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BIMAN FLIGHT DEBACLE

Passengers stage rowdy protests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman passengers yesterday resorted to violent protests at the airport vandalising glasses of a counter of the national carrier in the wake of total collapse in flight schedules.

Biman authorities however made an unconditional apology to the passengers, many of whom remained stuck at Shahjalal International Airport for the last three days.

The authorities requested the passengers to keep patience until September 24 as they have no means at hand to restore discipline in flight schedule now.

Amid the chaotic situation, Biman yesterday started ferrying Bangladeshi pilgrims to Saudi Arabia for the Hajj this year.

Witnesses said Biman staff beat up one of the passengers, who gathered at the counter to protest against

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Hundreds of Biman passengers queue before the check-in counters at Shahjalal International Airport as the national flag carrier suffers a flight schedule disaster. The aggrieved passengers resorted to vandalising Biman counters, inset, despite the airline's apology to its flyers.

PHOTO: STAR

MINISTERSHIP OFFER I have nothing to do with Tofail's refusal Says Matiur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman yesterday termed the recent media report involving him with Awami League leader Tofail Ahmed's refusal to become a minister "false, baseless and misleading".

In a press statement, he said several newspapers had quoted Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam as saying at an AL central working committee meeting on

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New protests over anti-Islam film

2 killed in Pakistan during clash with police

AGENCIES

Protesters in Afghanistan, Indonesia and Pakistan burnt US flags and chanted "Death to America" yesterday in renewed demonstrations over an anti-Islam film that already has provoked a week of unrest in Muslim world.

Indonesian police fired teargas and water cannon to disperse hundreds of demonstrators who massed outside the US Embassy in Jakarta.

Police were seen kicking or dragging away some of the protesters, while one policeman was taken away in an ambulance with his face bleeding.

Many of the protesters were supporters of hardline Islamic groups and were dressed in identical white Muslim garb, an AFP reporter saw.

In Kabul, thousands of protesters took to the streets, setting fire to cars and shops and throwing stones at police.

Two protesters died in Pakistan as angry demonstrators clashed with police, hurling stones and shouting: "Death to America."

Around 500 angry protesters in the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore tried to reach the US consulate but were driven back by police with tear gas.

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Khaleda slates anti-Islam film

Demands action against filmmaker

UNB, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia yesterday strongly condemned the making of a blasphemous film on Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM) and urged the US government to immediately ban the film and its screening.

In a statement, the BNP chairperson also urged the US government to take action against the filmmaker and those who were spreading it.

"We strongly protest

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

Mollah, his men killed journalist Abu Taleb

Witness tells war crimes tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another prosecution witness yesterday told the International Crimes Tribunal-2 that war crimes accused Abdul Quader Mollah and his accomplices killed journalist Khondaker Abu Taleb at Mirpur's Jalladkhana during the Liberation War.

Syed Abdul Kaium, of Mirpur and the 10th prosecution witness in the case against the Jamaat-e-Islami assistant secretary general, said Quader was also involved in the killing of Mirpur Bangla College student Pallab during the war.

Meanwhile, a freedom fighter told the tribunal that under the directives of war

crimes accused Jamaat leader Muhammad Kamaruzzaman, Al-Badr men picked up his father, took him to a camp and killed him later.

In Quader's war crimes case, witness Kaium, a 68-year old school teacher, narrated how he was attacked by the anti-liberation force on March 23, 1971, for hoisting the Bangladesh flag at his school in Mirpur.

Earlier, fifth prosecution witness Khondaker Abul Ahsan, son of Taleb, told the tribunal that Quader accompanied by some non-Bangalees killed his father on March 29, 1971.

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Use fame of Yunus for nat'l interest

100 NRBs write open letter to PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 100 non-resident Bangladeshis (NRB) and Bangladeshi descendants living abroad have urged the prime minister to resolve government's dispute with Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus and utilise him for national interest.

In an open letter to Sheikh Hasina on Sunday, the 102 NRBs said, "We are deeply troubled by the manner in which the removal of Professor Yunus from the Grameen Bank was carried out."

"We notice with

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

Ashraf goes to Delhi today

Khaleda, Matia to follow

REZAUL KARIM

India is going to invite more than a dozen top-ranking political figures from Bangladesh in next couple of months to warm up ties with ruling Awami League and remove "gap and misunderstanding" with the opposition.

Diplomatic sources say Bangladeshi politicians'

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HALL-MARK SWINDLE

HC directive sought to recover Tk 3,547cr

Anti-graft body interrogates 7 more Sonali Bank officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition has sought a High Court directive on the government to immediately recover Tk 3,547 crore taken by Hall-Mark Group and five other companies from the Sonali Bank through forgery.

Supreme Court lawyer Eunus Ali Akond filed the petition yesterday with the HC,

seeking its order on the authorities concerned of the government to confiscate the assets of the companies on failure to refund the money.

The petitioner prayed to the court to order the seizure of the passports of Hall-Mark Group's Managing Director Tanvir Mahmud and his wife, so that they cannot

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WILDLIFE SMUGGLING Whistle-blower under attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The whistle-blower who last year assisted forest officials nabbing a tiger poaching ring came under attack by members of the same gang in the capital's Sayedabad on Friday night.

Stabbed in his head indiscriminately, Al-Amin Sheikh, 30, was rushed to National Medical College Hospital in Old Dhaka. He

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48 Bangladeshi workers sent back from UAE

Authorities decline to let them work on existing visa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forty-eight Bangladeshi workers yesterday returned to the country from the United Arab Emirates as the authorities had rejected their new employer's plea to let them work on their existing visas.

Mainuddin Hossain, a Dubai returned diploma engineer, said among the repatriated workers, 35 used to work at Al Futtaim Carillion LLC, an Australian company, and 13 others at another company in the UAE.

More than 70 workers will return by tomorrow for the same reason, he added.

The construction company Al Futtaim applied for visa transfer for 375 migrant workers, including 100 Bangladeshis who had to switch to the company after

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Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-09	6-12
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation