

Hajj flights from Ctg demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Some 200 travel agents of two organisations staged a three-hour demonstration on the Chittagong office premises of Biman Bangladesh Airlines Limited yesterday with a five-point demand, including steps to reintroduce direct Chittagong to Jeddah Hajj flights.

At the demonstration, starting from 10:30am, travel agents of Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh and Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh said, without the direct flights, the pilgrimage of 10,000 Hajjis was now uncertain.

The demonstration was suspended for four days after former Chittagong City Corporation mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury arrived and stated that the civil aviation and tourism minister and secretary were informed of the matter.

The remaining demands include reduction of Hajj packages from 45 to 35 days, allowing foreign airlines to carry Hajjis, resuming the regular Chittagong to Jeddah flights and introducing stopovers at Chittagong for Dhaka to Jeddah flights of DC-10 aircrafts.

The organisations' leaders said for the last five months Biman stated that it would provide the Chittagong-Jeddah direct flights while the travel agents took money from passengers in advance, assuring them of the flight.

Biman, on September 13, stated that the direct flights were not possible and did not come up with any alternative, leaving the travel agents and passengers in distress, they added.

Biman's Chittagong district Manager Dilip Kumar Chowdhury came out at one point and said big aircrafts like Boeing 747, carrying Hajj passengers, were only operating from Dhaka and the Chittagong office had asked for the Chittagong stopovers of DC-10 aircrafts.



Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh, and Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh stage a demonstration on the Chittagong office premises of Biman Bangladesh Airlines yesterday with a five-point demand, including steps to reintroduce direct Chittagong to Jeddah Hajj flights.

PHOTO: STAR

6 killed, 28 injured in road accidents

METRO DESK

Six people were killed and 28 others injured in road accidents in Sirajganj, Habiganj, Barisal and Brahmanbaria on Tuesday and yesterday.

Our Sirajganj correspondent reports, two people were killed and 10 others injured in a road accident on Pabna-Bogra highway in Binadari area of Shahzadpur upazila yesterday.

The deceased are Abdul Mannan, 56, and his wife Sultana Khatun, 45.

Our Sylhet correspondent reports, Nurul Hossain, 70, a senior lawyer of Habiganj district court, was killed in a road accident in Poddarbari area of Habiganj 1:00pm yesterday.

Our Barisal correspondent reports, schoolboy Kamrul Islam, 11, was killed on the spot as a bus ran him over on Barisal-Dhaka highway in Rahamatpur area of Babuganj upazila in Barisal yesterday.

Agitating locals blockaded the highway for about an hour following the incident.

Our Brahmanbaria correspondent reports,

two people were killed and 18 others injured in road accidents in Nasirnagar, Kasba and Nabinagar upazilas of the district on Tuesday.

In an incident, Md Mohin Mia, 20, was killed and three others were injured as a tractor fell into a roadside ditch after its driver lost control over the wheel at Purbabag village Nasirnagar upazila.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital. The injured were rushed to Nasirnagar Upazila Health Complex.

In another incident, Md Alomgir Mia, 22, was killed and five others were injured as tractor fell into a roadside ditch at Katerful village in Kasba upazila.

In another accident, 10 people were injured as a human hauler and CNG-run autorickshaw collided head-on on Nabinagar-Kumpaniganj road at Bangura Bazaar in Nabinagar Upazila.

The injured were rushed to Nabinagar Upazila Health Complex.

3 JMB men held in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Three activists of banned Islamist militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), also charge-sheeted accused in a murder case, were arrested in Baghmara upazila of Rajshahi yesterday.

The arrestees are Mohammad Shamsuddin, 44, Towhidul Islam, 38 and Ismail Hossain, 48.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab's anti-militancy cell in Rajshahi picked them up from their houses at Konopara around 2:30am, Rab-5 Commanding Officer Maj SM Anwar Ali said.

The arrestees are charge-sheeted fugitive accused in Abu Taleb murder case filed with Baghmara Police Station, he said. In November 2009, Amjad Hossain, a nephew of Abu Taleb of Sajuria village in Baghmara, filed the case against the trio for allegedly killing his uncle in 2004 for extortion.

In the case, Amjad alleged that the trio abducted Taleb and tortured him at a JMB camp in Hamirkutsa village in the upazila and demanded Tk 75,000 as ransom.

Taleb was released as his family paid Tk 35,000. But he was abducted again as the family failed to pay the rest of the money and since then he has remained missing.

