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## BIMAN'S FLIGHT DEBACLE Strike adds to passengers' sufferings

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has already rescheduled the flight of Ismail Hossain, a migrant worker, due to the ongoing flight disorder. Yesterday's hartal just aggravated his sufferings.

The 45-year-old from Tangail had to hire a microbus at Tk 3,000 to come to the airport at 2:00am yesterday, fearing that the daylong hartal might be extended, although he was told that he would fly on 4:00pm today.

"I am still not sure whether I will be able to fly on time. But I have to reach Saudi Arabia by Tuesday as my visa and my leave will expire that day," Ismail told The Daily Star, as he sat eating puffed rice for breakfast outside an entry gate at Shahjalal International Airport.

His comments came as Biman passengers, mostly bound for Middle-Eastern and East-Asian destinations, continued to face flight delays. The national carrier has been struggling to carry passengers to their destinations amid a shortage of adequate aircraft.

Golam Mostafa, 52, said he was supposed to leave the country for Saudi Arabia early on September 16, but his

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**He contributed little in the opening match, but India opener Gautam Gambhir came to the party with a 38-ball 45 against England in the World T20 at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday.**

PHOTO: AFP

**For Latest Cricket Update Dial 2002**

## LOKMAN MURDER Minister Raju denies his family's link

Visits Narsingdi after 10 months amid tight security

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Ten months into the killing of popular Narsingdi municipal mayor Lokman Hossain, Employment Minister Rajiuddin Ahmed Raju yesterday visited his constituency for the first time amid heavy police security and protests from locals.

Raju's brother Salauddin Ahmed Bacchu was the number one accused in the case filed Lokman's brother and locals all along saw Raju's hand in the murder.

However, reaching his Narsingdi-5 constituency, Raju at a rally yesterday termed the allegation false.

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## Worry over polls security No drive yet against listed criminals

RASHIDUL HASAN from Kapasia, Gazipur

With only six days left for the Gazipur-4 by-polls, the election commission is yet to issue directives to local law enforcement agencies on launching drives against listed criminals in a bid to ensure a level playing field for the candidates.

Two of the three candidates--Afsaruddin Ahmad, the Awami League dissident, and Bangladesher Communist Party backed candidate Asadullah Badal--said they, along with the voters, were not happy with the "soft attitude" of the EC.

The EC so far had not taken strong measures against frequent violations of the electoral code of conduct by the

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GAZIPUR BY-POLLS ON SEPT 30

## A battle between uncle and niece

RASHIDUL HASAN from Kapasia, Gazipur

Though it is true that three candidates are vying for the Gazipur-4 parliamentary seat at the by-polls due on September 30, the real battle will be fought between an uncle and a niece -- both from the ruling Awami League.

The niece is Simeen Hussain Rimi and the uncle is Afsaruddin Ahmad. Rimi is also the daughter of the country's first prime minister Tajuddin Ahmad and elder sister of former state minister for home Tanjim Ahmad Sohel Taj.

While Rimi has been nominated by the AL to contest in the constituency previously held by Sohel until he resigned as an MP in July,



Rimi Afsaruddin

Afsaruddin, Tajuddin's brother, is being backed by a top AL leader close to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

This top leader holds some grudge against Sohel Taj and even "misbehaved" with him soon after he took office as state minister for home, AL insiders in Gazipur say.

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## ANTI-ISLAM FILM 186 people sued over violence

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Shahbagh police yesterday filed two cases against 186 people in connection with Saturday's clashes near the Jatiya Press Club over an anti-Islam film and a cartoon.

Thirty-six of them were named. Of the named ones, 32 have already been arrested. The rest went into hiding, the cases showed.

Shahbagh police requested seven days' remand for the arrestees in each of the cases. However, 30 arrestees

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## Keep Subhan in jail

War crimes tribunal asks prison authorities; directs lawmen to produce him on Sept 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday asked the prison authorities concerned to keep recently arrested Jamaat leader Maulana Abdus Subhan detained and produce him before the tribunal on September 30.

The tribunal issued the order following a petition in which the prosecution said there was an investigation going on against war crimes suspect Subhan and he needed to be kept in detention for a fair probe.

Members of an army intelligence agency on September 20 arrested Jamaat-e-Islami Nayeb-e-Ameer Maulana Abdus Subhan at Bangabandhu Bridge toll plaza in Tangail in connection with a case of vandalism.



Prosecutor Sultan Mahmud Simon in his petition said that investigation had been going on against the Jamaat leader since April 15, 2012.

Significant information had been obtained about his involvement in assisting the Pakistani army to kill hundreds

of people in Pabna during the Liberation War, he said.

Simon said Subhan was the secretary of the Shanti Committee (auxiliary force of the Pakistani army in 1971) of Pabna during the war. In July 1971, Subhan was promoted to vice-president of the committee.

Subhan also led other collaborator forces, the Razakars, Al-Badr and Al-Shams, in killing people, he claimed.



Firemen try to douse the flames in a double-decker bus at Agrabad, Chittagong, yesterday after hartal supporters set it alight. Police detained a number of suspects, inset, in this connection.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



## 6-month maternity leave for non-govt school teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to allow six-month maternity leave for teachers and employees of the non-government educational institutions enjoying monthly payment order (MPO) facilities.

"The decision comes into effect today [yesterday] and a circular will be issued soon," Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid told reporters after a meeting with leaders of teachers' organisations yesterday.

Teachers and employees of government educational institutions have been enjoying the benefit since January last year.

A 27-member team representing the non-government educational institutions talked to Nahid about their demands at the education ministry's conference room. Education Secretary Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury and other ministry officials were also present.

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## Artificial heart now in India

TNN, Mumbai

A tiny mechanised device weighing 400 grams may soon give a new lease of life to more than 4 million people in the country who

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PRAYER TIMING September 24		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-40	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-05	6-10
Esha	7-30	8-00
Source: Islamic Foundation		

## Rebels claim control over most of Syria

Say fall of Assad matter of time; regime intensifies air strikes

AFP, Damascus

Regime aircraft hammered insurgent bastions nationwide yesterday as rebels said they now control most of the country and have moved their command centre from Turkey to "liberated areas" inside Syria.

With deadly violence raging across

Syria, UN-Arab League peace envoy Lakhdar Brahimi prepared to brief the UN Security Council today about talks he had with both President Bashar al-Assad and the opposition.

Brahimi discussed Syria with UN chief Ban Ki-moon on Saturday and both agreed that the 18-month crisis was "a

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## Ex-MP Sayeed Iskander passes away

STAR REPORT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's younger brother Maj (ret'd)

Sayeed Iskander passed away at a New York hospital yesterday. He was 59.

BNP lawmaker Rehana

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