

OIC chief in town on a 4-day visit

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Secretary General of OIC, Yusef bin Ahmad Al-Othaimen, arrived here yesterday night on a four-day "working tour" of Bangladesh when he will visit Rohingya refugees, who escaped Rakhine state following persecution by Myanmar's security forces.

He is leading a five-member delegation on his first trip to Bangladesh since assuming office in November 2016.

Apart from his meeting with the President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister today, the Secretary General is also expected to visit Myanmar's Muslim minority Rohingya refugees in Kutupalong Camp and its surrounding areas in Cox's Bazar tomorrow to see their situation and to express OIC's sympathy and solidarity with them.

His visit to the Rakhine Muslims will give him an opportunity of being briefed by the local administration and representatives of the international humanitarian organisations working there.

Foreign Ministry sources said Dhaka will put the Rohingya issue on top of the agenda of discussion and urge the OIC chief to take effective diplomatic measures to permanently resolve the crisis.

Othaimen is expected to exchange views on the situation of the Muslim world and programmes, initiatives and decisions taken by the OIC so far.

As Bangladesh is going to host the 45th OIC Council of Foreign Ministers next year, this visit will allow discussions on Bangladesh-OIC Secretariat cooperation along with ones on various other areas of bilateral cooperation.

Yusef bin Ahmad Al-Othaimen, a Saudi former minister, has been the secretary general of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), since November 2016, when Iyad bin Amin Madani stepped down for health reasons.

Al-Othaimen was the Minister of Social Affairs for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from 2007 to 2015.

Move to form

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a new political alliance beyond AL and BNP.

"At the meeting, a liaison committee has been formed, led by me, to accelerate the formation," he said adding that the meeting was a follow-up to the one held at the residence of Rob last month.

Contacted, GM Quader said, "Yes, I was at a meeting at Badruddoza Chowdhury's house, but I won't make any comment about it."

JP is the main opposition in parliament and three of its lawmakers are in the cabinet of the AL-led government. JP Chairman HM Ershad himself is the special adviser to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

On the night of July 13, leaders of several political parties met at Rob's Uttara residence to discuss the launch of a political platform with an eye on the next general election due in late 2018 or early 2019.

Law enforcers had allegedly tried to disrupt the meeting attended by Manna, Badruddoza and his son Mahi, Biplobi Workers Party General Secretary Saiful Haque, Krishak Sramik Janata League President Abdul Kader Siddique, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) Convener Khalekuzzaman and Subrata Chowdhury.

Going green

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initially," the headmistress continues, "but nowadays the chairmen of our own and neighbouring union councils like to contribute too. They have seen how beautiful our garden is." This season plans are afoot to expand the garden with the support of several local administrations.

"The rooftop garden is an example for all," says Abdus Salam, the education officer in Char Fasson upazila. "Such praiseworthy work will be followed by many other schools. It was fascinating to see their garden and I have requested all the head teachers in our upazila to visit the garden in Majherchar to see if similar projects can't be pursued at their institutions."

"The primary school rooftop garden is inspirational," agrees the upazila's agriculture officer Monotosh Shikder. "Through it, even we can achieve a boost in agricultural production, especially if other schools follow suit."

Needless to say, the first example in the district of a school rooftop garden has been a roaring success. Schoolteachers are unanimous in praising the initiative which, they say, has greatly improved the school's atmosphere in general, attracting new students and inspiring existing ones. The beauty of Majherchar's garden, it would seem, has helped the beauty of education to blossom there, too.



This file photo of 2011 shows the now-suspended Bogra Sramik League leader Tufan, front row left, arrested for possessing of 1,700 bottles of phensidyl and 5,000 tablets of Yaba.

Charged with murder

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student from her house and raped her at his house.

The girl did not immediately reveal the rape for fear of reprisal.

Tufan's wife Asha later learned about it and sent some cadres to pick up the girl and her mother on Friday. She tortured them for four hours at her house and had their heads shaved.

A drug trader and extortionist in Bogra town for about a decade, Tufan was arrested twice in possession of yaba tablets and Phensidyl bottles—in 2011 and 2015. On both occasions, he secured bail and resumed his illegal activities. He is also accused in an attempted murder case.

"After the murder, we thought police would arrest him and ensure punishment through proper investigation. But shockingly, he got bail and intimidated the victim's family," a lawyer of the town told The Daily Star on Tuesday.

Imran's mother, Minu Begum, filed the murder case, detailing how her son was murdered.

"The culprits threatened to kill my son because he protested their drug business in the area," she said.

One of her neighbours said, "Tufan and other killers threatened her make her withdraw the case."

At one point, Imran's family left the area for a brief period. Once they returned, the culprits offered them Tk 10 lakh to come to a compromise. The family agreed for their security.