The charge sheet of the case was submitted on September 10 this year.

BTV to air serial on maternity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although Bangladesh has improved its maternal mortality rate over the years, large number of deaths still occur due to child-birth in the country's remote areas, health experts said yesterday at the premiere of a television serial in the capital.

The 26-episode serial, Sonali Alo, is based on healthcare information for pregnant women and newborn babies.

Speakers discussed, at the premiere held at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel, about how the drama is designed to create awareness and understanding of the issue particularly among those living in remote areas.

Although the maternal mortality ratio has declined from 574 in 1990 to 194 in 2010, the 5th goal of Millennium Development Goals for Bangladesh is to reach 143 for every 100,000 births by 2015, says UNDP's MDG report.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr

AFM Ruhul Haque said maternal mortality rate and mortality rate of children under the age of 5 have declined successfully but a greater challenge is to create awareness and build knowledge and understanding about safe health practices among the underprivileged and poor especially those residing in remote areas.

Presently there are about 11,000 community clinics providing quality healthcare but the number needs to be increased, he said.

Prime Minister's Health and Social Welfare Adviser Dr Syed Modasser Ali said special programmes should be designed to disseminate knowledge of good health practices and prenatal and postnatal healthcare for the underprivileged living in hard to reach areas such as city slums, Chittagong Hill Tracts, and haor areas.

Sonali Alo will be aired on Bangladesh Television (BTV) from next month.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail



Abu Bakar Khan Bhasani, younger son of veteran political leader late Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani, died of old age complications at his residence at Santosh in Tangail on Tuesday night. He was 71.

He left behind his wife and three sons. He was buried beside the grave of his father yesterday.

Abdus Samad
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Valiant freedom fighter Abdus Samad died of old age complications on Tuesday night. He was 80. He left behind his wife, four sons and three daughters.

He was laid to eternal rest with state honour at Barisal Muslim Gorosthan yesterday.

Abul Barkat Khan

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Abul Barkat Khan, secretary of Pabna Transport Owners' Association, died of cardiac arrest at his residence at Nurpur village in Pabna Sadar upazila on Tuesday. He was 71.

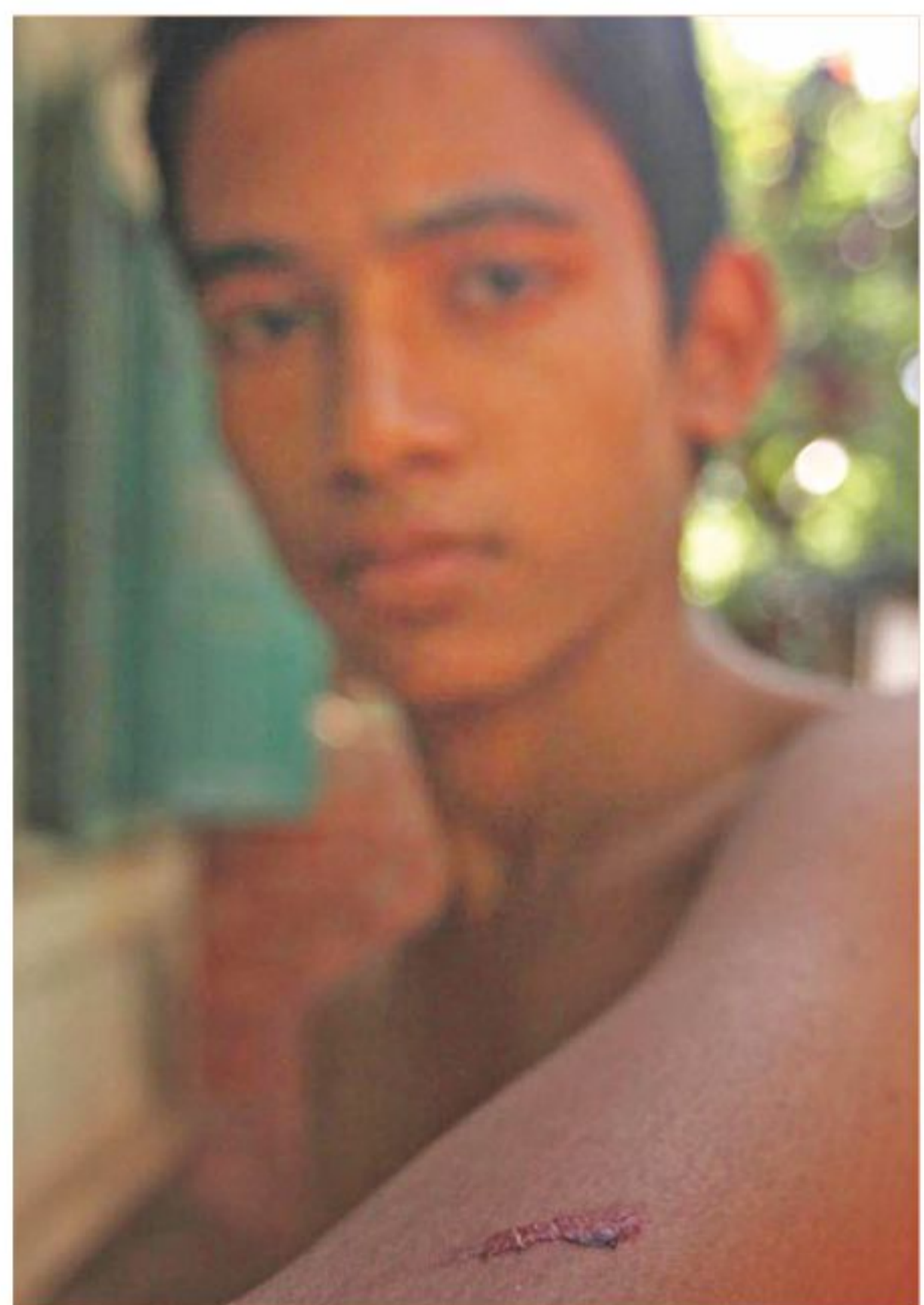
He left behind his wife, two sons and a daughter. He was buried at Arifpur graveyard yesterday.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

