

# United Airways

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 crore outstanding charges in three instalments along with all current dues by June 15.

The regulator has also ordered the air operator to submit a plan with payment dates and amounts to pay the rest of the dues by June next year.

In the meantime, Caab has renewed the Air Operating Licence for the private carrier for only three months up to June 29 instead of a usual one-year term.

United Airways' net profit was Tk 55.56 crore in 2012-13 fiscal and Tk 27.75 crore in the first half of the current fiscal. It now has a fleet of 11 aircraft, of which eight are operational and three are grounded.

"The airline is making profits but not paying the dues. Where has the profit gone then?" questioned the Caab chairman.

"Since the airline's outstanding charges to Caab have become a huge amount, an internal audit should be carried out by Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission," he said, adding that Caab would request the stock market regulator to conduct the audit.

United Airways, which began operations in 2007, was listed on the stock market in 2010 through initial public offering and raised Tk 100 crore. In 2011, it raised another Tk 315 crore from shareholders through rights offer.

Md Kamrul Islam, assistant general manager (marketing support and public relations) of United Airways, said the airline had made the payment delay as a ministry decision to waive their aeronautical and non-aeronautical charges for five years was pending with Caab since September 2012.

He added the civil aviation ministry in March last year even reminded Caab to implement the decision, but the regulator in October waived only route navigation, landing and security charges with effect from June last year for three years.

He further said Tk 40 crore of the Tk 77 crore outstanding amount stood for charges and the rest for surcharges.

Asked, the Caab chairman said since they met the running, repair and maintenance costs of the country's airports with charges from local and international airlines, they could not



Divided by the barbed-wire fences, Bangalees of West Bengal and Bangladesh exchange greetings with their relatives on Pahela Baishakh at Omakhana in Panchagarh Sadar.

PHOTO: STAR

# Baishakh brings them together

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

They were neither dressed in bright, colourful clothes nor singing Rabindranath Tagore's ageless 'Esho he Baishakh' in celebration of the Bangla New Year.

With the first sun of 1421 rising on the horizon, a feeling of joy swept over them at the thought of meeting those from whom they were separated by a man-made border.

It was at Omakhana border in Panchagarh Sadar upazila on Monday, the first day of Baishakh.

Thousands of Bangla-speaking people had a get-together from two sides of the fence, though only for three hours from 11:00 am.

The border guards of both countries arranged the event for a section of people who cannot afford to bear the cost of visiting their relatives living on the other side of the border.

They talked and exchanged foods, pens, clothes and friendly greetings.

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# 2 key accused left out

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 shopping mall, prime accused SM Zahid Siddique Tarek was seen shooting at Milky.

Tarek, who was joint secretary of Dhaka city (south) Jubo League, was killed in a shootout with Rab within 18 hours of his arrest following the incident.

The charge-sheeted accused are Shakhawat Hossain Chanchal, organising secretary of Dhaka city (north) Jubo League, and Jahangir Mondol, Shahidul Islam, Aminul Islam, Sohel Mahmud, Chunnun Mia, Mohammad Arif and Sharif Uddin Pappu -- all Jubo League activists.

The three other accused are Ibrahim Khalil, Rafiqul Islam Chowdhury and Fahima Islam Lopa, wife of Maruf Reza Sagar, a close aide of Milky.

A prosecution witness, Sagar has already given a statement before a Dhaka magistrate.

Among the accused, Chanchal, Arif, Khalil and Rafiqul went into hiding after the murder. Lopa was arrested, but she too went into hiding after securing bail from the High Court. The rest six are behind bars.

Rab also dropped the names of seven other people who were

included in the original case. They are Tuhinur Rahman Fahim, Syed Mostafa Ali Rumi, Rashed Mahmud, Shahidul Islam Nuruzzaman, Sujun Howlader, Mahbulul Haque Hirok and Dewan Md Fariudowla Pappu, a physician and cousin of Tarek.

Investigation Officer Kajemur Rashid, assistant superintendent of police of Rab-1, said charges against them could not be primarily proved.

While submitting the charge sheet before the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate in Dhaka, the investigation officer appealed to the court for issuing arrest warrants for those on the run, and a separate order for attaching their properties.

According to the charge sheet, Milky was killed following feuds over establishing political supremacy in Motijheel, land grabbing, securing posts in Jubo League and sharing of money earned from different sources.

"The primary investigation, video footage and circumstantial evidence proved that a group of miscreants led by Tarek with common intention in connivance with Aminul, Sohel, Arif, Chunnun and Chanchal killed the victim. And Lopa, Shahidul, Jahangir,

Rafiqul, Ibrahim and Pappu assisted the killers," reads the charge sheet.