"They agreed to give statements in such a manner that Tufan and other culprits could not be proven guilty," said the lawyer.

Imran's brother Mamun admitted that they were forced to come to a compromise. "They instructed us

[witnesses] to tell the court that we did not see the killers at the scene."

He also told The Daily Star that his family preferred to be alive over justice. "We have been in constant fear of attacks," he added.

This correspondent went through the case documents and found the loopholes in the witnesses' statements. "Tufan and his cohorts tried to buy everyone concerned to avert punishment. They had been successful thus far," said former public prosecutor Helal Uddin.

Meanwhile, Tufan, his wife Asa, mother-in-law Rumi and Tufan's cohort Munna were placed on remand again yesterday.

Tufan and Munna were placed on two days' remand each while Asha and her mother Rumi for one day.

Police yesterday produced eight persons, including the four before the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Shyam Sundar Roy. Tufan's father-in-law Runu, and cohorts Rupom, Zitu and Dipu were produced before the court.

Police arrested 12 persons after the mother of the alleged rape victim filed two cases for rape and torture with Bogra Sadar Police Station on Saturday.

She accused Tufan, Asha, Rumki, Rumi, Runu, Shimul, Atiq, Rupom, Zitu, Dipu and several unnamed others. All but Shimul are now in custody. Police also arrested Tufan's father-in-law Runu for aiding and abetting the crimes and barber Jibon for shaving the victim's heads.

Atiq gave confessional statement before a magistrate, describing how the female student was taken to Tufan's house and raped.

Scrap or relocate

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session of the World Heritage Committee in 2019.

They demanded the government conduct the SEA study properly.

Unesco, however, noted with concern that sea level rise, salt intrusion and reduction in fresh water flow were posing threats to the Sundarbans' ecosystem and that the area was particularly vulnerable to impact from these threats.

The press release further stated that the decisions in the 41st session of WHC has proved that the demand for scrapping or relocating Rampal power plant from its current location, raised by scientists, environmentalists and citizens of Bangladesh, was very much logical.

The government has lost its ethical, scientific, political even political logic to construct the Rampal power plant, it added.

The statement was given by advocate Sultana Kamal, Syed Abul Maksud, Rasheda K Chowdhury, Khushi Kabir, Professor Badrul Imam, Professor MM Akash, Dr Iftekharuzzaman, M Shamsul Huda, Rizwan Hossain Prince, Syeda Ruhana Hasan and Sharif Jamil. Dr Abdul Matin signed the statement on behalf of the twelve rights and environment activists and National Committee to Save Sundarbans, the press release said.

Shipping

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Jahangir said, quoting the order.

He was arrested at his office of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) in Motijheel on July 18.

One ANM Badrul Alam of Bengal Marine and Engineering Services applied for design approval of 22 ships on different dates from 2012 to 2017.

According to the corresponding ordinance, an approval should be given within 45 days with modification, if necessary.

"But Fakhru demanded Tk 5 lakh-Tk 16 lakh for each ship, depending on their size. Without bribe, he will not approve any design," reads an ACC press release.

On April 13, 2016, Badrul submitted a design for approval, but Fakhru demanded Tk 5 lakh for it. Badrul agreed to pay.

But he informed the ACC of the matter.

Later, an ACC team arrested Fakhru at his office and handed him over to Motijheel police.

A case was filed against him, said Golam Rabbani, officer-in-charge of the police station.

Repeat pilgrims

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They said the Saudi government slapped the additional fees as a means to discourage pilgrims from performing hajj several times.

Repeat pilgrims were rich enough to pay the additional fees, Maksudur quoted a Saudi official as saying.

Earlier in the day, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon said, "We successfully carried hajj pilgrims to Saudi Arabia in recent years and earned praise. But this year we are facing some unforeseen issues, including a hike in moallem fees and slapping of an extra fee of SR 2,000 on each pilgrims who had performed hajj either in 2015 or 2016."

The Saudi government didn't inform the Bangladesh government about the additional fee, he told reporters after an inter-ministerial meeting at the secretariat yesterday.

"We came to know about the extra fees long after the announcement of this year's hajj package rates."

The government had fixed this year's minimum hajj package rate at Tk 3,19,355 for each pilgrim.

Earlier, leaders of Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (HAAB) said it wouldn't be possible for them to collect the additional fees from the pilgrims at the last moment. Also, they wouldn't be able to pay the fees themselves.

Around 7,000 pilgrims, who had performed hajj in either of the last two years, completed registration for performing the ritual this year again.

While applying for visas online, the repeat pilgrims were being asked to pay an additional SR 2,000 each (Tk 44,000), said HAAB President Abdus Sobhan Bhuiyan.