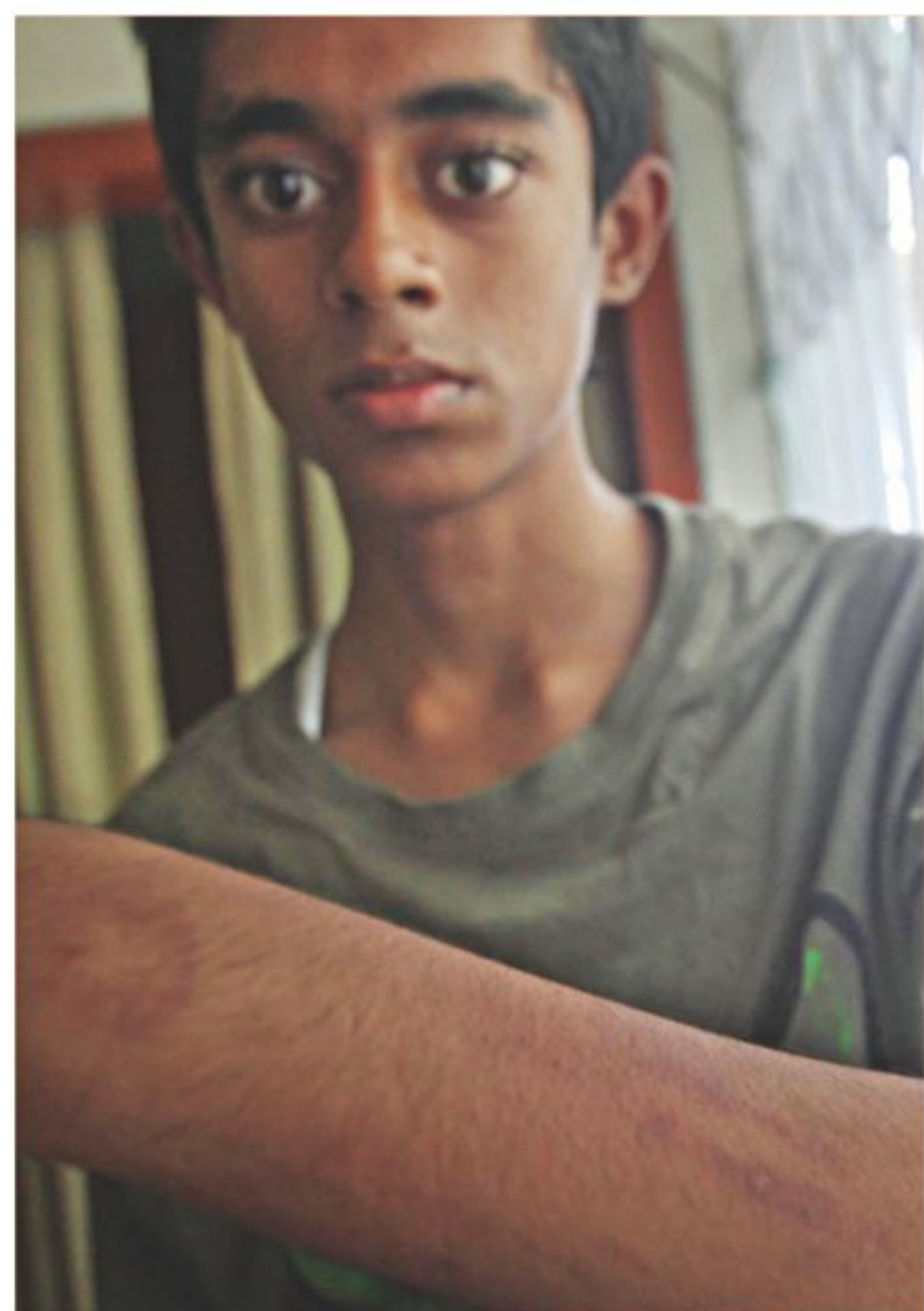
Today is the 10th death anniversary of poet and writer Abul Khair Muslehuddin.