During investigation, Aminul, Sohel, Chunnun, Jahangir, Lopa and Hirok gave confessional statements before magistrates on different dates.

Hirok's name was dropped from the charge sheet although he confessed to his involvement in the murder.

According to AL sources, a feud over nomination for ward councillor post was the main reason behind the murder.

Milky's enmity with Tipu, political boss of Tarek, intensified over the nomination in Dhaka City Corporation polls slated for May 2012.

Family members said a conflict had surfaced between Arif and Milky also over the general secretary post of Dhaka city (south) Jubo League.

"Though Milky let go of the post later, his popularity in Motijheel area became a headache for Arif who then lured Tarek to his side and planned the murder," alleged a family member, wishing anonymity.

In fact, Lopa in her confessional statement also mentioned that Milky had a conflict with Tipu and

# Patients left in anarchy

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 admitted are being given the treatment. But only the outdoor services are closed," claimed Professor Nazmunnahar, director general of the hospital.

"An Ansar member was also hurt in the attack. He might have said that to you out of his grudge over that," she added.

It all began with the death of Sirajul Islam, 57, who had long been suffering from diabetics, on Sunday night. Sirajul was a retired accountant of the National Press Club.

Doctors claimed that following the death of Sirajul at 8:00pm, the unruly relatives of the patient assaulted and injured Dr Anwar Hossain, Dr Kallyan Devnath and Dr Shamima Akter of Endocrinology department.

In a memorandum addressing the health minister, the doctors said, "One Masud, identifying himself as an Assistant Superintendent of Police of Dhaka Zone, and another person named Babu ... assaulted the doctors".

They have demanded judicial investigation into the incident and punishment of the perpetrators.

The doctors also formed a human chain at the Shabbagh intersection at 11:10am and stayed there for about 20 minutes, creating long tailbacks on all roads around the area.

Patient's relatives, however,

denied the allegation of assault.

At a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday afternoon, Farhana Nasreen, daughter of the deceased, said they only had an argument over the doctors' negligence.

Sirajul, who had been admitted to the hospital on April 9 with stomach ailments, started suffering respiratory problems. They informed the doctors on duty around 4:00pm. However, it took more than half an hour for the doctors to respond and they just put him on oxygen, she said.

"As the situation deteriorated after 6:00pm, we called the doctors but none came. After repeated calls, doctors decided to give him oxygen artificially. He died a few moments after that," she said, adding that doctors at the incentive care unit (ICU) later told her that the patient should have been shifted to the ICU right after he started having problems in breathing.

She said ASP Masud and Babu are her cousins and they had not assaulted any doctor, including the female doctor.

A committee had been formed to look into the allegation of doctors' negligence, said the DG of Birdem.

Meanwhile, the protesting doctors will hold a press conference at 10:00am today to declare their next move, Dr Purabi Devnath of Birdem hospital told The Daily Star.

# Bangladesh-US security dialogue on April 22

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US and Bangladesh will hold a dialogue on April 22 aiming to enhance collaboration further in the areas of countering extremism and terrorism, security assistance, UN peacekeeping operations and humanitarian assistance.

This will be the third Dialogue on Security Issues between Dhaka and Washington.

A 20-member delegation comprising officials from the US Department of State, US Defence, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs and others will attend the dialogue in Dhaka.

Tom Kelly, acting assistant secretary of the State for Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, will lead the US delegation while Secretary (Bilateral) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mustafa Kamal will lead the Bangladesh side.

The first security dialogue was held in Dhaka on April 19, 2012 while the second in Washington in April, 2013.

Dhaka yesterday had an inter-ministerial meeting to prepare agenda and issues to be discussed at the dialogue.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Mustafa Kamal chaired the meeting attended by senior officials from the ministries of foreign, home, defence, disaster management and Armed Forces

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These file images grabbed from a CCTV footage show allegedly Tarek shooting Milky at Shoppers World shopping mall of Gulshan in the capital on July 30, 2013.

IMAGES: FOCUS BANGLA

# Baishakh tour turns tragic

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 Coast Guard, reports our Cox's Bazar correspondent.

Sub-inspector Abdul Haque, in-charge of St Martin police outpost, said the group of 34 students had reached the island around 12:00noon Monday and checked in at local hotel 'St Shore Resort'.

Of them, a team of 10 students went to the Prince Heaven point, western end of the jetty, around 2:00pm for a bath in the Bay, the police official said.

Within a few minutes, the students had started screaming and locals had rushed to the spot and tried to rescue the students who went under water, he added.