MORE SPECIAL FLIGHTS FOR PILGRIMS

All the Jeddah and Makkah-bound regular flights of Biman Bangladesh Airlines will be turned into dedicated hajj flights from now to clear the backlog of 6,580 pilgrims who could not fly to Saudi Arabia mainly due to visa problems.

The decision came at an inter-ministerial meeting yesterday, with civil aviation and tourism minister in the chair.

Biman would request the General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) of Saudi Arabia to allow it to operate more dedicated hajj flights so that no intending pilgrims miss this year's hajj, the largest religious congregation of the Muslims.

The meeting also decided that if the national carrier fails to get permission, the high authorities of the Bangladesh government will request the Saudi government for the permission.

Top officials of the religious affairs

and civil aviation ministries, Biman Bangladesh Airlines, Saudi Arabian Airlines and Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (HAAB) were present at the meeting.

The backlog of pilgrims developed as Biman had to cancel 12 dedicated hajj flights since the beginning of its hajj flight operation on July 24. The planes had a total capacity for 5,380 passengers, but the flights were cancelled due to shortage of passengers.

Another 1,200 pilgrims, who were scheduled to take three hajj flights of Saudi Arabian Airlines, are still at home as the carrier cancelled the flights for the same reason.

Biman currently operates 13 regular flights on Dhaka-Jeddah and Dhaka Makkah routes every week.

As many as 1,27,198 Bangladeshis are expected to perform hajj this year which would be observed either on September 2 or 3. The two national airlines will carry half of the pilgrims each.

Until yesterday, the two carriers ferried around 32,500 Bangladeshi pilgrims to Saudi Arabia. They are scheduled to operate departing hajj flights till August 27, said Biman sources.

About 18,000 pilgrims facing difficulties due to hiking of moallem fees from SR 720 to SR 1,500, Menon said the problem was over following a tripartite meeting last week between the representatives of HAAB, Bangladesh Hajj Mission in Saudi Arabia and the Saudi hajj authorities.

Seperated

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Before, she had to hold the babies on her lap together whenever any of them needed to breastfeed.

Though they are 10 months old, they do not walk or crawl which their elder brother did when he was nine months old as they were conjoined twins, said Shahida, adding that she wants to see Tofa and Tahura walk and play soon.

Meanwhile, in a press briefing at the DMCH conference room yesterday, doctors said they would be able to say whether the twins were out of danger today.

They would be kept at the post-operative care for 10 days for close observation, Shahnoor said.

DMCH Director Brig Gen Mizanur Rahman and some doctors, including Shahnoor, who took part in the nine-hour surgery addressed the briefing.

Conjoined twins are identical twins joined in the mother's womb. It is an extremely rare phenomenon. Two babies joined at the pelvis are ever rarer. Doctors say such cases are called pygopagus conjoined twins.

Neymar's move

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morning his decision to leave the club," Barca said in a statement.

"The club have informed them that the buyout clause in his contract, that from July 1 is 222 million euros, must be paid in full."

Neymar has been tempted to Paris by an astronomical offer that would reportedly see his wages tripled to 30 million euros a year after tax.

However, on the field he also faces the challenge of stepping out of the shadow of five-time World Player of the Year Lionel Messi to try and prove himself as the world's best.

"It was a huge pleasure having shared all those years with you, my friend @neymarjr," Messi posted on Instagram alongside a montage displaying some of the pair's finest moments together.

"I wish you lots of luck in this new stage in your life. See you soon tkm," he added. "Tkm" stands for "te quiero mucho" (I love you loads).

Neymar has also been given permission to stay away from training until the deal is complete after making a brief appearance at Barca's training ground on Wednesday morning to say goodbye to his teammates.

Presuming both clubs don't come to a late agreement, the buyout clause would have to be paid to Barcelona via Spain's La

Liga to free the player from the contract he signed last year and runs until 2021.

However, La Liga president Javier Tebas has threatened not to accept PSG's money over what he perceives as a failure on the French side's part to comply with UEFA's financial fair play rules (FFP).

Clubs can be sanctioned by UEFA for making a loss of more than 30 million euros over a three-year period.

"We will not accept this money from a club like PSG," Tebas told Madrid sports daily AS on Wednesday. "Especially when this club is infringing rules and laws."

Winning the Champions League for a first time is the dream driving PSG's owners Oryx Qatar Sports Investments (QSI) to fund a deal that could herald the start of a new era at the elite level of European football.

Since QSI's takeover in 2011, PSG have failed to make it beyond the quarter-final stage in recent seasons - most notably blowing a 4-0 first leg lead to lose 6-1 to a Neymar-inspired Barcelona in the last 16 of last season's competition in March.

Prising Neymar from the grip of Barca would truly announce PSG's presence as a contender for the likes of Barca, Real Madrid and Bayern Munich to fear.

Neymar has formed one of the deadliest strike partnerships in

football history with Messi and Luis Suarez over the past three seasons.

