



Not a lost case

Steele's bright stint shows inefficient management clips Biman's wings

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Kevin John Steele might have not succeeded in turning around Biman during his stint as managing director, but he certainly proved that the national flag carrier could have a future if run by an efficient management.

Biman's on-time performance improved significantly after Steele took the helm at the national airline in March last year. The rate of on-time flight departure has gone up to about 70 percent from about 30 percent in 2012, said Biman insiders.

Steele, the first foreign chief execu-



tive officer of Biman, introduced modern ticket reservation and online ticketing systems, a new website and biometric attendance system at Biman offices.

The national carrier has already upgraded its reservation system and launched a frequent flyer programme.

Biman would be fully profitable in fiscal 2014-15, he told The Daily Star a day before he resigned as Biman chief on April 17.

A new revenue management system, which would be in place in three months, would help Biman save Tk 156 crore (\$20 million) annually, he said.

The new system would give priority to

passengers from Dhaka in booking tickets.

For example, Dhaka's passengers would get priority over those from Kuala Lumpur in terms of booking on Biman's Kuala Lumpur-Dhaka-Jeddah route.

The ticket fare from Kuala Lumpur to Jeddah via Dhaka is \$900 while it is \$850 from Dhaka to Jeddah.

Biman will earn about Tk 78 crore (\$10 million) a year once it signs a codeshare agreement with another airline. The two airlines will share the same flight under the aviation business arrangement. Biman is already in talks with a big airline.

Much of Steele's failure arises from the fact that he couldn't make the entire staff of Biman work as a team.

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ABDUCTION, KILLING : Govt should go, says BNP Khaleda to address rally on May 17

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday said the abduction and killing of seven people in Narayanganj is the tip of the iceberg of such incidents across the country, and the government should step down, taking responsibility for those criminal activities.

Refuting Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam's claim that the BNP was using the Narayanganj incident to

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Arrest 'dismissed' Rab-11 officials

Families tell probe body; main accused expelled from AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The families of seven-murder victims in Narayanganj yesterday demanded arrest and interrogation of three "dismissed" Rab-11 personnel for a fair investigation.

In their statements to the government probe body, they also called upon law enforcers to detain and grill other officials of the elite force, if necessary, instead of harassing the innocents.

The committee recorded the depositions of 25 family members and relatives of the seven at Narayanganj deputy commis-



Nur Hossain

sioner's office from 10:00am to 6:00pm yesterday.

Led by the additional secretary of public administration ministry, the seven-member committee is probing the April 27 abduction and subsequent murder of panel mayor Nazrul Islam, lawyer Chandan Sarkar and five others.

As part of the investigation, there will be mass hearings on May 12 and 15. Those willing to give depositions at the hearings have been asked to appear at the DC office from 10:00am.

Meanwhile, Siddhirganj Awami League

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4 Bangladeshi workers killed in Dubai road crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least four Bangladeshi workers were killed and nine others injured when a minibus carrying migrant workers collided with a truck in Dubai of the United Arab Emirates yesterday morning.

The horrific crash also killed 11 Indian workers.

The deceased Bangladeshis are Md Badrul Hasan, son of Nabial Haque of Chittagong's Sitakunda, Alamgir, son of Badsha Mia of Chandpur's Matlab, Nazrul Islam, son of Kalimullah of Sylhet's Jaintapur and Masum Dali, son of Inu Dali of Chandpur Sadar.

Of the nine injured, five returned to their residences after primary treatment while the others have been admitted to a Dubai hospital. One of them was in a critical condition, AKM Mizanur Rahman, labour counselor of Bangladesh embassy in Dubai, told

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MOTHER'S DAY TODAY

Hardest job in the world

AASHA MEHREEN AMIN

One of my most favourite memories of my mother is when I was around five or six, sitting on her lap on a sultry afternoon while she told me stories about magical kingdoms where flying horses would pop up at every corner and fairies would come out of white roses to grant wishes to wandering princesses. I don't know whether it was her story-telling abilities or the sheer thrill of being cushioned in her arms – perhaps it was both – that kept me captivated, urging her to start another as soon as she would finish one. In retrospect I realize it was the security and love that I felt in those moments, moments that I never wanted to end and that I still long for now that she is gone.

A mother's love is probably the greatest mysteries on earth. Even among animal species it is obvious that no matter what, a mother will always protect and nurture her children. She will feed them even when she is starving and fight tooth and nail

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Mujibur Rahman

SYLHET ABDUCTION 3 Jubo Dal men held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sunamganj police yesterday arrested three people, including a leader of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, in connection with the disappearance of the BNP leader Mujibur Rahman and his driver Rezaul Haque Sohel Sunday last.

UK citizen Mujibur Rahman's family got a letter at their London home on Thursday that said the duo were confined to a house in Sylhet.

Meanwhile, Sunamganj BNP will observe an eight-hour hartal in the district today protesting the

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