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A see-off drags on

Biman flight chaos continues

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Two weeks into a flight schedule disorder, passengers of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, bound for Middle Eastern and East Asian countries, continue to face delays.

The national flag carrier has been struggling to ferry its passengers to their destinations in time amid a shortage of aircraft as it has concentrated all its efforts on flying hajj pilgrims to Saudi Arabia.

The number of stranded passengers has now come down to some 1,200, Biman officials said, adding that they hoped they would be able to clear the backlog in the next three days at best.

A DC-10 joined the fleet, which would start flying from today, said Mohammad Shahnewaz, director of the airlines, sales and marketing. A new Boeing-767 will also join the carrier today, with immediate flying plans.

Nearly 5,000 passengers have experienced delays in their flight schedules since the chaotic situation began on September 10. In contravention of international practice, they were not given accommodation and food, which caused financial pressure for them.

Nasrin Akhter, a 45-year-old housewife, came from Narail to the Dhaka Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on Saturday in the hope that she could see her

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



Nasrin Akhter, a housewife from Narail, and her husband Golam Mostafa, a Saudi Arabia bound passenger, doze at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday as the latter's Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight is delayed amid the ongoing schedule chaos. The couple have been staying at the airport in the same clothes and with no bath since Saturday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Girl brutally murdered at home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified criminals killed a schoolgirl by slitting her throat at her house on Bhagolpur lane in the capital's Hazaribagh yesterday.

The victim, Tasnin Rahman Karobi, 13, was a sixth grader at Birshreshtha Munshi Abdur Rouf Rifles College at Pilkhana.

Tasnin's maternal aunt Shetu Ahmed found the blood-stained body around 5:30pm in a room of the victim's apartment on the second floor of a seven-storey building.

Shetu went downstairs to ask Tasnin to have food with her, but saw the main door of the apartment open.

The schoolgirl was lying on a bed with her throat slit. A blood-stained kitchen knife was beside her head and a piece of galvanised iron

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

Tortured at Al-Badr camp

Witness testifies against Kamaruzzaman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A freedom fighter yesterday gave International Crimes Tribunal-2 a description of how he was abducted and tortured at an Al-Badr camp in Mymensingh during the Liberation War.

Abul Kashem, the ninth prosecution witness in the war crimes case against Jamaat leader Muhammad

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

WAR CRIMES TRIAL

Witness recalls killing of father

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was 1971 and the war was on.

Hours after leaving his home with his mother, Ashish Chowdhury learnt from an uncle that his father, elder brother and some relatives had been killed by the Pakistani occupation forces accompanied by Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury.

"It was April 13, 1971," Ashish began the account of his life's most tragic incident before International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday.

He was about 10 years old then, living in their village home at Jagotmollapara of

Raozan Upazila in Chittagong.

Fearing an attack by the Pakistani army on the day, his father Premangshu Bimol Chowdhury asked his son and wife Jotsna Rani Chowdhury to leave the village and take shelter in an aunt's house at Binajuri village of the upazila.

"Around 2:30pm [on April 13, 1971] my uncle Arvinda Singha came to my aunt's house and said something devastating had happened," said Ashish, giving his testimony in the war crimes case against BNP lawmaker SQ Chowdhury.

"We broke into tears."

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

GAZIPUR BY-POLLS

CEC asks officials to work neutrally

RASHIDUL HASAN from Kapasia, Gazipur

The chief election commissioner yesterday warned all election officials that none would be spared if anyone showed "reluctance" in discharging their duties during the Gazipur-4 (Kapasia) by-polls slated for September 30.

"I am directing all election officials, including members of the law enforcement agencies, to carry out their duties sincerely and neutrally so that none can threaten voters or exercise muscle power," CEC Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad said while addressing a views exchange meeting with the three aspiring candidates of the by-polls.

The Election Returning Office of Kapasia organised the meeting at the Upazila Parishad auditorium with the Gazipur deputy commissioner in the chair.

Simeen Hussain Rimi, daughter of the country's first prime minister Tajuddin Ahmad, is backed by the Awami League. Her uncle Afsaruddin

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

1/3 of world population 'now online'

ALJAZEERA ONLINE

About one-third of the world's population now has access to the internet, but more needs to be done in order to achieve internet penetration targets as set out in the Millennium Development Goals, the International Telecommunications Union has said in a new report.

Currently, 20.5 percent of households in developing countries have access to the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5



PHOTO: AFP

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: Bangladesh coach Richard Pybas (3rd from L) engages in a mid-pitch conference with his charges at the Pallekele Cricket Stadium in Kandy yesterday. The Tigers are up against the highly unlikely proposition of winning and winning big against the mighty Pakistanis today to stay alive in the tournament.

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Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Home Minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir that the extra-judicial killings are less than that before?

Yes (13.9%)

No (82.2%)

No Comments (3.9%)

TOTAL VOTES: 359

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Home Minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir that the extra-judicial killings are less than that before?

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Landslides, floods kill 33 in India

Nearly 1.5m displaced AGENCIES

Floods and landslides caused by relentless rain in northeast India have killed at least 33 people and displaced nearly 1.5 million over the past week, officials said yesterday.

At least 21 people were killed in landslides and another eight were missing

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Hizb-ut leader Maola held again

DB says arrest made yesterday, but wife claims he was picked up 5 days ago

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Though the wife of Hizb ut-Tahrir leader Prof Syed Golam Maola had claimed that her husband had been picked up by detectives on September 19, DB police said that Maola was arrested yesterday.

Shahida Ahmed, wife of Maola, told newsmen at a press conference yesterday that her husband has been

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

BGB-BSF meet begins today

BSS, Dhaka

A director general (DG) level border conference of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) begins today at Pilkhana

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

PRAYER TIMING September 25

Asan	Jamaat
Fajr 4-35	5-10
Zohr 12-45	1-15
Asr 4-15	4-30
Maghrib 6-00	6-05
Esha 7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

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