Together they have won two La Liga titles, a Champions League and three Spanish Cups, whilst Neymar has scored 105 goals and provided 80 assists in just 186 games.

However, Neymar's four-year spell in Spain has also been overshadowed by the murky transfer deal which brought him to Barcelona from Santos in 2013.

He and his parents as well as Barca president Josep Maria Bartomeu face charges of fraud and corruption in an ongoing case brought by DIS, a Brazilian investment company.

DIS owned 40 percent of the players' rights at the time of the deal and believe they were deliberately cheated out of their real share due to the complex structure of the transfer.

Form commission

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vacation between August 25 and September 30.

Earlier, DAG Tapas told the court that the government was in the process of forming a commission to identify the people who had brought false allegations of corruption in the Padma Bridge project.

On February 15, the HC bench ordered the government to explain as to why it should not be directed to form a probe commission for identifying the people.

Another journo

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According to Tuesday night's case statement, the plaintiff's wife

and daughter had an altercation with his elder brother and sister-in-law over a trifle matter on July 24. His wife and daughter were injured.

The next day, Shimanto on his Facebook status said the plaintiff's elder brother "raped his own niece and confined both the victim and her mother in their house."

Shimanto, on his Facebook status, added that he informed the matter to the local police, but they covered up the incident instead of taking any measures.

family, reads the case statement.

Contacted, the accused journalist said he informed police after receiving information from a relative of the alleged "rape victim". The case was filed intentionally.

Officer-in-charge of Nabinagar Police Station Aslam Shikdar confirmed the filing of the case.

The plaintiff could not be reached for his comment despite repeated attempts.

With the latest incident, 25 journalists have so far been accused under the section since March 1 and most of them had been sued for their reports.

repeal of the section saying it had vague wording, allowing it to be used for silencing newspersons and social media users.

Amid widespread criticism, Law Minister Anisul Huq on several occasions said section 57 would be removed. The minister on July 9 said the government would decide on the matter while finalising the draft of "Digital Security Act" this month.

But cases filed under the section are piling on. According to a source at the Cyber Tribunal in Dhaka, around 700 cases have so far been filed under section 57 since 2013 when the act was amended with a provision for stringent punishment.

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Ref: DACGO/Recruitment/2017/1773 Date: 02 August 2017

Recruitment Notice

Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd. invites applications from the Bangladeshi nationals for filling up the following post on contractual basis as per the following terms and conditions:

Name of Post & Pay Group	Intercom/Operations Communication Assistant, Pay Group-3(ii)
Number of post	02 (two).
Educational qualifications	a) 4 years Diploma in Computer Engineering/Electrical/Electronics Technology from Bangladesh Technical Education Board. b) At least GPA 3.00 on a scale of 5.00 in SSC or equivalent and CGPA 2.8 on a scale of 4.00 in Diploma.
Experience	2 years work experience on computer hardware and software will be given preference.
Age limit	Maximum 30 years (descendant of freedom fighter 32 years) as on 22/08/2017.
Salary	Tk. 25,200.00 (consolidated) per month and other admissible benefits.
Nature of employment	Initially for 03 (three) years on contract basis. The service may be permanently absorbed after successful completion of three years' of contractual service.
Terms & conditions	1. Everjobs Bangladesh Ltd. is the official recruitment partner of Biman Bangladesh Airlines Limited. Candidates fulfilling the requisite qualifications may apply online by signing up or logging in to https://www.everjobs.com.bd [Link is available in Careers page of Biman website www.biman-airlines.com]. After signing up, applicant will receive an email containing the instructions on how to apply. 2. Applicants will be required to deposit Tk. 250/- in favour of Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd. through ROCKET during the online application process. 3. If passed in written test at the time of Interview: Applicant shall have to submit 3 copies of recent passport-sized color photograph along with attested copy of all necessary educational certificates, experience certificate, NID, a nationality certificate from respective local Chairman/Mayor/Ward Commissioner of Union Parishad/Paurashava/City Corporation and in case of descendant of Freedom Fighters, a certificate from the appropriate authority. Foreign certificate/degree holders should also submit equivalent certificates duly endorsed by the competent authority. 4. No affidavit will be acceptable in respect of date of birth. 5. Dependent/Freedom Fighters & Special Quotas will be followed. 6. Applicants employed in Government/Semi-Government/Autonomous or any other organisations must provide NOC at the time of joining, if selected. 7. No application will be accepted after last date of submission. 8. Eligible candidates will be invited to appear at written test and interview organised by Biman. 9. No TA/DA will be admissible for interview, test etc. 10. Biman Management reserves the right to cancel the recruitment process in part or in full at any stage without assigning any reason whatsoever. 11. The last date of online application process is 22/08/2017 .

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