with 307 passengers was scheduled to depart from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 7:15pm, but could not fly as a technical glitch surfaced in one of its engines, said a member of Biman's flight inquiry section.

The aircraft, however, left for Malaysia at 11:05pm after flight engineers solved the problem.

"It was a very nominal technical problem which happens. We did not even have to offload the passen-

Man's body found in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An unidentified body was found floating in an aqua farm in the capital's Pallabi yesterday.

The deceased, aged around 30, was wearing a lungi and a yellow t-shirt.

Locals noticed the body floating in a pond of Baishakhi Fish Farm of Baunia Badh in the area around 9:00am, said Abdur Rahman Sarker, sub-inspector (SI) of Pallabi Police Station.

The SI said the body bore some marks of injuries. He suspected that the youth was strangled around two days back and dumped in the pond.

A murder case was filed with the police.

Boy drowns in water reservoir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A four-year-old boy drowned in the water reservoir of a six-storey building at Solmait in Vatara area of the capital yesterday.

The deceased is, Joy Hasan, son of Mohammad Jasim, a furniture trader.

"The boy [Joy] was playing in front of their residence at around 3:00pm. As he was not found for several hours, his mother started searching to and fro," said Vatara Police Station Officer-in-Charge Syed Ziauzzaman.

The caretaker of the building, Rustom Ali, found the boy inside the water reservoir, he added.

Jasim said the water reservoir had remained uncovered for long and after the incident the owner



Bangladesh Tamak Birodhi Jote, Prottasha, National Anti-Tuberculosis Association of Bangladesh and WBB Trust bring out a procession from Central Shaheed Minar premises in the capital yesterday demanding the government to increase taxes on tobacco and its products.

PHOTO: STAR

No Tobacco Day observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

World No Tobacco Day was observed across the country as elsewhere across the world in a befitting manner yesterday.

The theme of this year is "Tobacco Industry Interference".

On the occasion, the Adhunik, an anti-smoking organisation and The World Health Organisation (WHO) jointly organised a seminar at the Jatiya Press Club.

Shawkat Ali, deputy speaker of the parliament, addressed the event as chief guest.

The speakers said tobacco causes death of nearly 60 lakh people each year, of which more than six lakh are exposed to second-hand smoke.

In another event on Dhaka University premises, organised by the Save the Rural Development Association (SARDA), the speakers said establishing a specialised hospital to provide treatment to the patients suffering from tobacco related diseases is necessary.

The Bangladesh Anti-Tobacco Alliance also brought out a procession in the morning from the Central Shaheed Minar to the Osmani Memorial

WAR CRIMES TRIAL

Inclusion of addl charge against Mojaheed argued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution in the crimes against humanity case against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed yesterday placed arguments supporting two petitions -- one for an additional charge and the other for an additional witness -- before the International Crimes Tribunal-2.

On the additional witness, Prosecutor Muklesur Rahman Badal told the tribunal the prosecution has filed the petition under section 9 (4) of the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973.

Section 9 (4) of the Act says, "The submission of a list of witnesses and documents under sub-section (3) shall not preclude the prosecution from calling, with the permission of the Tribunal, additional witnesses or tendering any further evidence at any stage of the trial."

When tribunal Chairman Justice ATM Fazle Kabir enquired about the reasons behind the delay, Badal said

the investigation officer could not find the witness during his previous investigation.

When the IO went to Faridpur for further investigation recently, he found the witness, who gave his consent to give statement in the case, Badal added.

On the other petition, he said following further investigation, the IO found Mojaheed's involvement in an incident of "genocide" at Faridpur during the Liberation War. The prosecution submitted the petition under section 9 (4) of the Act as well as section 46 A of the tribunal's rules of procedure to bring an additional charge against the Jamaat secretary general.

Section 46 A of rules of procedure says, "Nothing in this rules shall be deemed to limit or otherwise affect the inherent power of the tribunal to make charge order as may be necessary to meet the ends of justice or to prevent abuse of the process."

Badal said they have also placed

statement of seven witnesses and other documents related to the incident along with the petition.

When the chairman asked the prosecutor whether the petition could be filed under Section 9 (4) of the Act, he said the tribunal might consider the petition under Rule 46A too.

The chairman asked the prosecutor whether they could give any instances from other international war crimes tribunals where the prosecution were allowed to bring additional charges at this stage [charge hearing].

Badal said he might give instances later but not at this moment.

The three-member International Crimes Tribunal-2 headed by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir with members Justice Obaidul Hassan and Judge M Shahinur Islam adjourned the hearing until June 5 following a time petition of the defence.

Mojaheed, who is facing 32 charges of crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War in 1971, was produced at the dock yesterday.

Cut duty on jute, its products

Prime minister urges Iran

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday requested Iran to reduce duty on import of Bangladesh jute and jute products for the Iranian market.