On the occasion, Abul Khair Muslehuddin Foundation will arrange a milad and a doa mahfil at his village under Laksam upazila



The bruises on Aznain Ishtiaq Shubho and Abu Bakkar Ridwan, class X students of Government Muslim High School in Chittagong city, allegedly inflicted by the school's Assistant Headmistress-in-Charge Jebunnessa Begum on Tuesday. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Teacher beats up two students in Ctg despite ban

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

About a hundred students of Government Muslim High School in Chittagong city demonstrated yesterday, as a teacher beat up two students a day ago despite a ban on corporal punishment in educational institutions.

The protesters blocked the road in front of the school for about half an hour and returned to classes after an education board officer assured them of transferring the teacher to another school and of proper steps against her.

Jebunnessa Begum, assistant headmistress-in-charge at the school, allegedly beat up Aznain Ishtiaq Shubho and Abu Bakkar Ridwan, both of them class X students, for carrying a mobile phone to the classroom. She punched

them and clobbered them with a wooden ruler, causing bruises and cuts on their arms.

According to the victims, Ridwan did not come to school on Tuesday and phoned Shubho that he was "injured in an accident". One of Shubho's classmates told Jebunnessa that Shubho carried a mobile phone, they said.

Shubho said the teacher came to the classroom and beat him up when she learned of the mobile phone.

Ridwan allegedly told Shubho of the accident to avoid classes. At one stage, Jebunnessa called Ridwan and later his and Shubho's parents to the school.

Md Babul, father of Shubho, said, "When I reached the school I found the teacher pulling Shubho's hair and

beating him with a ruler. She left Shubho when I told her that I was his father, and then she started beating up Ridwan."

Jebunnessa denied the allegations and said the whole story was fabricated. "I never touched Shubho and hit Ridwan twice in the leg." About the bruises on their bodies, she said, "Their parents beat them up to put me in trouble."

Aziz Uddin, deputy director of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board, Chittagong, told The Daily Star, "Initially the teacher will be transferred elsewhere. If we get a written complaint from the victims, then departmental actions will be taken based on an investigation report."

The government banned all corporal punishment in all educational institutions across the country in 2010.

Man kills brother over trifle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man allegedly hacked his elder brother to death over a trifling matter at Konopara, Demra in the capital yesterday afternoon.

The deceased Kamruzzaman Rubel, 38, was a land agent with a wife and two sons.

Police have arrested Badiuzzaman Pavel, 35, younger brother of the deceased in this connection.

Rubel had scolded his unemployed brother Pavel for smoking in the living room of their home around 2:00pm, which resulted in an altercation, Anwar Hossain, their uncle told The Daily Star.

"At one point, Pavel struck his brother on the chest with a machete," he said.

Rubel was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Police have also recovered the machete from the spot.

Family members said Pavel had been suffering from mental disorder and had been undergoing treatment at a clinic in Kalabagan.

Rubel and Pavel are sons of Sheikh Md Nuruzzaman, a principal officer of Bangladesh Krishi Bank.

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