On information, navy, coastguard and police personnel also rushed the spot and rescued six students with the help of locals around 3:00pm.

The rescued students, whose conditions were critical, were whisked off through a speedboat to Teknaf upazila health complex where Manfezul and Saddam were declared dead. The four others were taken to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital around 7:00pm.

Ratan Chowdhury, supervisor of the Sadar hospital, said the four other students were released yesterday morning.

The upazila health complex authorities handed over the bodies to their families yesterday.

Of the dead, Saddam lived in West Tezturi Bazar in Dhaka. He was buried at Martyred Intellectual Graveyard in Mirpur, while Manfezul was taken to Thakurgaon for burial.

"After his term final was over, my son insisted on going to the St Martin's. I did not want to let him go, but he kept on insisting," said Golam Faruk, father of Saddam.

He said there was no arrangement for quick treatment for his son on the island.

"My son did not know how to swim and that's why we did not want him to go to the island... I warned him not to get down in the sea..." Manfezul's father Maksudul Alam could not say further.

Before he started for Cox's Bazar, Sabbir had posted a status in Facebook: "Farewell friends! Going out of network!!" Twenty-four hours

elapsed, but there was no trace of him yet.

Sabbir's father said there should be good arrangement of treatment in such a popular tourist spot like the St Martin's.

Prof Dr AMM Safiullah, vice-chancellor of the university, said a team of the university headed by CSE head Abdullah Al Mamun was on the island to stay with the search operation.

"It's very unfortunate that we've lost some bright students. Their final term examinations ended on April 9," he told The Daily Star. He added the students organised the trip on their own without informing the authorities.

"Usually, when a group of students go for a trip outside, they take permission from me or the head of the department concerned. But they did not tell anybody. When I talked to the chair of the department, he also told me in the negative," the VC added.

Cox's Bazar Deputy Commissioner Ruhul Amin said they were looking into the incident if there was any neglect behind the tragedy.

# First artificial red blood cells made

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 tested in patients for the first time.

It is the latest breakthrough in scientists' efforts to re-engineer the body.

Marc Turner, the principal researcher in the £5 million programme funded by the Wellcome Trust, told The Telegraph that his team had made red blood cells fit for clinical transfusion.

Prof Turner has devised a technique to culture red blood cells from induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells -- cells that have been taken from

humans and 'rebound' into stem cells. Biochemical conditions similar to those in the human body are then recreated to induce the iPS cells to mature into red blood cells -- of the rare universal blood type O.

"... This is the first time anybody has manufactured blood to the appropriate quality and safety standards for transfusion into a human being," said Prof Turner.

There are plans in place for the trial to be concluded by late 2016 or early 2017, he said.

It will most likely involve the

treatment of three patients with Thalassaemia, a blood disorder requiring regular transfusions.

"Although blood banks are well-stocked in the UK and transfusion has been largely safe since the Hepatitis B and HIV infections of the 1970s and 1980s, many parts of the world still have problems with transfusing blood," said Prof Turner.

The technique highlights the prospect of a limitless supply of manufactured type-O blood, free of disease and compatible with all patients.

# BJP, allies to get 275

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Maharashtra 17, Rajasthan 17, Bihar 12, Andhra Pradesh 12 and Madhya Pradesh 10. In these six states, it stands to gain 109 seats. In most other states too, NDA is projected to gain, though by more modest numbers.

Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress is projected by the survey to end up as the third largest party -- though a distant third -- in parliament with 30 seats.

The latest survey bases its assumption of the NDA getting a majority on the projection of the BJP doing very well in elections in key battleground states of Uttar Pradesh, where it is projected to get 51 of the 80 seats, and in Bihar by bagging 24 out of 40.

The forecast of the NDA's march to majority is also based on the survey's finding that the coalition would get 37 out of the 48 seats in Maharashtra ruled by Congress and its ally NCP for more

than a decade.

The only major states where the NDA would fare poor are West Bengal, ruled by Trinamool Congress, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh states ruled by Congress and the BJP respectively, according to the latest poll.

In contrast, the Congress-led UPA is predicted to lose seats compared to previous general elections in 2009 in almost every major state, with Andhra Pradesh being the worst case, where the party's tally could drop from 33 five years ago to just six this time.

Except for Karnataka and Chhattisgarh, the only states where the UPA stands to gain are Assam with a gain of two seats and Bihar, with an increase of six seats.

The latest opinion poll came three days before another major round of polling covering 122 seats tomorrow in India's staggered general elections which end on May 12 and results will be declared four days later.

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