Hasina made the request when Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia and Oceania Dr Seyed Abbas Aragchi met her at the PMO to formally hand her an invitation letter from the Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Ahmadinejad invited Sheikh Hasina to attend the 16th Summit of the Heads of States and Governments of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), which will be held in Tehran late August this year.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, PM's press secretary Abul Kalam Azad said that various issues of mutual interest featured prominently in the discussions.

The prime minister said that Bangladesh attaches special importance to the Non-Aligned Movement and her government follows the foreign policy dictum of Bangabandhu - 'Friendship towards all, malice towards none'.

During the meeting, Hasina and Aragchi also mentioned the friendly relations between the two countries and discussed bilateral matters and issues of common interest.

The Iranian minister lauded the advancement of Bangladesh in various fields under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina.

Ambassador-at-Large M Ziauddin, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Sheikh Md Wahid Uz Zaman, and PMO Secretary Molla Waheeduzzaman were also present.

Keraniganj crash survivor recovering

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The lone survivor of Wednesday's Keraniganj road accident, which claimed the lives of 12 people, is recovering at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Kohinur Akter, 15, regained her consciousness on Wednesday night. She feebly called her mother and said her name, doctors said.

Her condition is better than a day before, they said, hoping the girl would recover gradually.

Kohinur was among 13 passengers of a microbus, which was crushed by a rashly driven bus at Kadampur on Dhaka-Mawa highway Wednesday.

The accident left nine members of a family, two of their domestic helps, and the driver killed on the spot.

Kohinur, who survived but with critical injuries, was another house worker for the family.

A Union Parishad member of Keraniganj, Babul Dewan, rescued Kohinur and admitted her to DMCH.

Delawar Hossain Milon, brother-in-law of Lenin, employer of Kohinur, said the girl came from Bholakhal of Hajiganj, Chandpur.

Kohinur's relatives were informed of the incident yesterday, he said. Her father, Abdur Rashid, a rickshaw puller in Chandpur, arrived at the hospital last evening.

Meanwhile, the driver of the bus, who was blamed for the accident and sued by highway police, could not be arrested till last evening. His detail identity could not be known.

According to primary information, the driver hails from a village in Barisal, said Shakhwat Hossain, officer-in-charge, South Keraniganj Police Station.

Police have asked the owners of the bus of Shakura Paribahan to report at the police station, but no one has shown up yet, he said. Police are searching for the driver, he added.

CTG HARTAL VIOLENCE

18 Shibir men sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police have filed four separate cases accusing 18 activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir in connection with their alleged involvement in Wednesday's hartal violence in Chittagong city.

The cases were filed with Panchlaish, Chadgaon and Pahartali police stations on Wednesday late night.

All the accused were arrested from different areas in the port city on the hartal day.

Sayed Mohammad Ahsanul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Chandgaon Police Station, said yesterday they filed a case against eight Shibir activists under Speedy Trial Act on charges of assaulting law enforcers and vandalising vehicles during hartal hours.

The accused are Ibrahim, Abdur Rahim, Mosleuddin, Ekhlal Alam, Mahmudul Hasan, Saidur Rahman, Aminul Islam and Sajedul Islam.

All of them were arrested from Bahaddarhat area, the OC said, adding that Ruhul Amin, assistant-sub-inspector (ASI) of the police station, filed the case.

Md Alamgir Hossain, OC of Panchlaish Police Station, said they filed two cases including one under Speedy Trial Act against five Shibir activists.

Police showed Naimul Haque arrested under Speedy Trial Act for possessing petrol bomb while four others were arrested in another case filed for creating anarchy during hartal hours.

The other four accused are Mohammad Hamid, Mohammad Arif, Saifiquil Islam and Md Alamgir.

ASI Khorshed Alam filed the two cases, said OC Alamgir.

Pahartali Police Station OC Mohammad Nur Nabi said they have sued five Shibir activists on charge of assaulting law enforcers and creating anarchy during hartal hours.

The accused are Abul, Md Zinnah, Abdul Halim, Tajul Islam and Babul, the OC added.

ASI Khorshed Alam filed the case, said Alamgir. Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami observed a half day hartal in the port city on Wednesday in protest of sending Jamaat lawmaker ANM Shamsul Islam to jail in an arson case.



Samajtantrik Mahila Forum brings out a procession from New Market area in Chittagong city yesterday demanding trial of the policemen who were involved in Tuesday's incident in which a girl and her parents were assaulted in front of Dhaka magistrate's court.

PHOTO: STAR

WEATHER TODAY

Heat wave may continue

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places elsewhere over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Mild to moderate heat wave is sweeping over the regions of Jessore, Kusthia, Rajshahi, Pabna and it may continue, Met Office said.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The expected highest maximum temperature will be 38-39 degree Celsius and lowest minimum temperature will be 24-25 degree Celsius at the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:42pm and rises tomorrow at 5:11am.

Country's highest temperature 39.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 24.8 degrees at Sitakunda.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.8	27.4	75	76
Chittagong	33.6	27.0	73	73
Rajshahi	39.2	28.4	77	54
Rangpur	34.5	27.4	86	74
Khulna	35.5	27.5	79	74
Barisal	32.4	26.7	75	85

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